The ONLY local coverage in Sturbridge – Brookfield – West Brookfield – East Brookfield – North Brookfield & New Braintree

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STM approves nine articles

Police cruiser passed over

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

EAST BROOKFIELD – A special town meeting was held last Monday where voters decided on 10 articles including an article to purchase a police cruiser.

Police cruiser

Article 7 asked if voters would approve the transfer of $63,056 from available funds to purchase a 2027 Ford Explorer to replace a vehicle for the Police Department. The Finance Committee recommended passing over the article because the fiscal year 2028 budget picture was unclear and they may need to use free cash to balance the budget.

The motion to pass over was voted unanimously in favor.

Other articles

Voters approved all other articles unanimously. Article 1 was a transfer of $2,131 from available funds to fund a shortfall in the FY 26 longevity account which

Please see **STM**, page 11



TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE

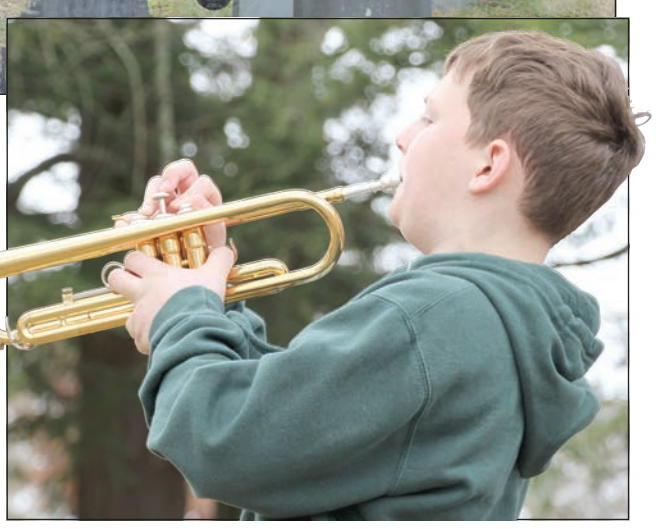
The General Henry Knox Regimental Color Guard fired a salute during the Veterans Day ceremony held at Old Burial Ground on Nov. 10.

Veterans celebrated at Old Burial Ground

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – The town continued its longtime tradition of honoring its veterans for Veterans Day with a ceremony at Old Burial Ground.

This tradition dates back for many decades, having been resurrected by local veteran and historian, Bob Briere. This tradition was continued on Nov. 10 under the direction of Wally Hersee, as Briere was unable to attend.



Declan Sorensen was one of two students who performed "Taps" during the ceremony.

"This has become an annual tradition here in Sturbridge," Hersee said. "It was begun many, many years ago with the students of the Center School… after the Center School closed to students, it was no longer for many, many years after that…years later, one of those former

Please see **VETERANS**, page 9

Joint meeting convened

School Committee, Board of Selectmen requested by Grant

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
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NORTH BROOKFIELD – The School Committee and Board of Selectmen held a joint meeting last Tuesday, at the request of School committee Chair Matt Grant, who said during the meeting that he is looking for regularly scheduled meetings about three or four times per year with the Selectmen for transparency reasons.

The conversation during the Nov. 10 meeting centered largely on potential regionalization with the Quaboag Regional School District, and there is an exploratory subcommittee set up with representatives from both districts.

In a written statement, Grant wrote in part that the exploratory subcommittee discussed several possibilities including regionalization, a tuition agreement and shared resources. He also wrote that the committee would gather data to allow the districts to determine what is best for the

Please see **MEETING**, page 11



Eighth graders are shown folding the flag. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DERICK VELIZ



James Zalatores is recognized as he was inducted into the Quaboag Alumni Veterans Wall.

Quaboag hosts Veterans Day assembly and alumni wall induction



Veterans and guests gathered at the end of the ceremony to review the Veterans Wall outside of the auditorium.

WARREN – Quaboag Regional Middle High School recently held its annual Veterans Day assembly and Alumni Veterans Wall induction.

