

QUABOAG CURRENT

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Quaboag Current Newspaper

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Volume 17, Number 49

Friday, November 1, 2024

The Trail of Terror is a fright to see

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Brookfield Orchards hosted the 2024 Trail of Terror this past weekend alongside the Theatre Guild of North Brookfield.

Hundreds of guests over the course of three nights got to experience the talent and frightfulness of the members of the Theatre Guild. Every stop for the tractor pulled wagon of guests got to witness a story and a swarm of characters that have every intention to scare.

Luckily, the wagon was fast enough for guests to escape the unpredictable elements of terror.

One bone chilling experience was the work of creepy brides of Frankenstein bringing a monster to life for wagon patrons to see. There was also trickery among the haunted Brookfield Orchard.

The area's most haunted orchard was full of surprises. One of those surprises was the tell-



The skeleton tour guide and tractor driver were in spirit as the first wagon for the Trail of Terror was getting ready for a ride. TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

School Committee reviews regional agreement

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – School Committee Vice-Chair Tim Canada said the Regional Agreement Amendment Committee voted to approve the agreement between the Quaboag Regional School District and North Brookfield Public Schools and present it to the towns.

At the School Committee's Oct. 21 meeting, he said the agreement has been posted on the school district's website, nbschools.org, for community members to read.

In order for the two school districts to move ahead with

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See SCHOOL | PAGE 13

Families enjoy annual event at Quaboag

By Rowan Bernstein
Correspondent

WARREN – On Oct. 26, Trunk-or-Treat was held at Quaboag Regional Middle High School.

The event was a joint effort between the Warren Community Elementary PTO and the West Brookfield Elementary PTG, as well as the Quaboag Middle High School Student Council. Local families and organizations came to the school parking lot and decorated the trunks of their cars to welcome trunk-or-treaters.

The creativity on display was stunning, and many of these “trunk” displays extended beyond the limits of the cars



Follow the Yellow Brick Road to candy from Chelsea and Lincoln Mathieson, Isla Czub, and Allie Walker. TURLEY PHOTO BY ROWAN BERNSTEIN

See QUABOAG | PAGE 8

Health insurance rates increase for town's retirees

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

from the Massachusetts Inter-local Insurance Association for retiree health insurance.

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Town Administrator Michael Szlosek said he was “a little disappointed” by the rate increase

At the Oct. 22 Board of Selectmen's meeting, he said the current monthly rates for various plans will increase

See HEALTH | PAGE 7

Select Board approves changes to fiscal policy

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – Finance Director Barbara Barry highlighted some changes to the fis-

cal policy to the Select Board.

This includes combined free cash and stabilization amounts increasing from 10-12% to 10-15%. She said the language states “to maintain at a mini-

See BOARD | PAGE 6

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| Chicken Pot Pie | Chicken/Beef Empanadas | Beef Stew | Teriyaki Meatballs | Marinated Steak Tips |
| Turkey Pot Pie | Lasagna | Polish Stuffed Peppers | Chicken noodle soup | BBQ Pulled Pork |

- community -

Quaboag announces Project 351 representatives

WARREN – Quaboag Regional Middle High School announced that the two 8th grade students selected for Project 351 are Olivia McNuff and Max Sturges.

Olivia is the daughter of Ra-chael Marrast and stepdaughter of Joel Marrast of West Brookfield. Max Sturges is the son of Greg and Ashley Sturges of Warren. Oliva and Max were selected by their eighth grade teachers to be Quaboag's Project 351 Ambassadors for 2025 because they demonstrate the values of being helpful, friendly, and kind with a willingness to volunteer.

Project 351 began in 2011 as an initiative of Governor Deval Patrick to have an eighth grader from every Massachusetts town – hence the name Project 351 – come to Boston for a day of leadership training on community involvement and service.

Students would then bring these lessons back to their own



Olivia McNuff and Max Sturges were named Quaboag Regional Middle High School's Project 351 ambassadors. SUBMITTED PHOTO

communities as an ambassador of goodwill and service. Olivia and Max will attend a day of service and leadership training in Boston in January

with other eighth grade ambassadors from around the state and then implement their own service learning projects back in their communities.

Red Door Fayre is Nov. 9

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Christ Memorial Episcopal Church, 133 Main St., will hold its Red Door Fayre on Saturday, Nov. 9 from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

There will be raffles, an exquisite table, Christmas table, bake table, pies, craft table. A homemade luncheon of soups, sandwiches and apple crisp will also be available.

St. Joseph's Christmas Fair is Nov. 2

NORTH BROOKFIELD – A Christmas Fair will be held in St. Joseph's Parish Hall, 296 North Main St., on Saturday, Nov. 2 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

There will be a bake sale, handmade crafts, jewelry and raffles. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., offering homemade soups, sandwiches and apple pie.



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RideN2B on the MCRT
Mass Central Rail Trail supporters and cyclists participated in the inaugural RideN2B from Northampton to Boston held over three days this past weekend.

Commission reviews role in demo delay
The applicant has substantially complied with the requirements of the bylaws, Lak said. "We're doing our best to follow the rules," Lak and the Historical Commission have announced.

Wright's Mill Recovery Master Plan meeting held
The Ware Historical Commission met on Sept. 23 for their monthly meeting.

Selectboard discusses ARPA uses and more
At the Sept. 17 meeting, Town Manager Steve Buckley said he has received approximately \$5,000 remaining ARPA funds.

Ware - A dozen cyclists set off from Northampton this past Friday, traveling across the cross-country trail system of the Mass Central Rail Trail and south to Boston.

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NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

Quaboag Current OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Call Dan today at 413-967-3505

- community -

Country Bank donates \$10,000 to American Red Cross Hurricane Relief Fund

WARE – Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving central and western Massachusetts, is pleased to demonstrate its unwavering support for those affected by recent hurricanes, with a generous \$10,000 donation to the American Red Cross Hurricane Relief Fund.

This contribution reflects the bank's commitment to its motto, "Made to Make a Difference," by providing assistance during times of need.

As Florida communities face the devastating impacts of Hurricane Helene and the impending landing of Hurricane Milton, the urgency for support and relief efforts is paramount. Country Bank, under the leadership of Mary McGovern, President and CEO, is standing by those greatly impacted during this recent event.

"We believe in supporting those greatly impacted during these weather-related events, especially when it matters most," said McGovern in a press release. "Our donation to the American Red Cross is not just a financial contribution; it's a commitment to helping those in dire situations rebuild their lives and restore hope."

The American Red Cross, a key player in disaster response, provides shelter,

food, and emotional support to individuals and families affected by hurricanes. Country Bank's donation is aimed at supporting the American Red Cross's ability to provide immediate relief and long-term recovery services to impacted communities.

Country Bank encourages other local businesses and community members to join in the effort to support hurricane relief. Together, they can make meaningful difference and help those impacted recover from these challenging circumstances.

Learn more at redcross.org.

About Country Bank

Country Bank is a full-service \$1.8 billion mutual community bank serving central and western Massachusetts with 14 offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton, Springfield and Worcester.

With a commitment to personalized service and community involvement, Country Bank offers individuals, businesses, and municipalities a comprehensive range of banking products and services. Country Bank is a member of FDIC, DIF, and the SUM network.

Country Bank can be reached at 800-322-8233 or online at countrybank.com.

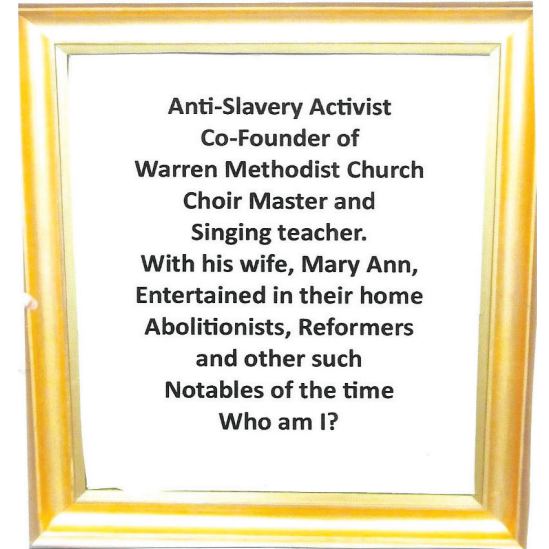
Historical Commission to unveil mystery portrait on Nov. 16

WARREN – Can you guess who this is from the clues in the picture frame above?

Warren Historical Commission is planning an unveiling of this large oil portrait of a local person at the Warren Municipal Building on Saturday, Nov. 16 at 11 a.m. The event will be held in the Historical Commission Room on the second floor at the end of the east hallway.

