

# QUABOAG CURRENT

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Quaboag Current  
Newspaper

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Volume 16, Number 49

Friday, November 3, 2023

It's a wrap!

## Students tape principal to wall to celebrate fundraising goal

WEST BROOKFIELD – After surpassing their \$20,000 Boosterthon fundraising goal, students at West Brookfield Elementary School were rewarded

with the unusual opportunity to tape their principal to the wall. WBES Principal Melissa Provost was “stuck” working late last Thursday afternoon, as

each student and staff member was given a strip of duct tape to help keep her securely fastened to the wall.

See MORE PHOTOS PAGE 11



West Brookfield Elementary School Principal Melissa Provost prepares herself as a student applies another piece of duct tape. Students were given the opportunity to duct tape their principal to the wall after passing their Boosterthon fundraising goal of \$20,000. TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE

## Board approves additional funding for town administrator

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis said the American Rescue Plan Act Committee met recently and submitted a list of spending recommendations to the Board for approval.

The first recommendation, in the amount of \$100,000, would help to fund the salary, benefits and other associated expenses for a town administrator. This amount would be added to the \$200,000 previously

approved to fund the position; bringing the total to \$300,000.

The second recommendation was \$7,500 to the Fire Department to purchase two sets of turnout gear. The third recommendation was \$30,000 to the Water Department to supplement funds for preventative maintenance to the concrete water tank.

At the Oct. 24 meeting, Board of Selectmen Vice-Chair John Tripp said he thought allocating the \$100,000 toward a town administrator should wait.

See BOARD | PAGE 15

## Durant, Zlotnik speak in candidates forum

WBCA brings politicians together

By Eileen Kennedy  
Correspondent

WARE – Two longtime state representatives vied for voters' attention last week at a candidates forum hosted by the Ware Business & Civic Association at the Cedarbrook Village, an assisted living facility on South Street.

During the breakfast

See FORUM | PAGE 8

## Halloween in New Braintree

### Trunk or Treat and party follows at Farmer Matt's

By Richard Murphy  
Correspondent

NEW BRAINTREE – About a year ago your correspondent, admittedly a bit slow, became aware of the term, trunk or treat.

It has been around for a while, but as he has long passed the age of wearing strange

clothing in late October, as have his offspring, he was oblivious.

On Oct. 28, all would be revealed.

On that day, in front of the New Braintree Town Offices, a small town in New England would celebrate Halloween together.

See HALLOWEEN | PAGE 12



The Monahan family was making sure the 1960s never die. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY

## Youth bowlers prepare for International Candlepin Tournament

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

EAST BROOKFIELD – The youth bowlers at Bogey Lanes enjoy the atmosphere of candlepin bowling.

During their weekly youth league every Wednesday night,

the kids ages 10 and up surround themselves with friends and fun competitions. Fast approaching, the youth bowlers at Bogey Lanes will be packing up their bowling balls and bowling shoes to bowl in the International Youth Candlepin Championships.

See BOWLERS | PAGE 7



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# - community -

## Local family shows support for neighbors in Lahaina

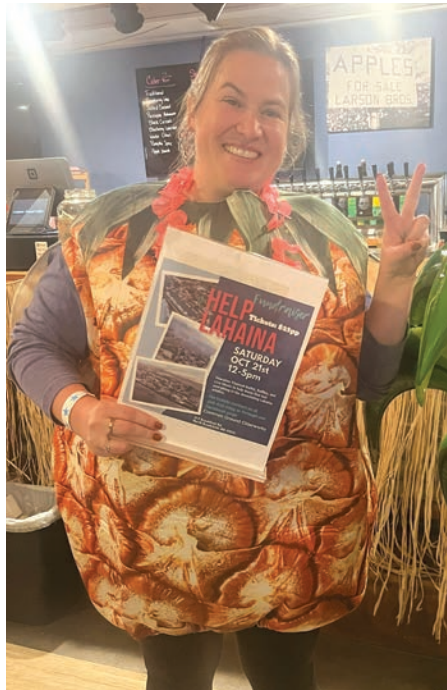
By Emily-Rose Pappas  
Staff Writer

**NORTH BROOKFIELD** – The fires in Lahaina, Hawaii have devastated many families, and have reached people here in Massachusetts who have close ties to the city.

Katie Griffin, with her compassion for the people of Lahaina, as well as having close friends who live there, wanted to do something for the recovering city.

She put together an event at Common Ground Ciderworks with live music from five local bands including The Island Castaways Band, Between the Waves, Stan Matthews, TJ Schubert, and the Moonlight Saints.

There was also a raffle with over 50 donated items, along with food and desserts. Common Ground Ciderworks



Diana Nydam is shown in her pineapple costume running the raffle prize table.

also served specials on the Hawaiian theme from their self-made beers, wines, seltzers, and ciders.

“People were very generous,” Anne Adams, Griffin’s co-organizer said. The turn-out was fantastic, and the money raised from this day will make an impact.

Griffin flew out on Monday, Oct. 23 to deliver the funds raised from the weekend to organizations in Lahaina that can distribute the money and resources to families in need.

“I think it is important to come together as a community to help those in need,” Adams said. “Even though Maui is thousands of miles away, we are still connected.”

In the spirit of a connected community, many members came together to support the fundraiser. Cathy Ferrentino, owner of Francesco’s Ristorante in Brimfield, Diana Nydam from Brookfield Orchards and Jillian Mattei, the 2023 winner of the title of Mrs. Massachusetts for the Plus America 2023.

“This is a chance to give back to the community,” Mattei said. “This is a disaster that has affected our nation. Sometimes just being present shows that support. It really hit close to home [for me].”

Current Lahaina resident, Lisa Hoogasian-Klein flew up to the fundraiser from her home to show her support and gratitude for the gifts and support from everyone present.

“To me, community is so important. Ohana is important to me,” Hoogasian-Klein said. “It is devastating and heartbreaking what happened. I think events like this bring people together to help and support Lahaina.”

The support from the community for Lahaina will help many people who lost their homes to the fires in Lahaina. It is important, that during times like these,



Shown from left are Jillian Mattei, Katie Griffin, Cathy Ferrentino and Lahaina resident Lisa Hoogasian-Klein. TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

the community comes together to help their neighbors, no matter the distance between them.



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# News from the Quabbin Regional School District

From the desk of Colleen Mucha,  
Interim Superintendent of QRSD

On Thursday, Oct. 12, the Quabbin Regional School District School Committee voted unanimously to appoint two student representatives to serve on the committee for the 2023-2024 school year.

Oakham School Committee member, Walter Nutter, brought the proposal forward during last school year.

Nutter said, "The School Committee has the pleasure of seeing students from the elementary, middle and high schools report on their experiences at almost every monthly school committee meeting, and we are always very impressed with those students. We knew there were capable, well spoken high school students, who could offer their perspectives as student representatives on our committee."

Barre School Committee member, Lee Wolanin said, "The sub-committee and administration thought it important to review some different approaches taken by other school systems regarding their student reps. We decided that except for voting ability and executive sessions, the students will be fully accepted with all the rights/duties as school committee members. They'll even get their own nameplates for our meetings."

The two representatives are Nicholas Whitelaw, Class of 2024 and Isabel Coviello, Class of 2025. Both students are members of the Student Advisory Council and they each serve as officers of the Central Mass Regional Advisory Council. Whitelaw is chair of the committee and Coviello is the communication coordinator.

Holding these positions then allows them to serve on the State Student Advisory Council as well.

Being active members of these councils is a big commitment. Both students attend monthly meetings that are held in Hudson and Malden and it is time that they are really enjoying.

They serve on the Career Education and Preparation Committee.

Coviello shares that being a council member allows for a "good demonstration of student leadership" and adds "it gives us credibility and allows us to implement positive change in our district."

While it seems just serving on the advisory councils would be plenty for these students to manage, both were thrilled to become members of the Quabbin Regional School District School Committee.



Nicholas Whitelaw, Class of 2024, left and Isabel Coviello, Class of 2025 are the student representatives to the Quabbin Regional School District. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Whitelaw shared that he is looking forward to "bringing the work that they do on the advisory councils to the School Committee and ultimately into our school system to improve education across the state." He is

also thinking beyond his short term on the School Committee. "I want this to continue after I'm gone and graduated. I want to see other students step into the role and for traditions and processes to continue."