The event is put on by Joe Salvadore's eighth grade civics class along with James Joinville's band and chorus students.

Eighth grader Sydney Sturgis started the program with a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem. Students demonstrated how to properly fold a flag that was then received by West Brookfield Veterans Agent, Frank Bateman.

Selectman Derick Veliz delivered the keynote address, where he emphasized the importance of service.

Please see **WALL**, page 5

Art raffle fundraiser benefits food pantry

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WEST BROOKFIELD – West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery, 10 East Main St., is hosting its annual artwork raffle fundraiser to benefit The Sharing Cupboard food pantry at the First Congregational Church of West Brookfield.

Raffle tickets are available for $10 each, giving you the chance to bring home a one-of-kind piece of art from 16 of the gallery's artists. There are a total of 18 items to take chances on.

"This isn't your typical raffle," gallery owner Rebecca Fay said. "Ever the losers are winners because your $10 goes straight to the food bank."

You can purchase raffle tickets by stopping by the gallery during open hours, contacting Fay by phone or email, or attending the night of Friday, Nov. 20 when the winning tickets will be drawn.

Please see **RAFFLE**, page 11



A woodland painting by artist Vanessa Varjian. SUBMITTED PHOTO



TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY

Bernie Wilson of B&D Enterprises makes more than pens.



Wayne Boulette is The Chairman of the Board.



Halley Stillman displayed colorful cauliflower.

Meet a variety of vendors at the Winter Farmers Market

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

WEST BROOKFIELD – The second West Brookfield Winter Farmers Market of the season was held on Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield is where the Winter Farmers Market is located on Wednesdays and it is a welcoming environment.

The first market had many of the usual suspects that everyone was happy to welcome back.

Of course, Joy Hinton was at the Joy of Beans Coffee to serve up her gourmet java.

Next along the hall to the right was Susan Linnéa Kallander. Susan makes earrings out of gemstones and clay She is both artist and artisan.

Last week she gave your reviewer a copy of the charming "Up in Smoke". A story of harvest on an extended family farm.

If you have a charming dog or cat, Susan does pet portraits as well.

Moving along, Gail of Autumn Leaf Farm was back again this week. Autum Leaf is known for their locally grown microgreens and is the vendor of a variety of mushrooms as well as eggs from her Golden Comet chickens.

As noted last week, there is more this year. Autmn Leaf will be vending Rose 32 Bread and cheeses from Round Table Farm.

Next was Four Acre Farm back from up in Hardwick. Jason Adams and Cindy Hitchcock were there with wonderful beef for stews and steaks and other cuts. They have other meats as well as eggs.

After Four Acre was Bucha Bros, LLC, The Bros, are producing kombucha, a fermented tea beverage known for its health benefits. The Bros produce a kombucha without artificial means. Ryan was at their table.

The Bros are wholesaling now and their kombucha is available at Joy of Beans.

Turning left at the corner of the room there was a farmer coming from Charlton who has been at the market for some time. Rich Laba and Farm46 bring pork products from the Berkshire heritage breed of pigs he and his family farm raise.

There is quite an array of products on sale. There are also eggs and chicken broilers.

Next, and opposite each other, but not in opposition to each other came Sweet Treats Bakery and Nonna's Kitchen.

Sweet Treats has cookies, cupcakes, muffins, etc. and Nonna's runs more to gluten free products and granolas and energy bars.

Returning this year are two rascals who, beside their merchandise, can be the life of the market.

They are the woodworkers, The Chairman of The Board. No, not Frank Sinatra, but woodworking artisan, Wayne Boulette, known for his cutting boards and other examples of craftsmanship, and Bernie Wilson of B&D Enterprises.

Ware native Wilson is known for making pens out of recycled pallets and other products, because he is "too cheap to buy wood,"

As usual next was John Thompson of Thompson's Maple Farm. There was no lack of syrup and maple products, but that is not all. There was also delicious ice cream.

