

QUABOAG CURRENT

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Newspaper

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Friday, September 29, 2023

National Guard works with migrant/homeless families

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – Town Administrator Robin Grimm said as of Sept. 14, there are at least 56 migrant and homeless families living in town at various hotels.

At the Sept. 18 Board of

Selectmen's meeting, Grimm said communication has been a challenge, with many of the families speaking multiple languages.

Grimm said the superintendent of schools continues to enroll students as the law allows, and the Department of Public Health has been onsite monitoring the health of the

families. Many of the families are homeless commonwealth residents.

"All students under the Homeless Act are allowed to go to school regardless of vaccination status," she said.

Grimm said the National Guard met with state and town officials, adding that the National Guard is "working very

hard" to get information about the people involved, as well as organizing relief and donations.

"They're handling all of that," she said.

She said there is a need for winter clothing and toys, and asked that all requests to donate be sent to her, which she will forward to the National

Guard.

Grimm said people can also reach out to the Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale about donating items for the families.

"As we get more information, we'll become more organized through public safety, the schools and all of our other ser-

See **GUARD** | PAGE 15



Spooener Well performs at Farmer Matt's BBQ+Beer+Band event. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY

Season's last BBQ+Beer+Band said 'goodbye' to summer

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

NEW BRAINTREE – It was just a couple of days short of the beginning of fall when the drive-up from West Brookfield brought one to Farmer Matt's spread in New Braintree and to the event known as BBQ+Beer+Band.

The event had been held over the season and the Sept. 21 edition would be the last for

the year.

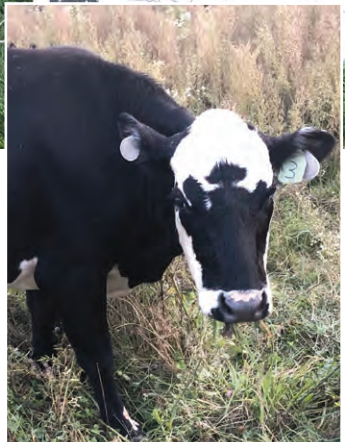
Planned outdoor events in Massachusetts are always at the mercy of the weather and this summer has seen more than its share of monsoon-like climate, but luck was with Farmer Matt and the day was as pleasant as one could ask for. Early evening saw many in T-shirts, though later would see most don jackets or sweaters as it would feel more autumnal.

The event was scheduled to

begin at 4:30 p.m. and end at 8 p.m., but it was all more or less flexible as some arrived early and others drifted in. The band was playing when we got there, but we chose to walk around and take in the view of cows grazing in fields electrically fenced as cattle tend to roam.

Our ramble ended up at the stand of Lost Towns Brewing. Manning the taps were Alex and Troy and on tap were brews

See **SUMMER** | PAGE 8



Miss Personality greets visitors to Farmer Matt's.

Superintendent shares goals and introduces new staff

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Interim Superintendent Tim McCormick introduced the school district's new interim Director of Student Services, Ann Knapp to the School Committee.

"Ann is a veteran to special education," McCormick said

at the Sept. 19 meeting. "We're very happy to have Ann on with us full time."

McCormick said all positions are now filled at the Jr./Sr. High School. He said they are still in the process of hiring two special education teachers at the Elementary School, as well as two paraprofessionals and one applied behavioral analysis-certified staff member.

See **STAFF** | PAGE 7



Henry Tilton, left, and Owen DeFosse play a game of cards at the Quaboag Performing Arts Booster Club's Family Fun Day: Board Games fundraising event this past Saturday. TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE

Board games offer rainy day fun for all

WARREN – Quaboag Performing Arts Booster Club hosted Family Fun Day: Board Games in the cafeteria of Quaboag Regional Middle High School this past Saturday afternoon.

For a donation, participants could choose to play

over 30 different board and card games, geared toward all ages. Games ranged from classics such as checkers, Othello and Battleship, to new games like What Do You Meme? and many more.

A door prize, raffles, refreshments

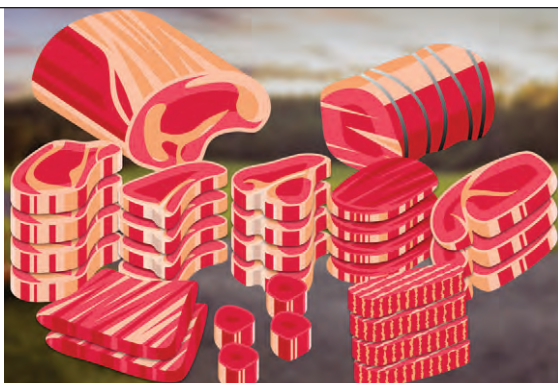
See **GAMES** | PAGE 12



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- community -

'The Addams Family' cast list goes up at Quaboag

By Haileigh Swistak
Student Intern

WARREN – Auditions for “The Addams Family Musical” took place at Quaboag Regional Middle High School on Sept. 21.

Auditions were hosted by Director and Music Teacher James Joinville along with choreographer Meg Masciangioli.

The evening started out with a brief warm-up group singing of “When You’re An Addams”, the opening number to the production. This was followed by solo singing intervals of a song sung by the character each student auditioned for.

Masciangioli then went on to teach the aspiring actors a dance from the opening number that they would later perform on-stage in small groups.

The last step in the audition process was the cold-reads, where students were asked to perform a scene from the musical that they hadn’t read prior to auditions.

It wasn’t long before the cast list was put up the next day, Sept. 22, during lunch. The actors eagerly crowded around the slips of paper on the wall that would determine their

roles.

Senior Ty Armitage will play Gomez Addams beside junior Abigail Join as Morticia Addams. Their daughter, the iconic Wednesday Addams, will be played by senior Rachel McGrath, and her younger brother Pugsley Addams will be played by freshman Jade Fontaine.

Wednesday’s love interest, Lucas Beineke,

will be played by Joshua Leaming. His parents Mal and Alice will be played by Barry Nash and Falon Rice, respectively.

Other leads include juniors Parker Chaffee as Uncle Fester, Aviendha Andreoli as Grandma, and Dante Martino as Lurch.

The cast’s first read through of the script will be on Monday, Oct. 2, after school until 5 p.m.



Students audition for “The Addams Family Musical” at Quaboag Regional Middle High School. TURLEY PHOTO BY HAILEIGH SWISTAK



PHONE
413.967.3505
Fax: 413.967.6009
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL
Advertising Sales
Dan Flynn
dflynn@turley.com

Tim Mara
tmara@turley.com

Editor
Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

WEB
www.quaboagcurrent.turley.com

@QuaboagCurrent

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VETERANS DAY SALUTE

Quaboag Current ~ November 3, 2023

The Quaboag Current will be saluting our local veterans (from all wars and branches, including honoring deceased veterans), reservists, active duty U.S. Military members.

Please submit a photo of your veteran with his or her name, rank, branch of military and hometown by email to dflynn@turley.com or drop off a photo to **Quaboag Current, 80 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082**

All photos will be returned.

