

QUABOAG CURRENT

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Quaboag Current
Newspaper

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Friday, November 17, 2023

Sturbridge honors Veterans Day at Old Burial Ground



The salute is fired by the General Henry Knox Regimental Color Guard. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

STURBRIDGE – Thursday, Nov. 9 dawned cool and wet, but as the day progressed it was merely cool and overcast as folks gathered at the entrance to the Old Burial Ground around 10 a.m. for the Veterans Day ceremony.

Granted it was two days early, but there were no objections. Bob Briere noted the small climate inconvenience, but promised warmth and sunshine at the next gathering for Memorial Day. We shall hold him to it. U.S. Air Force veteran Briere has, with the Sturbridge Lions Club, been overseeing

the Veterans Day gathering for years. Recently, he has been passing on the task to Dan Soper who served with the 82nd Airborne during Operation Desert Storm in Iraq. Soper began the event. He stood at the entrance to the burial ground and welcomed those attending and spoke to

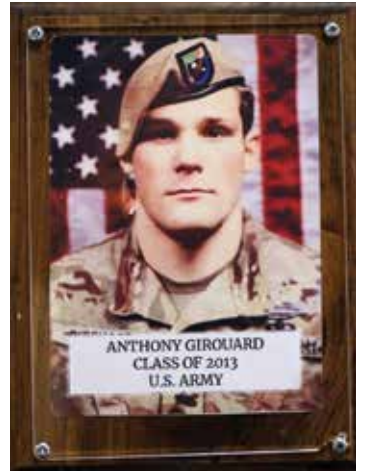
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Quaboag remembers Eighth grade civics students honor those who serve

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARREN – Eighth grade students in Joseph Salvatore’s civics class honored veterans by leading a Veterans Day ceremony last week, and also naming the newest inductee to the Quaboag Alumni Veterans Wall. Students, staff and veterans filled the auditorium of Quaboag Regional Middle High School as emcee of the ceremony, Natalia Baldizon-Veliz gave the opening welcome and introduction.

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Quaboag Regional High School Class of 2013 graduate and U.S. Army veteran Anthony Girouard was named as this year’s Quaboag Alumni Veterans Wall inductee. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DERICK VELIZ

Town hosts 5K race honoring veterans

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer

STURBRIDGE – The 5th Annual Home of the Brave 5K race went off perfectly, with over 100 people entering the race. The race was organized and directed by Johnny Rice and featured fun music, and cash prizes for the winners, and tasty snacks and water for the

racers when they finished. The Sturbridge Police Department was there to guide the runners on the course. All proceeds of the race went to organizations that give assistance to veterans including Project New Hope, Veterans Inc., and to the local organization Rifles to Rods. “I want to serve those who served,” Rice said. “This is a

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Tantasqua travels to Neverland in ‘Peter and the Starcatcher’

By Rowan Bernstein
Correspondent

STURBRIDGE – On Friday, Nov. 10, Tantasqua Regional High School’s drama club opened their fall play, “Peter and the Starcatcher”, which played through Saturday evening. The play, a prequel to “Peter Pan”, tells the story of how Pe-

ter found his way to Neverland and got his eternal youth on an adventure filled with classic characters as well as new faces. High school senior Emma Lord took on the lead role of Molly Aster, a new character in this version of Peter Pan’s story. Molly is a “starcatcher” on a mission with her father to hunt down magical “starstuff,” and

See NEVERLAND | PAGE 12

NBEMA donates trauma bags to emergency responders

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Anne Adams, director for the North Brookfield Emergency Management Agency, said the town received \$2,700 in Emergency Management Performance Grant funds. At the Nov. 7 Board of Selectmen meeting, Adams said the NBEMA was originally go-

ing to use the grant to purchase radios for emergency management use, but instead decided to use the funding to purchase items for the Police and Fire departments to use in active shooter situations. Adams said NBEMA purchased two trauma bags to use in these situations. NBEMA member Shaun Adams said the trauma bags are equipped with tourniquets, trauma bandaging, splints and more.

“Hopefully they’ll never get used,” he said. Fire Chief Joseph Holway thanked NBEMA for these trauma bags, which will help protect the town’s emergency responders and citizens in active shooter situations. Police Department needs Police Chief Mark Smith submitted a request to the Board for \$2,600 from Holden Funds to purchase new replacement

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- community -

White Christmas returns on Sunday, Dec. 3



Project 351 ambassadors Andrew Boudreau and Caroline Stevens. Both are students at Quaboag Regional Middle High School. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Quaboag Regional announces Project 351 student ambassadors

WARREN – Quaboag Regional Middle High School Principal Casey Handfield is pleased to announce that the two Project 351 student representatives will be eighth graders Andrew Boudreau and Caroline Stevens.

Boudreau is the son of Thomas and Erin Boudreau of Warren and Stevens is the daughter of Neal and Elizabeth Stevens of West Brookfield.

Project 351 is a state run community service initiative that began in 2011 that brings one eighth grader from each town for a day of leadership training and service in Boston. Students then bring these skills back to their own communities to begin their own community service projects.

Boudreau and Stevens were selected by their teachers because they exemplify the traits sought in Project 351 ambassadors of being kind and friendly to all, exhibiting leadership qualities, and showing a willingness to help others.

WEST BROOKFIELD – All are welcome to join the town on Sunday, Dec. 3 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. for the 31st Annual White Christmas celebration.

There will be fun for folks of all ages going on throughout the day. 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 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 Christ-

mas 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.

West Brookfield's White Christmas Committee 2023 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.

Maps of town open houses and vendors can be picked up in various local business, by accessing the 31st Annual White Christmas in West Brookfield Facebook page or by emailing whitelchristmaswb@gmail.com.

Parking is available free throughout town.



PHONE
413.967.3505
Fax: 413.967.6009
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL
Advertising Sales
Dan Flynn
dflynn@turley.com

Tim Mara
tmara@turley.com

Editor
Paula Quimette
pouimette@turley.com

WEB
www.quaboagcurrent.turley.com

@QuaboagCurrent

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DCR Visitor Center hosts group hike of watershed

RUTLAND – The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center is hosting a free group hike to explore the Ware River Watershed in Rutland.

On Saturday, Nov. 18, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., explore the Ware River Watershed on a 4.4 mile lollipop loop moderate group hike near Rutland State Park. The route climbs/descends roughly 200 feet in elevation.

Meet at the Ware River Watershed, Mass Central Rail Trail (MCRT)/Mid State Trail Parking Area, Route 122, Rutland.

(<https://maps.app.goo.gl/dg-zSozmffyz7NFJr7>)

The hike begins/ends on the

MCRT with a loop in the middle consisting of Camel's Hump, Long Meadow Road, and Prison Camp Road. Visit the following website for additional information on the route: <https://www.trailforks.com/route/4-mi-inner-loop-near-rutland-state-park/>.

Ticks are still active, so protection is advised, as is wearing orange during hunting season. Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring water and snacks.

About the Visitor Center

The Quabbin Interpretive Services program operates the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center, offering public and school education programs, teacher workshops, and

general information about DCR's water supply resources and watershed management, the history of the Quabbin Valley and wildlife of the area.

Staff members are available to assist with visitor information and services. An automated telephone system, 413-323-7221, provides 24 hour access to current information on fishing, hunting, programs, rules and regulations, and public access.

All ages are welcome to these events. Email QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov with questions or to be added to the mailing list. To register for any of these events, visit www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events.