And, of course, holding the market together in the center is as usual, Still Life Farm as usual with Halley. They had late autumn produce of a wide variety and colorful cauliflower. Assisting Halley this week was Reghan.

So, the market is back and in fine shape. Where else would you want to be in West Brookfield on a Wednesday afternoon?

Gingerbread Fair is Nov. 21

WEST BROOKFIELD – The George Whitefield United Methodist Church, 33 West Main St. (Route 9) will host its annual Gingerbread Fair on Saturday, Nov. 21 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

The Fair will feature baked goods, fudge, a Christmas shop, knit and hand-crafted items, in addition to ongoing thrift store bargains. A lunch of hotdogs and soups with warm gingerbread and cream for dessert will be available.

Being the Saturday before Thanksgiving, it will be a good opportunity to pick up some holiday goodies, do some early Christmas shopping or just get into the spirit by gathering and browsing. All are invited to join the church members in kicking off the holiday season with warmth and cheer.

For additional information you may call Heidi Jeldres at 978-989-5736.

Wreaths Across America annual tradition honors local servicemembers on Dec. 19

WEST BROOKFIELD – West Brookfield's Wreaths Across America will take place on Saturday, Dec. 19 at noon at the Veterans' Monuments on the Common, followed by wreath-laying at Pine Grove Cemetery, 41 Church St.

This event will be in conjunction with Congress' proclamation of National Wreaths Across America Day and Arlington National Cemetery's wreath-laying schedule.

West Brookfield is the only Wreaths Across America location in all of the Brookfields, Warren, New Braintree, Oakham, Barre, Hardwick, Spencer, Sturbridge and Charlton.

This year the goal is to ensure that every one of the nearly 600 servicemembers laid to rest in West Brookfield receives a wreath as a symbol of remembrance and gratitude.

Each wreath sponsorship is just $17, with 100% of each sponsorship supporting this community's veterans. For more information, please call Nadine Morin, 774-200-3396, or email 01585wreathsacrossamerica@gmail.com.

P.I.E. hosts Holiday Craft Fair on Dec. 5

EAST BROOKFIELD – P.I.E. is sponsoring a Holiday Craft Fair at the East Brookfield Elementary School, 410 East Main St., on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

This yearly festive Christmas market features handmade gifts, treats and drinks, face painting and more.

Admission to the fair is free.

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Open poetry reading series continues on Dec. 17 at library

WEST BROOKFIELD – An open poetry reading series meant to provide a venue for writers to share their work as well as the work of established writers they admire will be held at the Merriam-Gilbert Public Library, 3 West Main St., in the upstairs Library Meeting Room.

This room is elevator accessible.

The series will be held on select Thursdays from 4-6 p.m. Generally, readings will occur on the third Thursday of every month, though some schedule adjustments may have to be made around holidays.

Dates include Dec. 17, Jan. 21, Feb. 18, March 18, April 15 and May 20. The series is open to the central Massachusetts community at large.

For every original poem a person reads they will be asked to compliment that poem by reading a poem of their choosing by another established and published writer: From Shakespeare to Stern, Bradstreet to Bukowski, Yeats to Young, Rumi to Rich and any and all between.

If you have no original work to read but want to offer poems from writers you love, please join us.

The reading will be held in round robin fashion (two poems maximum each time) and the number of turns allowed for each person will be determined by the number of willing participants.

The host ask those who read to be sensitive to other attendees and not present overly long poems that will delay another's turn. One may also participate by attending and simply listening, not reading, if they so choose.



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Fall Fest Church Bazaar & Bake Shop to be held Nov. 21

BROOKFIELD – Community members are invited to shop, browse, and enjoy the Fall Fest Church Bazaar & Bake Shop on Saturday, Nov. 21 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Brookfield Congregational Church, 8 Common St.

Hosted by the church's Helping Hands group, the event will feature a variety of handmade crafts, seasonal decorations, homemade baked goods and unique gifts-perfect for holiday shopping or finding something special for your home.