Please submit your photo no later than **Tuesday, October 17, 2023**

There is no cost to submit a photo. No photos will be accepted after deadline. If you would like to use a prior submitted photo, please contact us before to October 10th.

Church tag sale rescheduled to Sept. 30

NORTH BROOKFIELD – A tag sale will be held at Christ Memorial Episcopal Church, 133 North Main St., on Saturday, Sept. 30 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

There will be plants (indoor and outdoor), puzzles, books, clothes, kid’s stuff, kitchen and household items, treasures, and more. Name your own price.

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- Montana: Exploring Big Sky Country - July 23-August 2, 2024
- Shades of Ireland - September 18-27, 2024
- Treasures of Turkey - November 2-17, 2024

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For further information call Randall at (413) 436-5357 or email adventuretours@att.net or go to www.adventuretoursofwarren.com

- community -

Oakholm Brewery hosts fall cornhole league

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

BROOKFIELD – For eight weeks, Oakholm Brewing Company hosts a fun competitive cornhole league of over 30 players.

Although the current Wednesday night league is seasonal, cornhole leagues run all year round, including a spring league that holds 70 players. The organization of these fun and competitive leagues and tournaments is thanks to the efforts of the Backwoods Baggers.

Currently running the leagues and tournaments for Backwoods Baggers are Jay Chase and Terry Brennan. Both Chase and Brennan have been involved with competitive cornhole for the last couple of years.

Playing in different venues throughout the year, Backwoods Baggers has always appreciated the accommodations Oakholm Brewery has made for them in order to continue offering cornhole leagues and competitions.

“They have been very accommodating,” said Chase.

The league has a lot of local support from players, sponsors, food vendors and anyone from those support systems can play in the league.

One of the vendors regularly joining the league is Savage Wraps. A family run business serving fresh, unique wraps in the form of appetizers, main courses, and a dessert option of fried cheesecake.

Members of Savage Wraps also participate in the cornhole league.

What’s unique about the fall league is the wide range of ages of the players. Adults and children ages 12 and up play simultaneously in a total of six games each league night and enjoy the experience of fun competition.

Brennan enjoys having the youth involved in cornhole league and hope they continue to participate when they’re adults. There are a lot of good youth players in the league and Brennan thinks they will be even better

when they’re adults.

“You can only take them under your wing for so long, then they start beating you,” said Brennan.

For the adults in the league, players have known each other for nearly 25 years.

In that duration, players continue to have a competitive edge. From time to time rivalries between players can occur, but the league always stays in fun competition.

Backwoods Baggers continue on to have cornhole events year round. Already, they have bookings for next year and the league is looking to recruit more players.

In the wintertime, the leagues will transfer to indoor play at other venues.

To keep track of their cornhole events, Backwoods Baggers can be found on Facebook and Instagram. The league uses the tournament website, scoreholio.com, that provides automatic displays of court scores.

To learn more, Backwoods Baggers can be reached



Terry Brennan (left) and Jay Chase run the Backwoods Baggers cornhole league at Oakholm Brewery in Brookfield. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO



Terry Brennan gets ready to take his shot.

by email at Backwoodsbaggers@gmail.com. Organizations supported by the Backwoods Baggers is the Why Me & Sherry’s House, Stepping Towards a Cure Foundation, the North Brookfield Sportsmen’s Club and Kids in the Congo.

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- opinion -



Cleaning up and planning ahead

Let's just say that all the rain made vegetable gardening a real challenge this year.

Why don't we call it a wrap and do what we can now to get ahead of the game for next year!

Most of my veggie plants have already called it quits. Other than a half row each of carrots and beets, and the last succession of green bean plants, there is pretty much nothing left to harvest in my main garden.

I still have some great peppers in the raised beds. Clean up will start in the main garden for now.

Where do I begin? First, I will haul off whatever I can to the compost pile, excluding as many weeds as possible. I will also leave out thick plant stalks such as broccoli; they will take too long to break down.

Diseased plants are also a no-no; they belong in the trash.

Think of the compost pile as an outdoor lasagna made of layers of brown and green plant parts. Brown, carbon rich ingredients (such as chopped leaves) can be layered with green, nitrogen rich ingredients (such as grass clippings, over grown vegetables and scraps, and those non-weedy plant parts) to get the pile cooking.

Add a shovel full of garden soil or finished compost per layer to inoculate it with microbes and water well. Let the pile sit for a year or turn it frequently for faster results.

Compost is a near neutral source of humus, a well-balanced fertilizer and soil tonic good for all types of gardens and even the lawn.

The garden plot is looking better, but I still have lots of weeds to deal with. I've been told that if you miss one year's seeding it's seven years weeding, so there is no way I am going to take the easy route and rototill them in.

As I pull up the weeds by hand, I vow to be a better weeder next year, or better yet, mulch more and weed less.

My chickens, however, are thrilled with my shortcomings! They gobble down those seed heads faster than their morning dose of carrot peelings.

At last, I have a clean slate. In preparation for sowing winter rye seed, I scuff up the soil surface.

If any Jumping Worms cross my path, I feed them to the chickens. Stay tuned for an entire article on the subject of these invasive worms next week.

Once prep is complete, I rake the soil smooth and broadcast the seed. At a rate of four pounds per one thousand square feet of garden, I use ten pounds.

It's a good idea to divide the seed in half and try to cover all the area you have once, then go back and fill in the light spots with the rest. After the seed has been sown, I'll drag the flat end of a steel rake over the soil surface to bury it ever so slightly.

My goal is to have the seed sprout now, so that its roots will hold the soil and its nutrients in place over the off season. Winter rye will put on an amazing amount of top growth by spring- weed whack or mow it first to make incorporating easier.

I am also contemplating "tarping" it to so-



Guest Column

Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance

Supporting positive youth mental health

By Abageal Duda

Community Engagement Coordinator for the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance.

To promote wellbeing, here is information with a focus on opportunities to support positive youth mental health available to individuals, families, schools, and communities.

Every two years, the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance conducts Prevention Needs Assessment Surveys in regional schools at the eighth, 10th, and 12th grade levels to better understand how youth are thinking, feeling, and behaving with respect to a range of topics, including substance use, mental health, safety, and familial and community engagement.

Overall, students, families and schools appear to be making great choices to provide a solid foundation for healthy growth in the Quaboag Hills region. There are areas of concern, of course, and not every student is thriving.

These surveys provide the data that is the foundation for selecting evidence-based programs that promote healthy choices.

Our goal is to increase what we are doing well, to find ways to address gaps in support, and to share information with community partners, such as schools and Boards of Health. Particularly since the COVID pandemic, mental health for all ages has become of greater concern both nationally and locally.

When people talk about youth and mental health, they are often discussing mental health challenges or disorders. However, it is also about youth growing and achieving mental and emotional milestones.