There is a lift at the east entrance of the building.

The public is invited to learn the identity of this mystery man.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Library holds story time Nov. 4

NEW BRAINTREE – The New Braintree Public Library, 45 Memorial Drive, is offering a story time program for preschoolers on Monday, Nov. 4 beginning at 9 a.m.

The program's focus is Veterans Day and will include a reading of "You're a

Grand Old Flag" by George M. Cohan and "Veterans Day" by Allan Morey. This reading and crafts program is held at the library. Parental supervision is required. People may call the library at 508-867-7650 during regular business hours for more information.

Eclectic vintage shop, artist studio celebrates 1 year anniversary

PALMER – An eclectic, vintage shop and artists gallery celebrates its one year anniversary

The "Eclectic Shop and Artist's Studio", known as the Victorian, will celebrate its one year anniversary on Friday, November 1, 2024 at 1500 North Main Street, Palmer, MA. Please join us for an open house and enjoy refreshments as you tour throughout the building.

"The Victorian" provides locals a convenient shop close to home, offering quality painter's products, painted furniture, unique gifts, candles home decor, local Artisan's wares and more.

The shop features a wide variety of Fusion Mineral Paint products, including materials to re-purpose, refurbish and re-imagine furniture.

"Fusion Mineral Paint is primarily a furniture paint," said owner Julia Dias. However, she said the paint works well on a variety of materials, such as wood, metal, glass and fabrics.

In addition to the mineral paint, The Victorian offers milk paint, stains, antiquing glazes, a variety of decorating waxes and both natural and synthetic paint brushes.

The shop caters to artists seeking to add a splash of color to their homes and get creative with refinishing their furniture.

"It's been quite an experience creating this shop and sharing it with the many people that have come through this door. Many people are just curious to know what this olde house looks like on the inside. They're either from the area and have driven by many times or they were customers of the Moulton Insurance Agency, which used to be here for many years" said Dias.

She holds a bachelor's degree in fine arts with a focus on interior design from UMASS Amherst and has a great passion for historical homes. "Ebenezer and Mary Brown built this house in 1868. It's obvious they had great taste in architecture and design, as there are many fine details throughout the home that lend to its stateliness." Considering how many times the trains roll by



Submitted Photos

The Victorian is located at 1500 Main St., in Palmer, in the former Moulton Insurance building.

out back and being 156 years old, this grand Queen Anne stands strong.

Dias' experience allows her to provide guests with expertise and a wealth of knowledge in design as well as the Fusion Mineral Paint product line.

"I truly enjoy recreating old pieces," said Dias "especially little tables you find on the side of the road."

She added the Victorian age has always been her favorite period in time, prompting her to scout out the perfect location for her shop.

"It has always been a dream of mine to have a Victorian. This Queen Anne home was built in 1868 with all the traditional mouldings.

Shoppers will not only have

access to a Fusion Mineral Paint carrier locally, but they will also have access to the full line of colors and seasonal releases.

The shop features an array of colors, furnishings and art; some Victorian style, others more abstract and various handmade products by local Artisans.

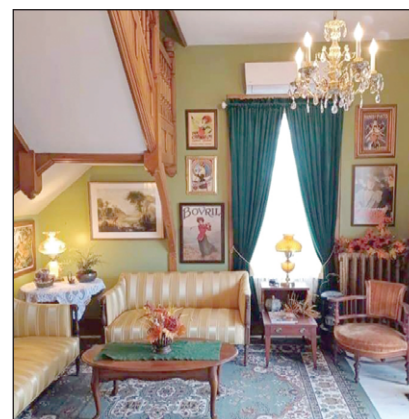
Vintage style "sassy talkin' towels," are on display, adding style and humor to the main shopping area. For those interested in purchasing, duplicates are for sale.

Additionally, vintage-style match boxes are available for purchase, delicately wrapped in wax paper and sealed with a postage stamp.

The Superior Dry Good Vintage Stick matches are a perfect



Shown is the shopping area in the building, with items in display cases, which are for sale.



The building is a Queen Anne Victorian, decorated to accentuate the charm and authenticity of the building's architecture.

complement to those interested in gifting a locally sourced, 100% soy, 1803 candle.

Dias said the shop is Victorian themed to add an element of creativity and charm to the guests' experience.

Fusion Mineral Paint Workshops will begin this month of October. You can follow her on Facebook and Instagram at theVictorian1868. Her website, theVictorian1868.com, is under development and will be ready soon. Workshops and other events will be posted there along

with a shop calendar, news and information.

Services and products have expanded over the past year which included the introduction of "The Downtown Abbey Dining Room" for private small event rentals and the "Newport Room" for Fusion Mineral Paint Workshops, as well as small event rentals. More information will be available on the website or you can call Julia at 603-714-0513.

Both rooms are Victorian-themed spaces equipped with working Victrolas, velvet drapes, vintage lace covered tables for dining and tea, various antique art pieces and full wall collage of the cast of Downtown Abbey and more!

Guests interested in adding a Victorian touch to their home also have the option of purchasing from a collection of vintage glassware come Spring 2025.

"I've always wanted to open my own shop and wouldn't have done it with anyone else but my husband, John. We make a great team" said Dias. "I thank him often for all he has done to make my dream come true."

The shop is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Cross garlic off the list

It was a productive weekend “back at the ranch.” I had a very long list of things to get caught up on in and around the garden. For the most part I completed everything on the list, although a new list has started. Doesn't it always?

The last task I completed was planting garlic. I got started growing garlic because of my Uncle Tony. He always planted his garlic cloves in the spring. I think he was under the impression that garlic wasn't hardy and wouldn't survive the winter if you planted it in the fall.

It could very well have been the type he grew. As soon as the ground had thawed, I'd get out there and plant the cloves he'd given me and in just about three months I'd harvest the fists comprised of seven or eight teeny tiny cloves.

Since then, I've gone on to plant my bulbs in the fall and again, it's probably a variety thing, but my cloves are two or three times the size of those I planted in the spring those many years ago. I have a pretty good system going that I've shared with my readers a few times over the years.

Read on for a refresher on garlic planting.

Garlic should be planted four to six weeks prior to the ground freezing, much like you would daffodils or tulips. The time is now!

Your goal is to have a well developed root system to anchor the plant through the winter. Because garlic prefers a pH of 6.5 (6.0-7 is OK), a sprinkling of lime won't hurt.

Mix in a couple of inches of aged manure or compost to planting bed. I use a pitchfork to loosen and mix the soil with the manure and lime so that it's incorporated well.

Over the years I've learned that the secret to big bulbs has a lot to do with spacing. Space individual cloves eight-10 inches apart pointed side up and plant two-three inches deep (up to the knuckle if you are pushing them into the soil by hand) and firm down.

If rain has been scarce, water the planting well. A friend who attending one of my gardening talks a few years back, shared that she places a sheet of cardboard over the bed, and then applies mulch on top of that.

For the last few years, I have done this and it has worked out great to keep the weeds down. Garlic abhors weed competition.

One year, though, I had a problem. I didn't see my garlic sprouting in the spring, so I lifted the cardboard, and the top growth was stuck underneath! I made holes for it to grow through and all was well.

Last year I made sure I watered the bed a lot so that the cardboard would soften and this wouldn't be a problem ever again.

Garlic loves fertile soil, so top dress with more aged manure/compost in the spring, about the time when daffodils are up two inches. I slide back the mulch/softened cardboard and add the compost then replace it for continued weed suppression and moisture retention.

