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NIGHT at the Museum

History comes to life at WBES museum event

By Paula Ouimette
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WEST BROOKFIELD – Fifth grade students welcomed their families to a special “Night” at the Museum event held at West Brookfield Elementary School, where they each portrayed a historical figure of their choosing.

Each student was able to select a person to portray; researching their lives and accomplishments to present at the museum event.

As parents filed into the gymnasium, they were greeted by Neil Armstrong who was ready to set foot on the moon while decked out in his spacesuit. Armstrong was portrayed by Thomas, who also brought Lego cre-

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Thomas wore a spacesuit to become Neil Armstrong, and displayed Lego creations that he made.

TURLEY PHOTO BY PAULA OUIMETTE

Quaboag School Committee accepts proposed FY 26 budget

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARREN – Superintendent of Schools Stephen Duff presented the proposed fiscal year 2026 school budget to the School Committee members at the end of last month.

He said the budget subcommittee has been meeting multiple times over the past few months to build the budget, and look at all expenses.

“We’ve worked extremely hard,” Duff said at the March 31 School Committee meeting. “We’ve turned this budget inside out over the last three months to get to where we are today and it’s still a tall ask. It’s a big order.”

Duff the school district thrives to form partnerships with the communities it serves.

“Our school is built around our community and

around our students and I can’t be more proud of the things that we do to keep our district moving in the right direction,” Duff said.

Duff said the FY 26 budget will include efforts to be more energy efficient to save on utility costs.

This includes the interior building envelope at West Brookfield Elementary School using a Green Communities grant and he has applied for the Massachusetts School Building Authority Accelerated Repair Program for doors and windows. He said he is not sure of the cost of this project, but that the MSBA typically reimburses 70-80% of a project’s total.

A \$304,000 IVAQ grant plus \$130,000 in incentives will address a necessary HVAC project in the middle/high school, which will regulate classroom temperatures.

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American Legion hosted annual Easter meat raffle



TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

Glenn Waugh announced the winners of the meat raffle held at the Sawyer-Mathieu-Kearns American Legion Post 41 in North Brookfield.

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Sawyer-Mathieu-Kearns American Legion Post 41 hosted its annual Easter meat raffle this past weekend.

In addition to winning six different meat meals, the Sawyer-Mathieu-Kearns American Legion Post 41 also featured a 50/50 raffle

as well as an Easter basket giveaway. With rain in the forecast for Saturday the meat raffle had a great turnout with tables full of guests; eight tables in total.

Running the meat raffle was Glenn Waugh and he has been running this annual Easter meat raffle for the last 15 years. Waugh said this meat raffle helps support and raises funds for the American Legion, an organization that provides

support and resources for veterans and their families.

Waugh believes the rainy weather convinced many locals to come visit the American Legion and participate in the meat raffle.

“Always have a rainy day,” Waugh said as the American Legion witnessed a great turnout for this year’s Easter meat raffle.

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TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

President of National Art Honor Society and Quaboag Regional High School senior Falon Rice is shown alongside some of her artwork at the Merriam-Gilbert Public Library in West Brookfield.

Library displays National Art Honor Society work

By Ryan Drago
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WEST BROOKFIELD – The Merriam-Gilbert Public Library hosted a special opening of the National Art Honor Society artwork created by Quaboag Regional Middle High School students.

The opening of the display took place on April 3 and featured the amazing artwork done by the Quaboag Regional Middle High School chapter of the National Art and Junior Art Honor Society. Over 20 students of Quaboag ranging from grades seven through 12 had their work displayed and many fami-

ly members, teachers, and classmates came down to witness the opening of the exhibit.

The goal of Quaboag’s National Art Honor Society chapter is to use their artistic talents for the greater good.

The Quaboag NAHS advisors are Heather Gau-

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New Braintree Historical Society held antique appraisal

By Ryan Drago
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NEW BRAINTREE – The New Braintree Historical Society hosted an antique appraisal show at the end of March.

The appraiser was renowned appraiser and auctioneer Kenneth Van Blarcom from South Natick. Van Blarcom conducted an individual appraisal and

shared some history on each item presented.

The event had an excellent turnout with over 50 people showing up and bringing in various items for Van Blarcom to review. This is the first antique appraisal show the New Braintree Historical Society has done in over 20 years.

One of the qualities that Van Blarcom likes to look at when appraising an item is the history behind it and if



Van Blarcom tested out an old yarn winder.

TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

it tells a story in addition to the item.

“I like the history the antique tells,” Van Blarcom said. “Connection with antiques by using them.”

The guests received tickets at the door to go in order as many items were brought in and many of them were appraised based on Van Blarcom’s feedback. One of the first items was a miniature salt set.

Prior to giving retail val-

ue, Van Blarcom shared some helpful tips to owners on how to keep items in good condition. Van Blarcom valued the salt set at about \$100 to \$150.

Farm related items were very popular during this antique appraisal show. One guest brought Van Blarcom a vintage milk sign and he valued the sign at about \$300 to \$500.

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- community -

Handbags & Hand Tools Bingo Night

Chamber of Commerce hosts successful fundraiser event

By Abigail McCoy
Staff Writer
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PALMER – The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce hosted its inaugural Handbags & Hand Tools Bingo Night at the AMVETS Post 74 in Three Rivers on March 21 drawing in a lively crowd for a fun and unique evening of bingo with a twist.

This event was an exciting combination of fashion and practical tools, offering participants a chance to win stylish handbags or high-quality hand tools.

The entry fee covered 10 rounds of bingo, access to a cash bar, and a snack table filled with fruits, vegetables, cheese, crackers, cookies, and brownies. For those seeking additional chances to win, extra game boards were available for purchase for \$1 each, and attendees could also enter raffles for smaller prizes.

Lena Buteau, a member of the Chamber's Event Committee, had suggested the idea for the event after seeing similar bingo nights in other towns. She proposed combining handbags and hand tools to create an event that would appeal to a wide range of people, and the



Winner Angela Lis is shown with her new Kate Spade Dana Saffiano Tote in crystal blue.

success of the night suggested that the concept struck a chord with the community.

This marked the first time the Chamber had organized such an event, and the possibility of hosting similar events in the future is being considered based on the positive response.

A dedicated team of volunteers, along with members of the Chamber's Event Committee, worked behind the scenes to ensure everything ran smoothly.

DJ Rich Lapiere, who also owns his own business "Sounds by Rich" provided background music throughout the night, while Will Huber, a financial planner for J. Stolar Insurance Agency, Inc. and former DJ, served as the bingo caller, bringing an energetic vibe to the eve-

ning's proceedings. He was assisted by Lapiere, who helped validate the winning bingo cards by calling out the winning numbers.

The event featured 10 rounds of bingo, with various patterns required to win each round. The prizes were split between luxury handbags and useful hand tools, making the competition intense and exciting. Winners were announced after each round, with many walking away with coveted prizes.

In addition to the main bingo prizes, attendees had the chance to win raffle items donated by local businesses. Among the many raffle prizes were a rustic farmhouse bird feeder with bird seed from the Hardwick Farmers Co-op, a wine-tasting experience for 10 at Hardwick



Rich Lapiere of "Sounds by Rich" volunteered to DJ for this event.

Vineyard & Winery, and a pair of Maui Jim Hookipa Vita sunglasses valued at \$259, donated by Quabbin Valley Eye Care. Other prizes included gift cards to local restaurants and attractions, as well as scratch-off tickets and VIP tickets to a Worcester Red Sox game.

Looking ahead, the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce has more events lined up for the coming months. On April 11, they will host a Chamber Chat, offering members a chance to discuss business planning, insurance, and working with municipalities in a roundtable setting.