Coviello will have the opportunity to remain on the School Committee for two years. She is excited to "see an up close look at how the district is run."

She shares that "students don't always know what is going on" and "they do not always understand what challenges can get in the way." She states that students are told "to dream as big as you want" and by being on the School Committee this will "allow for a better look."

With Whitelaw and Coviello as active members of the QRSD School Committee, there is no doubt that they will raise up the voices of our students and work with the Committee to continue to push the QRSD to greater heights.

## Red Door Fayre is Nov. 11

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Christ Memorial Episcopal Church, 133 North Main St., will host its Red Door Fayre on Saturday, Nov. 11, from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

There will be raffles, an exquisite table, a Christmas table, a bake table, pies and a craft table. A homemade luncheon includes soups, sandwiches and apple crisp. Free lunch served to all veterans.

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**THE PUMPKINS ARE GONE!**

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**The Sturbridge Federated Church Pumpkin Patch Committee**

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# - opinion -



## What I did (wrong) last summer

I always joke that gardeners are an optimistic lot.

We no sooner pick that last fruit and we are already thinking about next year's garden. Our goal may be to improve on our mistakes or simply try something new.

### Mistakes do happen.

Oftentimes it's because we run out of time to do everything we should, or we do this or that to simply "get it done."

Sometimes we underestimate or overestimate. Sometimes we are hopeful but not practical.

Read on to learn about my imperfectness this past summer.

Right now, I have 50, three-inch apples staring at me when I walk to my car. Had I thinned said apples I would have had 10-15 five-inch apples.

What's the big deal? It's likely I'd fill a basket to the same height, be it with three-inch or five-inch fruit.

Of course, we all like bigger apples, but it goes well beyond that. I learned that seed production really tires out the tree, so fewer apples would mean fewer seeds and a happier tree.

I'll have to be observant come spring. Will my tree be too tired to bloom next year or bloom well?

If I'm lucky enough to have fruit clusters, I will indeed thin out all but one fruit per cluster. Ordinarily you would save the biggest one, but if it has any insect damage, it's best to take off that fruitlet and save another.

Thinning is especially important in young trees. While it's hard to wait for trees to bear, it's best to leave only a few fruit early on so that energy can go to strong roots and developing a healthy scaffold of branches.

As I stare out the window just now, I'm reminded of another misstep. I did not dead-head my spent lilac blooms.

Not only do the blackish seed heads look ugly, I fear that I will lose some flowers because of it. Seed production comes into play here too in terms of the plant expending energy and then being too depleted to perform well the next year.

Pruning or deadheading lilacs can take place any time before July 1, not to sacrifice flowers for the following spring.

My winter squash production was abysmal this summer. I had soil tests done last fall and did I follow the recommendations to the T? No.

I was told that my nitrogen and phosphorus were low. While I amended the rows for individual crops like tomatoes and green beans, I neglected to amend the larger area within my garden in which I grew my cucumbers and squash.

Being frugal I added a little compost to the rows (I was trying the row method and not the hill method this year) and called it done. The vines grew for a while, set a few fruit, then turned yellow.

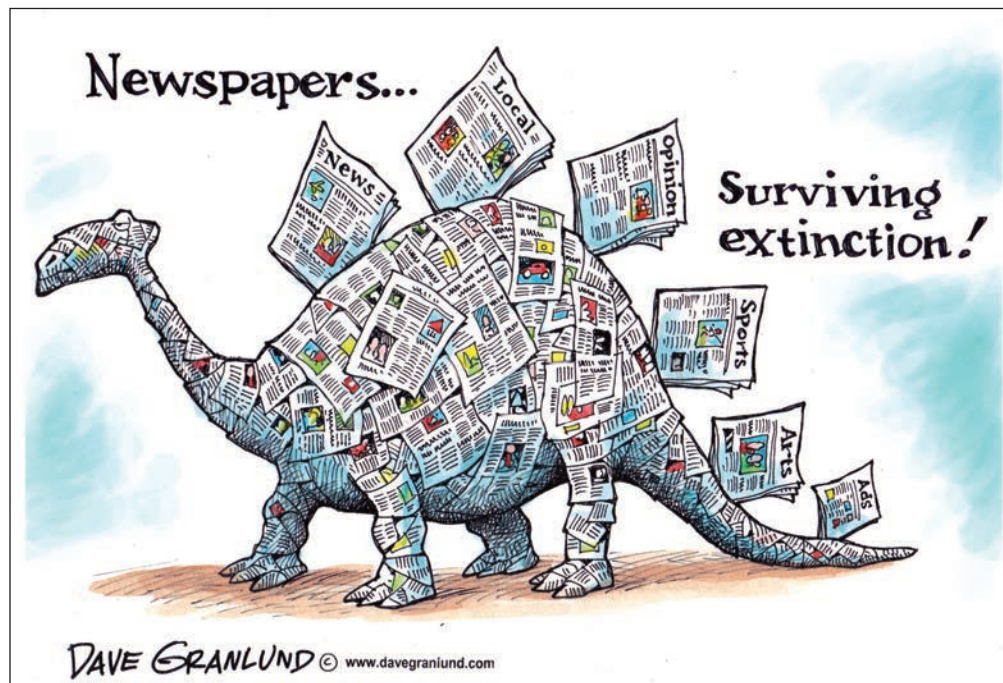
### Squash bugs overran.

I think I have three edible squash (actually I just checked and it's officially two!) from a 200 square foot area. The same area in year one, with fresh soil and no bugs yielded 50 fruit.

I was short on time and energy. Next year I will amend the soil per the test results.

The squash vine that has engulfed the chicken coop (not planted on purpose, mind

See GARDEN | PAGE 6



## LETTER-TO-THE-EDITOR

### Adopting a senior pet proves love is ageless

Save a life and make your own better by giving an older pet a home during national "Adopt a Senior Pet Month" this November.

Senior pets have so much love to give, are easier than puppies or kittens, and are usually housetrained. Yet, they are often overlooked.

To find your new best friend, come visit the Second Chance Adoption Center in East Brookfield at 111 Young Road or search online at [secondchanceanimals.org/adopt](http://secondchanceanimals.org/adopt), [petfinder.com](http://petfinder.com) or [adoptapet.com](http://adoptapet.com).

According to The Grey Muzzle Organization, people who have adopted a senior dog say they would do it again in a heartbeat. If you're among them, please share your dog's photo and story on social media using the hashtag #GreyMuzzleGratitude.

You can be a hero by giving a senior pet a second chance. In return, you'll receive the unconditional love and companionship of a very grateful old dog.

**Lindsay Doray**  
Second Chance Animal Services  
East Brookfield



I received an email from a Brimfield resident recently reporting the return of the dark-eyed juncos and the sighting of one ruby crowned kinglet.

The ruby crowned kinglet is a small bird of 4 1/4 inches. It is grayish green above with a white eye ring and two white wing bars.

As the name implies, the male has a red patch on its head, which is usually concealed. The female lacks the red patch.

Kinglets feed on tips of branches by hovering and gleaning from leaves. They flick wings and chatter as they move.

They eat insects, spiders and some fruit and seeds. They also drink tree sap. Kinglets summer in the coniferous woods of Canada and winter in the northeast and south in woods and brush edges.

The female kinglet lays five to 11 creamy white colored eggs with brown marks in a nest of mosses, twigs and lichens lined with fur and other fine materials.

In winter, kinglets are found in mixed flocks chickadees, titmice, woodpeckers, warblers and golden crowned kinglets. Their song is a series of descending high notes with three repeated phrases like "see see see you you you look-at-me look-at-me look-at-me."

The Brimfield resident said he had a flock of 10 turkeys that show up occasionally. They were in the yard recently and became

nervous by one of the gray fox kits.

The fox ignored the turkeys as it looked for something to eat under the sunflower/suet feeder.

### Feeding the birds not bears

The Brimfield resident said he tries to put out feeders all year, taking them down each night. He said if a bear shows up during the daytime, then he takes the feeders down for a week or so.

I was putting out my suet cake feeder during the day and taking it down before dark. It worked for awhile, but a bear came during the day and not only took the suet feeder down, but walked away with it.

I am not putting out suet and will wait for the bears to hibernate. I bought another suet feeder to replace the one grabbed by the bear.