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- community -

J.R. Greene presents Quabbin History Calendar

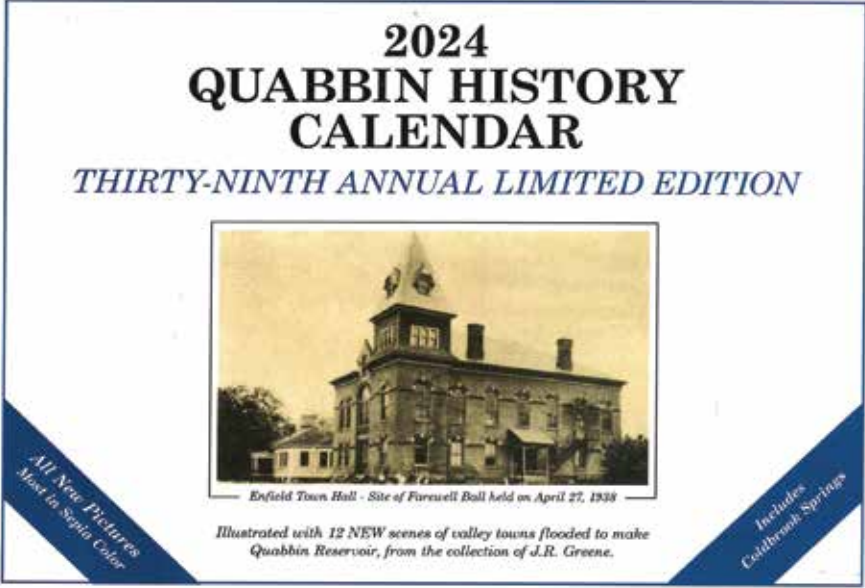
WARE – Local author J. R. Greene will be at the Young Men’s Library, 27 Main St., on Monday, Nov. 27 at 6 p.m. to sign and sell his annual Quabbin History Calendar.

He will give a short talk about some of this year’s subjects before the signing.

If you can’t make it to the library that day, there are some calendars and a few

of his books on sale at the Checkout Desk now through Christmas. For more information, please call 413-967-5491.

Greene is also selling his calendars at Junction Variety in Thorndike, Quabog Books in West Brookfield and Mimi’s Coffeehouse in Hardwick. He will host a program at the Palmer Public Library on Tuesday, Dec. 12.



The 39th annual Quabbin History Calendar is available at various locations, including the Young Men’s Library Association, 37 Main St., Ware. SUBMITTED PHOTO

MassDOT announces snow plow naming contest

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation is announcing the second annual, “Name A Snowplow,” contest for statewide elementary school students in Massachusetts.

The contest seeks to solicit names for 12 vehicles. MassDOT snowplows that will be in service for the upcoming 2023/2024 winter season.

Applications for the snowplow naming contest are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1, and can be submitted by using an online portal: <https://www.mass.gov/forms/name-a-snowplow-contest-submission>. There is no limit to the number of applications that can be submitted per school.

The contest winners will be invited to participate in a scheduled snowplow unveiling event.

The purpose of the contest is to celebrate the snow and ice season and to help recognize the hard work and dedication shown by public works employees and contractors during the winter season.

Winning applicants will be announced by Dec. 22.

“This contest is a great way to celebrate the winter season in New England, encourage the creativity of our young people, and to thank all the ded-

icated members of our crews who keep our roads and bridges cleared during severe weather,” said Acting Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt in a press release. “We truly appreciate all the people who work on the front lines regardless of the weather in all sectors of the economy and this is one gesture of thanks.”

A selection panel composed of MassDOT employees will choose two elementary school classroom winners that are located within each of the six Highway Division districts. The winning submissions will be evaluated based on two grade-level categories: kindergarten through fourth grade; and fifth grade through eighth grade.

During the first snowplow naming contest last winter, the winning names were: Flurry Fighter, Luke Snowwalker, Flower Ranger, Sherlock Snowmies, Snowdrop, Arctic Beast, Sled Zeppelin, Snow day No Way, Blizzard Wizard, Snow Big Deal, Snow Time to Lose, and Blizzard of Oz. These names which were placed on the sides of plow trucks a year ago remain on those vehicles.

For more information on the contest, please visit: <https://www.mass.gov/name-a-snowplow-contest-2023-24>.

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- opinion -



Thanksgiving thoughts

My dad has been gone a long time. I sometimes feel badly that he is not in my thoughts as much as he used to be. A lot has happened since his death - marriage and children, a new (old) house.

Sometimes it's easy to get caught up in the day to day, but today, as I write, I think of him. Holidays at my childhood home were always a lot of fun.

I reflect on that now, as we make plans for our Thanksgiving and Christmas gatherings. I can still picture him standing at the counter by the sink, carving the turkey and later in the day enjoying a whopping piece of apple pie (with American cheese?) from his recliner.

My mom still keeps some of the traditions alive as do other family members. Read on to learn about some of the favorite vegetables, fruits and even herbs that make an appearance at the table.

I am not exactly sure where my mom's stuffing recipe originally came from, but it is always a big hit. My Illinois based brother loves it so much that my sister-in-law asked for a copy and now makes it for him on Thanksgiving.

I guess if you can't be at home, having mom's stuffing is the next best thing! Her recipe wouldn't be the same without sage and I doubt yours would either.

Common garden sage (*Salvia officinalis*) is a shrubby perennial plant native to the Mediterranean.

Its leaves start out lime-green in color, but at maturity end up more grey than green. They are somewhat "pebbly" in texture and are very aromatic.

For the most pungency, sage leaves should be harvested just prior to flowering. Hang the leaves and stem tips in loose bunches upside down in an airy, dark place to dry.

Once completely dry (crispy to the touch), leaves can be stripped from their stems and stored in an airtight container.

Remember, as with any herb, drying concentrates the oils in the foliage. Use only half the amount of dried herbs if you have to substitute them for fresh in any recipe.

Because sage is nearly evergreen (actually, "evergrey") I rarely dry any, but harvest it for immediate use even through the winter months - it is freeze-dried but still tasty! Cut back the plant hard in early spring- you will sacrifice a few flowers, but will be rewarded with a lush bushy plant, rather than one that is woody and sparse.

Another one of mom's cherished contributions to Thanksgiving dinner is her apple cranberry relish. This is a simple recipe in which fresh cranberries and peeled apples are chopped fine and mixed together with a little sugar.

So easy yet incredibly yummy! I tried growing cranberries only to be disappointed that voles chewed the roots and killed the plants.

Maybe I'll try again sometime in the future. They don't need a bog, but the water does help with harvesting.

My mom always bought a small turnip for my Dad to enjoy at Thanksgiving dinner. I have to say that I don't recall any other members of the family eagerly anticipating it, not the way he did anyway.

I remember mom carefully cutting away the hard outer skin and then cubing the flesh. It was then boiled and mashed as you would potatoes, with lots of butter.

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Poetry Corner

November 22, 1963

It was a warm autumn day in Dallas,
The Kennedys were accepted by the Texans
with no apparent malice.
As the motorcade passed the Texas Book Depository
and turned onto Elm,
Our country stood proudly with JFK at the helm.
Jack sat on the left and Jackie on the right,
Men on the grassy knoll had our President in their sight.
How many shots were fired? Three? Four? or Five?
The outcome was the same
because John F. Kennedy would not escape alive.
Was it Oswald, the Mafia, or the CIA?
America lost its innocence that very day.
Many theories abound concerning this assassination plot,
But the United States had lost its leader, its integrity, and Camelot.
Images of that long weekend in November still seem very clear,
The Caisson on Pennsylvania Avenue, John Junior's salute,
Jackie with a tear.
How do I explain to my children when they ask me who's to blame?
I can take them to Arlington National Cemetery
to see the Eternal Flame.
Still I try to put into perspective November 22, 1963,
Do I keep searching for the truth or let JFK's legacy inspire me?