The Chamber will also hold its Choice Awards Banquet on May 8, where members and the public will have voted for winners in catego-

ries such as Educator of the Year, Community Hero, Retail Establishment, and Food & Drink Establishment.

The success of the Handbags & Hand Tools Bingo Night is just one example of how the Chamber is bringing the community together through innovative events. With positive feedback and strong participation, it's likely that this event will become a regular fixture in the local calendar.

About QHMA

The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce was established in 1978 to assist businesses in the Quaboag Hills Region, serving the towns of Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Palmer, Spencer,

Wales, Ware, Warren, and West Brookfield.

Its mission is to advance economic growth and tourism in the region, to be an advocate for policies that achieve the development goals of the communities, and to advance the interests of its members.

The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce offers more than just networking opportunities. It helps the business community from the smallest entrepreneurs to the largest corporations; through trainings, seminars, and more.

The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce is located at 4 Springfield St., Suite 525, Three Rivers. For more information, visit qhma.com, call 413-283-2418 or email info@qhama.com.



Winner Carol Sikorski with her new Craftsman 4-tool Combo Kit with reciprocating saw, drill, impact driver and flashlight.

Selectmen discuss possible tuition agreement with Quaboag

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

Editor's Note: A full story of this discussion will appear in next week's Quaboag Current.

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis brought up the possibility of entering into a tuition agreement with the Quaboag Regional Middle High School at this past Tuesday night's meeting.

In a recent interview with Petraitis, he stated that he initiated a Zoom meeting with Quaboag's Superintendent of Schools Stephen Duff last week, along with some of North Brookfield's committee chairs and Town Accountant.

Petraitis said there are still a lot of questions that need to be answered, to determine if this is the right move for the town.

"We need to talk about it to answer those questions," Petraitis said. "My hope and goal was to have these

committee chairs [School, Finance, Selectmen] go back to their respective committees and come up with these questions that need to be answered."

Petraitis said the town spent the past several years exploring a regionalization agreement with the Quaboag Regional School District, which did not continue after the Quaboag Regional School Committee voted against accepting the amended regionalization agreement in a close vote.

"It didn't come to fruition unfortunately," Petraitis said.

Petraitis said the town has been aware that funding its school district's budget was going to become increasingly difficult, and even formed a task force to look at ways to address this.

"We knew for over a decade that the course of the school was unsustainable," he said. "We had to figure out what was going on."

Petraitis said the reports of the task force's findings are available in the Board of Selectmen's office.

He said entering into a tuition agreement with a larger school system could provide financial relief to the town,

as well as opportunities to support the students.

"The whole idea of a tuition agreement makes practical sense because to leave it the way that it is and just pursue an override for something that's just going to need another override in a couple years, seems pointless," he said.

Petraitis said in order to move forward with a tuition agreement, the School Committee would need to make the initiative. He said there wouldn't be enough time to move forward for the upcoming school year unless everything moved quickly.

"We need to address all

the questions, and we need to address all the money and weigh the costs," he said. "At the end of the day we need to make sure the town could afford whichever route we go in."

Petraitis said talking about the options is something that falls under the responsibility of the school department.

"We need to have meetings and talk about them, and that's the job of the school department," he said. "In order to maintain our budget, they're forcing the Finance Committee and Selectmen and other people in town to do their job for them."

Rural Farming Forum with Anne Gobi April 14

WEST BROOKFIELD – Anne Gobi, Director of Rural Affairs, will be the keynote speaker at the Rural Farming Forum held on Monday, April 14 in The Grand Room on the second floor of the Town Hall, 2 East Main St. from 5-7:30

p.m.

All are welcome to come and speak with agencies and organizations working to support local farmers, including the Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council, The Carrot Project, East Quabbin Land Trust, MDAR,

Hardwick Farmers Co-op and more.

For more information, please contact Eric von Bleicken, chair of the Board of Selectmen by emailing evonbleicken@wbrookfield.com.

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- community -

Honors Civics class learns about 4th Amendment with local police



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Hardwick/New Braintree Police Lieutenant Kevin Landine spoke to Joseph Salvatore's eighth grade Honors Civics class about the 4th Amendment. Shown front row from left are Abigail Landine, Desmond McElroy, Max Sturges and Johnathan Reynolds. Back row from left are Lieutenant Landine, Jayden Jablonski, Riley Morin, Brody Kenney, Mason Ostrout and Joseph Salvatore.

Sturbridge Police Officer Brad Merkel spoke about the 4th Amendment to eighth grade Honors Civics students at Quaboag Regional Middle/High School. Shown front row from left are Ariene Roure, Teagan Besette and Mahrya LaMonda. Shown back row from left are Mikhail Salcines, Sam LeClair, Zo Adams, Kaylee Jette, Annabelle Bloom, Officer Merkel, Delaney Merkel, Stella Paquette, Kennah Martino and Arie Robbins.

WARREN – Hardwick/New Braintree Police Lieutenant Kevin Landine recently spoke to eighth grade students at Quaboag Regional Middle/High School in Joseph Salvatore's Honors Civics class.

The students have been studying Supreme Court Cases that relate to the "Bill of Rights."

Landine, whose daughter, Abigail is in the class, was invited in to speak about police and citizen interactions re-

garding specifically the fourth amendment – protection against unreasonable searches and seizures. Landine provided examples of case studies and students had to answer whether the police action was proper or improper.

Students had a chance to ask questions throughout a range of police work topics, from use of body cameras to traffic stops.

The class also got a real life lesson on the 4th Amendment as applied to interac-

tions between the police and the public with Sturbridge Police Officer, Brad Merkel. Merkel's daughter, Delaney, is in the class.

Merkel provided case scenarios and students had to determine what type of ac-

tion was warranted and when within the law and application of the 4th Amendment. Students also had a chance to ask a range of questions about police work from traffic stops, body cameras, and legal searches.

Tri-Parish Community Church lists Easter services

HARDWICK – Tri-Parish Community Church will hold its Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 20 at 5:45 a.m. at the East Quabbin Land Trust office, 120 Ridge Road.

All are welcome to attend. The Easter Sunrise Service will be led by Deacon Virginia Rich.

The Tri Parish Community Church will also hold an Easter worship service to be led by Pastor Nathan Pederson on Sunday, April 20 at 10 a.m. at the New Braintree Congregational Church, 3 Oakham Road, New Braintree. The church is handicapped accessible and all are welcome

Ecumenical Easter sunrise service at Old Sturbridge Village

STURBRIDGE – The annual Ecumenical Easter sunrise service will be held at Old Sturbridge Village on April 20 starting at 6 a.m.

According to The Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale's pastor, the Rev. David W. Cote, seven local faith communities will join together at the original Baptist Meetinghouse that is now located at the end of the Common at Old Sturbridge Village.

Participating in this year's sunrise service, in addition to Cote, are The Rev. Dan Purtell (Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Sturbridge and Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Southbridge), Father Luc Martel, A.A. (St. Anne/St. Patrick Parish, Fiskdale), The Rev. Brian Oxman (Brookfield Congregational Church, Brookfield), The Rev. Kathryn Light (Elm Street Congregational Church, Southbridge),

and Ms. Christine McTigue (St. Joseph Church, Charlton).

"Together, we will welcome the dawn with prayer, song, and messages of hope and renewal as the sun rises," said Cote. "The service is open to all and will offer a peaceful, reflective start to Easter Sunday."

Those who wish to attend are advised to enter the Village and make their way to the Meetinghouse by way of the security gate at the top of the parking lot, and dress appropriately for the weather. Please note that food and drink are not permitted, except for bottled water.

The Village will not be open for touring during this event and restrooms will not be available. Attendees are requested to leave the Village directly following the service.

Easter morning services will follow the sunrise service at each of the respective churches.