Because many health behaviors and habits that are established in adolescence will influence choices over a lifetime, it is very important to help youth develop good mental health early in life. However, the pandemic disrupted many school-based services, increased parental burdens, and potentially affected long-term health outcomes for caregivers and children alike.

What can I do to support youth mental health?

While we cannot remove all adversity/risk factors, we can help youth develop resiliency, the protective factors in youth's environment, that help them deal with adversity. Those factors include, but were not limited to, "family support and monitoring; caring adults; positive peer groups; strong sense of self, self-esteem, and future aspirations; and engagement in school and community activ-

ities," according to a collective of 14 federal agencies working together to promote positive youth development (youth.gov).

Specifically, they note the following among positive factors that can benefit youth mental health development:

- Opportunities for engagement within school and community
- Presence of mentors and support for development of skills and interests
- Positive norms that support healthy choices
- Physical and psychological safety
- Family provides structure, limits, rules, monitoring, and predictability
- Supportive relationships with family members
- Clear expectations for behavior and values
- Positive physical development
- Academic achievement/intellectual development
- High self-esteem
- Emotional self-regulation
- Good coping skills and problem-solving skills
- Engagement and connections in two or more of the following contexts: school, with peers, in athletics, employment, religion, and culture

How are we doing in the Quaboag Hills Region?

The Prevention Needs Assessment Survey addresses these types of risk/protective factors. Taking a look at just a couple of areas listed above - opportunities to participate in school or community activities and clear expectations for behavior - suggest how well our communities are addressing needs and how we might improve.

When asked about why students do not participate in sports or other activities, more than 15% of respondents cited expense or transportation as barriers, and more than 20% noted that they had too many other responsibilities (helping with sibling childcare, employment, etc.) Addressing those issues could help more students participate in activities that studies show help foster positive mental health development.

In terms of setting clear expectations, one of the questions related to this topic was, "my family has clear rules about alcohol use."

The percentage of those who answered that they "strongly agree" or "agree" were as follows: At the eighth grade level, 94%; at the 10th grade level, 91%; and at the 12th grade level, 86%.

Eighth graders, who felt their families

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

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

Send opinions to:

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

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PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

EDITOR
Paula Quimette
pouimette@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Dan Flynn
Tim Mara

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

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WEB
www.quaboagcurrent.turley.com

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Quaboag Current Newspaper

Water Department's parade float earns first place



Members of Brookfield Water Department handed out water bottles to paradegoers.



BROOKFIELD – The Brookfield Water Department's float took first place in the town's 350th birthday celebration parade on Sept. 17. The float displayed the Department's history, from hand pumps to sinks, and even featured actual running water.



Brookfield Water Department's float even featured running water.

Brookfield Water Department had the first place float in the town's 350th parade on Sept. 17. TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE



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GARDEN | FROM PAGE 4

larize the soil at the same time, then working in the dead plants by hand. Either way, if you do this for a few years in a row you'll watch the organic matter content of your soil soar, reportedly at a rate of three to four thousand pounds per acre!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



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- sturbridge -

JHPL celebrates banned books on Oct. 4

STURBRIDGE –Join the Joshua Hyde Public Library on Thursday, Oct. 4 at 6:30 p.m. at Avellino/The Duck, 502 Main St.

Read any banned book and come to discuss it in a laid-back and relaxing atmosphere. Food and drink will be available for purchase.

Registration is recommended. Books are available on display at the library.

According to the American Library Association, Banned Books Week celebrates the freedom to read and spotlights current and historical attempts to censor books in libraries and schools. The theme for Banned Books Week 2023 is “Let Freedom Read.”

When books are banned, it closes off readers to people, places and perspectives. ALA’s Office for Intellectual Freedom documented 1,269 demands to censor library books and resources in 2022, the highest number of attempted book bans since ALA began compiling data about censorship in libraries more than 20 years ago.

The unparalleled number of reported book challenges in 2022 nearly double the 729 book challenges reported in 2021. Of the record 2,571 unique titles targeted for censorship, most were by or about LGBTQIA+ persons and Black, Indigenous and people of color.

were the clearest about alcohol use rules, were the least likely to use that substance, and 12th graders, with the lowest percentage of clarity regarding alcohol use, were the most likely to use alcohol. This may be an oversimplification of contributing factors, but many studies suggest that having conversations about expectations and clear household rules support making healthy choices.

One of the most important factors for positive mental and physical health for youth is having conversations, whether with parents, school staff, or other trusted members of the community.

QHSUA supporting mental health To learn more about the Prevention Needs Assessment Survey, see the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance website, www.QHSUA.org. The 2021 report is linked to the home page, and the 2023 report will be ready soon.

The Alliance and Healthy Quaboag are hosting a free Youth Mental Health First Aid Training at the Palmer Public Library on Oct. 19 from 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Contact Emily to register by emailing ecoderre@townofware.com.

Mental Health First Aid is a skills-based training course for persons who interact a lot with youth that teaches participants about mental health and substance-use issues.

For youth looking for a way to connect with our communities, the Alliance is forming a regional youth advisory council. Contact Brandon Milton

by emailing bmlton@townofware.com.


Healthy Quaboag is also organizing a Community Health Improvement Plan that is addressing mental health along with transportation, housing, and access to healthcare providers. If you are interested in participating, please contact Arianna Palano by emailing apalano@townofware.com.

About QHSUA

The Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance <https://qhsua.org/> (QHSUA); a regional coalition serving local communities located in Hampshire, Hampden, and Worcester Counties – the towns of Barre, Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, Hardwick, Hubbardston, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren and West Brookfield.

Join them by going to their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/QHSUA/> or website, www.qhsua.org.

If you or a loved one needs help for substance abuse, call the state-wide helpline at 1-800-327-5050 (TTY: 1-800-439-2370); the phoneline is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week; you can also go to the website at: <https://hub.helpline.org/findhelp>. The 988 Lifeline (call or text) provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals in the United States.



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QUABOAG CURRENT

Halloween CONTEST

Send us your Halloween House Decoration photos from this year! We are looking for decor in 4 categories:

- Scariest**
People run screaming!
- Most Creative**
Best use of recycled materials!
- Kid Friendly**
Kids just want to hang out with you!
- Flashy**
Lights, lights and more lights!



Ragged Hill Orchard



JIM'S PIZZA & Grille

All photos will run in our paper with the winners being announced.