Michael S. O'Rourke

OF PARADES AND PASSAGES

By David Henrichon, Ph.D.
Vietnam veteran 1968-1969

How bright the colors of banners,
flags and crisp uniforms looking new,
adorning men and women, all soldiers,
marching heads forward their destination
True-

The brass and bands in the sunlight
they shine so bright, but a closer
inspection reveals the marcher's plight.

As row after row in order they
march in practiced unison, the years
of service exposed in telltale
reverence to the human uniform

For crisp and measured the
parade may be, tufts of white hair,
mottled skin, and a future of uncertainty.

The pride in service past for
veterans riding in cars, lays bare
the unkind price they pay, the
testimony of a life of scars.

How long the parade, how loud
the cheers, of onlookers smiling,
not seeing the tears.

For some of the vintage
long and well done, for others the begin-
ning
of a journey the chorus yet unsung.

Such visions of glory, pride without
bounds, perhaps stirs up the patriotic
spirit in those standing round.

For the future doesn't rest with
those in synchronous step, rather it's the
children, young onlookers, with
dreams to be met.

As the parade passes by, as all
Parades do, I wonder the
Thoughts of veterans of the red, white
And blue.

Into the distance the parade of
history does fade, let not the
memories of those who served and
when put to rest they are laid.

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

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

Send opinions to:

Letters to the Editor,
80 Main Street, Ware,
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to pouimette@turley.com.
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PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

EDITOR
Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Dan Flynn
Tim Mara

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

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- community -

GARDEN | FROM PAGE 4

Turnip must be one of those foods that you acquire a taste for, and as of yet I have not.

To produce the best-tasting, largest turnips time your plantings to grow and mature in cool weather. For Thanksgiving turnips sow seeds 90 days before the first fall frost is expected.

Simply make a shallow trench one-quarter to one-half inch deep and position seeds one to one and a half inches apart. Once germination occurs and plants have developed their first set of true leaves, thin seedlings to three inches apart.

Deep, loose soil is best for root vegetables of any kind. Turnips benefit from extra water during droughty periods.

If an early frost threatens and your roots aren't yet mature you can cover turnip plants with a sheet or blanket on chilly nights to get through the cold spell and sneak out some additional growing time. Do watch out for frigid temps, however, since mercury that measures below the twenty-five degree mark

can damage the crown of the plant.

This type of injury can make turnips more susceptible to rot and reduce storage capabilities. Turnips are best stored at temperatures around thirty-five degrees.

They can be packed in damp sand or leaves in a cold cellar and should keep for at least two or three months. Some books recommend wrapping individual roots in plastic wrap to hold in moisture as well as prevent the strong turnip odor from permeating other vegetables.

Commercial turnip growers use a food grade wax for this purpose, which makes cutting away the outer flesh all the more challenging.

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.

OSV to receive \$50,000 tourism grant

BOSTON – The Healey-Driscoll Administration announced that it has awarded more than \$1.9 million to 45 cultural and tourism projects, including \$50,000 to Old Sturbridge Village. Old Sturbridge Village will make improvements to the museum's Visitor Center, constructed in 1975, to include roof and siding repair to secure the exterior envelope, restroom and lighting upgrades and accessibility to a gallery space. The improvements will result in an improved visitor experience and necessary repairs to keep the building sound.

The grants are being distributed through the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism's Destination Development Capital Grant Program, which supports projects that expand, construct, restore, or renovate Massachusetts tourism destinations and attractions.

"Our administration is actively investing in the communities that elevate Massachusetts as a note-worthy travel destination. Through these grants, we aim to foster creative solutions to enhance our tourism economy," said Gov. Maura Healey in a press release. "These grants pave the way for a

brighter future for our beloved attractions, allowing us to showcase them on a global scale."

"The DDC grants will boost industries that make Massachusetts a household name for annual travel," said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. "We look forward to working together to invest in our state's tourism economy, as it remains an important part of our economic development strategy."

The DDC Grant Program provides funding for aid in destination recovery and resiliency. The program's aim is to strengthen the Massachusetts economy through projects that enhance tourism resources and infrastructure, especially physical or structural upgrades that have a lifespan of greater than five years.

"We're committed to enhancing and revitalizing the diverse communities throughout Massachusetts that attract visitors from around the world," said Massachusetts Economic Development Secretary Yvonne Hao. "Tourism plays a vital role in the economic well-being of our state, and this grant program will position Massachusetts at the top of the list as an annual travel destination for years to come."

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

We invite you to join us Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm to explore these topics and more.

This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.

Please contact **Pat James 413-726-8661**.

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Paula Ouimette
Editor
QC11/15/23

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CIVICS | FROM PAGE 1

Baldizon-Veliz said that Veterans Day used to be known as Armistice Day, dating back to Nov. 11, 1918, when a truce was declared to end World War I.

“It became a national holiday in 1939,” she said. In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed an amendment that changed the holiday to what is now Veterans Day, honoring the military service of veterans serving in all U.S. involved wars.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Liliana McIsaac joined Baldizon-Veliz on stage to give the history of the National Anthem, which was written by poet Francis Scott Key.

Singing the National Anthem was Madison Schreier, accompanied by Quaboag’s Fine Arts Director James Joinville on piano.

Riley Corder led a group of her fellow classmates in the retiring of the American flag, walking them through each step of the process until it was folded into a triangle with only the field of stars showing.

This retired flag was handed to veteran Harry Pearson, a substitute teacher at the school.

Pearson said many people have questioned the need for the U.S. to have such a large military, and he said it’s important to look to the past.

“Those who forget the past, are doomed to repeat it,” he said.

Pearson spoke about isolationism, and how when confronted by a bully, our country must be prepared.

“Most Americans don’t realize how great we have it here,” he said. When speaking about freedom, Pearson said, “you should and must be prepared to defend it.”

The featured speaker for the ceremony was state Rep. Todd Smola, who said it’s extremely important to be here remembering and honoring veterans.

“Veterans see the world through a different set of eyes,” Smola said. “Put yourself in the shoes of a veteran.”

Smola said many veterans in the audience began defending their country’s freedom when they were only a few years older than Salvadore’s students. He said they left their homes, their families, their regular lives.

He asked the students to imagine leaving it all behind to go to a foreign country, knowing that they might not ever return home.

Veterans have seen the worst of humanity, while carrying 300 million people on their backs, Smola said.

Veterans faced another challenge; coming home and forgetting all they had seen in combat. Saying goodbye once again to their family, this time, their military family.

Smola said when speaking to a homeless veteran, the veteran told him he just can’t go back to regular life after serving.

“It’s not an easy thing to do,” he said. “It’s a tough burden to carry.”

Smola told the students that it’s okay to be proud of their country and to recognize the sacrifice men and women have made through military service.

“We’ve got a responsibility to all of them. We have to take care of them, give them services,” he said. “The freedoms that you have; use them wisely.”