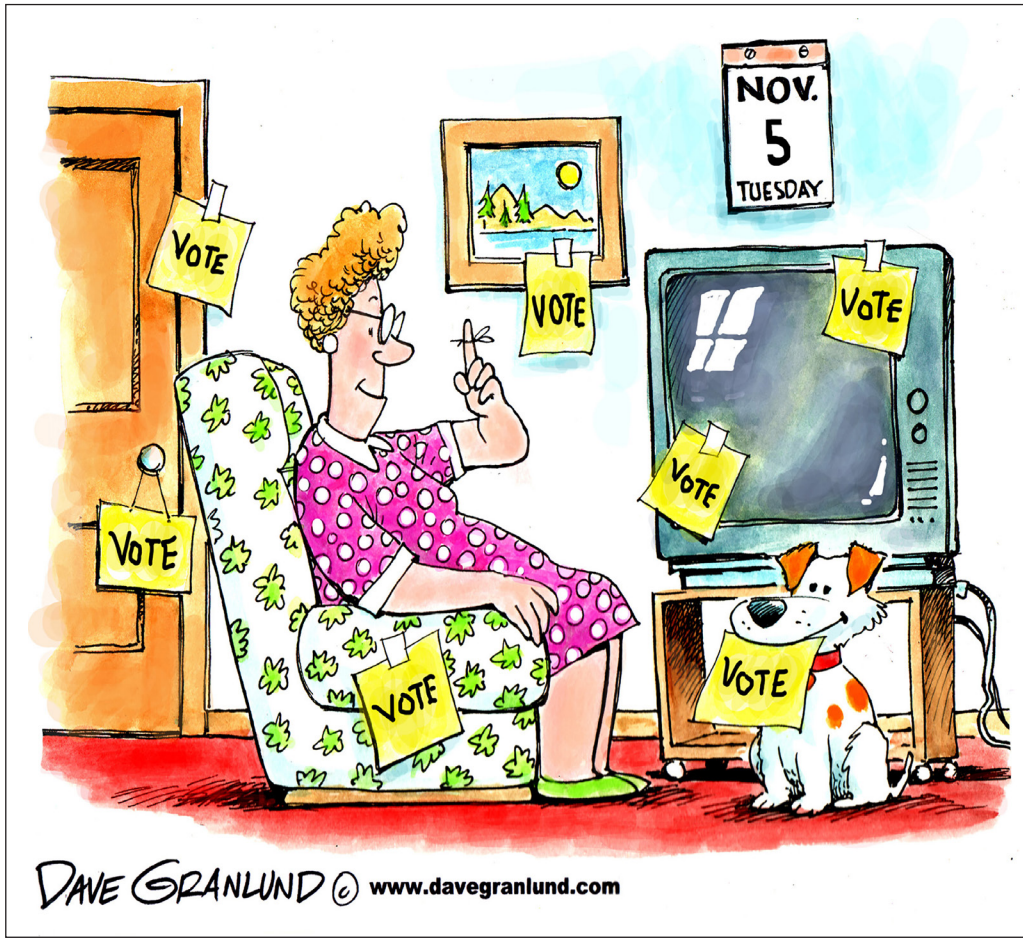
Repeat this process once per month in May and June. If rain is scarce, make sure that your garlic beds get about one inch of water a week. Stop additional watering one month prior to harvest and cut off curly “scapes” (immature flower heads) as they form.

Garlic is ready to harvest when one third of the leaves have yellowed/browned. Don't wait much past this time, or bulbs will separate within the fist, and length of storage could be affected. Cure in an airy location, free of humidity and moisture.

I get excited planting garlic. It's the first installation of the “new year!” Funny, how just three weeks ago I was almost sick of the garden, now it's all new again.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 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.

- opinion -



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

Letters to the Editor

Gold Star Sister writes against un-American views

As a Gold Star Sister, I feel behooved to write this letter in disgust at the hurtful, un-American views of former President Donald Trump.

Everyone in this country, and particularly members of our Armed Forces today and all the Veterans we hold so dear, should be outraged at his crude unforgivable behavior and rhetoric. I am frightened to think this man, who has voiced such disdain for our

Military and Democracy that so many have fought and died for, can become a dictator, like the ones he so admires in the world.

We cannot allow this to happen. I call on all Veterans and families of Veterans to stop this threat.

Elsa (Silverberg) Bates
Gold Star Sister
West Brookfield

Here's a question: What is 'strength?'

Well, what kind of strength? There's physical strength. There's mental strength. There is emotional strength. There is strength of character. There is strength of will. There is inner strength.

Let's explore what version of “strength” is most admirable in a person? Now, in this world, in this society, we have to ask, “What person?” It varies.

So, for the purposes of this letter, we will narrow our focus and concentrate on what much of America sees as strength in a man.

I submit, if we look at our media (TV shows, movies, entertainment, news), the view of the strength of a man has a chronological order to it. It is first about accentuating physical strength. Then comes strength of will, then maybe inner strength, followed sometimes by strength of character, and finally, but rarely, emotional strength.

That is the cultural order of things.

Look at our programing. We grew up with WWE (World Wrestling Entertainment) and now, MMA (Mixed Martial Arts). Our movies are filled with violence from stem to stern. So many video games for boys and young men sell best based on the amount of gore and male toxic behavior.

Those are and have been our images of “strength!”

Is there any wonder that so many of our young men aspire to that definition of strength?

For those who see a bigger picture, strength has a far deeper meaning and

chronology. Strength of character jumps to the top. Strength of will is up there, along with inner strength. Mental strength and emotional strength are both very important as well. However, physical strength belongs on the very bottom of the list.

If we see strength in terms of living a successful life, physical strength is necessary only in the context of physical jobs. It is important but not defining. It has little to do with how hard we work at our job. It has nothing to do with how we deal with the pain of loss or the struggles of life. It has nothing to do with how we treat our families or friends or how we raise and educate our children. It has absolutely nothing to do with how we deal with our own inner challenges.

How we face those life challenges is the content of our true strength! When egos are captured by the societal image consistently drilled into us and falsely believe that physical toughness and male toxicity is strength we become...less.

To all men who question their “toughness”: The strength of a man, or any human being, can never be found in a weight room or on a gun range! Despite all the toxic imagery out there, it can never be found in a barroom brawl or in an angry rant.

True strength can only be found within one's own character! It can only be found in a long, deeper gaze at one's own reflection in the mirror, because that is where one finds the soul.

Eric von Bleicken
West Brookfield

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:

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Newspaper

- sturbridge -

Rotary Club announces TREK Sturbridge Halloween 5K finishers

STURBRIDGE – The fourth annual TREK Sturbridge Halloween 5K, 1K and Fun Walk was held on Oct. 27 according to race director Klaus Hachfeld.

The family-friendly event included a 5K Trail Run, a 1K Road Run, and a 5K Trail Fun Walk using the Old Sturbridge Village Education Center on Old Sturbridge Village Road and the Arbutus Park Trail in the Leadmine Mountain Conservation Lands. The event also included free games for younger children, organized by student members of the newly formed Interact Club at Tantasqua Regional High School, who also helped set up for the event.

“The weather for this year’s race was just perfect,” said Hachfeld. “And made even better by wonderful volunteers, supportive sponsors, and delightfully costumed runners of all ages. Thanks to everyone who helped make this event so successful for a fourth consecutive year.”

The results below were tabulated by RaceWire:

Top male finishers in the TREK Sturbridge Halloween 5K Trail Race included first place, Cole Cashman (16:16), second place, Brody Bouchard (19:09), and third place, Michael Spillane (19:34). Top female finishers included first place, Haley Courtney (21:23) second place, Erin McGrath (22:07), and third place, Lisa Bienia Kenton (22:15).

Top finishers by age category includ-

ed Brenden O’Gara and Cana Reczec (19 & under); Joshua Dukes and Lauren Cicia (20-29); Ethan Andertrom and Kathleen Coan (30-39); Thomas Gendron and Mary Langevin (40-49); Richard Maino and Julie Miller (50-59), and Bob St. John and Carolyn Bressette (60+).

The youngest runner to complete this year’s race was Riker Jendron, while the eldest runner was Bob St. John.

The Trek Sturbridge Halloween 5K and Fun Walk is a Sturbridge Rotary Club fundraiser, with all profits going to local student scholarships and other community needs projects. Sponsors for the event included Hearthstone Market, JARS Café, Old Sturbridge Village, The Public House, and Southbridge Credit Union. Additional sponsors included ClearCom IT Solutions, Cormier Jewelers, Cornerstone Bank, Dave’s Pest Control, Dexter Russell, Inc., George Davis Law Office, Pioneer Oil & Propane, Tasse Fuel Corp., Big Bunny Market, Brush-It-Off Art Studio, Condessa Mexican Restaurant, I Am T-Shirts, Ocean State Job Lot, Pickleball U, and Joe Klimavich Public Relations.

Prizes and refreshments for this year’s race were provided or supported by Ocean State Job Lots, Condessa Mexican Restaurant, Cracker Barrel, Applebees, Breezeland Orchards, Oakholm Brewery, McDonald’s of Sturbridge, and Dunkin of Sturbridge.

Rotary International is a worldwide



Tara Lataille, Abigail Berthiaume, Jordan Lapierre and Angela Berthiaume came dressed as the cast of the “Wizard of Oz”. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

service organization of business and professional men and women united to provide Humanitarian Service, encourage High Ethical Standards in all vocations, and help build Goodwill and Peace throughout the world.

The Tantasqua Regional High School Interact Club is a Rotary-sponsored organization that brings together young people ages 12-18 to develop leadership skills while discovering the

power of Service Above Self.