Please send all entries to quaboagcurrent@turley.com labeled halloween contest. All entries must be submitted by October 20th. Include Name, Address & Phone



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CLUES ACROSS

1. Outsourcing (abbr.)
4. Post
8. German city on edge of Black Forest
10. “___, but goodie”
11. Spiced stew
12. Passionately
13. Monetary units
15. Group of living organisms
16. Organic compound derived from ammonia
17. High honors
18. 5-year-olds’ classes
21. Swiss river
22. Old woman

23. Cash machine
24. A way to soak
25. Hair product
26. Deride
27. “The Blonde Bombshell”
34. Cause to become insane
35. Bluish greens
36. Supported with money
37. Type of equation
38. Court officials
39. Indian god
40. Rids
41. Leak slowly through
42. Units of ionizing radiation
43. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

1. Native of Slovakia
2. Deli meat
3. Fibrous substance in fungi
4. Cutting
5. Vedder and Van Halen
6. Horror comic novelist
7. Rulers of Tunis
9. Shaped like a circle
10. Make a pig of oneself
12. Aphorism
14. Witness
15. Single Lens Reflex
17. Freshwater North American fish
19. Nautical ropes
20. Leg (slang)
23. Pokes holes in
24. Moved quickly on foot
25. Fix-it shops
26. Type of bread
27. Repaired
28. Synthetic diamond (abbr.)
29. Type of drug (abbr.)
30. German city along the Rhine
31. Animal disease
32. Martini necessities
33. Get away from
34. Village in Mali
36. Djibouti franc

STAFF | FROM PAGE 1

McCormick said they also need to hire a district-wide English Language Learner teacher.

He said interviews are still being held to fill these positions.

McCormick said they are looking at ways to fund a shortfall from an out-of-district placement for a student that had previously opted to school choice out of North Brookfield Public Schools.

“The community was billed for this student,” McCormick said, and he has been tasked with determining how this expense can be covered.

He said the cost of out-of-district placements had increased 8% over the previous year, which is less than the 14% increase experienced in other parts of the commonwealth.

McCormick also discussed his goals as superintendent for the upcoming school year.

His first goal would involve starting a strategic planning process with up to 22 school district stakeholders.

“What this process will do is allow us to continue to reflect about what’s going well...what needs to be changed for the district,” McCormick said. “This will help us frame some of our overarching goals for the next three or four years as we look to improving our instruction, improving our community and making sure that North Brookfield is a place that students and families want to be.”

He said the plan will help the school district monitor its progress over the next few years.

His second goal involves working with teachers and staff and supporting them to achieve their professional goals. He said staff observations and evaluations will make sure the schools are hitting targets.

His third goal involves his participation in the new superintendent induction program, which meets about 12 times a year with coursework, as well as networking.

McCormick said this has been a great resource for him and this is his second year in the program.

McCormick said he was also selected for a cohort, along with superintendents from across the country.

“Superintendents who are facing similar challenges across the country are networking, working together, to kind of come up with common solutions,” he said. “I think this is very relevant to what we’re doing here in North Brookfield.”

His fourth goal is to look at the school district’s curriculum, and make sure it aligns with the commonwealth’s standards.

For his fifth goal, McCormick will continue to develop a “more robust” STEM pathway. The school district was awarded a Project Lead the Way grant for grades six through eight.

McCormick said they will be applying for a PLTW Launch grant for elementary school students.

“This will lead into future opportunities for our Jr./Sr. High School,” McCormick said. Having the STEM pathway, “will really give our high school students a better opportunity...we really want to get this up and running as soon as possible.”

Regionalization update

School Committee Chair Ron Ryel said the school district’s attorney has reviewed and returned the updated regionalization agreement to the Regional Agreement Amendment Committee Chair for further review and discussion.

Administrator’s report

High School Principal John Diorio said the first middle school dance for grades seven and eight was held recently. He thanked volunteers and chaperones for making the dance a success.

He said Elise Dealey will be teaching math and science.

“She’s looking forward to using her skills to make real world connections to our students and prepare them for college and careers,” Diorio said.

Sloan Anderson, a graduate of North Brookfield High School and former North Brookfield Youth Center staff member, will be starting soon as a paraprofessional.

“He’s looking forward to starting a career in education,” Diorio said.

Diorio said that juniors and seniors will be attending a college fair at Mount Wachusett Community college, after which they will tour Assumption College and possibly Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Elementary School Principal Sarah Priestley welcomed Trish Meadows as the new grade six math and science teacher.

Knapp said the school district’s tier-focused monitoring report was “one of the strongest” she’s seen in a while, and she is currently working on a response to the report.

Recognition

McCormick said he wanted to acknowledge and thank all staff for a “fantastic” opening to the school year, and completing full days of school despite a

heat wave. He also thanked the students for their efforts on those days.

Trip approvals

Caitlyn Malone, advisor for the Student Council, requested approval for two overnight trips.

One is the Executive Board retreat at Springfield College’s East Campus Outdoor Learning Center. Malone said seven students will be attending the retreat with her, for a program run by a facilitator at Springfield College.

“It’s a really great opportunity for them,” she said.

The second overnight trip is the annual Massachusetts Association of School Committees’ Spring Conference in Hyannis, which is held over three days at the Hyannis Resort and Conference Center.

Malone said all student council members from across the state (about 1,000 students) attend and participate in workshops.

“There’s two really amazing guest speakers there,” she said. “What’s great is that they’re able to learn so many things and then bring it back here.”

The School Committee approved both requests.

Student Council report

Student Council member Olivia Giangrande updated the Committee about the Council’s last day of school activities, including making milkshakes and nondairy treats with the Hanson’s for all to enjoy before summer break.

Giangrande said the Student Council invited seventh grade students to the school to answer any questions and concerns they had, as well as show them the various opportunities available to them.

An activities fair was held for seventh and eighth grade students, allowing them to sign up for clubs and activities.

Homecoming spirit week was held Sept. 24-29 and Homecoming Day was Saturday, Sept. 30 with soccer and field hockey games at 10 a.m. and noon, respectively. Concession stands will be available during the games.

Giangrande said each grade will have the opportunity to set up a booth to fundraise for their grade level.

A Homecoming Dance for grades nine through 12 will be held Sept. 30 from 6-9 p.m. with concessions available.

Oktoberfest celebration on Sept. 30 benefits Town House

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Join The Friends of the North Brookfield Town House on Saturday, Sept. 30 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Common Ground Ciderworks, 31 East Brookfield Road.

Sing and dance to the music of The Chipmunks German Band. You can also enjoy delicious food, shop creative local vendors, take part in games for all ages and try your luck with exciting raffles.

Raffle prizes include an original painting of the Town House, a Misty Harbor Resort two-night off-season stay for up to six people, four reserved tickets for a Worcester Red Sox game in April or May 2024, an Old Sturbridge Village Family Pass for four, a boy’s bicycle from Whitco Sales, an area rug from Caron’s House of Carpets, a rustic wooden bench crafted by Rick Lauder, an Ecotarium Day Pass for two adults and two children, a Strandz Hair Salon \$50 gift certificate, a 308 Lakeside \$50 gift card, a Hardwick Crossing \$25 gift card and two \$25 gift cards from Hannaford’s Supermarket.

Enjoy all the fun of Oktoberfest while supporting the restoration of the North Brookfield Town House.