Joinville led the Quaboag Band through a piece called “Ask Not”, a musical tribute to the life of President John F. Kennedy, while Principal Casey Handfield narrated.

“Ask Not” took the audience through JFK’s early days in office, and the fateful day in Texas in 1963, when shots were fired, striking the President and ultimately killing him.

“For four days, the world stood still,” Handfield said. “On Nov. 25, he was laid to rest.”

Following the musical performance, 12 students placed American flags on the stage, symbolizing the major wars the U.S. has been involved with, starting with the Revolutionary War. As students placed the flag, they read the number of servicemembers killed as a result of each war.

Each year near Veterans Day, Quaboag students add an alumni to its Quaboag Alumni Veterans Wall, which is proudly displayed in the hallway at the back of the auditorium.

This year, U.S. Army veteran Anthony Girouard, Class of 2013, was inducted to the wall.

Living in Florida and working as a police officer, Girouard was unable to attend, but his parents proudly accepted the honor on his behalf.

“Just 10 years ago, he was walking these halls,” Salvadore said of Girouard.

Girouard voluntarily joined the U.S. Army in “the thick of things,” Salvadore said, completing three tours in Afghanistan. Some of Girouard’s friends in the military didn’t make it home.

“You might consider the same choice,” Salvadore said of enlisting in the military. He reassured students that as veterans, they would not be forgotten by Quaboag.

Superintendent of Schools Stephen Duff said Veterans Day is a day to express our deepest gratitude as

U.S. citizens.

“Freedom comes at a cost,” he said. “Today, we extend our heartfelt thanks to those that served and their families.”

West Brookfield American Legion Post 244 Vice-Commander Jeff Nickerson spoke about the American Legion, and its support of veterans and their families.

Veterans are real people, he said, our neighbors, friends and families.

Following the ceremony, Baldizon-Veliz said she learned a lot about veterans while working to organize this year’s ceremony.

“I learned how hard they worked,” she said.

McIsaac echoed Baldizon-Veliz’s statement, adding that veterans “don’t get recognized enough for their hard work.”

Corder said observing Veterans Day is very important to the country and its citizens.

Salvadore, who served six years in the U.S. Army National Guard and has been a longtime educator at Quaboag Regional Middle High School, said it’s especially important to recognize those in your own community.

“I really like to see the kids who were students... and see their face on the wall,” he said. “We remember them.”



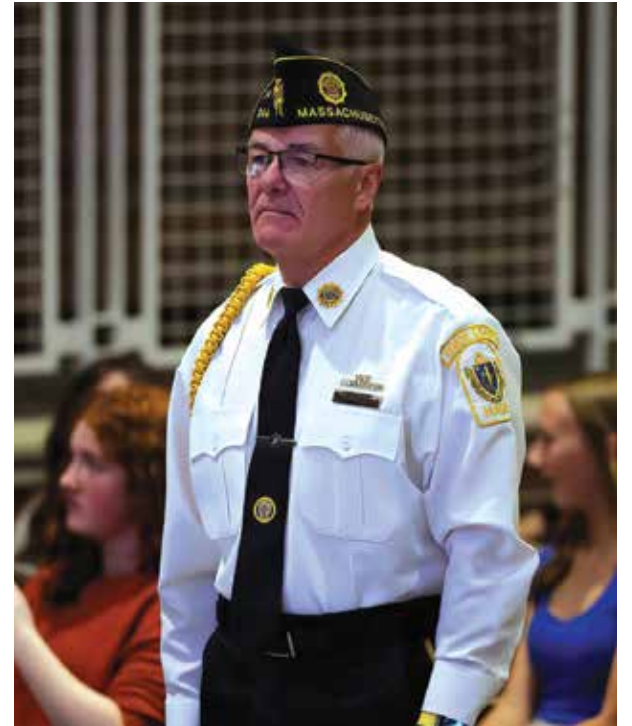
Eighth grade students place American flags on the stage to recognize veterans of 12 major wars. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DERICK VELIZ



Teacher Joseph Salvadore watches as his eighth grade civics students lead the Veterans Day ceremony.



Veteran and teacher Harry Pearson accepts the American flag for retirement.



West Brookfield American Legion Post 244 Vice-Commander Jeff Nickerson stands to be recognized for his service.



Eighth grade student Natalia Baldizon-Veliz led the Veterans Day ceremony.



Madison Schreier sang the National Anthem.



Student Riley Corder leads her classmates through the flag retirement.

RACE | FROM PAGE 1

chance for the Sturbridge community to get together in support of the veterans. Fun with a purpose.”

Veteran Ellis Cropper was at the event and sang the National Anthem and was the race’s DJ. He served in the U.S. Army for 34 years and retired in 2016.

“I live a life of service, and for me, this event means service. For those who can’t serve, they offer their support,” Cropper said. “I hope that those who are walking and driving by can also feel a part of it. Those of us who served will always serve.”

Many people who joined the 5K had family or friends who were veterans, and there were even three dozen military racing that day.

Sheila Iandoli was ready for the 5K and ran with pride for the veterans in her life.

“I have two very special veterans,” she said. “My son just left the Air Force and his girlfriend the Army. Veterans mean a lot to me, and I want to say thank you.”

Mary Dowling from the Board of Selectmen was enthusiastically showing her support and love for her town. “We are so happy to be able to do this for the veterans,” she said.

The Festival of Giving Trees and their chairman Brenda Lacaire was there to offer their support for the cause and plans for future events this December for those in need.

Coming in first place for the women’s division was Linda Spooner.

“My dad was a Vietnam veteran,” she explained. “He earned a Bronze Star. He passed away two years ago, so whenever I run, I think of him.”

The first place winner for the men’s division was Scott Grandfield. He was enthusiastic and happy to be there.

“I came to support the cause. I wanted to put in a lot of work for the cause,” he said.

All who ran the race whether with their dog, a stroller, a friend, or an American flag, and all who gathered on that cold morning, left with warm hearts filled with gratitude.



Ellis Cropper stands proud after singing the National Anthem.



Runners take off from the starting line at this past Saturday’s Home of the Brave 5K. TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS



Sheila Iandoli ran the Home of the Brave 5K to show her support for veterans.



Winner Scott Grandfield crosses the finish line first.



Linda Spooner celebrates her win across the finish line.

Project 351 food drive is Dec. 2

BROOKFIELD – Brookfield’s 2023 Project 351 ambassador Edie Simpson is working with the Brookfield Food Pantry to organize a food drive to help those facing food insecurity in the community.

The food drive will take place at the Brookfield Transfer Station from 7 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2. If you cannot make that date or are not a member of the transfer station, donations are accepted at the Merrick Public Library during their regular hours all year round.

They are looking for soups, baking mixes, baked beans, condiments, Chef Boyardee products, paper goods (excluding toilet paper), cereal, non-perishable snacks, coffee, hot chocolate mixes, canned vegetables, salad dressings, puddings and jellos, and jams and jellies. All donations will go directly to the Brookfield Food Pantry.

Project 351 is an organization that works to build a better community through youth-led service.

Lawmakers see FAA bill as an opportunity to support families

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Sen. Edward J. Markey and Sen. JD Vance members of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, recently sent a letter to Sen. Maria Cantwell, chair of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, and Sen. Ted Cruz, ranking member of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.

The letter urged them to include a provision in the reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration to prohibit family seating fees. In their letter, the senators included legislative language which would prohibit airlines from charging monetary fees for parents to sit with their children during a flight.