The Sturbridge Rotary Club meets for dinner at 6 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of the month at the Public House Historic Inn on Sturbridge Common, Route 131, Sturbridge. New members are welcome.

For additional information, visit the Sturbridge Rotary Club website at <https://sturbridgerotary.com/> or Klaus Hachfeld at laserklaus@gmail.com.



We found Waldo! It was Kathleen Coan.



Frank Gorham won a prize for funniest costume.



River Gendron and Ella Gaudette were a big hit with their Sesame Street characters.



Race Director Klaus Hachfeld readies to call the start of the race.

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White Christmas celebration will be held Dec. 8

WEST BROOKFIELD – Please join the White Christmas Committee in the town of West Brookfield as they kick off the 32nd Annual White Christmas celebration on Sunday, Dec. 8 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

There will be fun for folks of all ages going on throughout the day at this event. The committee encourages everyone to come out and enjoy our town's annual kick-off of the holiday season by touring the historic town, strolling the downtown district, exploring local businesses and open houses, decorating gingerbread houses in the Great Hall,

meeting Santa for a quick picture, as well as dropping off those letters headed directly to the North Pole.

There will be horse drawn carriage rides throughout the day as well as shopping with dozens of vendors set up throughout town. A puppet show, an elf hunt and ice carvings are sure to keep everyone's spirits high.

There will be plenty for the entire family to come and enjoy.

If you are lucky, you may just see Father Christmas strolling the streets and greeting visitors in town. Stick around to close the day with West Brookfield's

annual tradition of gathering around the largest evergreen in town (located on the town common) while it illuminates for the first time this holiday season.

The West Brookfield White Christmas Committee 2024 is excited to be able to share this fun-filled day with both residents and non-residents alike. This is a free event brought to you courtesy of local businesses and town supporters.

The committee encourages everyone from all walks of life to come and enjoy the town, and kick off the holiday season with lots of festive events throughout town to interest everyone.

Maps of town open houses and vendors can be picked up in various local business, by accessing the Facebook page ("32nd Annual White Christmas in West Brookfield") or by emailing whitexmaswb@gmail.com.

The committee looks forward to seeing everyone explore West Brookfield and all the excitement the holiday season brings. Committee members remind folks to be mindful as the health and safety of all our guests is priority in West Brookfield.

Parking is available free throughout town.

BOARD | FROM PAGE 1

mum of those amounts," but said that amount can be higher.

"If we had a stabilization balance or free cash balance that was higher than say the 15%, that is allowable under the policy," Barry said at the Select Board's Oct. 21 meeting.

Barry said this scenario could happen if the town was saving for a future expenditure.

Other changes include language that states the town will contribute a minimum of \$100,000 a year to Other Post-Employment Benefits.

Barry also added language regarding betterments for water and sewer, that they should not exceed 40% of the operating revenues for both. Language was also added regarding reserve fund balances: 35% of operating budget, no less than \$750,000 for water and 35% of operating budget, no less than \$1 million for sewer.

"Things are a lot more costly on the

sewer side," Barry said.

Barry said she also rewrote the capital planning policy in order to streamline it.

"The purpose of that was really to kind of finetune it to the way we're doing things, more easily explain the policy," she said.

She said the capital expenditure was raised from \$5,000 up to \$15,000.

Barry said she also added language that requires the tax or rate impact of borrowing be included in a recommendation for a project.

"I wanted to put language in there that just memorialized what we have been doing over the years," she said.

The debt management section of the policy has also had updates to its language. The board voted to adopt the proposed fiscal policy updates.

Walker Pond meeting

Town Administrator Robin Grimm said there will be a neighborhood meeting for residents of the Walker Pond

area on Dec. 9 at 4:30 p.m. She said there have been concerns about arsenic levels in private wells that is potentially related to runoff from the MassPike.

"We've been working with [Mass] DOT and the engineers to work on a potential design...it's relatively complicated; it's very costly," she said. "They have not committed at all to paying for it, but this is simply a first step."

Grimm said state Rep. Todd Smola and the Select Board have been invited to attend and hear updates and concerns.

Town Administrator's report

Grimm said she met with Cedar Lake residents regarding testing for algae bloom. She said it wasn't a concern this year, but they are planning ahead for next year.

She said the town should consider forming a 250th Committee to plan a celebrate of the nation's birthday.

"This is more than any one person can handle," she said. "It think it's really a true, broad community event to celebrate the nation."

Grimm thanked the Department of Public Works for completing parking lot striping at Burgess Elementary School.

Appointment

The board appointed Steven Boadi to the Memorials and Monuments Committee. Boadi and his family have recently moved to town, and he was looking to get more involved with the town.

Boadi said he is originally from Ghana and moved to the U.S. in 2013. He works as a data scientist and has an interest in U.S. history.

During his time living in the U.S. as an immigrant, he studied its history in order to be naturalized.

"I think that America has given a lot to me and I'm so grateful for the opportunity," he said. "I made a bold step to relocate to Sturbridge...the best way to give back to the community, I was looking for ways and means to be involved."

Boadi said he is excited to be part of

this committee.

Cedar Street sidewalks

Grimm said bids to construct sidewalks along the recreation area on Cedar Street came in at \$126,000. She said the board and the American Rescue Plan Act Committee already gave approval for \$100,000.

"I need to go back to ARPA to get more funding allocated, which we have," she said.

The board gave approval to award the contract for \$126,000, pending further allocation from the ARPA Committee.

Voting in State Election

The final Early Voting will be held in-person at Town Hall on Friday, Nov. 1 from 8 a.m.-noon for the State Election. The State Election will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 5 at the Sturbridge Host Hotel from 6:30 a.m.-8 p.m.

Young Conservationist Award program

The Conservation Commission has launched a Young Conservationist Award program for high school juniors and seniors who live in or attend school in Sturbridge who are passionate about preserving natural resources. Applications are due by Nov. 27 with the winner to be announced on Jan. 30, 2025.

Water filter

Grimm said the bid to replace the filter media for the water treatment plant's well No. 1 came in at \$575,300. The board voted to award the contract to Scherbon Consolidated, Inc.

"This has to get done," she said. "This is something that is absolutely a necessity."

Common lighting upgrade

The board ratified the agreement with Pare Corporation for the upgrading of new lighting on the common and library walkway in the amount of \$38,860, paid for by ARPA funds.

Resignation

The board accepted the resignation of part-time firefighter, Jeff White, effective Oct. 3.

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- community -

HEALTH | FROM PAGE 1

anywhere from 10.28% to 24.02%. The greatest increase (24.02%) is for Blue Med RX, shifting from \$173 a month to \$215.

Szlosek said the board has until the first of November to accept the new rates.

“These are large increases,” Szlosek said.

The board approved the new rates. Vice-Chair Elizabeth “Brooke” Canada said the board should look into other health insurance options for next year to see if lower rates are available.

Sewer Department update

Sewer Superintendent Eric Cardenas said Tristan Gilman was hired as an operator. Cardenas said the department hadn’t received a lot of interest in the position for seven months prior to hiring Gilman.

“We decided to go with Tristan,” he said. “We thought it would be nice to have somebody local.”

Cardenas said the department has added about 50% more equipment and Gilman will start training on all of it.

“It made a lot of sense,” Cardenas said, to hire Gilman.

Cardenas said Gilman will be paid out of the assistant’s salary line item in the budget.

Appointment

The board appointed Ashley Place to the Library Board of Trustees at the Haston Free Public Library. Place said her family has recently moved to town and that she has an extensive background in municipal government and libraries.

“I thought it was great fit to get to know our town by serving the community from our beautiful building down here,” she said.

Sidewalk project

Canada said Vibram

has offered financial support for engineering to complete sidewalks from School Street to North Main Street. This project will be added as a change order to phase one of the Complete Streets project.

Brandon Avery, a member of the Downtown Development Committee, said the original phase one project came in under budget and additional funds became available. He said Vibram worked with the Complete Streets engineer to combine both projects.

Szlosek said Vibram’s contribution to the engineering of the project was very beneficial to the town.

Canada said construction of the phase one project will be starting soon. Szlosek said copies of the plans for the project are available to review in his office.

“It’s going to be really beautiful and I’m very excited about it,” Canada said.

Change orders

Szlosek said there are three change orders for the former Huck’s building on Donovan Road. He said the first change

order is for additional patching of the exterior metal panels in the amount of \$2,519.69; the second for the replacement of the roof, \$56,212.22; and the third for Department of Public Works plumbing fixtures, mechanical and compressed air system, \$27,355.71.