EQLT to host Hiking 101 class and group hike April 12

HARDWICK – The East Quabbin Land Trust will host a Hiking 101 class and casual group hike on Saturday, April 12 from 1-4 p.m.

The event is tailored to adults and teenagers who are new to day hiking or who want to learn about practical considerations when out in nature. Hiking 101 will comprise an indoor discussion at EQLT's office, located at 120 Ridge Road, followed by a 1.5-mile hike with both gradual and steeper hills, at EQLT's Mandell Hill Preserve, which is located a short distance from EQLT's office.

EQLT Steward, Chris Kiraly-Thomas, a recreational hiker and Adirondack 46er (she has climbed all 46 Ad-

irondack peaks over 4,000 feet) who has also summited over 60 of New England's 4,000+ footers, will lead the class and the hike.

Participants will learn about: choosing where to hike, appropriate gear and supplies, how to handle basic emergencies, what to do when encountering wildlife, weather preparedness, access to potable water and proper hydration, leave no trace principles and more.

Attendees are encouraged to dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes or boots, and bring water.

RSVP to atrevvett@eqlt.org by April 9 if you would like to attend.

About the East Quabbin

Land Trust

The East Quabbin Land Trust fosters a meaningful relationship with the natural world by conserving, connecting with and caring for the farmlands, woodlands and waters in the East Quabbin region of Massachusetts. EQLT works closely with community members to foster vibrant communities through engagement with the outdoors.

The work of EQLT is focused on the communities of Barre, Hardwick, Hubbardston, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham, Petersham, Ware and West Brookfield. EQLT began in 1994 motivated by concern for the loss of farmland and wildlife

habitat to unplanned sprawl.

By working cooperatively with property owners, government agencies, conservation groups and other land trusts, EQLT has permanently protected 7,000 acres of land. EQLT worked with members of the Petersham community to purchase and lease The Country Store, revitalizing the heart of the town.

Over the past two decades, the East Quabbin Land Trust has also purchased and opened 6.5 miles of former railroad corridor as part of the Mass Central Rail Trail in Hardwick, New Braintree and Ware, with another 1.5-miles of rail trail slated for construction in 2025-26.

Pumpnickel Puppets present 'Peter Rabbit' on April 13

NEW BRAINTREE – On Sunday, April 13 at 2 p.m. in the New Braintree Town Hall, 20 Memorial Drive, the Friends of the New Braintree Library are hosting the Pumpnickel Puppets' show "Peter Rabbit".

Pumpnickel Puppets are presented with a cast of colorful puppet characters, audience participation, live voices and sound effects and fast paced scripts that not only entertain, but stimulate children's imagination and creativity. A demon-

stration period follows the performance giving the audience sound insight into what happens behind the scenes.

The performance will last approximately 30 to 40 minutes and are appropriate for children ages 3 and

up. This program is free and open to the public.

This program is funded by the Hardwick/New Braintree Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Theatre Guild to perform 'Cabaret' this month

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Theatre Guild of North Brookfield will be presenting a production of "Cabaret" at the end of April.

The story follows a Berlin nightclub, as the 1920s end, a garish Master of Ceremonies welcomes the audience and assures them they will forget all their troubles at the Cabaret. With the emcee's

bawdy songs as wry commentary, "Cabaret" explores the dark, heady and tumultuous life of Berlin's natives and expatriates as Germany slowly yields to the emerging Third Reich.

The guild will perform a total of five shows over the course of three days and the show will be in the auditorium of North Brookfield Elementary School. The Theatre Guild has put on amazing performances in the school's auditorium and many of those performances

are great musicals.

"Cabaret" was originally written by Joe Masteroff and music was by John Kander with the lyrics by Fred Ebb. The Theatre Guild's production of "Cabaret" features the creative team of Erin Hebert, Graham Christian, and Gordon King.

Hebert is the director and choreographer for the show, Christian is the music director and King is the set designer. The cast features 14 talented actors who are a part of the Theatre Guild of

North Brookfield.

Shows will be on April 25 at 7:30 p.m., April 26 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and April 27 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased on the Theatre Guild website, theatreguildofnorthbrookfield.com underneath the poster of "Cabaret".

Tickets are \$20 per adult, \$17 per child and senior.

The shows will be in the North Brookfield Elementary School auditorium at 10 New School Drive.

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

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- opinion -



Eggplant parmesan anyone?

Just when you think you are done planning your garden you come across something else to grow. What did it for me was a trip to the Dollar Store where I found the seed packs priced at four for \$1.25. What a deal!

While I wouldn't spend \$3.99 for a package of eggplant seeds, I could shell out approximately 32 cents, and if I end up with a half dozen fruit it would be worth the investment.

We grow eggplant at Old Sturbridge Village, but it is the ornamental type, the kind that looks seriously like pure white eggs hanging from a fuzzy gray-green plant! I plan to grow "Black Beauty," the variety that holds promise of parmesan grinders and saucy pasta dishes.

It's been a few years since I have grown eggplant. I stopped growing it because I never seemed to pick it at the right time – either it was too early or too late.

So, why don't we learn together how to grow eggplant successfully and harvest it correctly?

Eggplant is a member of the Solanaceae family, making it cousins with tomatoes and peppers. Like its relatives, eggplant seeds need to be started indoors, eight to 10 weeks prior to the last frost.

By sowing the seed yesterday, I just sneak in to the eight week mark. If the thought of growing eggplant excites you, don't let the calendar dissuade you. Any head start is still a head start!

The seeds like a warmer germination temperature, with some experts calling for 80 degrees! When the seedlings show their first set of true leaves, transplant them out of the seed pack and into six packs. A grow on temperature of 72 degrees coupled with supplemental light will produce nice, stocky seedlings.

Another trick to stocky seedlings is the brush method. A couple of times a day run the top of your hand

gently over the seedlings. Depending on how quickly they grow, another transplanting maybe necessary, this time into a four-inch pot.

Be careful not to disturb the roots too much; while tomatoes and peppers don't seem to mind transplanting, eggplant can be stunted a bit, so tackle this task tenderly.

About mid-May preheat your garden space in preparation for planting out the seedling. I lay down black plastic for peppers and will also use it for my eggplant transplants.

After the plants have been hardened off for a week or so by gradual exposure to the elements, it's time to get them in the ground. I cut "Xs" in the plastic about 18" apart, and mix some compost into the soil under each X. The seedlings are then installed just slightly lower into the soil than where they were growing in the pot.

If you can cover them with a floating row cover to help modulate the heat and keep flea beetles and Colorado potato beetles at bay, all the better.

I read that northern gardeners can expect to get four to six fruit per plant. Folks with a longer growing season can sometimes gain 12 to 15!

Once the fruit appear glossy, they can be picked, even before they reach their full size. If you wait until the skin is dull, the fruits are seedy and not at their prime any longer.

I am excited to see if my 32 cent investment will be fruitful. Fingers crossed!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



By Ellenor Downer

Green-winged teal



A Brimfield resident makes regular trips to ponds to look for waterfowl often in Warren.

On March 19 he saw five Canada geese, six mallards (three pairs), three American black ducks, six green-winged teal (three pairs) and one male, hooded merganser at a pond on New Reed Street.

The green-winged teal is the smallest dabbling duck in North America. The male has a cinnamon colored head and grayish body with a green crescent from the eye to the back of the head. The female has a vertical white strip that extends from the water line to its shoulder. The female is brown.

Both sexes have green wing patches, which are visible in flight. They also have a yellowish stripe along the tail.

They have a blocky body, large head and short bill. They are between 12 and 15 inches in length. Their tail is

high out of the water.

Spring time is a great time to look for green winged teal. They often land in shallow wetlands and are sometimes seen foraging in puddles of water on agricultural fields. They feed on shallow bodies of water on vegetation. They breed in dense vegetation along river deltas.