Cruise for Critters rescheduled to Sept. 30

MONSON – Fall fundraiser featuring a car show, Halloween Barktacular kid’s games, vendor fair, raffles to benefit animals in need at Second Chance Animal Services has been rescheduled to Saturday, Sept. 30 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Westview Farms Creamery, 109 East Hill Road.

Westview Farms Creamery also offers fall festivities including a corn maze and pumpkin picking. Food and beverages including handmade ice cream are available at the creamery’s restaurant.

Admission is free for spectators; dogs are welcome on leash, please no retractable leads. The car show is \$20 per entry.

This annual fundraiser is presented by Al Widlan’s Service Connection of Monson.



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- community -

SUMMER | FROM PAGE 1

with names such as Wet Hopped Cream Ale and Barn Kat Kölsch and others, all worth sampling.

We had covered the beer aspect of the night, so we took the beverages back to a picnic table to contemplate "BBQ" aka barbeque.

Farmer Matt provided a more than adequate menu for the carnivorous among us. From burgers to ribs to brisket, hot dogs and more. The herbivores were catered to with a veggie burger.

After no little study of the bill of fare, our decision was made. It would be the pulled pork sandwich.

If that were not enough, the reverse side of the menu had many side dishes to choose from. For those unsated, tempting desserts were available from cheesecake to brownies.

Now to the band. They had been playing all along whether the audience was wandering or ordering or sitting down. The band was the popular and local Spooner Well.

Spooner Well is a rather unique moniker. The name references a murder and two firsts.

Joshua Spooner was a wealthy local loyalist during the Revolutionary war. Joshua and his wife, Bathsheba, had a special relationship. She despised him.

Bathsheba conspired with three men to murder her husband. When the deed was done, Spooner was thrown down his well. Thus, the origin of the band name.

Bathsheba would get in the record books as one of the defendants in the first capital murder case in U.S. history as well as the first woman executed in the new republic.

Now one may look upon that as a dubious honor,

and not something we Brookfielders might want to brag on, but it did lead to a band of musicians who write "music inspired by murders from the 1700s" and who "perform at breweries, wineries, weddings, and parties" per their bio.

As the proverb has it, "It's an ill wind that blows no good."

They are "multi-instrumentalists" who "will swap instruments during every set." The group seemed to grow as the evening proceeded, adding an electric mandolin player and a fiddler later on.

It was a rousing performance enjoyed by the attendees.

Farmer Matt was everywhere at once, superintending the festivities. We were able to catch him and discuss what is coming next.

Thursday was the final BBQ+Beer+Band, but autumn has events coming up.

There will be several Pop-Up Beer Gardens at Farmer Matt's through October. These will consist of locally crafted brews infused with local ingredients and great live music.

It will be a kind of a rolling Oktoberfest. The next one will be on the last day of September, and then next month they will be on Oct. 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21 and 22.

The last two, on Oct. 28 and 29, will be held in conjunction with the New Braintree Halloween Party on one of the dates.

The Pop-Up Beer Gardens will begin at noon and continue until 8 p.m.

September is past, but the party continues.



Farmer Matt takes a short break during his BBQ+Beer+Band event held this past Thursday.

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Lost Towns Brewing's Alex and Troy offered local craft beer.



Young TJ was running around with abandon, but here he is in mom's arms. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY



Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation

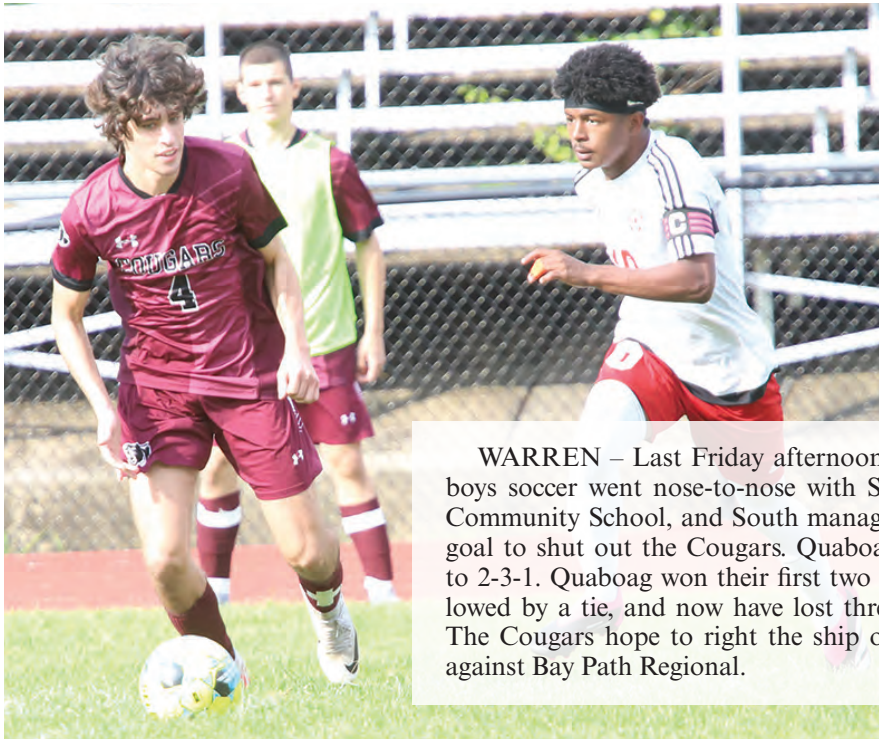
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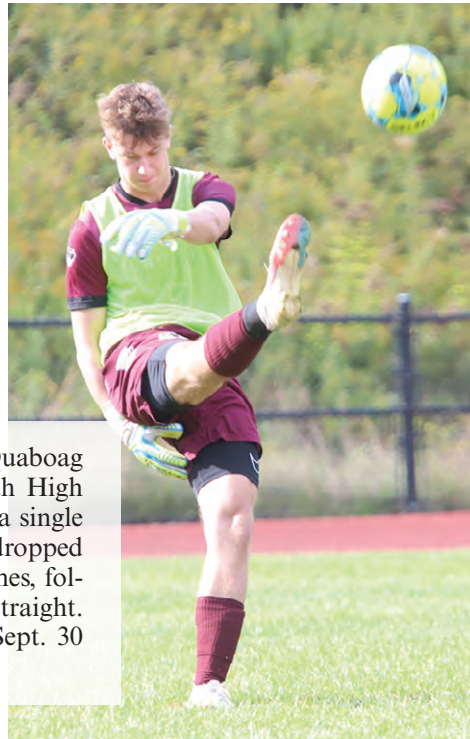
SPORTS

Cougars edged by South



Hart Waz goes after a loose ball. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

WARREN – Last Friday afternoon, Quaboag boys soccer went nose-to-nose with South High Community School, and South managed a single goal to shut out the Cougars. Quaboag dropped to 2-3-1. Quaboag won their first two games, followed by a tie, and now have lost three straight. The Cougars hope to right the ship on Sept. 30 against Bay Path Regional.



Goalie Owen Stevens sends the ball away.