He said the third change order isn’t really an added cost, but more of a reallocation. He said the work was originally supposed to be completed by vocational technical student, but scheduling issues have prevented that from happening.

Pole hearing

National Grid representative Colton Marshall requested approval from the board to install a solo utility pole on Donovan Road in order to place an advanced metering infrastructure wireless pole antenna on it. The board approved the request.

Marshall said this pole can also be built off of in the future to supply power, but its purpose now is just to support the wireless antenna, which can detect power outages.

“It helps with reduced outage time

and lets us know where outages are,” he said.

Upcoming events

The Parks and Recreation Committee will be holding a Gobble Wobble 5K from the school campus on Thanksgiving morning. Avery said the committee is also planning First Night activities for New Year’s.

General Bylaw Committee members

Canada said the town is seeking three people to serve on the General Bylaw Committee. She said the board has already received a few letters of interest.

Committee members will be appointed on Nov. 5. Any residents interested in serving on the committee can email selectmen@northbrookfield.net.

Trail cleanup

Avery said the Parks and Recreation Committee, along with volunteers, have been working to maintain trails at Town Forest Park and the disc golf course.

“Bring people down and have a nice hike while the weather’s nice and enjoy the trails,” he said.

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Quaboag Current


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Please direct any questions to Nisha Humayun at
nhumayun@townofware.com, (413) 207-7698.



QUABOAG | FROM PAGE 1



Jessica and Lillian got creative with an M&M's-themed trunk. TURLEY PHOTOS BY ROWAN BERNSTEIN

and trucks to create fun and immersive themes. Attendees were asked to donate bags of candy, so there was plenty to go around.

In addition to the traditional trunk-or-treat activity, the school was also hosting a "Haunted Hallway" presented by the Student Council. Guests eagerly awaited their turn to walk through the hall in a line that stretched out the door for most of the evening.

There was also a "less scary" hallway that catered to younger children.

Country Bank sponsored a pumpkin carving contest, with Dunkin' gift card prizes awarded to winners in each grade level category. The pumpkins were on display in the cafeteria, where representatives from Country Bank handed out apple cider and cider donuts.

Midway through the evening, the students of Diva Dance School gave a performance. Diva Dance School is a studio located in Warren for adult students, and the dancers performed four Halloween-inspired routines to songs including "Thriller" by Michael Jackson and "Bring Me To Life" by Evanescence.

Warren Parks & Recreation sponsored a DJ for the evening, so attendees could enjoy spooky tunes all evening, and the QRMHS senior class sold refreshments.

Trunk-or-Treat was a true community effort that resulted in a great night of Halloween fun.



Matt and Felicia Zwirecki and their children Max and Addie handed out candy from a "Candyland" trunk.



Grace Smart, Shelby Bridges and Abigail Jolin also helped with the National Honor Society's trunk.



Diva Dance School performed during the event.



Lori Belizzi invited trunk-or-treaters to the Quaboag Regional Middle High School winter musical, "Beauty & the Beast".



The Ware Fire Department also entered a trunk for the event.



Julie Cutler and Rich Provencher pose in front of their "Jurassic Park:" themed trunk.



Reagan Girouard from West Brookfield entered the pumpkin carving contest.



Mill Town's Public Health department entered a trunk for the event.



The Police Department had an "Up" themed trunk.



Trunk-or-Treaters could try on the Sorting Hat at the Bouvier's Harry Potter trunk. Shown are Amanda and Brent Bouvier and their children River as Hedwig the owl and Miles as Harry Potter.

SPORTS

Quaboag Regional takes down Palmer



Kynlee Miller tries to steal the ball away. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

WARREN – Last Wednesday afternoon, Quaboag Regional High School field hockey tuned up for the postseason with a 4-0 shutout of visiting Palmer High School. The Cougars would finish the regular season 9-6-1. As of press time, Quaboag was ranked No. 24 in Division 4. Depending on the number of teams that qualify for tournament, Quaboag could host a playoff game, or would travel to a higher seed depending on how the final rankings shake out.



Breya Sauriol takes over possession as she circles around the ball.



Josie Hescok attempts to clear the ball on defense.



Kate Swistak tries to work the ball away from the Palmer defense.



Evie Iwaniec drags the ball up the field.

Panthers advance to Central Mass. Class B title game

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BARRE—Rich Zalneraitis has been keeping track of his wife, Shelly's, wins, losses, and ties since she took over as the varsity field hockey coach at Quabbin Regional High School in the fall 1994.

The top-seeded Lady Panthers advanced into the Class B finals of the Central Mass. Athletic Directors Association tournament for the second consecutive year with a 3-0 home shutout victory over the fourth-seeded Saint Paul Knight, last Wednesday afternoon (Oct.23). It was also the 400th career victory for Shelly Zalneraitis.

"I've been able to watch just about every game Shelly has coached here. I also watched her when she played field hockey here at Quabbin," said Rich Zalneraitis, who has won about 100 games



Abby Rogowski tries to pass the ball by an opponent.



Haley Ayer chases down a loose ball. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

- sports -

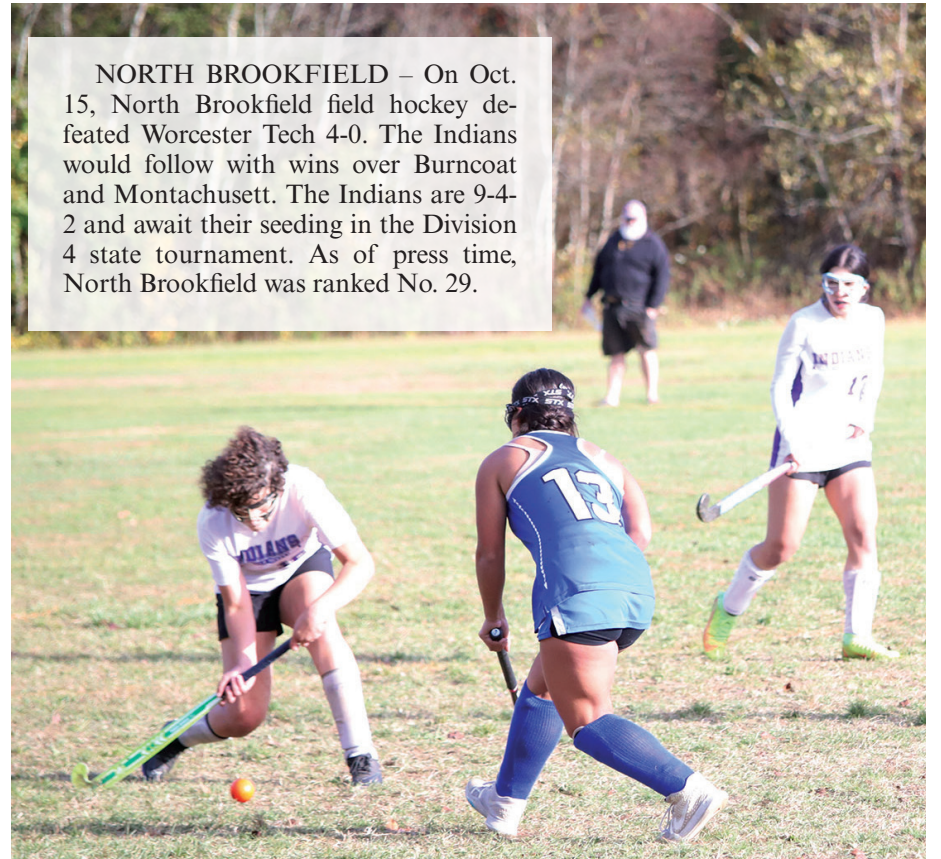
Indians beat Worcester Tech, await tournament seeding



Sarah Monsin tries to chase down a loose ball. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Dayton Ford squares up a shot on goal.



Sophie Dufresne tries to pass ahead of pressure.

NORTH BROOKFIELD – On Oct. 15, North Brookfield field hockey defeated Worcester Tech 4-0. The Indians would follow with wins over Burncoat and Montachusett. The Indians are 9-4-2 and await their seeding in the Division 4 state tournament. As of press time, North Brookfield was ranked No. 29.



Noah Gillette chases after a loose ball.

Pioneers shut out Sizer



Samantha Lowe goes after the loose ball. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Danielle Croteau nearly collides with an opponent.



Hannah Mellor makes a stop on defense.



Autumn Doktor traps the ball for the Pioneers.

PALMER – Last Monday afternoon, Pathfinder girls soccer picked up a 10-0 shut-out of Sizer School, a Central Mass. school. The Pioneers scored early and often and were in control of the game throughout. The Pioneers improved to 2-10-1 and were scheduled to have non-playoff games earlier this week.