The oldest known green-winged teal was at least 20 years and three months. A female, she was banded in Oklahoma in 1941 and recaptured by a hunter in Missouri in 1960.

Great blue heron

The Brimfield resident said in an email dated March 19, "I visited two ponds in Warren yesterday and saw great blue herons for the second time this spring. However this time, they were at the pond where great blue herons have had nest for a couple of years and an osprey was back."

Both sightings were at the pond on South Street." Other birds seen at the pond included one ring-billed gull, three rock pigeon, one blue jay and six red-winged blackbirds.

Last year, there were four heron nests, however one nest fell down during the winter. There were two birds standing in one of the nests for a time before one of the birds flew to a nearby tree.

Osprey

The Brimfield resident said an osprey nest has been at this location in Warren since 2020 and nine young have successfully fledged. here. An adult just arrived in the last day or so. The bird flew to the nest carrying a branch and then moved to the bottom of the nest, tilted forward and then began scratching at the bottom of the nest.

He took a picture of this osprey scratching. He said, "In a picture I took, debris can be seen flying over the edge of the nest. A behavior I have never seen before – interesting."

Worm stealing blue jay

An Oakham resident through his kitchen window an American Robin extract a worm from the ground.

He said, "At that moment, a blue jay landed scaring off the robin and stealing the worm." He watched the blue jay flit closer and closer in the shrubbery and swoop in when the next worm was extracted by a robin. He said, "I did a quick check of the literature - nothing like this observed before. Jays, crows, ravens and magpies (Corvidae family) are renowned for their instinctual 'intelligence' and thievery."

Sandhill cranes

I have not seen the sandhill cranes in my field lately. I did hear them early in the morning last week when I put my trash bin out. My neighbor said she heard them in the morning as well.

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

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DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com



Can I avoid aying the Medicare premium?

Dear Rusty:
Is there any way I can get out of paying the \$185 I am told will be taken out of my Social Security for Medicare Part B when I turn 65?

We pay for Medicare all our working lives, and now I have to pay a monthly premium for insurance that only covers 80%.

Signed: Disheartened Senior

Dear Disheartened:
For clarification, the money you paid into Medicare while working during your lifetime was for Medicare

Part A, inpatient hospitalization coverage. The Medicare taxes paid while working entitled you to free Medicare coverage for Part A, inpatient hospitalization coverage, but they do not entitle you to Medicare coverage for outpatient services coverage for doctors, medical tests, etc.. For that coverage from Medicare, you must enroll in Medicare Part B, for which there is a monthly premium (\$185 per month for 2025). If you wish to have Medicare Part B coverage, you must enroll in Medicare Part B at age 65, unless you have other

"creditable" healthcare coverage from an employer.

The Medicare Part B premium will be automatically deducted from your Social Security payment when you enroll in Medicare and there is no way to avoid it if you wish to have Medicare healthcare coverage for outpatient medical services. But, if you currently have "creditable" healthcare coverage from an employer, you can delay enrolling in Medicare Part B (thus avoiding the premium) until your employer coverage ends.

If you don't enroll in Medicare Part B during your initial enrollment period at 65 or in a Special Enrollment Period following the end of your creditable employer healthcare coverage, then you will incur a penalty for enrolling in Medicare Part B outside of the prescribed enrollment periods. That penalty is a permanent increase in your Medicare Part B premi-

um. FYI, "creditable" is an employer group plan with at least 20 participants.

We do not advise going without outpatient healthcare coverage, so you should carefully consider enrolling in Medicare Part B when you turn 65. If you are already collecting Social Security benefits, you will be automatically enrolled, but you can opt out of Part B if you wish – it's just not advisable, unless you have current creditable healthcare coverage from an employer.

So, to recap: the Medicare taxes you paid while working only entitled you to free Medicare Part A inpatient hospitalization coverage. You must enroll in Medicare Part B (for which there is a monthly premium) to have Medicare healthcare coverage for outpatient healthcare services. Both Medicare Part A and Part B have deductibles and copayments, for which you may wish to con-

sider getting either a supplemental insurance plan or a Medicare Advantage plan. But, in either case, you must still have both Medicare Part A and Part B to obtain such additional healthcare coverage.

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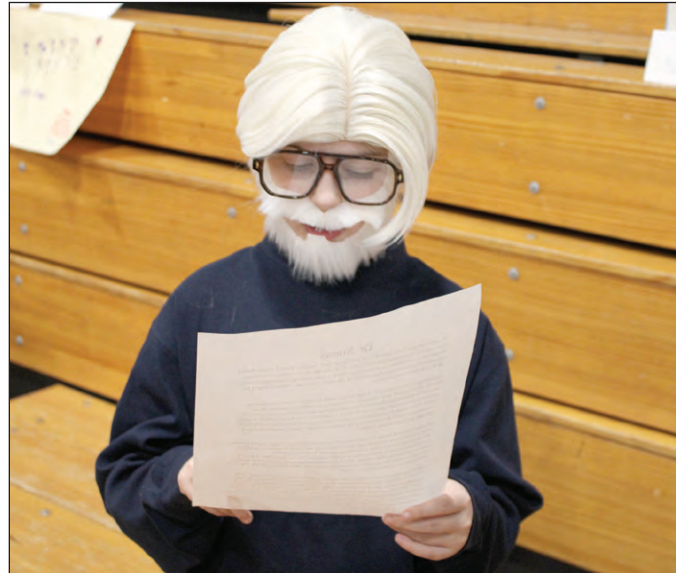
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NIGHT at the Museum



Christopher portrayed President Abraham Lincoln. TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA QUIMETTE



Juliana portrayed beloved children's author Dr. Seuss.



Raphael talks about the adventures of Davy Crockett.

NIGHT AT MUSEUM FROM PAGE 1

ations he built in the shape of a spaceship and astronaut.

Thomas said that Armstrong always dreamed of making the journey to the moon, and that he also received a number of medals for his achievements.

Students shared a number of facts about the person they had researched, with Jaxon sharing about Benjamin Franklin's discovery of electricity.

Addison said Pocahontas was a "very inspirational person" for her.

"She was a communicator between the Powhatan and the colonists," Addison said.

Skylynn said she selected Betsy Ross when she found out that Ross made the first American flag.

"To make the American flag, it really brought my mind to her," Skylynn said. "She started her own business in Philadelphia and not many women were allowed to own their own business."

Rahma said he chose to portray Alexander Hamilton because he really liked the movie "Hamilton".

"He's done some stuff that really inspired me," Rahma said of Hamilton. "He made the Federalist Papers and was the first Secretary of the Treasury."

Arabelle selected Harriet Tubman as her historical figure, after one of her friends told her about Tubman and said she would be perfect for Arabelle to portray at the event.

"She helped with the Underground Railroad," Arabelle said of Tubman's many accomplishments.

Christopher said he



Fifth grader Arabelle portrayed Harriet Tubman during the living history event.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA QUIMETTE
Nora portrayed Helen Keller during the "Night" at the Museum event held at West Brookfield Elementary School.

opted to portray President Abraham Lincoln due to his role in helping to end slavery in the U.S.

Dominic said he decided to portray baseball legend Jackie Robinson, the first African American athlete to play Major League Baseball.

"I felt like he would be fun to learn about, and I like the sport of baseball," Dominic said.



Kacey portrayed aviator Amelia Earhart.

In his research, Dominic learned that Robinson served in the U.S. Army prior to his baseball career.

Nora said Helen Keller was a good student despite facing incredible challenges, and even graduated cum laude from college.

"She got really good grades," Nora said. "I just thought it was amazing she graduated college even though she was deaf and blind. She had to learn to communicate in different ways."



Betsy Ross was portrayed by Skylynn.