Evan Long follows through on a kick as he clears the ball away.



Logan Spring heads up the sideline.



Ryan Miner tires to get around a defender as he nears the sideline.



Antonio Congelos tries to separate from a pair of defenders.

Cougars get exciting win over Quabbin

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BARRE—Following back-to-back winning seasons, the expectations were not as high for the Quaboag football team coming into the 2023 campaign.

After the first three weeks of the regular season, the Quaboag players have proven their doubters wrong.

The Cougars improved their record to a perfect 3-0 following an exciting 14-6 non-league victory over the Quabbin Panthers before a large crowd at Alumni Field in Barre, last Friday night.

“A lot of people thought that we were going to take a dip this year and have a losing season,” said Quaboag head coach Dave Shep-



Adam Adams with an interception for the Panthers TURLEY PHOTOS BY RAY DUFFY

See **COUGARS** | PAGE 11

Quabbin field hockey best Quaboag

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BARRE—Quaboag’s John O’Neill and Quabbin’s Shelly Zalneraitis are the longest tenure varsity field hockey coaches in Central Massachusetts.

When the longtime friends renewed acquaintances last Friday afternoon, the Quabbin Lady Panthers were able to celebrate a 3-1 non-league home victory.

“It’s always a lot of fun whenever we play John’s team,” said Zalneraitis, who has been the varsity field hockey coach at Quabbin Regional for the past 35 years. “We’re very competitive during the game, but we’re good friends after the game. This is a very big win for us.”



Makenzie Casey shoots for Quabbin's second goal. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RAY DUFFY

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Turleysports

NAME: Tyler Withers
SCHOOL: Quaboag

Quaboag's quarterback scored three touchdowns and had an interception in Quaboag's win earlier this month against Palmer.

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

Athlete of the Month




Farrah Wijick puts Quabbin's first goal in the net during action last week. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RAY DUFFY

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Pioneers shut out Dragons

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER— Pathfinder Tech junior forward Evan Costa entered last Wednesday's Tri-County League match against the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School Dragons with a team-high five goals.

Led by Costa, who recorded his second hat-trick of the regular season, and senior goalie Richie Gula, who posted the first shutout of his varsity soccer career, the Pioneers posted a 5-0 victory on a perfect late summer afternoon.

A year ago, Pathfinder Tech swept the season series against P.V.C.I.C.S., who are a co-ed team this season. Only nine players signed up for the Dragons girls' soccer team and those players had the opportunity to join the boy's squad.

Last Wednesday's victory pushed the Pioneers overall and league record to 2-1.

After losing to Athol, 6-3, at home in the season opener, the Pioneers, who had a couple of matches postponed due to the weather, got into the win column for the first time with a 5-1 win over Franklin Tech in another home match. Costa recorded his first hat-trick of the regular season in that contest.

Costa is also one of the Pioneers tri-captains, along with senior Kenny Brouillette, and junior Seth Mitchell.

The Dragons made the bus trip to Palmer from Hadley with a 3-1 overall and league record. They had outscored their first four opponents, 14-4.



Cayden Bousquet charges down the field. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

In the middle of the opening half, Costa, who's a forward, split a pair of defenders before firing a low shot into the left corner past junior keeper Damian Loinaz, who made five saves during the first 40 minutes of the match. Freshman Owen Pear was credited with the assist.

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QUABBIN | FROM PAGE 9

"This has always been a big rivalry game for us," said O'Neill, who's in his 41st season as the Quaboag varsity coach. "I have a tremendous amount of respect for Shelly. Her team is always very good and they're a first-class program. Playing them always makes us a better team."

The Lady Panthers had a 4-1-1 overall record following the home win.

"This victory will give us some momentum heading into our next game against Sutton," Zalneraitis said. "We always play very well at home and I'm very happy with the way that we're playing right now."

The Lady Cougars, who won their first three games of the season, are now 3-2.

"This is one of the youngest teams that I've ever coached," O'Neill. "We lost a few players to graduation. We also had a couple of other players decide not to return this year. I think it's something that's happening in a lot of other varsity sports."

While it was the only meeting of the regular season between the two squads, they could possibly meet again in the Division 4 state tournament.

"We moved down to Division 4 before the start of the season," Zalneraitis said. "We could potentially play them again in the state tournament."

Quabbin, whose total enrollment is 568, is the second largest school in Division 4 behind East Bridgewater High School. Quaboag has a total of 321 students.

Quabbin has now won the last three meetings with Quaboag. The final score of last year's match was 3-0.

The start of last Friday's contest was delayed about twenty minutes because the Quabbin bus took the long route to Barre.

The Lady Panthers took a 1-0 lead with 5:51 left in the first quarter following a penalty corner goal by sophomore forward Farrah Wojcik, who fired a shot into the cage past freshman goalie Riley Gray (8 saves), who's a first-year varsity player. Junior midfielder Haley Ayer

was credited with the assist.

"We scored two penalty corner goals in today's game, which was very important," Zalneraitis said. "It's always important to take an early lead."

With 1:20 left in the opening quarter, a shot attempt by Quaboag junior tri-captain Katelynn Swistak rolled into the cage. The goal wasn't allowed because the shot was taken from outside the circle.

The Lady Cougars' other tri-captains are senior's Isabelle Burgess, and Ayla Iwaniec, who didn't play against Quabbin.

The Lady Panthers had another penalty corner at the end of the opening quarter. This time, Ayer's shot was deflected over the end line by Gray.

The home team took a 2-0 advantage with 6:10 remaining in the second quarter following another penalty corner goal by senior forward Madylin Breault, which was assisted by freshman midfielder Makenzie Casey.

The Lady Panthers held a 2-0 half-time lead.

Quaboag sliced the deficit in half when freshman forward Josie Hescocock converted a penalty corner goal with seven minutes left in the third quarter.

"I was a little bit nervous when they made the score 2-1," Zalneraitis said. "Quaboag is a very good team, and they could've easily tied the score."

Quabbin senior goalie Julianna Stanger didn't see very much action, as she only had to make two saves.

The Lady Panthers retook a two goal lead on a corner goal by Makenzie with 2:51 showing on the scoreboard clock.

Nine minutes into the final quarter, Swistak fired a wicked shot on a penalty corner, but the ball hit off a Quaboag player resulting in a turnover.

"Had that shot gone an inch to the right, it probably would've been a goal," O'Neill said. "Had the ball hit a Quabbin player, it would have been a penalty stroke."

Neither team scored a goal during the final quarter of the match.



Goalie Julianna Stanger earns a shutout for Quabbin against Westborough.

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COUGARS | FROM PAGE 9

herd. “The coaching staff talked to the players before the season. We told them that they needed to keep this program where it has been during the past couple of years and not to let it go backwards. We’re now 3-0 and I’m very proud of these guys. They showed a lot of heart in tonight’s game.”

Including their three wins this season, the Cougars have posted an impressive 22-4 combined record since the start of the 2021 regular season.