Taylor Allen turns play around.

- sports -

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Bogey Doubles League

EAST BROOKFIELD – The Monday Doubles League at Bogey Lanes reached their eighth session of the season.

As of Oct. 21, the team of Tom Clauson & Gary Santora are in first place with a total of 40 wins so far this season. Pellet & Nester are currently tied for second place with the team of Mondor & Brayton with 34 wins.

Murphy & Kenneson are in fourth place with 33 wins. There are three teams tied for fifth place with 32 wins, Sandman & Marvin, Gauthier & Clough, and Talamini & Gravel.

The team of Renaud & Ward have 31 wins, Halbedel & Fontaine have 30 and

Rando & MacDougall have 26.

Murphy & Kenneson bowled against the team of Gauthier & Clough. In game one, Murphy & Kenneson won by a score of 243-222. In game two, Trevor Kenneson bowled a 134 on his team's way to another victory, 277-263.

In game three, Gauthier & Clough won the last game 247-233. Total pinfall was in favor of Murphy & Kenneson, 753-732.

Pellett & Nester bowled against Clauson & Santora. In game one, Pellett & Nester defeated Clauson & Santora 266-235. In game two, Pellett & Nester won again 260-241. In game three, Clauson & Santora won 269-246. Tom Clauson finished with a 125 in game three.

Total pinfall was in favor of Clauson 7 Santora 772-745.

Talamini & Gravel bowled against Rando & MacDougall. In game one, Talamini & Gravel won 248-240. In

game two, Talamini & Gravel won 279-267. Jack Talamini bowled a 115 in game two.

In game three, Talamini & Gravel won to get a three-game sweep over Rando & MacDougall, 280-255. The total pinfall was won by Talamini & Gravel, 807-762.

The team Halbedel & Fontaine bowled against Renaud & Ward. In game one, Renaud & Ward were victorious with a score of 285 to Halbedel & Fontaine's 254. Tina Ward started the match with a 133. Aaron Fontaine also bowled with a 133 in game one.

In game two, Halbedel & Fontaine won by a score of 293-276. Fontaine followed up with a 150 and Ward had a 129.

In game three, Halbedel & Fontaine finished strong with a 145 and had a series of 428, which is now leading in the high series category. Ward had a strong

showing in game three with a 122 and a series of 384. Her teammate, Steve Renaud, Sr. finished with a 122 as well.

The total pinfall was in favor of Renaud & Ward, 849-836.

The team of Sandman & Marvin bowled against Mondor & Brayton. In game one, Sandman & Marvin were victorious, 261-229. In game two, Sandman & Marvin won 292-284. Luke Marvin bowled a 134 in game two and Travis Sandman bowled a 109.

In game three, Mondor & Brayton won the final game, 249-240. Marvin's series was 345 and his team won total pinfall, 793-762.

As of Oct. 28 the top three high singles in the Bogey Doubles league are Luke Marvin with a 183, Trevor Kenneson with a 163 and Aaron Fontaine with a 154. Top three high series scores are Aaron Fontaine with a 428, Marvin with a 425 and Kenneson with a 414.

PANTHERS | FROM PAGE 9

as the boys' varsity basketball coach at Narragansett Regional. "I always try to give her some advice, but she doesn't usually take it. She's the best coach that I know and winning 400 career games is just an amazing accomplishment."

Shelly Zalneraitis, who began her coaching career as the Quabbin junior varsity field hockey coach in the fall of 1988, is wrapping up her 31st season as the varsity coach. She has a 400-137-82 overall varsity record.

The Lady Panthers have qualified for the postseason tournament every year and they've also captured numerous league titles.

In Shelly's second season as the varsity field hockey coach, the Lady Panthers finished with a 19-2 overall record. The 2015 squad also won 19 games, which is the most wins she's had in a season.

A year ago, the Lady Panthers defeated Clinton High School, 2-1, in the C.M.A.D.A. Class B finals.

"The thing that she does better than any other high school coach I've ever seen is she looks at what she has for talent and ability and adjusts to what that is for each year," Rich Zalneraitis said. "She and her assistant coaches figure it out and they're always a much better team when the season ends."

October 23 has become a very memorable day for the Zalneraitis family during the past decade.

"My daughter, Carleigh, was looking at some pictures of when Shelly won her 300th and 350th career games. She won her 300th game on October 23, 2015, and her 350th on the same date four years later," Rich Zalneraitis said. "We thought that she would win her 400th career game last Friday night (Oct.18), but they wound up losing to Westborough, 1-0, on senior night."

Carleigh played field hockey for her mother's team ten years ago. Rich and Shelly also have two sons, Kellin and Emmitt.

"My family has been a huge part of my coaching career," Shelly Zalneraitis said. "They've made a lot of sacrifices over the years to allow me to coach. I also have some incredible assistant coaches."

Shelly Zalneraitis isn't the only Quabbin varsity coach who has won 400 career games. Dennis Dextradeur, who's the longtime Quabbin boys' varsity basketball coach will enter the 2024-25 regular season with 466 career victories. He won 84 games as the girls varsity coach before switching over to the boys team.

While Shelly Zalneraitis doesn't take very much coaching advice from her husband, she does take a lot of advice during each game from Pam Dickson,

who has been the Lady Panthers jv/ assistant varsity coach for many years.

"Coach Dickson and I have worked very hard to make this a very successful team over the years," said Zalneraitis, who's a six grade math teacher. "It took a total team effort to win 400 games. It wasn't very easy because you're coaching a different group of players every year."

Several of the players listed on this year's varsity roster are following in their mother's footsteps.

One of them is freshman Ellie Poulin, whose mother, Jill, is a former Quabbin field hockey player and current assistant coach.

"I played field hockey for Shelly when I was in high school and it's nice to see her win her 400th game when my daughter is on the team," said Jill Poulin, who graduated from Quabbin in 2001. "Shelly hasn't changed her coaching style very much."

Senior co-captain Sydney Slattery gave her thoughts about the memorable afternoon.

"I've been a member of the varsity field hockey team since my sophomore year, so it was great to see coach Zalneraitis win her 400th game today," said Slattery, who plays defense. "She always coaches us very hard, but she loves us. She always wants us to do our best. We're very happy that we were able to celebrate with her today."

The Lady Panthers' other three seniors are Jocelyn Chaves, Kylie George, and Haley Ayer, who's also a co-captain.

Sophomore goalie Aubrey Thorpe, who's a first year varsity starter, only had to make seven saves in posting her sixth shutout of the season against the Knights.

"Aubrey is an amazing goalie," Slattery said. "She communicates very well with the defense. She has been doing an outstanding job."

Quabbin's first goal of the semifinal game came with 3:04 remaining in the first quarter.

Sophomore Abigail Rogowski fired a wicked shot from just inside the circle that deflected off the Knights goalie and the left post before going into the cage.

A little more than six minutes into the second quarter, seventh grader Maria Hamm pushed a shot into the Cage giving Quabbin a 2-0 lead.

The Lady Panthers third goal of the game was scored by sophomore Makenzie Casey on a rebound shot with 4:55 left in the third quarter.

Quabbin (8-6-2) was scheduled to face third-seeded Nipmuc Regional in the Class B championship game, last Saturday.



Kailynn Schuster looks to make a play. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Ellie Poulin and Haley Ayer pursue a loose ball.



Makenzie Casey attempts to clear the ball away.

TERROR | FROM PAGE 1



Chainsaws were rumbling as guests tried to make it through the Trail of Terror. *TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO*

ing of a camping trip gone wrong.

The circus even appeared for this year's Trail of Terror. The head clown played some good tunes on his guitar and his fellow clowns danced to the music.

There was even a movie being played on the field of the orchard. However, the film went from 3-D to reality as characters made their way to the wagon. It was a horror film you'll never forget.

Despite the scary greetings all the guests made it through the trail of terror in one piece and had a great time. The guests on the wagon ride gave the Theatre Guild of North Brookfield a nice round of applause for their performance in this year's Trail of Terror.

The Farm Stand was open for guests to enjoy some delicious apple treats and cool and warm beverages. In the background music was echoing throughout the haunted Brookfield Orchard playing the Halloween classics. There was a pumpkin carving room and face painting for young patrons to enjoy before the Trail of Terror.



The staff at Brookfield Orchards were excited to host the 2024 Trail of Terror. A dragon was cashing people out at the Farm Stand.



Frankenstein's monster was coming alive to greet the wagon riders.



A movie was rolling and went from three dimensional to reality as figures began to surround the wagon.