Dominic also portrayed Brooklyn Dodgers' ball player Jackie Robinson.



Benjamin Franklin was portrayed by Jaxon.



Rahma portrayed Alexander Hamilton.



Nathan portrayed the famed entertainment pioneer Walt Disney.



Madison details the life of Anne Frank to her audience.



A total of six meat prizes were available at the American Legion Easter Meat Raffle in North Brookfield.

EASTER RAFFLE FROM PAGE 1

The tables of meat, including ham, came from Arnold's Meats in Chicopee and many guests who bought raffle tickets were excited to have a chance at taking some of the delicious meats home with them.

This team effort raffle

was fun for all who attended and the American Legion certainly appreciates their support.

The American Legion Post 41 is located at 163 North Main St. For more about activities visit their Facebook page, Sawyer-Mathieu-Kearns American Legion Post 41 or call 508-867-6008.

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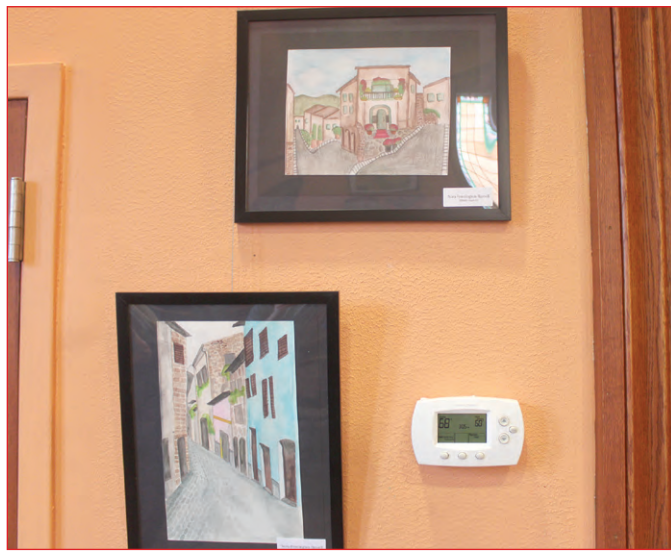
ART WORK FROM PAGE 1

cher and Nicole Giguere, who attended the opening of the display alongside their students. The students of Quaboag NAHS and NJAHS had their work displayed last year at the Merriam-Gilbert Library and were excited to be back and have their work displayed again.

This year, in addition to the art, the NAHS art exhibit featured bookmarks. The artwork done by many Quaboag students was printed on copies of bookmarks and many guests got to take some bookmarks home with them. The bookmarks also featured the name of the student behind the art.

The exhibit featured multiple mediums with European-inspired watercolor landscapes, detailed pencil drawings, acrylic interpretations, digital photography and much more.

President of Quaboag's National Art Honor Society Falon Rice was at the library alongside fel-



These outstanding art pieces were created by senior Nora Pennington-Russell.

low classmates and artists. Rice's chosen mediums include watercolor and acrylic paint markers which is her most recent artwork made in AP art with teacher Nicole Giguere.

Rice said the theme behind the art is different places around the world. Rice chose the form of stained glass.

Rice as president of NAHS views the society as "an artistic community and

is helping the community around us."

The National Art Honor Society participates in many community outreach events including the painting of the library book drop by the Warren Public Library and will soon be participating in an art auction during the Casey Handfield Benefit Concert at Quaboag on April 16 at 6:30 p.m. Proceeds from the auction will go to the Casey J. Handfield

Memorial Scholarship.

Rice plans to continue working in art and will soon be graduating from Quaboag Regional Middle High School. Rice will be attending the University of Maine in Orono, Maine this coming fall.

Vice-President of the NAHS is Isabelle Aberle, who had several of her own art pieces displayed as well. At the start of the opening, many students got to check out their own artwork displayed in the exhibit and loved seeing their work printed on bookmarks.

Another popular medium in the exhibit was digital photography.

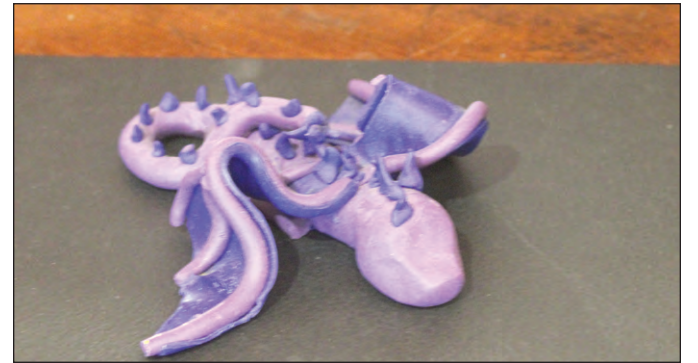
Norah Schwenker is a senior at Quaboag and her main medium was digital photography. Schwenker had several of her own photographs displayed in the library and are mostly close-ups of flowers.

The students' art will be displayed in the library, located at 3 West Main St., until the middle of May.

Art will also be displayed at QRMHS during their art



The dog painting was created by Delaney Merkel and the flower painting was created by Isabella Santos.



A purple dragon was crafted by Olive Moulton.

fair on May 21 from 6-8 p.m. The students have devoted a lot of their time to not only to create their art, but also

to service and make a deep commitment to arts advocacy in both their schools and their communities.

QUABOAG FROM PAGE 1

"These projects help us drive our budgets down when we're bring more efficient with oil," he said.

Duff said last year, the school district completed several efficiency projects in the amount of \$1,135,746.

Duff said there are many budget drivers that are outside of the school district's control, including the cost of transportation. He said this year they went out to bid for transportation and saw an 8% increase over last year.

Special education tuition has increased by \$286,930 and health insurance for staff and retirees have also seen a significant increase.

Duff said the local assessment for the town of Warren is proposed at \$4,993,715 or about a \$600,000 increase over last year. Transportation costs for the town total \$838,482.

Duff said the minimum local contribution for Warren is \$3,250,310 and the above minimum local contribution is \$904,923.

"The minimum local contribution is what the state requires the town to pay," Duff said. "The above minimum contribution is what the town's people would vote on

in order to give the district additional funding beyond what the towns are required to pay."

West Brookfield's total operating assessment for FY 26 is \$5,081,964 or about a \$440,000 increase over last year. Transportation costs for the town are \$557,631.

Duff said the minimum local contribution for West Brookfield is \$3,921,051 and the above minimum local contribution is \$603,282.

Duff said state aid only increased by \$34,390 for FY 26 and Chapter 70 by \$77,185. He said the school district has also received over \$800,000 in grant funding to offset a number of costs.

The total proposed FY 26 operating expense budget is \$22,608,334; a \$1,236,682 increase over last year's approved budget.

"Unfortunately, the state has not adequately funded public schools," Duff said. "We are at a point in this district where we're going to continue to ask our towns to fill that gap between what the state inadequately funds, and what is absolutely the bare minimum we need to operate this district...and that gap every year is getting bigger and bigger."

Duff recommended the School Committee support

the budget. The committee voted to accept the proposed budget.

Safety Committee update

Eric Urban, chair of the Safety Committee for the school district, said a reunification training was held during professional development on March 20.

"It forced us to identify roles and people who would serve in those roles should we need to do a reunification setting," Urban said.

The Safety Committee is responsible for organizing monthly meetings with public safety agencies, including State Police, local police and fire departments, along with school administrators. At the reunification training, the committee was also joined by the Lee Police Department and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency.

The training was led by the Western Massachusetts School Safety Task Force, with State Police Trooper Guilbault along with Franklin County Sheriff's Department Captain Haughey and School Safety Officer Carmichael.

"These types of events, you don't want to learn on the job. You want to learn and plan ahead of time," Urban said.