Shoppers can look forward to wreaths, centerpieces, sewn and crocheted items, ornaments, Mason jar soup and cookie mixes, baked goods, themed gift baskets and much more. Gift basket themes will include popcorn and movie night, pet lovers, gardening and other fun ideas.

The Fall Fest Bazaar is a great opportunity to connect with the community, discover handmade treasures, enjoy homemade treats, and get a head start on holiday shopping.

All proceeds from the event will benefit Brookfield Congregational Church's general fund and church repairs.

The entire community is warmly invited to attend and support this special event.

For additional information about the event or vendor spaces, contact the church office at 508-867-6262, email bccucc1857@gmail.com, or visit www.bcc1857.org.

First Congregational participates in White Christmas festivities

WEST BROOKFIELD – The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, UCC, 36 North Main St., will host an open house on Sunday, Dec. 6 from 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m. during the town's White Christmas celebration.

The dining area opens at 11:30 a.0.m and the menu includes: a plentiful and delicious hot turkey sandwich with stuffing, gravy and cranberry sauce; hot dogs; chili dogs; chili by the bowl; two kinds of homemade soup; chicken, egg and ham salad sandwiches; homemade pie (apple, blueberry and pumpkin) and cheesecake by the slice.

The church will also offer a huge raffle with many items and gift cards, a concert by the Hardwick Memorial Handbell Choir at 1:30 p.m., "Elf Hunt" for the kids, a free door prize raffle and a bountiful baked goods table.

A special treat again this year is a raffle for a gorgeous handmade quilt. The pattern is blue onion and measures approximately 68 inches by 78 inches.

The Christmas tunes will be playing and the atmosphere will be festive and cheery. This is a wonderful place to welcome in the holiday season.

For more information, people may call the church at 508-867-7078.

Advent Interlude at FCC on Dec. 9

WEST BROOKFIELD – Need a break from the rush and hurry of Christmas preparations? Come take a deep breath and share in the joy of this festive season at Advent Interlude 2026 on Wednesday, Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. at First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, UCC, 36 North Main St.

Open to the community, Advent Interlude is an hour of inspiring readings, short video presentations, and lively music offerings designed to help folks reflect upon, and be inspired by, the true meaning of the Advent season, in preparation for the Christmas celebration of the birth of Jesus.

All are welcome and invited to come for a time of reflection and delight, and then go out inspired by the true meaning of the season in which people prepare for the birth of the Christ child. For more information call 508-867-7078.

Quabbin students perform 'Chicago' Nov. 20-21

BARRE – Performances of "Chicago: Teen Edition" will be held in the auditorium of Quabbin Regional Middle High School, 800 South St., on Friday, Nov. 20 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 21 at 2 p.m.

Tickets are available online at https://our.show/quabbinchicago, or by scanning the QR code. Tickets can also be purchased at the door but are expected to sell out quickly.

General admission is $10 in advance and $12 at the door.

This show contains themes of murder and adultery and may not be suitable for all ages of children. The show also has simulated gunshots.

The approximate running time of "Chicago: Teen Edition" is 90 minutes.

This venue is wheelchair accessible, including wheelchair accessible seating. Accessible parking is available in the front horseshoe-shaped driveway, in addition to the student parking lot.

Tri-Parish hosts tree lighting and market on Nov. 28

HARDWICK – On Saturday, Nov. 28 from 3-5:30 p.m. on the Hardwick common, the Tri-Parish Community Church will be hosting a Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony and a Pop-up Thrift Market for the town of Hardwick's "Christmas on the Common" celebration.

These activities will be a few of the many activities planned for that day by various organizations.