In their letter, the senators wrote, “Airlines should never be allowed to

force parents to choose between paying more and being separated from their kids. In extreme circumstances, parents have found themselves assigned seats many rows away from their very young children - a serious safety risk for those kids and an injustice to those families. This practice must end. The 2023 reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration provides an important opportunity to support families by banning these fees.”

In January, Markey reintroduced the FAIR Fees Act, which would prohibit airlines from charging fees disproportionate to the cost of the service. In February, Markey introduced the Families Fly Together Act, which would prohibit airlines from charging a fee for families to sit together on a flight.



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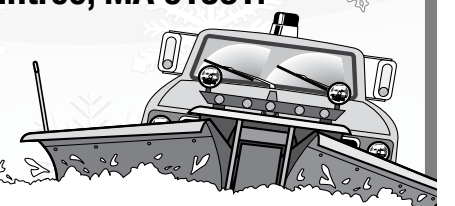
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You can also contact the New Braintree Highway Superintendent by calling 508-847-2628.



VETERANS | FROM PAGE 1

the purpose of the day.

All stood at attention for the National Anthem. Soper introduced Robin Grimm, Sturbridge Town Administrator who spoke to how veterans served the Constitution and many who have come home are suffering.

Next to speak would be Todd Smola who is the state representative from the First Hampden District that includes Sturbridge.

Smola mentioned the need for veterans' services and how the legislature is supporting that.

Soper then called on Charlene Goddard-Lyle, who is the Massachusetts Daughters of the American Revolution State Historian. Goddard-Lyle was there for the State Regent Carolyn Nutt.

Goddard-Lyle told how the Old Burial Ground land was gifted in 1794 and how local veterans of the Revolution placed the stones that are the border of the cemetery. That wall, as one can see, was well constructed and has endured for centuries.

It is a tribute to those men who built it. Next, Christopher Tourtellot of the General Henry Knox Regimental Color Guard would give a rousing salute to the American flag that spoke to the meaning of its colors.

At this point the fifth grade students from Burgess Elementary School, superintended by teacher Dan Kay and Principal Kathy Pelley began placing American flags on the graves of the Revolutionary veterans.

As there were more veterans than children, some had to do double duty.

The Sturbridge Lions Club would present a new American flag to each student for their very own.



The Sturbridge Militia prepares to stand their ground against British soldiers. Turley Photos by Richard Murphy

When they finished, all in attendance observed a moment of silence.

That done, the General Henry Knox Regimental Color Guard would load the flintlock muskets and fire a salute three times as the local lads opposite them, the Sturbridge Militia, commanded by Captain Timothy Parker (a.k.a. Douglas Quigley), stood to attention.

As the sound of the last shot faded away, up on the hill Taps were sounded. After the first bugler was done, another, more distant, sounded Taps as well.

Thanks to Michael Glick and Michael Harrington of the Public House for the new American Flags.

Well done to Briere, Soper and the Sturbridge Lions Club.



Bob Briere and Dan Soper work together to present the Veterans Day ceremony at Old Burial Ground.



Christopher Tourtellot of the General Henry Knox Regimental Color Guard salutes the American flag.



The Sturbridge Lions Club joined others to honor veterans at Old Burial Ground.



Town Administrator Robin Grimm spoke about the sacrifices veterans make.



Charlene Goddard-Lyle, Massachusetts Daughters of the American Revolution State Historian said Revolutionary War veterans built the wall around Old Burial Ground.



Taps is played by a student.



SPORTS

Cougars set to host holiday eve matchup

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARREN—After winning the last two games against rival Ware, the members of the Quaboag football team will be looking to even the overall series record at 7-7 in this year's contest.

The 14th meeting between the two neighboring high schools is scheduled to take place at 6pm on the night before Thanksgiving at Quaboag Regional.

"Ware holds a 7-6 lead in the series, so we can tie it up this year," said Quaboag head coach Dave Shepherd. "We're looking forward to playing them and it's always a very competitive game."

Before starting the Cougars



Brendan Burke takes off on a run to the right side. STAFF PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

See **COUGARS** | PAGE 11

Panthers season ends against Uxbridge

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

UXBRIDGE—Once the sting of losing in the Division 4 state quarterfinals fades away in a couple of weeks, the members of the Quabbin field hockey team will look back on the 2023 season with fond memories.

The ninth-seeded Lady Panthers made the trip to the Blackstone Valley last Saturday looking to upset the top-seeded and two-time Division 4 state champion Uxbridge High School.

Just like they've done in 21 of their 22 games this fall, the Spartans players celebrated a 7-0 victory over the Lady Panthers before a large crowd on their home turf field.

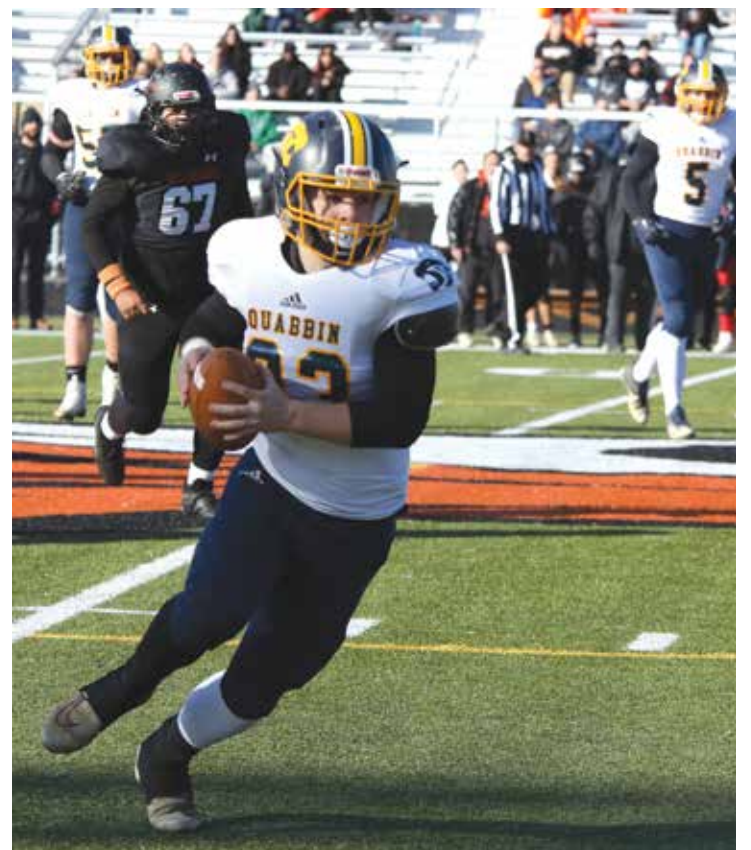
"We were able to win a lot of great games this year," said



Kenzie Casey advances along the sideline. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Shelly Zalneraitis, who completed her 30th season as the Lady Panthers varsity field hockey coach. "I'm really proud of these girls, especially the seniors." The Lady Panthers senior

See **PANTHERS** | PAGE 10



Luke Salvadore catches a pass in the first quarter during last year's Thanksgiving game.. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RAY DUFFY

Pioneers, Orioles set to matchup on Thanksgiving

PALMER – Last Thanksgiving, the Pathfinder High School football team scored early and often, utilizing the pass game to their advantage en route to a win over Belchertown. It was the first Thanksgiving win in a few years for the Pioneers, which finished the season above .500 for the first time in several years.

This year, both teams are coming off pretty successful seasons, setting up for a very good matchup on Thanksgiving morning, next Thursday.