Accountability and safety

are the core tenets of reunification, Urban said. Students must be returned to parents or guardians only.

Urban described a number of incidents which could prompt a reunification setting, including train accidents, natural disasters and more.

Urban reminded parents of students to keep their contact information up to date with the school district, and keep custody, probate and restraining orders current also. Parents should always have their photo IDs on them.

Parents should not show up to the schools during a crisis, but should follow the directions given through announcements.

Urban said the committee will continue with meetings, trainings and working with public safety agencies.

Superintendent's report

Duff said he presented the proposed school budget to the Warren Board of Selectmen and he said it went well.

"They were amicable to where we were at," Duff said.

He will then be presenting the budget to the West Brookfield Advisory Board.

Duff said a statement of interest was submitted to the MSBA for doors and windows at West Brookfield Elementary School. He said the

school was accepted for the project in 2017, but the timeline was increased from a 25-year replacement to 30-year.

Duff said the design plans for the original replacement project were also submitted with the statement of interest.

Duff said interviews were held with candidates for the position of principal at Quaboag Regional Middle High School.

Student representatives report

Seniors Nora Pennington-Russell and Katelynn Swistak gave an update about ongoing events and fundraisers in the middle/high school.

Pennington-Russell said the senior class's Krispy Kreme donut fundraiser was a "huge success." She said they are finalizing the design for prom tickets which should go on sale soon.

Pennington-Russell said the 12th grade is also planning a cornhole tournament for the end of the school year.

Swistak said the 11th grade class will have their junior prom on May 17 at Hardwick Crossing. The theme for the prom is "The Great Gatsby".

The 10th grade class raised \$3,000 with a St. Patrick's Day raffle fundraiser. The ninth grade class held a Valentine's Day "blind date"

with a book fundraiser.

An Education Palooza was held for students in grades eight through 11 to learn about available courses for the next school year.

"To see what they might be interested in," Pennington-Russell said.

Swistak said the Quaboag Performing Arts performed "Clue" with an "A" and "B" cast. She congratulated all involved with the production.

There will be a town-wide Earth Day cleanup on Saturday, April 12 from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. with a rain date of April 13. This event is a good community service opportunity for students to participate in. The Quaboag Regional Wind Ensemble will be joined by Auburn High School Concert Band for a concert to raise money for the Casey J. Handfield Memorial Scholarship on April 16 at 6:30 p.m.

The Fire and EMS programs at the high school had the opportunity to tour the LifeFlight helicopter and speak to flight medics during a recent training on the football field. The Quaboag Art students have an exhibit on display at the Merriam-Gilbert Public Library in West Brookfield during the months of April and May.

Student Lizzy Tetlow won the cover design contest for the yearbook.

MASC Hyannis conference
The Student Council attended the annual conference Massachusetts Association of Student Councils in Hyannis and won the Silver Council Award for a binder that detailed the accomplishments of the council.

"This is our first time winning something in 10 years," Student Council Vice-President Josh said. "We are pretty proud of ourselves."

Josh said this is a trip the council makes each year, joining other councils from across the commonwealth to participate in activities and share ideas. The Student Council also attended a formal dinner at the conference.

He said the Polar Plunge is an event that raises money for the Special Olympics, and this year the council participated at an event while in Hyannis. The Student Council raised about \$2,000.

Josh said the keynote speakers at the conference were Mike Smith and Cara Filler, who both spoke to empower youth. He said Filler was his favorite speaker, and her talk centered around the power of choice in everyday decisions.

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Quaboag falls to Quabbin in opener

BARRE – Last week, it was a tough start to the season for Quaboag baseball. The Cougars fell 14-1 against Quabbin, followed by a 15-4 loss against David Prouty and a 10-3 loss against Southbridge. The Cougars look for their first win on Friday in a rematch at home with David Prouty at 3:30 p.m.



Jack Morgan gets ready to fire down to second.



Braiden Bradley sends a pitch home.



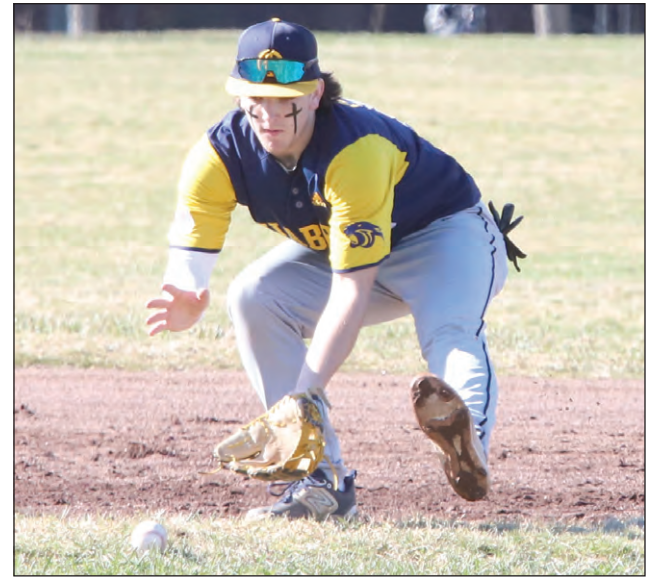
Thomas Bellizzi fires a throw home from right-center.



Giovanni Twomey swings and hits a grounder to the infield.



Connor Burgess fouls off a pitch.



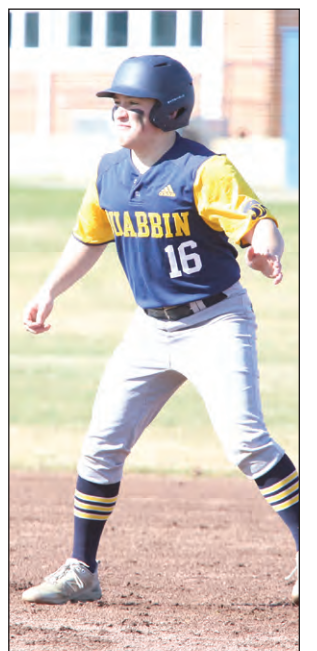
Adam Adams collects a grounder to short.

Panthers fall in second game of the season

BARRE – After a big win in their season opener, Quabbin Regional baseball was defeated by visiting Oakmont last Friday afternoon 5-1. The Panthers, which had 14 runs in their first matchup, could not get the bats going against Oakmont. The Panthers face Clinton on Friday, April 11 at 4 p.m.



Aiden Lapointe makes an off-balance throw to first.



Andrew Warfield leads off first.

Quabbin softball falls to Oakmont

BARRE – Last Friday afternoon, Quabbin softball suffered a defeat at home to Oakmont 13-3. The offense could not get much going on a breezy, but sunny afternoon at Quabbin Regional High School. The Panthers beat Quaboag 9-4 to open their season and are 1-1. The Panthers are at Clinton at 4 p.m. on Friday, April 11.



Kelsey Allen moves out of the way of an inside pitch.



Shortstop Jordan Blanchard sends a throw to first.



Abby Rogowski watches the pitcher as she gets ready to lead off second.



Sam Morgan gets an out at first.

Open practice rescheduled for new Quabbin Valley players

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to infuse new talent into its league for the 2025 season.

The league is looking for at least six more players to sign up to play in the league this year.

The open practice scheduled for Sunday, April 6 was rained out. Players can still register for the season and the next open practice is scheduled for Sunday, April 13 at 10 a.m. at Beachgrounds Park in South Hadley. Following that practice, new players will be drafted to teams in the league as the league works to fill its open roster spots.