The Cougars’ first two victories of this season were against Western Mass. opponents. They squeaked out a one-point win at Ludlow in the season opener before posting a 34-0 shutout over Palmer in the home opener.

Quabbin (1-2) was looking to kick off their home slate and homecoming weekend with a victory. The Panthers lost at Gardner in the season opener before posting a 34-29 road win against David Prouty.

“I thought we played very hard in tonight’s game,” said Quabbin head coach Wayne Page. “We had several scoring chances in the second half. We just need to capitalize on them a little bit better.”

All of the touchdowns were scored during the first half.

After winning the coin toss and electing to receive the opening kickoff, the Cougars put-together a nine-play scoring drive.

Senior running back Tyler Withers carried the ball five times for 46 yards during the opening series. Junior running back Cam Evans also had two carries and junior RB Brasen Sauriol contributed with a five-yard run.

Following a short run by sophomore quarterback Jacob Cacace, Withers capped off the opening series with a six yard TD run. Withers also added the extra point giving his team a 7-0 lead with 7:54 remaining in the first quarter.

Junior quarterback Jaxon Warburton kept the Panthers first offensive series alive by completing an 11-yard pass to senior tight-end Jake Leazott on third down. However, the drive stalled, and Quaboag senior Chucky Smith tipped the punt by junior Bryce Venne.

The Panthers offense quickly got the ball back following an interception by sophomore Adam Adams, who was injured in the fourth quarter.

Following another Quabbin punt, the Cougars put-together a quick three play scoring drive. All three plays were runs by Withers, who scored his second TD on an 11-yard run. He started out going left before cutting back to the right side on his way into the endzone on the second play of the second quarter.

Withers finished the game with a total of 128 rushing yards on 18 carries.

“The offense got us off to a good start in the first half,” Shepherd said. “The defense carried us in the second half.”

Trailing 14-0, the Panthers responded with a 17-play scoring drive

covering 69 yards.

Early in the drive, junior running back Luke Salvatore picked up a first down on a three-yard run up the middle. Warburton also completed a fourth down pass to Venne for another first down.

Sophomore running back Chase Talbot ran the ball three times for 19 yards before Warburton crossed the goal-line from the one-yard line with 1:38 left in the opening half.

Quaboag senior Jaden Ostiguy tackled Talbot at the one-yard line on the two-point conversion play.

The Panthers received the second half kickoff and put-together another long drive.

Salvatore carried the ball eight straight times and gained 58 yards on that series.

The Panthers moved the ball down to the Cougars 6-yard line before senior Bryce Douglas recorded a sack on third down. Then an incomplete pass in the end zone on fourth down gave the ball back to Quaboag.

“We’ve fallen behind in all three of our games and we need to get out of that habit,” Page said. “We really needed to score a touchdown on the opening drive of the second half.”

The Cougars offense put-together a long drive, but they couldn’t extend their lead.

The Panthers didn’t run another offensive play until there was 9:26 left in the fourth quarter, but they were forced to punt.

With 3:22 left in the game, a Withers interception gave the Cougars the ball back at their own 30.

The Panthers defense didn’t allow Quaboag to get a first down on that drive giving their offense one final chance with a little more than two minutes remaining.

On a 4th-and 15 play, Warburton completed a pass to Venne, but he was tackled short of the first down marker, which sealed the Cougars third victory of the season.

“Our defense played very well during the second half,” Ostiguy said. “It just feels amazing to be 3-0 now.”

Quaboag will be looking to make it 4-0 when they play another road game at Worcester North at 3pm on Saturday afternoon.

Quabbin will be looking to get back to the .500 mark again at Murdock on Friday night.



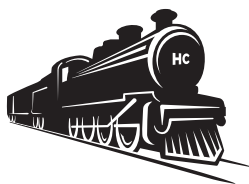
Luke Salvatore stretches for the extra yards. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RAY DUFFY



Chase Talbot punches through the line.



Jaxon Warburton drops back and connects with Wes Sanderson.



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PIONEERS | FROM PAGE 10

Pear, along with sophomore Jaicel Nevue-Roman, sophomore Adonis Dupre, and junior Eliah Jez, attend Palmer High School. They're able to play soccer for the Pathfinder Tech boys' varsity team as part of a co-op.

A couple of minutes later, Costa fired a shot from the top of the box into the back of the net giving his team a 2-0 advantage. The Pioneers second goal was assisted by Nevue-Roman.

The best goal of the entire match was scored by junior midfielder Justin Davis in the 34th minute. He lofted a shot from about 25 yards along the right sideline. The ball deflected off both the crossbar and the left post before landing into the left corner for an unassisted goal.

Three minutes later, a shot attempt by Pear rolled towards the goal before it was tapped over the line by junior forward Talon Clark, who netted his first goal

of the season. Clark scored five goals as a freshman.

Holding a commanding 4-0 halftime lead, Costa achieved his second straight hat-trick with an unassisted goal past five minutes into the second half.

At that point, the only remaining question was if Gula would be able to celebrate his first career shutout in a varsity match. He only had to make one save in accomplishing that feat.

Gula took over the starting duties from Colin Holt, who transferred to Hampshire Regional.

Gula received plenty of support from his defense led by junior Ethan DeBettencourt, junior Zander Auffrey, Mitchell, and Brouillette.

Two days later, Gula recorded another shutout in a 6-0 road victory against St. Mary's of Westfield.

Five different Pathfinder players scored in that contest led by senior Riley Sanderson with two goals.



Brody Wetnicka fights for possession of the ball.



Justin Davis looks to clear the ball. Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Talon Clark chases down the loose ball.

GAMES | FROM PAGE 1

ments and Quaboag Performing Arts merchandise were available. Raffle prizes included new board games for winners to take home and the door prize was a \$20 gift card to That's Entertainment in Worcester.

Student and adult volunteers helped teach the rules of each game, and even joined in to form teams.

The Quaboag Performing Arts Booster Club is a volunteer organization comprised of parents, teachers and community members in support of Quaboag's music and theater programs, giving students a chance to experience performing in different venues and to build a foundation of appreciation for the performing arts.

The Quaboag Performing Arts Booster Club typically meets the second Monday of each month (with the exception of October and May) at 6 p.m. in the cafeteria. Upcoming dates include Oct. 16, Nov. 13, Dec. 11, Jan. 8, Feb. 12, March 11, April 8 and May 6.

All are welcome to attend the Booster Club's meeting when they can; no commitment is required.

For more information about the Quaboag Performing Arts Booster Club and upcoming events, find them on Facebook or stop by a monthly meeting.



Jackson Tilton gets advice about his hand from Nicole Tilton.



Autumn Tilton, left, and Jackson Tilton count their cards before starting their game. TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA QUIMETTE

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- community -

Country Bank recognized for charitable giving

WARE – The Boston Business Journal has named Country Bank an honoree in its annual 2023 Corporate Citizenship Awards, recognizing the region’s top corporate charitable contributors.