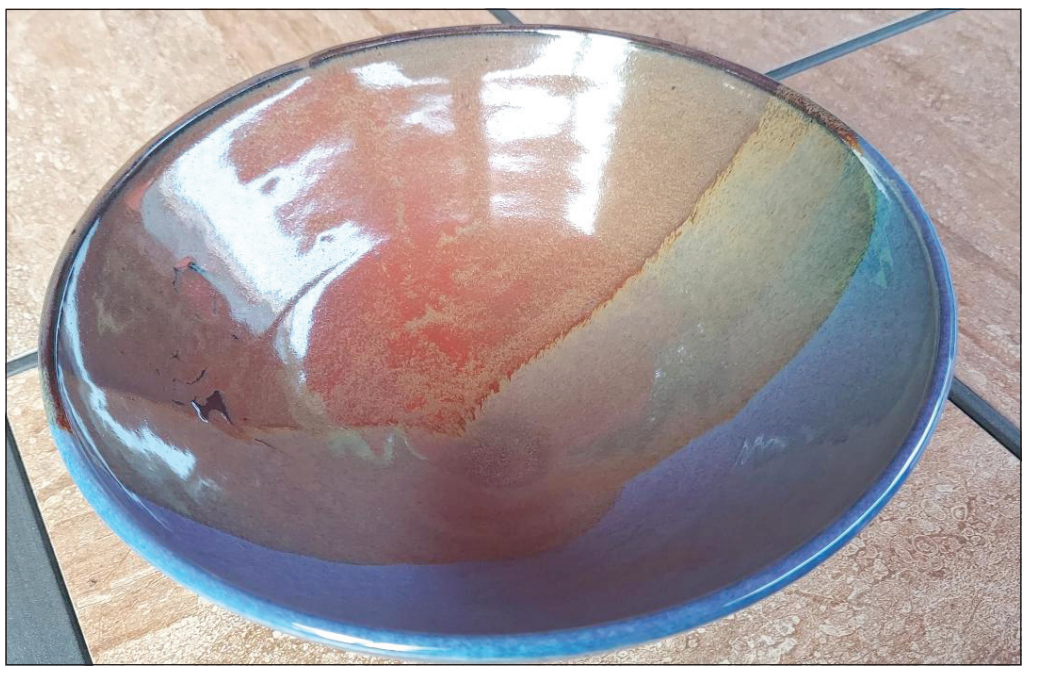
Come kick off the holiday season with the church members as they participate in this Christmas tradition.

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.**



Christmas in New Braintree Craft Fair takes place Dec. 5

NEW BRAINTREE – On Saturday, Dec. 5, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., the Tri-Parish Community Church will be holding a craft fair as part of the "Christmas in New Braintree" celebration.

The fair will be held at the New Braintree Grade School, 15 Memorial Drive. Proceeds from the fair will go to the Hardwick Food Pantry, the Mustard Seed, and Hardwick Christmas for Kids.

There are still spaces available for vendors. If interested, please contact the Tri-Parish Community Church office at 508-867-3306 or triparishcc@gmail.com.

One of our many talented vendors this year is Lisa Cohen, a local from Hardwick. Cohen brings her imagination to life through her beautiful pottery and also through her science fiction and fantasy novels, both of which will be available at the craft fair.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Lisa Cohen of Hardwick will have a table featuring her pottery as well as her science fiction and fantasy novels

Santa Parade and Tree Lighting set for Nov. 28

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Town of North Brookfield is hosting its annual Santa Parade & Tree Lighting on Saturday, Nov. 28.

The parade will be held at 5 p.m. and the tree lighting at 6 p.m.

Be sure to visit the library before the parade for holiday activities and stop into the church after the tree lighting to warm up with hot cocoa and Christmas caroling.

The Haston Free Public Library, 161 North Main St., will have a cookie sale, holiday music by On Q piano students, festive crafts and letter writing to Santa from 3-5 p.m.

For more information, people may email Lindsey at Lindsey.rockwood@yahoo.com.



- opinion -

Decorating for the holiday stuck in the middle

In the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



This is a funny time of year when holidays start to meld together.

It shouldn't be this way, but it is. Any given street might have leftover Halloween decorations at one house while its neighbor is already decked out for Christmas, missing Thanksgiving altogether.

So why don't we get creative for this holiday stuck in the middle. Read on for some decorating ideas straight from the archives.