Registration for the

2025 season is now open and any interested players can go to www.quabbin-valleybaseball.org to get registered, or to seek more information or make inquiries about the league. The league website will also be updated

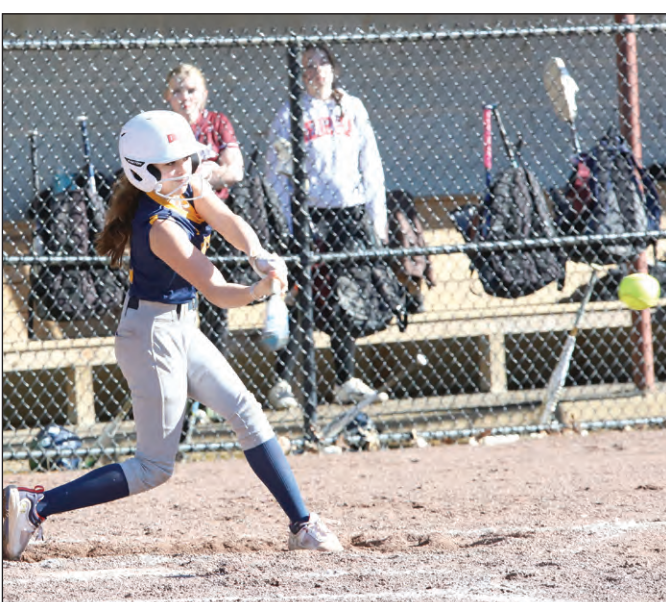
over the next month with information about the upcoming season.

There are many open roster spots available in the league for the 2025 season, which is tentatively scheduled to begin on Sunday, April 27. The league plays most Sunday from late April through mid-August with playoffs following that. The league plays a

See **QUABBIN VALLEY** PAGE 8



Lianna Leger fouls off a pitch.



Catcher Ju-Ju Guilderson swings and connects.

- sports -

Railers take 3-2 win over Adirondack

WORCESTER – It can be really hard to project the outcome of a game between a team that has nothing to lose and one that has everything to lose.

Such was the case Saturday night in the match here between the Railers and the Adirondack Thunder. Worcester won by a goal, of course, 3-2. Each of the Railers' last seven victories have been by one goal including a shootout triumph.

Adirondack is out of the playoff race and using many new faces. The Railers' battle for the final playoff spot in the North Division leaves them no margin for error.

The math is simple even if the task is not. The Railers have three games left, one with Adirondack Sunday and two at Reading next weekend. If they win them all, they make the playoffs with 80 points.

Saturday, the Worcester scorers were Justin Gill, Tanner Schachle and Tyler Kobryn. Ian Pierce and Kaleb Ergang had the Adirondack goals. It was Pierce's first professional goal.

Gill scored in the first period, Schachle in the second and Kobryn in the third. At one point the Railers had a

2-0 lead, then backslid in the second half of the second period. Ergang scored with 10 seconds to go in the period and it was 2-2 heading into the third.

Kobryn broke the tie with a shot from between the circles at 14:37.

It was his ninth goal in 23 games with Worcester. Kobryn had two in 18 games with Florida this year before being traded to the Railers and 16 in 145 career ECHL games prior to his arrival here.

"Any time you get that kind of production out of a player who was kind of a 'nothing' trade," coach Nick Tuzzolino said, "that definitely helps, and everybody has to fit a role and he fits his role with that line."

"And when he gets chances he doesn't miss."

Gill, in contrast, has been a difference maker on offense. He is 7-13-20 in 20 games with Worcester this season and plus-11. The Railers are 12-6-2 when Gill is in the lineup.

Schachle's goal was his first in a Worcester uniform to go along with three assists.

The Railers were in control of things until they went on a power play half-way through the second pe-

riod. The power play was, in a word, inept. Momentum turned in Adirondack's direction and the Thunder dominated the rest of the period.

"It's not anything they did, it's something we did," Tuzzolino said of the power play. "It's self-inflicted. The biggest problem with our power play right now is that it's killing momentum. It's not just that we're not scoring, it's killing momentum."

Michael Bullion continued to be a momentum creator in net, though. He stopped 22 of 24 shots and is 7-1 in his last eight starts.

Worcester's playoff push is largely a result of a recent great record at the DCU Center. The Railers did not play well at home during the early part of the season but are 14-3-2 in its last 19 games here. That is good for a .789 winning percentage.

Overall, Worcester is 24-13-3 in its last 40 games.

The victory was the Railers' 34th of the season and brought them to 74 points. They will finish above .500 for the first time 2018-19, their second season in the ECHL. Worcester was 32-29-11 for 75 points that year.

- in the classroom -

From the desk of Colleen Mucha, Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent



Shown from left are Isabel Coviello, student director and the only student director in Saturday's competition, Madeline Oliver set design and stage manager, Lisa Payne adult advisor and mentor to Isabel and Jackie Martin author. The Quabbin team did not make it onto the final round, however, they received such positive feedback and they left a memorable mark on the audience. Superintendent Colleen Mucha said, "we are so very proud of them."

On Saturday, March 15 Quabbin Regional Middle High School students competed in the semi finals for the Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild Awards.

They presented "Abigail, For Now" written by Jackie Martin. The play had to be adapted for the format of the competition and students were thrilled when the author showed up to cheer them on.

On Saturday, March 1, 23 Quabbin Regional Middle High School students traveled to Leominster High School to compete in The Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild High School Festival.

Quabbin entered the competition with a student director and the play "Abigail, for Now," which is written by a local playwright from Massachusetts. Quabbin was one of four schools at Leominster to move on to the semi-final round and to perform in Framingham on Saturday, March 15 at 1:30 p.m.

At the competition several Quabbin students were recognized with individual awards. Senior Isabel Coviello won an all-star award

for directing. Isabel was the only student director for a winning show at the competition held in Leominster. Aidan Mahoney and Winter Boyea won all-star awards for acting. As you are aware, it takes a team to make a production come to life and the team of Quabbin students was outstanding. Many other schools acknowledged our students' professionalism and hard work.

One of the requirements for the festival is that the students have to be fully responsible for sound, lights and sets, which were designed by senior Madeline Oliver. Our students acted, both onstage and off, with great maturity, efficiency and focus.

Quabbin has entered the Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild High School Festival for many years and traditionally has sent a "student director" as this is an opportunity for our students to grow, learn and lead. Recently, I discussed the play with Isabel and she shared that "working with many students who are new to theater has been very inspiring. The students handled themselves with levels of maturity that you don't often see from

adults." When Isabel was asked about why the show was chosen she responded, "It felt very relevant and like a lot of what some of our students are dealing with." The show is recommended for ages 13+ as it deals with topics of suicide and self-harm and includes flashing lights and loud noises.

While watching the show Friday night, I personally felt many different emotions as the characters shared their stories, struggles and triumphs. The storytelling brought me to another time and place and I had truly forgotten that I was in the audience at Quabbin Regional Middle High School auditorium. Not only was the choice of the play relevant, it led to audience engagement and reflection. Our cast and crew did an exceptional job.

Their show, "Abigail, for Now" moved on to the semi-final round Saturday, March 15 at Framingham. I know the Quabbin team is going to leave the judges and the audience with much to think about and isn't that what is supposed to happen? Quabbin is certain to work hard and pull together.

QUABBIN VALLEY FROM PAGE 7

15-game schedule and typically fields six teams each year. Games are usually

played at 10 a.m. with fields in Easthampton and South Hadley normally used.

The Quabbin Valley league is an all-abilities league and all are welcome

to join. Eligibility is players who are age 28 and over. You must be 30 to be eligible to pitch in the league. Your age for eligibility is whatever age you will turn in 2025.

Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please

follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.



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- community -

Workshop13 offers youths a chance to ‘Spring Into Art’

WARE – Workshop13 is offering a new youth art program during April vacation week, designed to keep children and tweens creatively engaged during their school break.

“Spring Into Art” week runs from April 21-25 daily from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Workshop13’s main building, located at 13 Church St. in downtown Ware. The target age group is 6-12 years.