I do put a small amount of seeds in a tray feeder and another small cup feeder, which I used for mealworms during the day. I noticed the birds clean the feeders out quickly especially since I have bluejays coming to the feeder.

### Lots of wild turkeys

It seems almost everywhere I go I see wild turkeys often small flocks of Tom turkeys either along the side of the road, in a field or on someone's lawn. Several times I had to stop my car and wait for them to cross the road.

### Wren

I spotted a house wren in my yard recently. It had its tail cocked in the air as wrens typically do. I was foraging in the leaves.

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



Ruby crowned kinglet

## OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

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Quaboag Current Newspaper

# Filmmaker premieres two movies at Basketball Hall of Fame

By Richard Murphy  
Correspondent

It was a year ago that Geno McGahee of XPosse Productions premiered his "A Christmas Invitation" at the Basketball Hall of Fame Naismith Memorial Complex in Springfield.

The movie itself had nothing to do with hoops, but no matter, it was a good venue for a cinema debut.

McGahee is back again, and this time he was introducing two movies in one night. As "A Christmas Invitation" was a departure from his usual style of deep horror, so would the double bill go off in different directions.

"A Christmas Invitation" played on a genre of movie typified by the Hallmark Channel, without the unrestrained sentimentality. The movies shown in Springfield on Saturday were of older categories that our impresario had not touched previously.

The first, "Fatal Justice", is the story of Dennis, played by Eric Michaelian, an accused killer who is released from prison due to police misconduct. A young college girl was murdered, but it's not over.

The grieving family is upset with the travesty of justice and realizes that there is no reasonable possibility of righting the wrong.

However, one member of the family, the hot-headed young kid, played by Shane Ryan-Reid captures Dennis and brings him home to the consternation of the family.

Still, what can they do? They believe Dennis guilty, but as he has been found innocent in court, what recourse do they have?

"The family of the victim comes face to face with Dennis and holds their own trial to decide his fate. When the system fails, family justice is the only way and FATAL JUSTICE will be executed."

There is a reason why McGahee wanted to make this movie. His favorite film is "Twelve Angry Men".

"Twelve Angry Men" has tugged at the heart strings of many for decades, and has been done in several versions, including the most famous, as well as a number of foreign language incarnations.

"Fatal Justice" is a courtroom drama, but not in a courtroom.

After the trial, will the real villain be revealed? Maybe, but with a twist.

The second film shown was "Deadly Western".

For McGahee, this is definitely going off on a tangent, as he is not at all a fan of Westerns and swore never to wear a cowboy hat. Nevertheless, the deed was done.

"Deadly Western", filmed against a backdrop that appears to be a western ghost town, is where science fiction meets the horse opera.

Eric Michaelian plays Clark, a rather befuddled lawman who wakes up with no memory of who he is or why he is in the town, but struggles to find all that out, with little success.

No matter, he is going to give it the old college try.

His wife, Beth, played by Lorrie Bacon, comes back to town with her brother, the wise-guy Elias, played by Chris Spinelli. With those two and a few others, he is going to have to defend the town against the desperados out to take it over.

The defenders do not appear to be an awe-inspiring militia, yet they go into battle.

Though the evildoers are routed, the triumph can only be described as pyrrhic.

But, it's not over and it all ends with a surrealistic twist.

The two movies screened on Saturday share something else that is also a departure for McGahee in that they were not made locally.

McGahee and company would leave Massachusetts to go out west to Hollywood to make the two films.



Filmmaker Geno McGahee (left) is shown with actor Eric Michaelian.  
TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY



Actors Chris Spinelli, Lorrie Bacon and Eric Michaelian share a heated moment in "Deadly Western".



Chris Spinelli, Brent Northup and Geno McGahee are shown at the double feature premiere.



The cast of "Fatal Justice".

If you follow McGahee, you realize that he has several people he relies on to make and crew his movies. Well, that repertoire company went with him to California.

This was done at the suggestion of Gregory Hatanaka, who owns Cinema Epoch, the distributor of McGahee's movies. Hatanaka flew McGahee and his team out to the West Coast to make the films.

The results were viewed by an enthusiastic audience at the Hall of Fame, but if you are a McGahee fan and missed the premieres, don't fret. Both features are

available on the Tubi streaming channel.

Many of McGahee's other, more classic horror movies are also on Tubi and other streaming services.

His latest, "Scary Tales: Dead Zone", has just been released on Tubi as well. We should note, those of you who are in fear that McGahee has abandoned New England, "Scary Tales: Dead Zone" was locally made.

It has appeared in time for Halloween.

It was a good evening at the Hall of Fame and the fans left wondering what Geno McGahee will be showing there next.

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# - community -

## Joshua Hyde Public Library lists upcoming events

STURBRIDGE – The Joshua Hyde Public Library lists upcoming early November events.

**TEENY TINY ART SHOW** - Vote now - online and in-person - through Nov. 5. Winners will be announced Nov. 6.

**AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP** - Exploring the Importance of Place - This month's book is "Morningstar: Growing up with Books by Ann Hood". Tuesday, Nov. 7 at 1 p.m. Town Hall, Julian Room.

**PLANNING FOR MEDICARE** - Tuesday, Nov. 7 at 6:30 p.m., at the Town Hall, Veterans Hall. Planning for Medicare-Countdown to 65 is a no-cost seminar that helps you understand your Medicare health insurance options outside of your employer-sponsored coverage, whether or not you're planning to retire.

This is a presentation and discussion led by a Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts representative in collaboration with the Joshua Hyde Public Library.

**ARMCHAIR TRAVELERS BOOK GROUP** - Challenging Boundaries - This month's book is Carrying Albert Home by Homer Hickam. Wednesday, Nov. 15 at 6:30 p.m., Town Hall, Veterans Hall.

## New Braintree Library holds story times

NEW BRAINTREE – The New Braintree Public Library offers its next Story Time programs on Monday, Nov. 6 and Monday, Nov. 20, both at 9 a.m.

This reading and crafts program for preschool children is held twice a month on Mondays at the library, 45 Memorial Drive.

On Monday, Nov. 6, the stories will be "Barnyard Dance" by Sandra Boynton and "Big Red Barn" by Margaret Wise Brown. Monday, Nov. 20 will feature "10 Fat Turkeys" by Tony Johnston and "The Night Before Thanksgiving" by Natasha Wing.

Parental supervision is required. People may call the library at 508-867-7650 during regular business for more information.

## St. Joseph's hosts Christmas Fair on Nov. 4

NORTH BROOKFIELD – A Christmas Fair will be held in St. Joseph's Parish Hall, 296 North Main St., on Saturday, Nov. 4 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

There will be a bake sale, handmade crafts, flea market, raffles and more. Lunch is served from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and features homemade soups, sandwiches and apple pie.

### GARDEN | FROM PAGE 4

you) is still lush and green, growing in all that nitrogen rich chicken fertilized soil. I only hope the two beautiful butternuts have a chance to fully ripen.

Another area in which I was lax was removing volunteer plants. I was so proud of my new perennial border, only to have many Cosmos seed themselves.

The bed was pretty enough but the tall cosmos through the whole design off. The Goldfinches were happy so that was a consolation, but next year they will have to be happy in another part of the garden where the Cosmos will be planted on purpose.

A long time ago someone told me the real definition of a weed: "a plant that grows where it is not supposed to regardless of whether it is a dandelion or a rose!"

I did do a few things correctly.

Planting a bed of carrots after the garlic was harvested was smart. They are ready for harvest and boy are they sweet now that colder temperatures have set in.

The succession of lettuce transplants I put in after the peas are also going strong. I am dreaming about next year already, despite my failures and I hope you are too!!

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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## Postcard and ephemera show and sale Nov. 4

BARRE – The 39th annual Postcard & Ephemera Show and Sale will be held at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 29 South St., on Saturday, Nov. 4 from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Admission to the show and sale is \$3.

This event is sponsored by St. Joseph's Church and the Central Massachusetts Postcard Club. Club members are admitted at 9 a.m. and the general public at 9:30 a.m.

For more information, contact show coordinator J.R. Greene by emailing jrg01331@webtv.net.



**Saturday, Nov. 4th ~ 7:30pm-10:30pm**  
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			10 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER #WDF50PAHZ <b>\$439.99</b> WAS \$599.99
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# - community -

## BOWLERS | FROM PAGE 1

The tournament will be held at the Bowl-O-Rama Family Fun Center in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The event consists of teams, singles, and doubles competitions across different age groups.