The cornucopia, a horn-shaped receptacle filled to the brim with fruit and grain, has long been a symbol of abundance, and for decades now it has been associated with the Thanksgiving holiday.

Try filling your own cornucopia with whatever natural materials suit you. Wicker cornucopias are easily found at craft stores this time of year.

You can go for "easy" by simply using fruit as your filler. Set the cornucopia in place on a pretty tray in the middle of the table and let the fruit spill out.

You can also mix fruit and grains for a more authentic look – some Indian corn and wheat sheaves will do the trick. Other types of dried plant material look great in a cornucopia as well.

If muted tones are your fancy, let the kids scour the yard for pinecones, dried grasses, seed pods and the like. Or, you could always purchase a fall bouquet of everlastings and use what you need to make a more colorful arrangement.

Here too, dry floral foam will come in handy as a base for your stems. You need not discard the cornucopia after Thanksgiving is over – dress it up with some red berries and pine boughs for an instant Christmas decoration.

I saw this idea online and had to pass it along. Take small, "Jack be Little" pumpkins and carefully carve out the area around the stem so that you can place a votive candle on top. Use a hurricane glass to cover the votive, securing it with floral "U" pins.

Simply adorable!

Often times you can find sconce globes of varying sizes and ornamentation at thrift stores; these would work just as well and be unique for sure. Sugar pumpkins and gourds would also make great candle holders.

For several years now I have wanted to create a wreath comprised completely of small ears of ornamental corn. This year might just be the year I do it!

According to the experts, the trick is a good base. Most designers recommend using a straw wreath form, the kind available at craft stores.

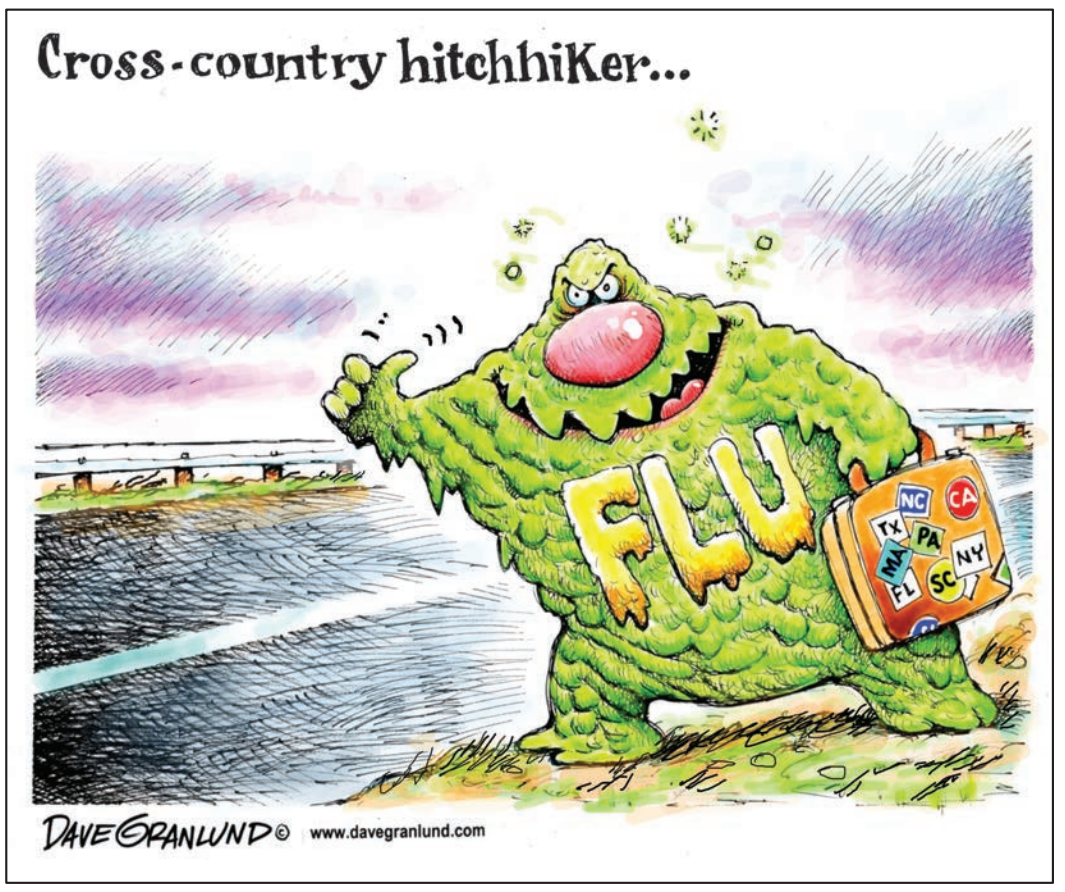
You could also wrap moss around a wire wreath form and use that as your base.