Somebody was having a birthday, but it looked like no one wanted to join in on this girl's birthday party.



A scary camper addressed the wagon crew.



The Trail of Terror had many stops as characters would greet you (or better yet scare you) as you drove through the haunted orchard.



The clowns brought a magic show, but you don't want to know what was pulled out of the hat.



The circus is in town and had a great musical intro.



Something went horribly wrong on this camping trip.

SCHOOL | FROM PAGE 1

regionalization, residents would need to pass articles at town meetings for each respective town.

Canada said the agreement includes the formation of a new regional school committee, which would feature three representatives each from Warren, West Brookfield and North Brookfield. Elections for two-year terms would be held biannually, based on state elections.

"If a vacancy occurs, the select board chooses a replacement for that person who has left the committee, within 30 days," he said.

Canada said organization, powers and duties, quorum, etc., of the new regional school committee would operate the same way the current school committee does.

He said the biggest difference is the formation of a transitional school committee, which will have 18 members, including all current school committee members from each school district, along with one representative from the North Brookfield Board of Selectmen.

Canada said each district town will have its own elementary school serving grades kindergarten through five; students in grades six through eight will attend middle school at the current North Brookfield Jr./Sr. High School and students in grades nine through 12 will attend the current Quaboag Regional Middle High School in Warren.

"The earliest we would become a part of the Quaboag district, would be July 1, 2027," Canada said, pending town meeting votes.

Administrator's report

Elementary School Principal Arthur Murphy said Measures of Academic Progress testing has almost been completed in the school.

"This gives our teachers information right away, that they can utilize to make informed decisions in the classroom," he said.

Students have been engaged in the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports incentive program and have turned in well over 1,000 tickets to trade in for prizes. He said a school store is open once every other week and each class can go and trade in their tickets earned for positive behavior.

Murphy said prizes range from glow sticks to pencils to fun experiences, such as being principal for the day, riding to school in a police cruiser and more. He thanked the members of the Police Department for their support with this program.

"It's been a great start to the year," he said. "Anything that we can do to have our kids feel happy and part of our school, it's fantastic."

Murphy said the Creative Action Thinking Laboratory has been a positive experience for the kindergartners, and the second grade is preparing to study math fluence with the CAT Lab through music, dance and art.

Murphy said he has met with the PTO and the community is lucky to

have adults who care about the students. He said the PTO is working hard on spirit week, a Veterans Day breakfast, food drive and more.

"There's a multitude of things going on in our school that the PTO really works hard on," he said.

Murphy provided his school improvement plan to the School Committee, listing his objectives. He said the objectives include improving the academic performance of all students, continuing to develop and integrate an instructional leadership team, improving social emotional and mental health supports for all students and improving the school's climate and culture.

Student Services update

Student Services Director Amy Emory said she and her assistant have been working with special education staff and related services providers to assess the updates to department's procedures and practices.

"It's really critically important in terms of really bringing the department together to improve operational efficiencies and communication," she said. "I think it's been well received."

She said the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act grant for fiscal year 2025 was completed and submitted.

Emory said the department is preparing for its training for the new IEP system. She said the first phase was completed on the administrative level already.

Emory said the Indicator 14 post-school transition outcomes survey had 100% completion rate from students with disabilities who graduated from school year 2022-2023.

"That really gives us good information as a district in terms of our students transition outcome," she said.

Recognitions

Superintendent Timothy McCormick recognized Justin Hackenson, the IT Director and Cindy Schofield, Business/Human Resource Manager.

He said Hackenson started as the school district's IT technician and transitioned to IT Director. Hackenson is relocating to Boston and will be unable to continue in his positions.

"He's done a lot of great work for us," McCormick said.

Schofield has accepted a position in another school district, McCormick said.

"She's done a great job. We're very happy for her," he said.

McCormick said both Hackenson and Schofield will be missed by the school district and community.

Superintendent's report

McCormick welcomed the school district's new Facilities Director, Eric Hevy.

He said Hevy has a "long history" in the field, and he is also a member on the town's Fire Department.

"We're very excited to have Eric on board," McCormick said.

McCormick said Renee Buzzell's

kindergarten class had its first official CAT Lab session this past week, featuring two musicians.

"This was the very first session that we had," he said. "We loved it."

McCormick said as the CAT Lab progresses to other grade levels, he will be able to show data about what is working.

"We're very excited to have this program started," he said.

Communications

School Committee Chair John Magario said he received a formal notice from the president of the North Brookfield Teachers Association, dated Sept. 30 and received on Oct. 1.

The letter stated that the current contract expires on Aug. 31, 2025, and that the union wants to "negotiate a fair and equitable settlement in a timely fashion."

Secretary Tonya Matthews forwarded an email from Finance Committee member Bill King to the other School Committee members and McCormick. She said the email contained a link to a website with a free digital financial workbook designed for high school students.

The free program provides financial literacy information to students, including good versus bad credit, budgeting and more.

"I think those are all great things for kids to learn," Magario said.

Student Council update

Student Council Representative Dante Giangrande said class elections were held for sixth, seventh, and ninth grade students, giving students opportunities to hold class officer positions.

The annual homecoming dance was held at the end of September.

Halloween room decorating took place and voting was held on Oct. 25, with results announced on Oct. 28. Students could also earn bonus points and spirit points by carving or decorating pumpkins.

A Halloween dance was held on Oct. 25 for students in grades six through 12.

The annual Giving Turkey event will be happening throughout November to help collect donations for Toys for Tots.

"Students are encouraged to take a feather from the turkey and buy whatever item is written on that feather," he said.

The grade with the most items donated will receive spirit week points.

Giangrande said the fall conference will be held in November at Blackstone Valley Tech.

He encouraged all community members to follow the Student Council on Instagram and Facebook, or attend its meetings held every other Monday from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the high school kiva.

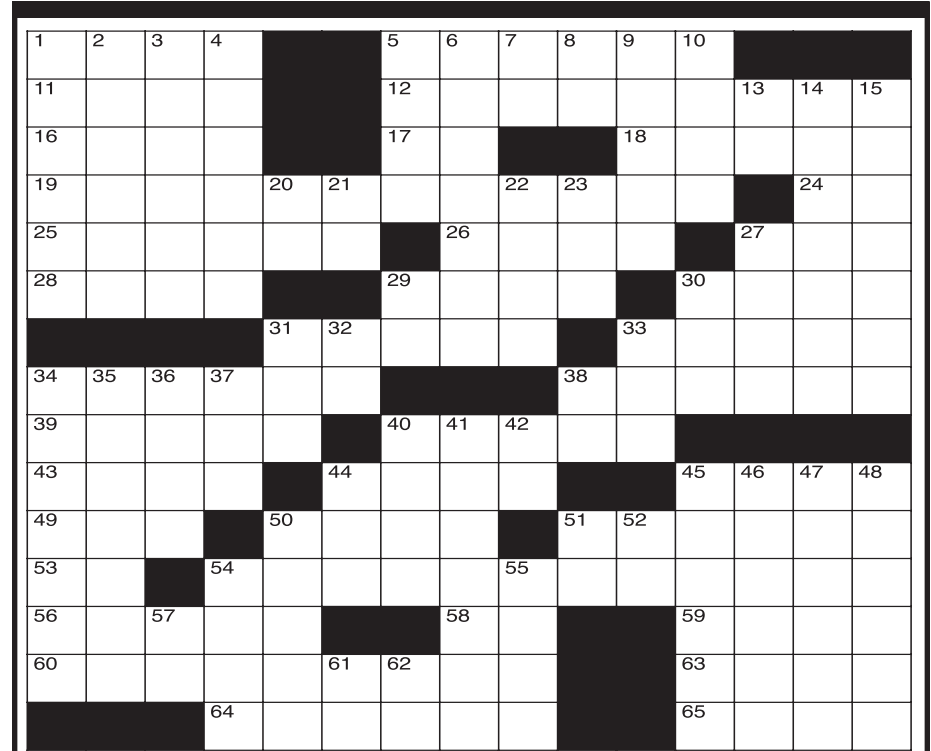
"Please feel free to join us if you have anything you would like to discuss or would just like to see how things are run," he said.

Policy Subcommittee update

Magario said the Policy Subcommittee discussed changes in language to Title IX in the school district's policy manual.

"Those are federal-level mandates for changes in language, verbiage and regulation as far as Title IX protections," he said.