Nine kids will be going up to New Hampshire representing Bogey Lanes.

The youth tournament is sponsored by the International Candlepin Bowling Association. The organization will be rewarding prizes such as trophies and a \$1,000 youth scholarship.

Owner of Bogey Lanes, Dan Luksha also serves as a youth league coach for the Wednesday night youth league. The league consists of kids ages 10 and up with about 15 kids in total.

Bogey Lanes also offers a bumper league for youth bowlers under the age of 10.

Over the years, Bogey Lanes has had a fantastic youth program.

Luksha, who has owned the bowling lanes for over 20 years has witnessed dozens of successful youth bowlers. Some of those youth bowlers still bowl candlepins and spare some time to coach the current youth bowlers.

One of the dedicated bowlers of Bogey Lanes is Aaron Fontaine. The former youth bowler has multiple youth bowling titles to his credit and still participates in candlepin bowling on a competitive level.

Fontaine comes from a family of bowlers and was a youth bowler through the program at Bogey Lanes. Fontaine currently serves as a youth league coach during Bogey's youth bumper league.

Alongside Fontaine is youth champion Sophia Hearnlaye.

Though she has now graduated from high school, Hearnlaye still calls Bogey Lanes home as she is still involved with the game. A picture of her is displayed at the front desk at Bogey Lanes featuring her in her first year in the youth program and her final year in the program prior to her high school graduation.

The photos of Hearnlaye are a great way to show how much fun kids can have in joining the youth program and their bowling careers can last an entire childhood. Hearnlaye also serves as a youth league coach at Bogey Lanes.

During his time as proprietor of Bogey Lanes, Luksha has had dozens of youth bowlers compete in international tournaments. The youths who participate now have already experienced success on the lanes and look forward to the upcoming competition.

Part of the youth league is Grace and Avery Kolb. The Kolb children are brother and sister, Grace age 13 and Avery age 11 are part of a bowling family that dates back several generations.

The first bowler in their family is their great grandfather who always bowled candlepin. Continuing a fun family tradition, the Kolb kids enjoy participating at Bogey Lanes and in other youth tournaments.

Both Avery and Grace are thrilled to be a part of the youth program as they prepare for a competitive atmosphere in November.

For Avery, bowling is a great opportunity to keep a competitive edge and always have something to strive for. For Grace, bowling is a fun physical activity and bowling gives them a fun environment to be a part of.

The kid's involvement in the game even encourages the parents to get more involved as well. Avery and Grace's father, Drew also bowls at Bogey Lanes and always goes to the youth tournaments rooting his kids on.

Both Kolb kids have competed in previous international youth tournaments and look forward to continuing their bowling careers with new goals to reach for. Avery has won many youth bowling trophies and after this youth tournament, he hopes to reach a total of 20 trophies in his youth bowling career.

This will be Grace's third year bowling the international youth tournaments. Her goal is to have fun and looks forward to bowling with other youth bowlers.

The nine kids representing Bogey Lanes up in New Hampshire are Regan Murphy, Austin Akley, Avery Kolb, Grace Kolb, Cadie Miner, Dakotah Majka, Emily Black, Sam Ruggles and Wyatt Decelle.

Luksha enjoys coaching the youth bowlers as they partake in numerous activities and lessons such as lesson of the week and rules of the game and offers free bowling to his youth league bowlers. From Luksha's point of view, there is a very special bond made when the youth bowlers come together.

"During the tournament, everyone becomes a big family, cheering each other on and having a great time together," said Luksha.

The youth tournament in New Hampshire begins on Sunday, Nov. 5.



11-year-old Avery Kolb, center in the green shirt, on the approach practicing for the upcoming international youth championships in November. Bogey Lanes is sending nine kids to the upcoming International Youth Candlepin Championships. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO

### About Bogey Lanes

Bogey Lanes can be reached by calling 508-867-6629. In addition to candlepin bowling, Bogey offers

mini golf, an arcade and prize booth, pool, and a snack bar.

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FORUM | FROM PAGE 1

meeting held on Oct. 18, the candidates answered questions that addressed key issues the communities in the district are facing.

State Rep. Peter J. Durant, R-Spencer, and state Rep. Jon D. Zlotnik, D-Gardner, will face off on Nov. 7, in a special election for former state Sen. Anne Gobi's seat. She left her Worcester and Hampshire seat after being appointed as the newly created director of rural affairs in the Executive Office of Economic Development in May.

Both candidates have served as state representatives for more than a decade, and each said they had worked together on a variety of issues.

Zlotnik, of Gardner, represents Gardner, Ashburnham, and precincts two and three in Winchendon. Durant, of Spencer, represents a corner of Worcester, Spencer, Charlton, Southbridge and Dudley.

Durant has been a state representative, holding the 6th Worcester seat, since 2011, while Zlotnik was elected in November 2012 to the 2nd Worcester seat, only months after graduating from the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

Durant said the main difference between himself, and his opponent is that Durant was a small businessman for years and also served as a selectman and a member of his town's Finance Committee.

"I have a unique set of experiences," said Durant, pointing to his ability to understand how business works and the challenges facing communities through direct experience.

Zlotnik said he worked on a number of issues both for the city of Gardner, and the rural towns surrounding it, and understood issues that working families face.

"I have conducted myself and intend to do this work in a bi-partisan way," he said.

**Issues**

Among the questions asked by Ware River News Editor Paula Ouimette were how the legislature could help with daycare costs, their views on East-West Rail, how improve community health options and how the state could help small business people.

Zlotnik and Durant held very similar views on all of these issues.

On daycare, both said they were in favor of tax credits for businesses or parents or both as a way to help change the lack of daycare slots and the rising cost of childcare.

"I'm cautious about regulatory mandates," said Durant. Zlotnik said he agreed and realized parents need help.

"A piece of this is the lack of childcare options, and with limited spots the prices climb," Zlotnik said. Businesses may need additional incentives to provide on-site daycare or some system of providing slots at existing daycare facilities, but it should be through tax incentives, he said.

**East-West Rail**

They also agreed to look very closely on any investments in East-West Rail, for which the state and federal government are beginning to create plans. East-West Rail is a plan to provide accelerated rail service between Springfield and Boston, with a probable stop in Palmer should it be built.



Left, state Rep. Peter J. Durant, R-Spencer, and state Rep. Jon D. Zlotnik, D-Gardner, participated in a candidates forum held by the Ware Business & Civic Association at Cedarbrook Village in Ware on Oct. 18. They are competing for the state Senate Worcester and Hampshire seat formerly filled by Anne Gobi, D-Spencer. TURLEY PHOTO BY EILEEN KENNEDY

"I'd like to see more information on the East-West Rail," said Durant, pointing to the issues on the MB-TA's Green Line. "We need to get our house in order first."

Zlotnik was of the same mind, saying, "I agree, we need to be looking under the hood of this proposal." He said Gardner used to be the end of the Fitchburg commuter rail line, and once it was closed, it was estimated it would cost of millions of dollars to re-instate it.

"I'm not in favor of trying to ship more people to Boston," Zlotnik said, and he would also rather see incentives for companies to relocate to communities in the central and western part of the state.

**Small businesses**

When asked how he would help small businesses, Zlotnik said he would also like to see the state eliminate the business inventory tax, which is part of corporation's personal property taxes. He claimed Massachusetts is one of the few states that still has it, and it has a direct effect on day-to-day business decisions.

The inventory tax includes raw materials, products in the process of being made as well as finished products, he said.

"It presents supply chain issues," he said. "Will I lose all my profits on buying ahead?"

He said anything that has a negative effect on day-to-day business decisions should be eliminated.

Durant said he believes businesses are over-regulated, although the state's institution of a one-stop application for businesses and communities has been a big step in the right direction. "With one place to go, it makes it a little bit easier for businesses," he said.

**Proposed gun safety law**

Neither candidate was in favor of a proposed gun safety law, which the House passed by a vote of 120-38 later that day, after the candidates forum.

The gun law made a number of changes including making it more difficult to have unregistered ghost guns, prohibiting new purchases of AR-15 type guns and making it more difficult to carry weapons in certain public places.