This year's game will be held at Belchertown High School

See **MATCHUP** | PAGE 11



Panthers look for third straight holiday win

BARRE – Quabbin Regional High School football will close out its football season with a holiday eve matchup on Wednesday, Nov. 22 against Gardner High School.

Last year, for the second straight time, Quabbin defeated Gardner in their annual Thanksgiving holiday matchup. This year, it was a 34-21 victory on the turf of Gardner High School last Thursday morning. Nick Warburton scored four touchdowns to lead the Panthers. Jaxon Warburton

had the other score. Nick Warburton scored on runs of 8, 13, 33, and 45 yards. He finished with 332 on an impressive 37 carries. His total captured the single-season rushing record for Quabbin. The game concludes the fall season for Quabbin with winter practices starting this week.

This year could prove a little more difficult as Gardner improved and has a 31-0 win over Quabbin in Week 1 of this year. Kickoff is set for 6 p.m.

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PANTHERS | FROM PAGE 9

captains are Kylie Casey, Camryn Orsini, Gracie Talbot, and Julianna Stanger, who was the starting goalkeeper. The other two seniors are Annabelle Magill, and Madylin Breault.

“The seniors were our leaders this year,” Zalneraitis said. “It was a very special season.”

Quabbin’s five returning starters in the fall of 2024 will be junior Sydney Slattery, junior Haley Ayer, sophomore Farrah Wojcik, sophomore Madelyn Stauder, and freshman Makenzie Casey.

After finishing the regular season with an 8-4-3 record, the Lady Panthers entered the Central Mass. Athletic Directors Association Class B tournament as the fourth seed.

They defeated the fifth-seeded Oakmont Spartans, 4-0, in a CMADA quarterfinal home game. It was the first time that the Lady Panthers defeated their Mid-Wach B rivals since a 1-0 home victory on October 13, 2021.

The Lady Panthers then defeated top-seeded Lunenburg, 2-1, in the semifinals, and second-seeded Clinton, 2-1 in the Class B. finals.

Quabbin, who handed both Lunenburg and Clinton their first losses of the season, captured the sectional title for the first time since 1991.

The Lady Panthers began the Division 4 state tournament with an exciting 1-0 victory over 24th-seeded Saint Paul Diocesan of Worcester in the round of 32, which was played at Alumni Field.

Breault scored the only goal in that contest on a penalty corner, which was assisted by Makenzie Casey. It was also the Lady Panthers final home game of the season.

Five days later, Quabbin squeaked out a 2-1 road victory over eighth-seeded Cohasset in round of 16.

Trailing 1-0, Magill scored the tying goal against Cohasset in the second quarter, which was assisted by Breault. The Casey sisters combined for the go-ahead goal. Makenzie put the ball into the cage while her older sister assisted.

“We beat Clinton and Lunenburg, who were previously undefeated in the Central Mass. Tournament,” Zalneraitis said. “Cohasset was another big win because they were seeded ahead of us. We did a lot of great things to get here this year.”

Quabbin entered the Division 4 quarterfinal match riding a seven game winning streak.

Uxbridge had won 67 games in a row before losing, 2-0, at Andover, who’s the defending Division 1 state champions, on October 16. The Spartans, who outscored their opponents, 115-13 during the regular season, won their eighth consecutive game against the Lady Panthers.

“Uxbridge is a powerhouse team, and they move the ball unbelievably well,” Zalneraitis said. “It’s like a high school team playing against a college team. Even if a team plays a perfect game against them, I’m not sure you would beat them. The turf field also makes a huge difference.”

The Lady Panthers practiced on the turf field at Gardner High School a couple of times.

“The Gardner AD (Dan Forte) has been great allowing us to use their turf field for practice,” Zalneraitis said. “I wish that we had our own turf field.”



Abby Rogowski dribbles up the field.



Violet Kelley deflects the ball.

Stanger, who made five of her 21 saves during the first quarter, managed to keep the Spartans off the scoreboard for the first twelve minutes.

“Julianna played a phenomenal game today,” Zalneraitis said. “She should hold her head up high leaving here.”

Uxbridge head coach Kelly Rosborough was also impressed with Stanger’s outstanding performance.

“I thought the Quabbin goalie did a heck of a job,” said Rosborough, who was inducted into the Uxbridge High School Athletic Hall of Fame last Saturday night. “She’s one of the best goalies that we’ve faced this season. She stopped a lot of hard shots. It took us more than ten minutes to score our first goal of the game.”

With 2:51 left in the opening quarter, Uxbridge junior Ellie Bouchard pushed a shot into the cage for her first of four goals.

Sophomore Kendall Gilmore, who assisted on the Spartans first goal, scored a goal with eight seconds remaining in the quarter, which was assisted by sophomore Amelia Blood.

The Lady Panthers had two penalty corners during the first five minutes of the second quarter, but they couldn’t take a shot on goal.

The home team held a 5-0 halftime lead following one goal by sophomore Julianna Casucci and two more from Bouchard during the second quarter.

Uxbridge’s lone goal of the third quarter was scored on a penalty corner by Blood with nine minutes remaining on the scoreboard clock.

Less than 40 seconds into the final quarter, Bouchard capped off the scoring with her fourth goal.

Down at the other end of the field, Uxbridge sophomore goalie Julia Okenquist didn’t have to make any saves in posting her 14th shutout of the season.

While the Lady Panthers end their season with a 13-5-3 overall record, the Spartans (21-1) were scheduled to face fourth-seeded Sutton in the Division 4 state semifinals.



Gracie Talbot clears the ball away on defense.



Julianna Stanger makes a save for the Panthers.

PANTHERS LOOK FOR THIRD STRAIGHT HOLIDAY WIN | FROM PAGE 9



Nick Warburton celebrates after scoring a touchdown. URLEY PHOTOS BY RAY DUFFY



Bryce Venne catches a Gardner punt.



Cole Austin with a leading block to help Nick Warburton carry into the endzone.

- sports -

COUGARS | FROM PAGE 9

football program 15 years ago, Shepherd was the head football coach at Ware High School for nine years.

Two years ago, the Cougars celebrated a 22-7 home win versus the Indians. They also squeaked out a 26-21 win on Thanksgiving morning at Veteran's Field last year.

"We've been banged up the last couple of times that we've played Quaboag," said Ware head coach Mike Fazio. "We're relatively healthy right now and our kids are ready to go play them. We just want to get the trophy back in Ware again. The turkey always tastes bad after a loss."

The two football teams didn't face each other during the 2020 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prior to 2020, the Indians had won four games in a row against the Cougars, including an 8-0 home win in 2019. It was the first time that the football game between the two rivals was held on Thanksgiving morning.

Fazio enjoys playing the game on Thanksgiving morning as opposed to under the lights the night before.

"I would rather play the game on Thanksgiving Day," Fazio said. "It's a different kind of excitement when you wake up and play a football game on Thanksgiving morning."

Both teams will enter the final football game of the season with winning records.

Ware is currently 9-1 with their only setback coming against Randolph, 3-0, at home in a Division 8 playoff game on November 3.

If the Indians can end their losing streak against Quaboag, it would give them ten wins for the first time since 2017.

"We haven't won ten games since I've been the head coach here," Fazio said. "We've been 9-2 a couple of times and 8-3 a couple of times. I would love it if the players on this year's team could do that. All of the kids have worked very hard."