You will end up gluing the individual ears of corn to the base, lining up the tips of the corn as you go. Vary by length and by color to make a visually appealing decoration. Unless you grow your own corn, it will be a small investment to create the wreath, so be sure to protect it from rodents during the offseason. I store edibles like this in a covered container on a shelf in my bedroom closet, but any location that is mouse-proof would work.

I am excited as the next person to celebrate Christmas, but I try to instill in my kids that it is important to "be in the season you are in." Find joy where you are without looking ahead (or behind).

Happy Thanksgiving one and all!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 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.



SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

I got an overpayment notice from Social Security; What should I do?

Dear Rusty:

I received a letter from Social Security saying they overpaid me $12,703 in SS benefits.

The letter said "We reduce Social Security benefits if you receive a government pension. We reduce benefits by two-thirds of the amount of your pension. Your benefit is less than two-thirds of the pension. For this reason, we cannot pay you."

FYI, I do receive a pension based on work not covered by Social Security taxes. My problem is that I don't fully understand this. This could be correct, but it doesn't seem right to come back wanting money I didn't ask for.

I appreciate your time in getting back and letting me know if there is anything else I could be doing, or if they are entitled to go ahead and get the SS payments back.

Signed: Confused about Owing Social Security

Dear Confused:

From what you have shared, it appears that Social Security has determined that you were subject to a rule called the "Government Pension Offset" (GPO). FYI, the GPO was a provision which reduced Social Security spousal and/or survivor benefits for anyone who had a "non-covered" government pension (that is, a pension earned without contributing to Social Security).

It's likely that SS paid you full benefits, but that the GPO should have reduced (or eliminated) the benefits they paid, had they known about your "uncovered" government pension. And that is likely the source of the $12,300 overpayment notice you received.

However, the GPO rule was repealed in January 2025 and no longer applies. In other words, those who have a "non-covered" government pension (a pension earned without contributing to SS) are now no longer subjected to reduced benefits under the GPO.

The repeal legislation also provided for retroactivity back to January 2024, so the notice you received from Social Security was probably referring to SS benefits you received prior to 2024. If that is the case, then the notice you received is likely accurate and would need to be repaid. However, if the notice is referring to spousal or survivor benefits you received after December 2023, then it would be in error.

The best way to find out would be for you to file an appeal to Social Security, e.g., a "Request for Reconsideration" (form SSA-561), which will cause an independent review within Social Security to see if you are, indeed, required to repay those SS benefits, or whether you should pay something less (or nothing at all).

Just remember that when you actually received the SS benefits in question is the key factor – if you had a non-covered government pension while receiving SS spouse or survivor benefits before 2024, then the overpayment notice you received is likely valid. If not, an appeal as I described above should resolve the issue for you.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

QUABOAG CURRENT

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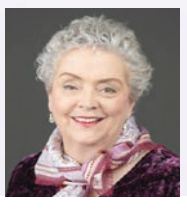

By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

While the Veterans Health Administration remains the main provider of healthcare for veterans, the VA reported in 2022 that 44% of all health services were delivered by private-sector, non-VA providers.