Durant said from a law enforcement perspective, police chiefs were against it because it would limit police officers' ability to carry their service weapons in public when they were off duty, and he agreed with

them.

Zlotnik said the bill would ask police to oversee the new regulations "in an impractical and impossible way."

Both men also said they did not approve of the unusual way the bill made its way to the floor, through the Ways and Means Committee, and that there was no joint hearing on the bill or a Senate referral.

**Rural aid**

When asked what the candidates could do to be sure rural communities received a fair distribution of state resources, Zlotnik said the recent creation of the new Rural Affairs division was a good start. With Gobi's appointment as the division's director, it had led to the special election for her seat.

He said in the past, there have been almost no high-ranking state officials past I-495.

He described an instance early in his political career when a state grant to help with industrial park site work became available but one of the stipulations was

the park had to be within a couple of miles of a large highway. When he asked why, he was told no one wants to sit in traffic for 30 minutes because of industrial traffic that is too far from a highway, he said.

He told the state official that wasn't a problem in his area, which did not have either traffic congestion, or any sites close to a highway. Zlotnik said it was just one of many instances of state policies or grants being created without any thought to rural areas or what they need.

Durant said the district was very rural with a number of unique challenges, and is also limited by a lack of infrastructure.

"I have a unique knowledge of the area and I would be the voice of Central Massachusetts as your representative in Boston," he said.

**Infrastructure**

When asked how he would help the district's towns access more money for infrastructure, Durant said one of the major challenges was making sure each town's and the state's American Rescue Plan Act monies from the federal government were spent. He said all of the money had not been spent yet, and if it wasn't by a certain time, the federal government would take it back.

He said organizations like the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission have helped many communities develop a plan for infrastructure needs, such as water and sewer lines, which leads to economic development.

"We need to have solid plans for real progress in our district," Durant said.

Zlotnik agreed, and said the state's Chapter 90 program, which funds infrastructure such as roads, needs an overhaul to make it cover more of road maintenance and creation for rural communities.

"It's morphed into this thing," he said, adding that how the money is distributed should be delved into thoroughly, and it should be decided how the money is generated in the first place.

He also said Chapter 70 monies, which support local school systems, do not cover the whole cost of education.

**Healthcare**

The question of how to provide rural communities in a healthcare desert had no answer, but both candidates said they understand the issues.

For Zlotnik, Henry Heywood Hospital in Gardner, which has joined together with Athol Hospital, has had a lack of buying power as a small institution and has what is known as a high "bad payer" mix of mostly Medicare and Medicaid patients. These factors has created financial problems, he said.

For Durant the situation has a happier ending. Harrington Hospital, in Southbridge, was having the same issues, but has become part of UMass Memorial Healthcare in Worcester, and it has made all the difference. The larger institution provides lower costs and efficiencies, and Harrington Hospital has also made agreements with other institutions to provide certain services, he said.

**Thanks to WBCA**

At the end of the questions, the candidates thanked the WBCA and its members for the invitation and for turning out to hear their answers.

Zlotnik said he had enjoyed campaigning across the district, which is the biggest district with 22 communities. "I felt right at home," he said of Ware, particularly with so many people of Polish descent in the area.

He said if elected, he would make sure states funds "flowed in the right direction."

Durant said he would serve the district well if elected.

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# SPORTS

## Warriors take down Belchertown for win

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN—Following a three-game losing streak in September, the Tantasqua girls' varsity soccer team outscored their next nine opponents 27-1.

The Lady Warriors wrapped up the regular season with a non-league 3-0 shutout victory at Belchertown High School on October 23.

"We were in a little bit of a funk when we lost to Grafton, Auburn, and Northbridge, in the middle of the season," said

Tantasqua head coach Matt Rickson, whose squad entered the postseason tournament with a 13-3 overall record. "Since that time, we've been on a roll. We won our ninth game in a row tonight."

Overall, the Lady Warriors posted 11 shutouts during the

regular season.

Senior goalie Elizabeth Thompson, who played the entire match against the Lady Orioles, normally splits playing time with classmate Grace St. Laurent. Thompson was credited with a total of eight saves.

"This is the first game all sea-

son that I didn't make a goalie change," Rickson said. "Both of our goalies are very strong. Elizabeth was on point in tonight's game, so I decided not to make a change. She made a couple of quality saves."

The Lady Orioles (7-5-4) en-

See **WARRIORS** | PAGE 10



Travis Wells leads the block for Luke Salvatore. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RAY DUFFY

## Salvatore converts Panthers' win

BARRE – Last Friday night, the Quabbin High School football team's running game led to a win for the Panthers. Luke Salvatore ran to help Quabbin convert on a pair of two-point conversions, and that made the difference in a 16-14 win over Littleton. Both teams had two touchdowns in the game, with Quabbin's coming in the fourth quarter. But while Littleton kicked field goals after their touchdowns, the Panthers were able to score both conversions for the two-point win. Quabbin's 5-3 record did not qualify it for postseason, but the Panthers will play two more games before their Thanksgiving matchup with Gardner.



Chase Talbot evens up the score on his touchdown run.



Luke Salvatore crosses the goal line.



Bryce Venne makes a reception that sets up an eventual Quabbin touchdown.

## Panthers end drought with Oakmont

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

BARRE—Entering last Tuesday afternoon's Central Mass. Athletic Directors Association Class B quarterfinal field hockey match, the Quabbin Lady Panthers had gone 0-4-1 against Mid-Wach B rival Oakmont since the start of the 2022 regular season.

The fourth-seeded Lady Panthers ended their drought against the fifth-seeded Spartans with a 4-0 shutout victory before a large home crowd.

"We've played a couple of very close games against Oakmont," said Quabbin head coach Shelly Zalneraitis. "We haven't beaten them in a few years, and I'm very excited that

See **PANTHERS** | PAGE 10



Annabelle Magill puts the first one in the net for Quabbin. PHOTOS BY RAY DUFFY



Julianna Stanger makes a save in her shut-out win.

## Pathfinder boys soccer falls in opening round to Mahar

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—For the third consecutive year, the Pathfinder Tech boys' varsity soccer team qualified for the Western Mass. tournament, the small school's vocational tournament, and the Division 5 state tournament.

The postseason tournament didn't start out very well for the fourth-seeded Pioneers,

who suffered a 4-0 home loss to fifth-seeded Mahar Regional of Orange in a Class C quarterfinal home match, last Thursday afternoon.

"We really deserve to be in all three tournaments," said Pathfinder Tech head coach David Wilson. "We didn't show up in today's game. I knew that this was going to be a difficult match-up for us because Mahar's regular season schedule

See **SOCCKER** | PAGE 10

# - sports -

## PANTHERS | FROM PAGE 9

we finally did it in today's game. I'm very proud of my players."

Three of the Lady Panthers four losses against the Spartans were by one goal, including a 3-2 home loss in the first meeting of this season. The second meeting, which was played on Oakmont's turf field, ended in a scoreless tie.

The last time that Quabbin celebrated a victory over Oakmont was a 1-0 home victory on October 13, 2021.

The two squads, who finished the 2023 regular season tied for first place in the league standings, met in the C.M.A.D.A. finals a year ago. The Spartans players celebrated a 3-0 shutout victory in that contest.

Quabbin had a 9-4-3 overall record following the quarterfinal victory while Oakmont had a 6-8-1 record.

Three of the Lady Panthers goals in the quarterfinal victory came on penalty corners. They also scored a penalty stroke goal in the middle of the final quarter.

"Scoring three goals on penalty corners were huge for us," Zalneraitis said. "We also had a penalty stroke goal. Those are the kind of things that can help you win games."

The Lady Panthers first penalty corner goal came with 5:34 remaining in the first quarter.

Senior Annabelle Magill inserted the ball from the right side of the cage to classmate Kylie Casey at the top of the circle. Casey, who's planning to continue playing field hockey at Worcester State University next year, passed the ball back to Magill, who pushed a shot into the cage.

"That was a fabulous goal by Annabelle," Zalneraitis said. "I just loved the fact that she stayed on the ball and kept forcing it until she finally scored. It also felt great to take an early 1-0 lead, especially against a well-coached team like Oakmont."

Magill gave her thoughts about scoring the first goal of the quarterfinal game.

"I felt like my goal gave us a lot of momentum," she said. "We just continued playing well after that. This is a very big win for us."