The Indians seniors who'll be looking to close out their high school football careers with a victory, are Kyle Safford, Talan Molina, Noah Fales, Dominic Guardino, Ayden Young, Kyle Gordon, and Jacob Witt.

"It's a very big game, especially for the seniors, against our rivals," Fazio said. "You always want to end your season on a high note."

Molina, Safford, Fales, Young, and

Gordon are the Indians captains.

Safford and Molina are also the Indians main running backs, along with sophomore Jadrien Berthiaume, who's also a wide receiver.

"Ware is a very good running team," Shepherd said. "That's something that our defense will need to stop in order for us to win this year's game. Our offense can't afford to turn the ball over."

Another Ware wide receiver is junior Gavin Sawabi

Junior Brady Dyer is the Indians starting quarterback. He'll be starting in the rivalry game for the first time. He took over the starting duties from Jack Autcher, who's currently a freshman member of the W.P.I. football team.

"Brady has improved so much this season," Fazio said. "I'm really looking forward to watching him play against Quaboag. I'm very glad that I'll be coaching him again next year."

The Indians leading defensive players are Safford, Gordon, Fales, Young, junior Nathan Harmon, and sophomore Alex Orszulak.

Only three opponents have scored more than ten points against the Indians this fall.

The Cougars, who lost a non-playoff home game to Northbridge in their last game, will enter the contest with a 6-4 overall record.

Brendan Burke, who's also a freshman member of the W.P.I. football team, finished his high school career as the Cougars all-time leading rusher.

One of the Cougars offensive weapons this fall is senior Tyler Withers. He's a co-captain, along with senior Bryce Douglas, who's the leader of the defensive unit.

"Tyler and Bryce are both outstanding football players," Shepherd said. "Tyler is hoping to play college football next year."

The other Quaboag seniors, who'll be honored during a pregame ceremony, are Chucky Smith, Jaden Ostig, and Aidan Pontbriand.

"It's going to be our senior night and we're hoping to win the game for our five seniors," Shepherd said. "We want to keep the trophy at Quaboag for another year."

The Quaboag starting quarterback is sophomore Jacob Cacace.

The 14th meeting between the Ware and Quaboag football teams should be a very interesting affair.



Zachary Russell returns the ball on a kickoff. Staff photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Quaboag tacklers work together to take down a Ware ball carrier.



Tyler Withers kicks an extra point for Quaboag.

MATCHUP | FROM PAGE 9

and the kickoff will take place a little early, at 9 a.m. Belchertown utilized the early kickoff two years ago for the first time.

Belchertown made the state tournament for the first time with a 7-1 record and a 4-1 conference record, losing only to Hoosac on Oct. 1.

The Orioles would be defeated by Shawsheen Valley Vocational 49-8 on Nov. 3 and then faced Ware in nonplayoff action in Week 10. The Orioles were defeated in that matchup, entering the Thanksgiving matchup with a 7-3 record overall. Pathfinder enters this year's matchup at 4-6, though their team has had a much better season than their record reflects.

Even in defeat, Pathfinder always was in competitive matchups, and they were successful in Tri-County action, going 3-2, including a win over



Hunter Griswold makes a throw for Pathfinder.

Smith Vocational on Oct. 27.

Smith Vocational got a bit of revenge, defeating Pathfinder in nonplayoff action on Nov. 10. Pathfinder also lost to Lee in Week 9.



Brandon Hnitecki makes a tackle for the Pioneers. STAFF PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Veterans Day: honoring all who served



James Mathieson, U.S. Marine Corps, West Brookfield



Milton Rock, U.S. Army Air Corps, Spencer



Theodore Rock, U.S. Merchant Marines, Spencer



Pierre Rock, U.S. Air Force, Spencer



Denise Rock-O'Hara, U.S. Coast Guard, East Brookfield



Jim Waz is shown with famous film star and USO performer Martha Raye. Jim Waz, 73rd U.S. Paratrooper, West Brookfield



Left: Robert W. Begonis Jr., U.S. Marine Corps, Leicester. Right: Robert W. Begonis Sr., U.S. Navy and U.S. Army National Guard, North Brookfield

NEVERLAND | FROM PAGE 1

on this journey, she crosses paths with an orphan known only as "Boy," played by senior TJ Belton, who eventually takes on the name of Peter Pan.

These two characters are the heart of the play, which follows the two of them as they help each other grow and change, and their friendship blossoms into a youthful romance.

Senior Sam DeRosse was also a standout as the villainous "Black Stache," a foppish pirate who hasn't yet become the fearsome Captain Hook, garnering some of the biggest laughs of the night with the character's frequent references to his mustache and tendency to mix up his words.

Although "Peter and the Starcatcher" is not a musical, it is a "play with music," featuring a handful of musical numbers complete with ensemble singers and choreography.

Perhaps the most notable is the opening number of the second act, which features much of the main cast dressed

in comedic drag as mermaids. The song got plenty of laughs from the audience, while also giving the cast a chance to show off their singing and dancing chops.

The play's program notes that the show is an example of "story-telling theatre", which "use[s] minimal props" and instead "relies heavily on the audience's imagination" to bring the world of the play to life – a very fitting style for a show about Peter Pan. Their imaginations were certainly helped along, though, by the minimal yet impressive set, which transformed the Tantasqua stage first into the deck of a pirate ship, and then again into the beaches and jungles of Neverland.

"Peter and the Starcatcher" took the audience on a spectacular journey over the course of a few hours last weekend, which earned the cast and crew a standing ovation and made for a performance that is sure to go down as one of Tantasqua's most magical plays to date.

Crazy Christmas Hat/Santa Parade, tree lighting

BROOKFIELD – The Brookfield Cultural Council is happy to present its first Crazy Christmas Hat/Santa Parade and Tree Lighting on Sunday, Dec. 3, beginning at 4:30 p.m. in front of the Town Hall.

Get started now making your Crazy Christmas Hat. You can also buy a crazy hat (but bought hats can't be entered for a prize).

There will be first, second, and third place winners. Use your imagination and come up with something unique - this is for all ages.

Participants will meet in front of the

Town Hall where there will be a Christmas backdrop for your family photos (this will be set up at 4 p.m. to be sure everyone has a chance to get that photo).

Practice your singing because there'll be singing as people walk to the gazebo to light the tree with Santa. In fact, this year they'll be leading Santa to the gazebo.

Some songs to be sung include "Winter Wonderland", "Jingle Bells", "Santa Claus is Coming to Town", "We Wish You A Merry Christmas", and more. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served.

For more information, email Jeanne Lytle at lytlej1234@gmail.com.

Orders accepted for Polish food sale

WARE – St. Mary's Church will begin to take orders for its Polish food sale starting on Sunday, Nov. 26 through Saturday, Dec. 2, or until sold out.

Call between noon-7 p.m. for Sylvia at 413-436-9268 or Diane at 413-967-5207 with questions and/or to order. Pickup will be on Saturday, Dec. 16 (snow date is Dec. 17) in St. Mary's Church hall on South Street.

Curbside pickup will only be available to anyone with a handicap card.

You will be designated a pickup time when placing your order. Payment will be collected at time of pick



up and should be exact amount, either check made out to St. Mary's Church, or cash and placed in an envelope with your name, order number and payment amount.