Thanks to the generosity of the Community Foundation of Western MA, this program is being offered at a discounted rate of \$160 for the entire session.

Workshop13 offers numerous other creative activities for young artists. Fine Art for Kids has 4-week Saturday fine art/art history sessions for youths in March, April, and May. A new Mommy and Me Art Class is being offered one Thursday each month. A special one-day pottery workshop and demonstration with master potter Rick Hamlin will take place on April 5 at Workshop13’s ClayWorks campus (71 Main St., Ware), giving young aspiring potters the chance to make their own ceramic dragon.

The summer is packed with youth programs, including Art in Nature (also discounted thanks to the Community Foundation of



Students will experience a variety of creative mediums at Workshop13’s “Spring Into Art” week April 21-25. This photo shows some paper quilling made by students of a past workshop.

Western MA), clay classes for different age groups, and Art Passport: Destination Stations. Thanks to the generosity of the Ware Cultural Council, all Art Passport sessions are being offered free of charge.

Workshop13 has sliding scale pricing and sibling discounts available to ensure that these and other youth programs are accessible to all. Workshop13 also participates in CardToCulture for EBT cardholders. Email remington@workshop13.org to request financial assistance.

Visit workshop13.org to learn more about upcoming classes and workshops and to register.



These prints were created by students at one of Workshop13’s art classes.

About Workshop13 Workshop13 Cultural Arts and Learning Center is a rural non-profit arts innovator located in Ware and devoted to increasing the appreciation and accessibility of the arts, strengthening the creative life of the community through instruction, collaborations, and arts-based initiatives.



TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

Renowned appraiser and auctioneer Kenneth Van Blarcom of South Natick was the appraiser during the New Braintree Historical Society’s antique appraisal event.

ANTIQUES FROM PAGE 1

One item brought to the event that Van Blarcom likes to review are antique chairs. The chairs dated back to the 1820s and according to Van Blarcom, the chips on parts of the chairs tell a story about their use throughout history.

“The marks, it tells a story,” Van Blarcom said.

According to the expert appraiser, antique chairs are worth more if they come as a set. For example, as a set of four or a table set. One chair Van Blarcom valued at \$75.

Another unique antique was an old ledger that featured both 18th century paper and 20th century paper. There was one note that once belonged to a British Officer dating around 1770. The notes were included to help tell the story of the ledger and Van Blarcom believes depending on authenticity the ledger could be worth more.

When checking for marks, signatures, inscriptions he uses a flashlight and a magnifying glass. Several antique weapons were brought in during the appraisal, including a knife and an axe. The tools help Van Blarcom identify the period of when the weapons were made.

For sports memorabilia, a gentleman showed Van Blarcom a Boston Red Sox poster from the time of the 1903 World Series, highlighting the professional baseball club’s first World Series Championship. When asked by Van Blarcom how long the owner had it, they said it has been hung up in one of their households for many years and the poster has never been taken out of the frame.

Van Blarcom suggested the owner take the poster out of the frame to confirm the authenticity of the poster if it is from the correct time period. If it is real, Van Blarcom valued the Red Sox poster at around \$2,500.

Another unique item was a signed photograph from members of the Rolling Stones around the time they were in North Brookfield at Long View Farm. The item was magnificent due to having the history and the story tied to it.

The New Braintree Historical Society will be hosting an evening of discussion and remembrances of New Braintree’s “Conserve Our Small Town” era on Friday,

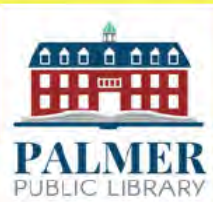
June 20 at 6:30 p.m. The remembrance will be moderated by Susan Reed and former senator Stephen Brewer.

This event highlights the moment when the town fought to prevent a prison being built on the current site of the Massachusetts State Police Training Center. This fight concluded in 1990.

For more information contact the historical society at NBHS@newbraintreehistoricalsociety.org or visit newbraintreehistoricalsociety.org.

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- public safety -

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of March 31-April 7, the Hardwick/ New Braintree Police Department responded to 15 building/property checks, 20 directed/area patrols, four radar assignments, seven traffic controls, six emergency 911 calls, one citizen assist, one assist other agency, two illegal dumpings, one identity theft, two vandalisms, one safety hazard, two complaints, one investigation, one animal call and six motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, March 31

7:49 p.m. Welfare Check, Skivira Lane, Services Rendered
 9:04 p.m. Illegal Dumping, Mara Road, Services Rendered

9:58 p.m. 911 Assist Other Agency, Igoe Road, Services Rendered

Tuesday, April 1

1:25 a.m. Safety Hazard, Ravine Road, Officer Handled
 9:33 a.m. Identity Theft, Old Wine Road, Report Taken
 4:25 p.m. Investigation, Out of Town, Officer Handled
 5:04 p.m. Illegal Dumping, Mara Road, Report Taken

Wednesday, April 2

12:59 a.m. Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered
 6:43 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Written Warning

Thursday, April 3

8:51 p.m. 911 Medical

Emergency, McEvoy Road, Transported to Hospital

Friday, April 4

12:30 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive Spoken To
 6:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Mara Road, Arrest(s) Made
 7:39 p.m. 911 Welfare Check, West Road, Transferred call to C3

Saturday, April 5

12:09 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Hardwick Road, Spoken To

12:46 p.m. Vandalism, Oakham Road, Investigated

Sunday, April 6

3:28 p.m. 911 Vandalism, Utley Road, Services Rendered
 8:59 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Pierce Road, Unfounded

- public notices -

TOWN OF NORTH BROOKFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Brookfield Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing to consider a petition to locate poles, wires, cables, and fixtures, including the necessary anchors, guys, and other such sustaining and protecting fixtures, brought before it

by National Grid **Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at 6:15 PM at the Police Department, 55 School Street, North Brookfield, MA 01535.**

The pole location that will be considered is as follows:
Green Road-National Grid to install 1 JO pole on Green Rd beginning at a point approximately 1000 feet North of the centerline of the intersection of Shore Road, National Grid to install

new sub pole 61-84. Said hearing will begin at 6:15 PM and continue until completion, and will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 166.

Jason M Petraitis, Chairman
 E. Brooke Canada
 04/11, 04/18/2025

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We want to address housing needs in our region with storytelling! If you have a story to share about your current housing situation, challenges with finding housing, or being unhoused, we want to hear your story. Housing stories will be used to build awareness about the housing challenges in the region to bring further change. Stories will be collected through an online form or video interview. Photos or videos will be used with permission, or you may ask to remain anonymous.



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For any questions, please contact Nisha Humayun at nhumayun@townofware.com or (413) 207-7698



- community -

Solo/Duet poetry and music series continues on Tuesdays

WEST BROOKFIELD – Solo/Duet, a poetry and music series at the Merriam-Gilbert Public Library will be held on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. in April.

In celebration of Nation-

al Poetry Month, Jonathan Blake will read poems from the collections of poetry found on the shelves of the Merriam Gilbert Library in West Brookfield. Each April reading will begin and end

with performances by a jazz duet of original compositions and those from the “standard book” of America’s one true art form.

On April 15, Jerry Wilfong will perform on solo bass

while Jonathan Blake reads from “Black Nature” and a jazz poetry performance with Wilfong and Blake. On April 22, bassist Jerry Wilfong and vocalist Lydia Fortune will perform while

Jonathan Blake reads Stern and Oliver; and on April 29, bassist Jerry Wilfong and percussionist Dick Hummel/Jonathan Blake reads Gluck and Wright. This series is free and open to all. Please stop

by or call the library or call 508-867-1410 to reserve your seat. This program is made possible by the West Brookfield Cultural Council as supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

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