The Lady Panthers had another penalty corner with two minutes remaining in the opening period, but the Spartans defenders blocked a couple of shot attempts.

Quabbin senior goalie Julianna Stanger only had to make one save during the first 15 minutes.

Less than two minutes into the second stanza, the home team converted another penalty corner goal.

This time, senior Madylin Breault inserted the ball to freshman Makenzie Casey.

Just like in the first quarter, Casey passed the ball back to Breault, who put the ball into the cage.

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

Neither team scored a goal during the third quarter.

With 9:04 left in regulation, Breault scored her second penalty corner goal giving the Lady Panthers a commanding 3-0 lead.

Breault's second goal was assisted by Kylie Casey, who scored Quabbin's fourth goal on a penalty stroke with 5:48 left on the scoreboard clock.

Stanger finished the game with five saves in posting her eighth shutout of the season.

"When I woke up this morning, I thought we might post a shutout in today's game," Zalneraitis said. "I think we're peaking at the right time of the season. My players are very focused."

Two days later, Quabbin knocked off top-seeded and previously unbeaten Lunenburg, 2-1, in the semifinals.

Quabbin was scheduled to face second-seeded and undefeated Clinton in the Class B championship game at Nashoba Regional on Monday night.

The last time that the Lady Panthers captured the Central Mass. title was in 1991 when they defeated Hopedale, 4-2, in the Division 2 finals. They then beat Milton, 2-0, in the state finals.

No matter the outcome of Mondays championship game, the Lady Panthers will be one of the teams competing in the Division 4 state tournament, which starts this week.

## SOCCER | FROM PAGE 9

is a little bit stronger than ours. We did play very well in our final regular season game at Athol on Tuesday night, but it just didn't carry over into today's game."

The Pioneers (13-4) finished the regular season with a five game winning streak, which includes a 1-0 win at Athol.

"We only beat Athol, 1-0, but we had a lot more shots on goal than they did," Wilson added. "It was the most lopsided 1-nil game that I've been a part of in a very long time."

Pathfinder's lone goal against Athol was scored by junior Evan Costa in the first half. It was Costa's team-leading 29<sup>th</sup> goal of the season. The only other Pathfinder Tech player who has scored ten or more goals this season is senior Riley Sanderson.

In the Western Mass. Class C quarterfinal game, the Mahar Senators built a 3-0 lead during the first twenty five minutes of the contest.

The first two Senators goals were scored by senior Dominic Whitman.

Mahar senior Lucas Isrow, who assisted on the first two goals, fired a shot into the right corner of the net past Pathfinder senior goalie Richie Gula (4 saves) during the 23<sup>rd</sup> minute.

Four minutes into the second half, a

free kick goal by senior Xander Dowler gave the visiting team a 4-0 lead.

Pathfinder had a couple of shots on goal during the second half by junior Talon Clark and Sanderson, but they couldn't break the ice.

The Pioneers weren't shut out during the regular season.

"It's a little bit disappointing being shut out on our home field," Wilson said. "We didn't have very many shots on goal."

The Pioneers were scheduled to play at Keefe Tech in the semifinals of the small school vocational tournament on Tuesday afternoon.

"We played Keefe Tech in last year's semifinals at Legion Field," Wilson said. "They're a skilled team and they beat us 3-1. We'll be looking for a little bit of revenge. These boys deserve to play in a final."

The Pioneers beat Cape Cod Tech, 3-2, in penalty kicks in a Division 5 preliminary round game last November. They then lost to fourth-seeded Gardner, 5-1, in the round of 32.

The other two Pioneers seniors listed on this year's varsity soccer roster are Kenny Brouillette, and Basem Yaseen.

The pairings for the state tournament were scheduled to be released on at 1pm on Wednesday.



Madylin Breault launches the ball for Quabbin's third goal. PHOTOS BY RAY DUFFY



The difference of inches as Kylie Casey scores on a penalty shot.

## WARRIORS | FROM PAGE 9

tered the senior night match having tied their previous four matches.

The Belchertown seniors, who were honored in a pregame ceremony, are Michaela Dubey, Mattingly Marques, Emalee Chaisson, Briana Haley, Olivia Corbin, Madison DaCosta, Madysen LePage, Brooke Burrows, and Keira Ryan.

"Every player in our soccer program has made an impact," said Belchertown head coach Kyle Thibeault. "It was nice to honor our seniors before the start of the game."

Dubey was the Lady Orioles starting goalie on senior night. She usually splits playing time with junior Jillian DeBarge, but she played the entire match.

When the two teams faced each other a year ago on Tantasqua's turf field, the contest ended in a scoreless tie.

It didn't take the Lady Warriors very long to score their first goal of the match following the pregame ceremony.

After receiving a pass from senior Eleanor Colati in the fourth minute, junior Lili Shiers, who's the Lady Warriors leading scorer, lined a breakaway shot into the back of the net past Dubey (2 saves).

"I just felt really good after scoring the first goal of the game," Shiers said. "Belchertown is a very good team, but we were able to come away with a victory. It's a lot of fun playing for this soccer team."

A couple of minutes later, Dubey made a key save on a free kick taken by junior Elanor Leland, which kept the score at 1-0.

During the final twenty minutes of the first half, the home team had a couple of scoring chances on shot attempts from junior's Fallon Clancy and Mia Corish, but the Lady Warriors were still leading 1-0 at halftime.

"I thought we had a couple of chances in the first half," Thibeault said. "If we do score a goal, it changes the mo-

mentum. We allowed a couple of goals in the second half, which made it challenging for us."

Less than five minutes into the second half, a goal by senior Eve Van Wickler, which was assisted by sophomore Hayden O'Malley, gave the Lady Warriors a 2-0 lead.

In the 72nd minute, Shiers had another breakaway opportunity, but this time her shot attempt sailed wide of the net.

A couple of minutes later, Shiers, who joined the varsity soccer team as a freshman, lofted a shot into the net for her second goal of the game, which sealed the deal for the visiting team.

Following the match, Shiers received the player of the match trophy from her head coach.

"Lili played very well in tonight's game," Rickson said. "We have a lot of talented players on this team and she's definitely one of them."

The anchor of the Lady Warriors defensive unit is senior Tess Chevalier. Their other starting defenders are senior Nicki Vejack, junior Kaydie O'Neil, and senior Gabby Scanlon.

The Lady Warriors entered the Central Mass. Athletic Directors Association Class A tournament as the third seed. They defeated sixth-seeded Marlborough, 4-1, in a home quarterfinal match before losing at second-seeded Algonquin, 1-0 in the semifinals.

The Lady Orioles were also the third seed in the Western Mass. Class B tournament. They posted a 5-0 home shutout versus sixth-seeded Southwick in the quarterfinals and were scheduled to play at second-seeded South Hadley in the semifinals on Monday night. The winner of that contest were slated to face top-seeded Pope Francis in the Western Mass. finals.

Both soccer teams will also be playing in the Division 3 state tournament.

# Students tape principal to wall to celebrate fundraising goal



Sixth grade students pose with Principal Melissa Provost.



Students couldn't contain their laughter when they saw their principal stuck to the wall.



Staff and students each took part in duct taping Principal Melissa Provost to the wall last week. *TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA QUIMETTE*



Superintendent Stephen Duff and Head Custodian Bruce Goldschmidt wait for their turn to duct tape the principal to the wall.



Sixth graders carry colorful strips of duct tape.



Students hurried out of their classrooms to see Principal Melissa Provost stuck to the wall.



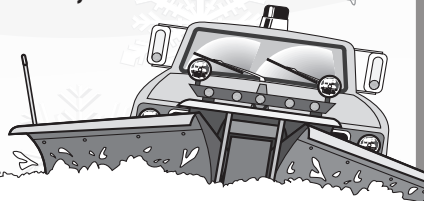
Students smiled at the sight of their principal stuck to the wall.

## POSITION OPENING: Winter Plow Drivers-Laborer

Town of New Braintree (pop. 998) is seeking winter Plow Drivers both non-CDL and CDL to plow and treat roadways with our trucks. Salary dependent upon experience.

Further position details and job applications are available at the Board of Selectmen's Office, 20 Memorial Drive, New Braintree, MA 01531.

You can also contact the New Braintree Highway Superintendent by calling 508-847-2628.



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**HALLOWEEN | FROM PAGE 1**

Just in front of the offices was a table with candy, and the two people in charge were available to answer questions.