McCormick said the Policy Subcommittee had a good discussion about the changes. He said there are also language changes to the building use policy as well as some from 2019 and 2021 that need to be adopted.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. ___ Spumante (Italian wine)
- 5. Highly impressed
- 11. Pronoun to identify something specific
- 12. Uttered in an impassioned way
- 16. Outfits
- 17. "Westworld" actor Harris
- 18. Stewed game casserole
- 19. Indignities inflicted on others
- 24. Blood type
- 25. Says beneath one's breath
- 26. Taxis
- 27. Transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm
- 28. NFL great Randy
- 29. Where college students live
- 30. Brief Yankees sensation Kevin

CLUES DOWN

- 31. Condiment
- 33. -frutti
- 34. Polish city
- 38. Astronomy unit of distance
- 39. Romanian village
- 40. Bears first overall pick Williams
- 43. Irritated
- 44. Clothing for sale has them
- 45. One-time world power
- 49. When you anticipate arriving
- 50. Farm building
- 51. Organize thoughtfully
- 53. Detective
- 54. One who reduces
- 56. Nursemaids
- 58. Partner to "Pa"
- 59. World's longest river
- 60. Commemorates
- 63. Compound
- 64. The Lannisters and Starks fought for one
- 65. Email function

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Open-roofed entrance
- 2. Japanese religion
- 3. Dancer's garments
- 4. Distributes
- 5. Yemeni port
- 6. Spanish doctors
- 7. It cools your house
- 8. Engine variant
- 9. Makes more manageable
- 10. Days (Spanish)
- 13. Milliliter
- 14. Spread out from
- 15. With two replaceable hydrogen atoms
- 20. Respectful title for a man
- 21. Equally
- 22. Scarlett's home
- 23. Big Blue
- 27. Subway dwellers
- 29. One-tenth of a liter
- 30. Central European river
- 31. Distress signal
- 32. Expression of sympathy

CLUES DOWN

- 33. Bar bill
- 34. Football equipment
- 35. Dance music
- 36. Russian river
- 37. Mary __, cosmetics
- 38. Gym class
- 40. Autos
- 41. Fourth and honorable name in ancient Rome
- 42. Defeats (abbr.)
- 44. A way to color
- 45. Planet
- 46. Form of humor
- 47. Taken without permission
- 48. Go over again
- 50. Auto parts manufacturer
- 51. Detective's source
- 52. Home of the Flyers
- 54. Short official note
- 55. Emit coherent radiation
- 57. In the year of Our Lord
- 61. Atomic #18
- 62. Not from, but...

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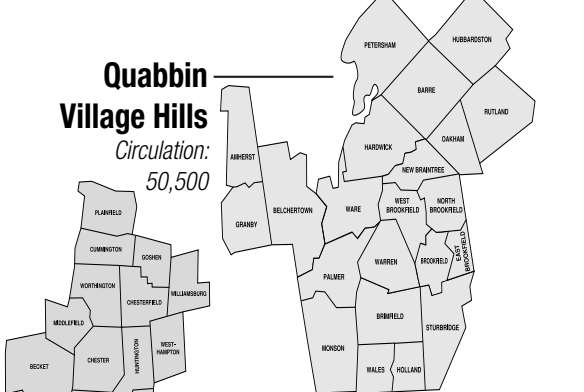

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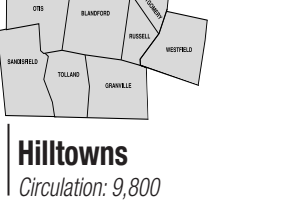
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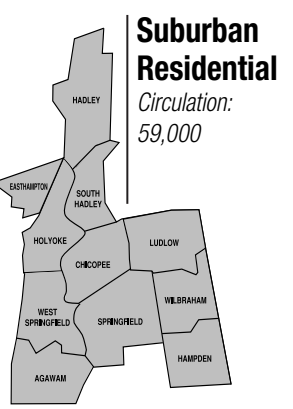
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Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

WARREN WATER DISTRICT is hiring for part-time office help. Please apply in person at **988 Main St., Warren 413-436-9819**. EOE.

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HELP WANTED

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON

HIGHWAY POSITION OPENING

The Town of Worthington is soliciting letters of interest from qualified candidates to fill **two full-time Equipment Operator/General Laborer** positions in the Town Highway Department.

Valid MA CDL operator, Hydraulic Hoister's licenses and OSHA-10 certification is preferred.

- Highway maintenance laborer salary rate range: \$18.16 - \$26.46
- Highway maintenance laborer with CDL and Hoister's license salary rate range: \$25.00 - \$36.41

Further information can be found on the Town's website:

www.worthington-ma.us

Questions will be answered by the Highway Superintendent at 64 Huntington Road, Monday-Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM; 413-238-5830 or send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to: worthingtonhighway@gmail.com or to Worthington Highway Department, PO Box 643, Worthington, MA, 01098. This posting will remain pertinent until the two positions are filled.

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HELP WANTED

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT OPENING

Highway Department

The Town of Worthington is soliciting letters of interest and resumes from qualified candidates to fill the position of Highway Superintendent.

Nature of work: The Highway Superintendent is responsible for administering and overseeing the daily activities of the Highway Department including the maintenance and repair of town roads, parks, bridges, equipment maintenance and snow/ice removal operations.

This is a benefited position which requires a thorough knowledge of the principles, practices and techniques of highway department maintenance, construction and procurement.

Salary rate range: \$62,941.00 - \$91,707.00, with potential for winter overtime.

More information can be found on the Town of Worthington website:

www.worthington-ma.us

Please send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to:

selectboard@worthington-ma.us.

This posting will remain pertinent until the positions are filled.

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HELP WANTED

Worthington Police Department 51 Huntington Road, Worthington, MA 01098

FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER

The Worthington Police Department is seeking qualified candidates for Full-time Police Officer.

Applicants must be a minimum of 21 years of age or older, a U.S. Citizen and possess a valid driver's license.

They should also have a high school diploma/GED, license to carry and be certified by Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee and be POST certified.

This is a benefited position with a salary range of: \$52,000.00 - \$75,733.00. The successful candidate shall be highly motivated, self-disciplined and possess a community policing philosophy and live in, or near Worthington. Previous candidates must reapply.

Send letter of interest, resume and three references with relevant contact information to:

**Worthington Police Department
P.O. Box 246
Worthington, MA 01098**

Or via email to: chief@worthingtonpd.org
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Quaboag Current
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

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Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Job Connection

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HELP WANTED

Executive Director Warren Housing Authority

Description: The Warren Housing Authority (WHA) is seeking a qualified and experienced housing administrator for the position of Executive Director. The Authority's portfolio includes 60 units of Ch. 667 Elderly/Handicapped, 4 units of Ch.705 Family, 6 units of Section 8 New Construction, 11 MRVP Voucher and 72 Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers. The Section 8 vouchers currently managed by another agency. The candidate should be familiar with both the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) program requirements.

Minimum Requirements: A minimum of 2 years' experience in public or private housing management, community development, public administration, non-profit administration, or a related field that demonstrates strong management and organizational skills. Knowledge of the principles, practices of state and federal public housing management programs, capital improvement planning, technology systems, maintenance, and finances desired. Strong organizational and personnel management skills desired. One year of experience overseeing at least three staff persons or as a significant project team leader or program administrator strongly preferred.

Possess excellent written and verbal skills for an ability to communicate effectively with local officials, boards, residents, service providers and funding agencies. Experience working with the public, as well as individuals of various socio-economic backgrounds. Must be bondable. Certification as a Massachusetts Public Housing Administrator (MPHA) desired or obtained within one year.

Must be proficient in Word, Excel and Outlook. Familiarity with centralized public housing wait lists (CHAMP), housing software, HUD and EOHLC databases and reporting systems desired. Other preferred credentials include graduation from an accredited two to four-year college or university and a passion for the mission of affordable housing.

The maximum salary is \$86,667 and is dependent upon experience, education, and certifications in accordance with EOHLC Executive Director Salary Schedule. The required work hours are 32 hours per week and the position includes excellent benefits. The candidate will be subject to qualification verification prior to employment.

To apply in confidence please submit a cover letter and resume to Kenneth R. Martin, Consultant, at kenmartin1208@gmail.com with "Warren ED position" in the subject line.

The deadline is no later than the close of business on November 1, 2024. Late applications shall not be considered. More detailed information will be required of applicants that advance to the next level of consideration. Diverse applicants are encouraged to apply.

The Warren Housing Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

QUABOAG CURRENT

WARREN Project 351 ambassadors p2	STURBRIDGE Trek 5K results listed p5	NORTH BROOKFIELD Indians earn win p10	Editorial/Opinion Sports Classifieds	4 9 14
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Volume 17, Number 49

Friday, November 1, 2024

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