The Business Journal annually publishes this list to highlight companies that promote and prioritize giving back to their communities.

“It is with honor that we present our list of the Top Charitable Contributors in Massachusetts, companies who gave \$100,000 or more to Mass. based charities in 2022. Collectively, they gave \$423 million in cash contributions, a true example of the business community coming together to help those in need. We are proud to celebrate these organizations who give both money and time to make our communities a stronger and better place for all.” said Boston Business Journal Market President and Publisher Carolyn Jones in a press release.

During this year’s celebration on Sept. 7, 100 companies qualified for the distinction by reporting at least \$100,000 in cash contributions to Massachusetts-based charities last year, as noted above. This year’s honorees include companies from such industry sectors as financial and professional services, health care, technology, retail, and professional sports.

Country Bank, ranked 44th, employs 220 staff members within Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester counties. The Bank’s team of Difference Makers actively promote the Bank’s mission of making a difference in their communities by volunteering for various non-profits throughout the year.

“We are honored to be recognized by the Boston Business Journal for Country Bank’s philanthropic efforts. As a community bank, it is our mission to help make a difference in the lives of others,” stated Paul Scully, president and CEO at Country Bank.

Medicare 101 educational event is Oct. 17

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The North Brookfield Senior Center, 29 Forest St., will be hosting an educational presentation on Tuesday, Oct. 17, at 11 a.m. for current beneficiaries and for those who will soon be eligible for Medicare.

The information is specific to Massachusetts. The session will run from 1 to 1.5 hours, including time for questions.

The presentation will be conducted by Ed Spater, a licensed Insurance agent, who will explain the basics of Medicare including:

- Why it’s important to evaluate your current Medicare coverage each year.
 - The pros and cons of each of your Medicare coverage options.
 - What to consider when deciding which Medicare coverage option is right for you.
 - Ways to save money and get better Medicare coverage in 2024.
- For accommodations of persons with special needs at meetings call 774-271-5199 or 711 for TTY callers.



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New Braintree Police Log

During the week of Sept. 18-25, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 17 building/property checks, 26 directed/area patrols, three traffic controls, three radar assignments, two emergency 911 calls, one scam, two citizen assists, two safety hazards and six motor vehicle stop in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, Sept. 18

8:55 a.m. 911 Misdeal, Utley Road, Officer Handled
 11:14 a.m. Safety Hazard, Wine Road, Removed Hazard
 11:50 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Services Rendered
 8:18 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Unitas Road, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, Sept. 19

2:32 a.m. Safety Hazard, Ravine Road, Officer Handled

Wednesday, Sept. 20

11:49 a.m. Scam, Padre Road, Officer Handled

Thursday, Sept. 21

6:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gilbertville Road, Citation issued

Friday, Sept. 22

5:58 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Spoken To



Quabbin football fans proudly cheered for their team, decked out in star-spangled attire at this past Friday's homecoming football game. TURLEY
 PHOTOS BY MARY WHITELAW

GUARD | FROM PAGE 1

vices providers. But right now, we're just figuring out what's going on," Board of Selectmen Chair Jamie Goodwin said. "Although people might be understandably frustrated with that, and we might have some frustrations as well, that's the circumstance we're in and beyond that, there's really not too much else to say."

Goodwin thanked the Federated Church for all they continue to do for the community.

"They've really done a lot," he said.

Grimm said the National Guard is not providing security and there have been no incidents of violence related to the people placed here by Gov. Maura Healey.

Board of Selectmen Clerk Mary Dowling expressed concern for people walking from the hotel on Route 15 to the limited convenient shopping areas. She said the road is not safe to walk, and the hotel is too far from grocery stores.

Grimm said the state is working to contract transportation for the people placed here.

ARPA requests

Grimm asked the Board to act on several American Rescue Plan Act Sub-Committee recommendations, which include a request from the Recreation Commission to upgrade the Town Barn concession stand for \$6,500. She said the building belongs to the town, not the league.

The Recreation Commission has also requested a storage shed for \$5,500.

"As you know, they have limited space," Grimm said.

Grimm said the town is in the process of spending \$50,000 for electronic data storage.

"We have decades, perhaps centuries worth of material that is stored and some of it can be removed," she said, including duplicate copies of documents. "We just don't have the space to keep all the paper...if you ever had a flood, a disaster of any sort, all of our records are just gone."

Grimm said documents can be scanned and made available online. She said it's a multiple department request.

She said it is an expensive project, but it is worth the money.

Grimm said the Town Clerk requested \$9,500 for six poll pads, a printer, as well as shipping costs.

The Board approved all of the ARPA Sub-Committee's recommendations.

Conservation updates

Conservation Agent Rebecca Gendreau said her department has worked to streamline permitting and reviews.

She said they have also worked to

make meeting agendas more detailed, and continue to offer hybrid meetings.

Gendreau said she continues to work with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation for the Cedar Lake drainage project. She said plans for another drainage project with MassDOT on Route 20 have been submitted.

She said the town is also continuing work with a grant received from the Department of Environmental Protection for South Pond. She said it is a successful project and is already seeing improvements.

Gendreau is also working on the conservation restriction on the Fiske Hill property purchased by the town, as well as a master plan for the Plimpton property.

Dowling asked if either the Fiske Hill or Plimpton properties could be used as a site for a dog park.

"There's a lot of people that want it," Dowling said.

New polling location

The Board of Selectmen approved a new polling place for elections.

Town Clerk Lynn Girouard said the Sturbridge Host Hotel offered pre-COVID pricing for use of the ballroom and the common room for local elections.

"We'll be there for all elections starting in 2024," she said.

Girouard said the new location allows the town to expand its voting capacity, which is the reason she requested six more poll pads be purchased with ARPA funds.

"We've looked at quite a few locations...it's a great place, it's centrally located," she said.

Town Administrator's update

Grimm said she met with a representative from St. Anne's Church, where the water tower is located.

She said in the past, Spring/T-Mobile had a private agreement with the Church regarding the right of way. Grimm said the town also has right of way access.

Grimm said when the project goes out to bid, that the bidder must enter into a private agreement with the Church, in addition to the agreement with the town.

Grimm said there are some survey questions regarding the town's right of way.

Representatives proposing the Dish booster will give a presentation to the Board of Selectmen at an upcoming meeting.

"Nothing has moved forward on anything at this point," Grimm said of both projects.

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Note – A complete list of requirements as well as salary and benefits is available to interested applicants who submit a letter of interest to the Three Rivers Prudential Committee at the following

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QUABOAG CURRENT

WARREN Quaboag announces 'Addams Family' cast p2	STURBRIDGE JHPL celebrates banned books p6	NORTH BROOKFIELD Oktoberfest fundraiser this Saturday p7	Editorial/Opinion Sports Classifieds Police Logs	4 9 14 15
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Volume 16, Number 44

Friday, September 29, 2023

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