It was there we met Lori, the Police Clerk, and Lieutenant Kevin Landine who were on top of events. According to Lori, Trunk or Treat New Braintree has been going on for about 10 years.

On the lawn, Lori pointed out the inflatable decorations. She observed that every year there is another one. It will not be many more before the lawn is overcrowded.

To the left side of the parking lot, was a couple of Fire Department vehicles, one with a monster in front.

Traversing the whole rectangle of the parking lot, one came across residents' vehicle trunks adorned with scary decorations. Even so, no one looked at all like they were expiring due to fright.

Whether it was a Calvin and Hobbes inspired theme or a local artist channeling his inner famous painter, it was all fun.

The two cows that showed up to celebrate seemed to be enjoying the late afternoon though they did not readily communicate their thoughts.

Scarecrows or the hippies of the Monahan family, all were just enjoying the neighborly atmosphere of small-town New England.

It was then that it dawned on your correspondent the rationale (or at least a rationale) for Trunk or Treat.

Having grown up in a large eastern Massachusetts town, we trick or treated along neighborhood streets from one house to the next.

In rural towns, with residences spread out, does one trick or treat by car? One can see Trunk or Treat as a logical alternative. To all intents and purposes, it seemed the families of New Braintree agreed.

After the events at Trunk or Treat, it was on to Farmer Matt's Halloween

Party, billed as a "Spooktacular Event." It was fun more than frightful, and it had all the usual aspects of a good time at the man's farm.

As people arrived, the well-regarded local Spooner Well band was playing their repertoire of classic hits and their own compositions celebrating a scary event that happened in the Brookfields in the 18th Century.

At the side of the farm store Valley Malt had set up taps and IPAs and other styles of beer were available from regional brewers. Valley Malt works to connect farmers and brewers in producing a local product.

Judging from how much people appreciated the beverages during the evening, it seems to be working.

If your sweet tooth demanded satisfaction, Thompson's Maple Farm was on hand with ice cream to go with their maple products.

New Braintree's June's Bakeshop donated pumpkin themed cookies for the kids in costumes.

Of course, what Farmer Matt is most famous for is meat, and whether ribs or pulled pork, that was well done also. The mac and cheese was tasty as well.

North Brookfield Savings Bank, represented by Jenn, was on hand as a co-sponsor of the evening, dispensing small buckets of cotton candy to children.

Farmer Matt's is a dog friendly space, and there were many interesting canines present including one pretending to be a horse with a little Woody from Toy Story saddled up and riding.

Before darkness settled the children in costume came up to be judged and prizes were awarded.

We had been favored by a perfectly beautiful day, but as the light and temperature receded, it was time to sit as close to the roaring fire as possible as Spooner Well played on.



This trunk had a Super Mario theme. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY



Spooner Well played during last Saturday's event.



The return of Bob Ross...or not.



Luigi from Super Mario Brothers enjoyed treats and tunes at Farmer Matt's.



Gabe poses with Delicious the Bear.



Calvin and Hobbes made an appearance at New Braintree's Trunk or Treat.



Lori and her sister gave out candy at Trunk of Treat.



Thompson Maple Farm's delicious ice cream was available in many flavors.

## BOH offers COVID and flu clinic Nov. 8

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The North Brookfield Board of Health in partnership with the North Brookfield Schools and Hannaford Pharmacy offers a COVID-19 and influenza vaccine clinic on Wednesday, Nov. 8 from 2:45-6 p.m. at the North Brookfield Elementary School, 10 New School Drive.

Flu vaccines are available for ages 5 and up and COVID for ages 12 and up. People may register by visiting <https://bit.ly/45vej4w>.

## Guitar virtuoso Gladius to perform in Great Hall

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Merriam-Gilbert Public Library in West Brookfield is pleased to announce a “Must-see and hear” performance.

Gladius, award-winning composer and “accomplished classical/flamenco style guitarist” who soulfully “shreds on the electric” (Phil Keaggy), will perform on Monday, Nov. 6 at 4 p.m. in the Great Hall of West Brookfield Town Hall.

Raised in Atlanta, Georgia, pupiled by Andres Segovia’s protege, and driven to obsession by Eddie

Van Halen, Gladius has shared the bill with Grammy winners and mesmerized audiences nationwide with his electrifying live act since 2016. He is relentlessly composing, recording, touring and inspiring audiences of all ages.

Please call 508-867-1410 or stop by the Library to reserve your seat. This program is sponsored by a grant from the West Brookfield Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

# COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC



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3

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**NOVEMBER 12, 2023**

Located at the Emilia K. Hope Community Center, 173 North Main Street, North Brookfield, MA  
from 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Please use QR Code or the link to pre-register:

<https://tinyurl.com/2p8smmw7>

Please direct any questions to Arianna Palano at [apalano@townofware.com](mailto:apalano@townofware.com), 413-478-2526.



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# Live auction on Nov. 4 benefits Wings of Song

STURBRIDGE – The Wings of Song Community Chorus is offering its fifth, live fundraising auction to help support the financial needs of the chorus (formerly the Quinebaug Valley Singers) at the Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale, 8 Maple St., on Saturday, Nov. 4 at 7 p.m.

This is their first auction since 2019 and they are excited to be “live”. Expect

to arrive at 6:30 p.m. to look over items of the live auction and place your bids on the many items offered in the silent auction.

There will be musical entertainment, as well as light refreshments.

Donations keep arriving daily. Among present and past items are gift certificates, gift cards, donated home, repair and lawn care, specialized food ser-

vices, mountain bike, cross country skis and boots, ice skates, fly fishing gear, chest waders, saltwater rod and reel, fiberglass canoe with paddles and much more.

The chorus ended last season with a tribute to the planet titled “Blue Boat Home”. This season, under the continuing expertise of Director, Nym Cooke, it is performing a collection of traditional

and contemporary vocal music for the holidays titled Celtic Noël, from the rich, cultural heritage of the Celts in Brittany.

If you are interested in donating an auction item or receiving updates on the event, follow Wings of Song at [www.facebook.com/wingsofsong.org](http://www.facebook.com/wingsofsong.org), or email Linda ([lamfam151@gmail.com](mailto:lamfam151@gmail.com)) or Carol ([carolcurtin77@gmail.com](mailto:carolcurtin77@gmail.com)).

**BOARD | FROM PAGE 1**

“I think that should be held off until we decide if we’re going to get a town administrator,” he said. Tripp said he has been hearing a lot of opposition to creating the position.

Timothy Canada of the Town Administrator Committee said they requested the additional money because only having \$200,000 is “basically a nonstarter at this point.” The Committee had originally requested \$400,000 toward establishing a town administrator position.

He said looking at comparable communities with similar positions, the \$200,000 is not enough.

“This town needs a lot of work,” Canada said. “To have the availability of funds with which we can then seek out a qualified person...and cover potential benefits, the idea is to use these funds to get a person in a position that could help the town without affecting the town’s immediate bottom line for a period of years...hopefully to end up paying for themselves even more over than what we’re actually paying them over time.”

Canada said the town administrator can bring significant grants into the town, balancing out the costs of the position.

Committee member Tara Hayes said since 2007, all studies done about the town have recommended having a town administrator.

“The town is essentially, a \$16 million business. The part-time Board of Selectmen are the chief executive officers. The town administrator would be the chief operating officer and report to the Board of Selectmen, and they would give daily oversight of the town and its budget,” Hayes said.

Hayes said \$200,000 is “grossly inefficient to give this a fair chance to work.”

She said the town is facing another budget shortfall along with infrastructure projects. She spoke about the duties the town administrator would be responsible for, in the best interest of the town and its residents.

The Committee also presented a draft job description for the position.

Canada said the Committee reviewed job descriptions from about eight other towns to create a draft job description that would fit North Brookfield.

Tripp voiced opposition to creating a town administrator position, which he didn’t believe was necessary.

“I think the Board of Selectmen needs an assistant, other than our Administrative Assistant,” Tripp said. He said this person’s main goal would be to secure grants and work with the Selectmen.

Tripp said the position should be part-time, without benefits, for a six month probationary period. After six months a review would be held to determine whether or not the position would become full-time or remain part-time.

“I don’t think we need a full-time town administrator; I think we need somebody that can write grants for the town,” Tripp said.