Food items available include pierogi: cabbage, \$13/dozen or \$6.50/ ½ dozen. sweet cheese, \$15/dozen or \$7.50/ ½ dozen and savory cheese, \$15/dozen and \$7.50/ ½ dozen; golombki, \$13 for three; kapusta, \$9/quart; kielbasa from Bernat's in Chicopee, whole \$10 and half, \$5; and rye bread from Countryside Bakery, whole \$5.50 and half, \$2.75.



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New Braintree Police Log

During the week of Nov. 6-13, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 14 building/property checks, 23 directed/area patrols, two traffic controls, five radar assignments, three emergency 911 calls, two citizen assists, one motor vehicle investigation, one safety hazard, one animal call and one motor vehicle stop in the town of New Braintree.

Tuesday, Nov. 7

4:10 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

Wednesday, Nov. 8

3:35 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

Friday, Nov. 10

7:21 a.m. 911 Disabled Motor Vehicle, Gilbertville Road, Checked/Secured

Saturday, Nov. 11

5:10 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Barre Road, Services Rendered

Sunday, Nov. 12

11:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Barre Road, Investigation

Monday, Nov. 13

2:43 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Mara Road, Services Rendered
7:27 a.m. Safety Hazard, Gilbertville Road, Dispatch Handled

NBEMA | FROM PAGE 1

batteries for the portable two-way radios.

“We currently have no replacement batteries and several of the batteries are failing, obviously causing the potential officer safety issue of not having reliable communications with dispatch and other officers,” Smith wrote in his request.

Smith also requested \$3,840 be reserved to purchase replacement batteries for the Department’s drone. The batteries have not been replaced in over four years and the batteries are no longer holding a full charge.

Smith said the Department has used the drone for search and rescue missions, as well as at fire scenes. The drone has infrared which helped find a missing person at nighttime.

“It gets used quite a bit,” Smith said.

The Board approved both purchase requests.

Highway Department needs

The Highway Department requested approval to spend \$3,000-4,000 to replace the main hydraulic pump for the Department’s 1995 John Deere loader.

The Department also requested approval to pay \$1,400 to McNeeley Tree Service, along with a request to spend \$300 in order to apply fluid film to the underside of the Department’s trucks.

The Board approved all of the requests.

No parking signs

Brandon Avery, chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee requested permission to put up a “No Parking” sign at Town Forest Park, by the triangle area. The ruts caused by the tires of parked cars are making mowing the grass difficult.

Avery said the Committee would also like to install a sign at the main entrance to the common before the center crosswalk, creating space to improve visibility of pedestrians crossing the road.

“It’s really creating a dangerous situation,” Avery said, especially during busy events.

Administrative Assistant Ashley Barre said the Safety Committee had

previously recommended prohibiting parking on either side of that crosswalk.

The Board approved the request to install the signs.

Library HVAC repairs

Thomas Skowron, Board of Trustees member at the Haston Free Public Library said the building’s HVAC system had a circulating pump fail.

“It’s 16 years old and it failed,” he said. The Library is using a backup pump to keep the system operating, but the backup is just as old.

To replace the pump, it would cost \$9,700. Skowron asked if American Rescue Plan Act funds were available to cover this cost.

Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis asked Skowron to submit a formal request to the ARPA Committee.

The Board of Trustees will also prepare an article for the special town meeting warrant, in the event ARPA funds are not approved. If the ARPA funds are approved, the article will be passed over at special town meeting.

Request for resources

Representatives from the Rural Justice Network requested permission to use the common for its annual Small Town Pride event on June 29, 2024.

Petraitis asked if drag performers would still be included in next year’s event, and if so, would a tent be provided for drag performers to perform in. The representatives said yes, drag performers would still be included.

A motion to approve the event was not seconded.

Board of Selectmen Vice-Chair John Tripp said the town’s 4th of July celebration is normally held the Saturday prior to the holiday, and asked if it would cause a conflict.

Representatives from the Rural Justice Network said they were flexible with dates for their event, to accommodate the town’s celebration.

Special town meeting

A special town meeting will be held Friday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m.

DiZoglio releases audit of the Sex Offender Registry Board

BOSTON – State Auditor Diana DiZoglio’s office released an audit of the Sex Offender Registry Board, which reviewed the period of July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2021.

The current audit followed up on deficiencies identified in a 2017 audit completed under the previous administration.

In her report, DiZoglio notes that SORB has not yet implemented prior recommendations to ensure that they have current addresses for sex offenders in violation.

Although SORB entered into interdepartmental service agreements with the Department of Transitional Assistance and the Department of Revenue to conduct address verification data matching, they did not perform these verifications to ensure accurate data matched.

In addition, SORB has not entered into any other interdepartmental service agreements with executive branch agencies to verify sex offenders’ addresses.

“By law, SORB is required to keep sex offender registry information up-to-date and accurate. It is important that SORB work with our state and local public safety departments to properly educate the public about registered sex offenders living, working, or attending school in the Commonwealth,” said DiZoglio. “Our audits exist to help make government work better. When our audit findings and recommendations are ignored, as was the case here, it’s not only a waste of taxpayer dollars but can be a threat to public safety. It is imperative that these matters be addressed immediately.”

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Beats per minute
 - 4. Hindu deity
 - 10. Polynesian garland of flowers
 - 11. Not chained to
 - 12. Metric ton
 - 14. Tall, rounded vase
 - 15. Musical composition
 - 16. St. Francis of ___
 - 18. Discover the location of
 - 22. Compact group of mountains
 - 23. Mend
 - 24. Not current
 - 26. Atomic #64
 - 27. Young hawk
 - 28. Or ___
 - 30. Pouches
 - 31. Southern Thailand isthmus
 - 34. Mends with yarn
 - 36. Downwinds
 - 37. One of two equal parts of a divisible whole
 - 39. Italian archaeological site
 - 40. Cold appetizer
 - 41. Yes
 - 42. Peninsula
 - 48. Of that
 - 50. A way to divide
 - 51. Relating to the physical senses
 - 52. One who makes money
 - 53. ___ Spumante (Italian wine)
 - 54. Inconvenience (abbr.)
 - 55. South Dakota
 - 56. Snow sport
 - 58. The products of human creativity
 - 59. Change mind
 - 60. Born of
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Similar to the color of a clear unclouded sky
 - 2. Former name of Iran
 - 3. Made smaller
 - 4. Type of meter
 - 5. Revolt
 - 6. Killed with rocks
 - 7. Gregory ___, US dancer
 - 8. Nullifies
 - 9. Home to the Flyers
 - 12. Female parent
 - 13. Pre-1917 Russian emperor
 - 17. Outsourcing (abbr.)
 - 19. Regal
 - 20. Line
 - 21. Hermann ___, author of “Siddhartha”
 - 25. Clearing up
 - 29. No seats available
 - 31. Leaves of an Arabian shrub
 - 32. Groove in organ or tissue
 - 33. Not of this world
 - 35. Cooking device
 - 38. Forget
 - 41. Operational flight
 - 43. Actress Danes
 - 44. Poke holes in
 - 45. A way to discolor
 - 46. Shouts of welcome or farewell
 - 47. Pharrell’s group
 - 49. Red fluorescent dye
 - 56. Jr.’s dad
 - 57. Electronics firm

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QUABOAG CURRENT

WARREN Project 351 ambassadors announced p2	WEST BROOKFIELD White Christmas returns on Dec. 3 p2	BROOKFIELD Crazy hat day/parade is Dec. 3 p13	Editorial/Opinion Sports Classifieds Police Logs	4 9 14 15
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Volume 16, Number 51

Friday, November 17, 2023

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