Petratis said he has been a selectmen for many years, and he’s seen the job become more difficult over time.

He said only hiring a part-time assistant would create more work for the Board. They would need training and wouldn’t be qualified to apply for and manage grants.

Petratis said the expected salary for

a town administrator could be around \$80,000-90,000 a year.

The Board approved the draft job description presented by Canada with a slight amendment, with Tipp voting against approving it.

Board members Petratis and Elizabeth “Brooke” Canada voted to approve the additional \$100,000 from ARPA to fund the town administrator position, with Tripp opposing.

The Board also approved spending ARPA funds for the Fire Department’s turnout gear, as well as the funds to help supplement the Water Department’s water tank maintenance costs.

Prior to these approvals, the town had \$247,000 remaining in ARPA funds

**Senior Center director**

Michelle Thayer was appointed full-time Senior Center Director, after serving as the interim.

**USDA grant**

The Board accepted additional grant money from the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the amount of \$993,000 for the town’s sewer upgrade. The original USDA grant was approximately \$10 million.

**Tree removal complaint**

An Ayer Street resident said she had asked the Highway Department to remove a tree that had partially come down onto her property at the end of July.

She said it almost came down on her house, and took two of her trees down and blocked the road.

The resident said Highway Superintendent Jason Benoit told her his Department could not remove the tree.

She hired a fully licensed and insured tree removal company to have the tree removed at her own expense. She said Benoit came to her house and would not allow the tree removal company to perform the work, as it was a town tree.

The resident said Benoit also slandered the tree removal company.

She said a police officer also showed up to her residence, when she tried to have the tree removal company remove branches from the tree that were hanging over her garage. She said the tree removal company then declined to complete the work.

Petratis thanked her for bringing this to the Board’s attention and they will look into the matter.

**Landfill swales**

Petratis said the contract to address the landfill swales was sent to town counsel, and the town received a completely new contract back. The new contract was sent to engineers Weston & Sampson, which was approved.

The Board signed the contract for the landfill swales.

**Special town meeting**

A special town meeting will be held on Friday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. at North Brookfield Elementary School.

**Senate election**

A special election to fill the state Senate seat formerly held by Anne Gobi will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 7 with polling hours from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

**Water main hydrant**

The Board tabled discussion on a water main hydrant for Donovan Road, from East Brookfield Road up to the new Highway barn. The project construction would be completed by the Highway and Water departments, and the cost to purchase pipes would be \$80,000.

## New Braintree Police Log

*During the week of Oct. 16-23, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 17 building/property checks, 46 directed/area patrols, 10 traffic controls, four radar assignments, five emergency 911 calls, one assist other agency, one complaint, three motor vehicle investigations, one animal call and one motor vehicle stop in the town of New Braintree.*

**Monday, Oct. 16**

5:10 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Ravine Road, Services Rendered

6:37 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

8:21 p.m. 911 Disabled Motor Vehicle, Route 67, Vehicle Towed

**Tuesday, Oct. 17**

4:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Barre Road, Investigated

10:35 p.m. Medical Emergency, Barre Road, Transported to Hospital

**Wednesday, Oct. 18**

6:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Barre Road, Investigated

**Thursday, Oct. 19**

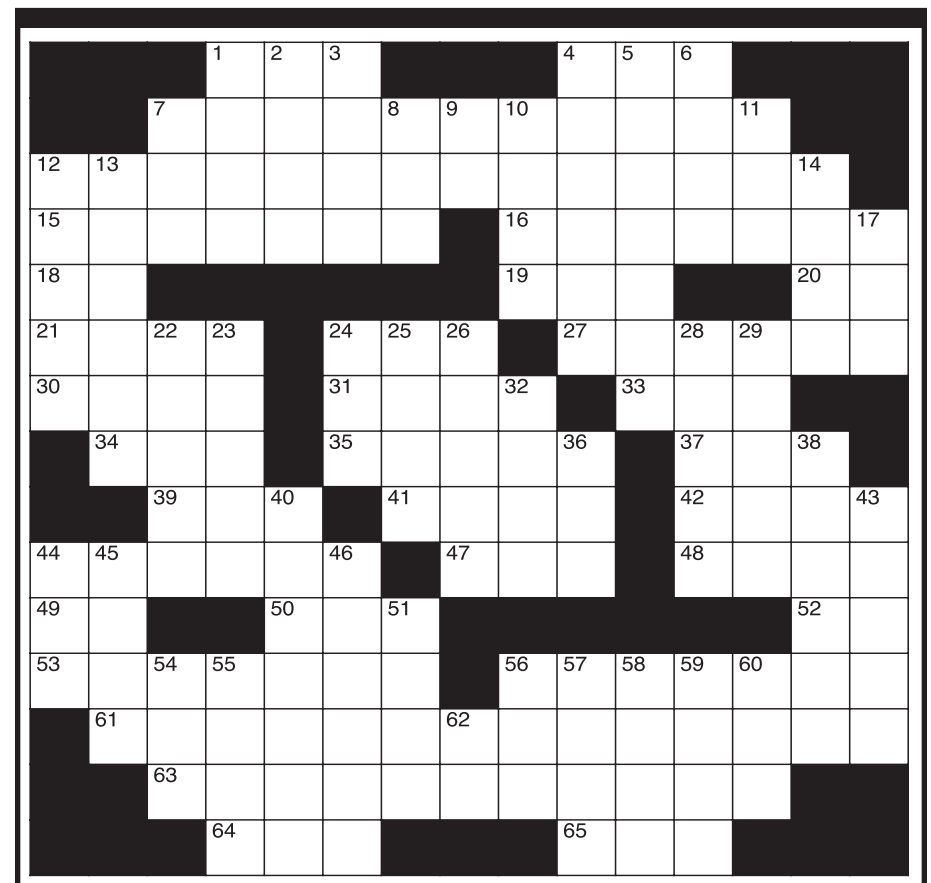
5:40 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Voice Message Left

**Friday, Oct. 20**

10:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Oakham Road, Investigated

**Sunday, Oct. 22**

4:44 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Barre Road, Transported to Hospital



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. A way to drop
- 4. Bits per inch
- 7. Ghosts
- 12. Presents
- 15. Noises
- 16. Honorable fourth name in ancient Rome
- 18. Elevated railroad
- 19. A way to drench
- 20. The Tarheel State
- 21. Lilly and Manning are two
- 24. Where golfers begin
- 27. Harvester
- 30. Unit of subjective loudness
- 31. Jewish calendar month
- 33. Dash
- 34. Armed conflict
- 35. Daisy \_\_: Broadway actress
- 37. Jump
- 39. Get free of
- 41. A written proposal or reminder
- 42. Organic chemistry reactive structure
- 44. African country
- 47. Cool!
- 48. Used to treat Parkinson’s disease
- 49. \_\_ route
- 50. Ed Murrow’s home
- 52. Lethal dose
- 53. Give cards incorrectly
- 56. A treeless grassy plain
- 61. Famed R.L. Stevenson novel
- 63. In an incisive way
- 64. Mark Wahlberg’s screen partner
- 65. Criticize
- 2. A domed or vaulted recess
- 3. Trade agreement
- 4. Larger
- 5. Edged
- 6. Data
- 7. Something curved in shape
- 8. Root mean square (abbr.)
- 9. Farm state
- 10. Pre-1917 emperor of Russia
- 11. Short-term memory
- 12. Indigenous peoples of central Canada
- 13. Honor as holy
- 14. Monetary unit of Samoa
- 17. Company that rings receipts
- 22. City in Finland
- 23. Small finch
- 24. Arctic explorers (abbr.)
- 25. Mild yellow Dutch
- 26. Very willing
- 28. Partner to “oohed”
- 29. Turntable
- 32. Major Hindu deity
- 36. Move head slightly
- 38. Plain-woven fabric
- 40. Die
- 43. Shipped as cargo
- 44. Something highly prized
- 45. Individual thing or person
- 46. Humbled
- 51. Speak indistinctly
- 54. No seats available
- 55. Financial obligation
- 56. Green vegetable
- 57. Tough outer skin of fruit
- 58. \_\_ Spumante (Italian wine)
- 59. Troubles
- 60. Singer Charles
- 62. Camper

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Mountain in the Julian Alps

# QUABOAG CURRENT

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Friday, November 3, 2023

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