Because our armed forces are all-volunteer, it's unlikely that your primary care provider has a military background. So your doctor, physician assistant or nurse practitioner may not think to ask you if you ever served, though there's a national campaign encouraging them to do just that. It's top of mind for me because I'm the daughter of a career Marine, and many of my siblings are vets, too.

If they don't ask, you should volunteer the information to your providers because military service can affect what health risks you may be facing. Though veterans now make up only about 5% of the U.S. population, they face ever more complex medical conditions, such as post-traumatic stress disorder and long-term disabilities sustained during their service. Women and LGBTQ+ veterans deal with additional aftershocks.

The VA recognizes that veterans may have encountered a range of hazards during service, and some exposure-related conditions – both physical and psychological – are important to identify and monitor.

Mention when and where you served, your job or duties, and any known exposures or service-related health concerns. That information can help your civilian doctor ask more targeted questions, consider appropriate screening and coordinate care if needed.

Your service history may point to exposures such as burn pits, Agent Orange, chemicals, radiation or hazardous dust, as well as physical and psychological stresses, that could be relevant to current symptoms. Certain cancers, respiratory disorders and PTSD may be the result of military service. Women veterans may be suffering the lasting effects of sexual assault.

Meanwhile, the Veterans Community Care Program (VCCP) was established to give veterans faster access to health care through the private sector. A vet must be enrolled with the VA and facing constraints such as a long wait time or distance to a VA facility. To access community care, the VA recommends that, even if a veteran is eligible for VA health benefits, vets over 65 should sign up for Medicare.

Yes, the Medicare Part B premium is expected to go up to about $210 a month next year, which takes a significant chunk of the average Social Security benefit. But if a health concern arises and the nearest VA facility is an hour and a half away, you may want to make an appointment with a doctor closer to home. Without Part B, the patient is on the hook for payment.

A veteran who lives near a full-service VA medical center carries a smaller version of this risk. One whose closest VA hospital is a long drive away carries all of it. Having Medicare coverage would also make it easier to get a second opinion.

Another important reason for telling your doctor about your service is that more illnesses presumed to have been the result of military service are eligible for benefits under the PACT Act, which expanded benefits for Gulf War-era and post 9/11 veterans. Between the act's passage in 2022 and 2024, more than 1.2 million claims by veterans and their survivors were approved for PACT Act benefits. A civilian provider who's acquainted with your military record may be able to connect the dots from a current illness or condition to your service.

On Veterans Day, many

Please see HEALTH, page 8

Quaboag Current
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary,** costing $275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph.

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

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

WALL from page 1

He recognized and thanked the veterans for their service to our country. His message to the young students was that they are not too young or little to make a positive difference in their school or town community.

You don't have to wait until you grow up and graduate, in small ways right now, you can be a positive difference maker.

Joinville and the Quaboag band played the impactful JKF tribute song, narrated by seventh grade ancient civilizations teacher, Tyler Shepard.

Several students then placed a flag to commemorate the nation's major wars and conflicts and the Americans who lost their lives in support of their country.

Inducted into the Quaboag Alumni Veterans Wall was James Zalatores. Jimmy as he was known during his days at Quaboag was a 2013 graduate who then went on to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Zalatores is currently a police officer for the town of Ware. He was joined by his wife, young son, and his parents.

Many other veterans were in attendance and created a visual reminder for the 300 students in attendance of why they have Nov. 11 off from school.

Any Quaboag or Warren High School alumni that has served in our armed services that are interested in the Quaboag Veterans Wall is encouraged to email Joe Salvadore at jsalvadore@quaboagrsd.org.



Veterans saluted during the playing of "Taps". *TURLEY PHOTOS BY DERICK VELIZ*



Eighth grader David Rogers prepared to place a flag to represent one of America's major conflicts and the Americans who lost their lives.



West Brookfield Veterans Agent, Frank Bateman received the flag from the students and then spoke about the significance of Veterans Day



The Quaboag band under the direction of James Joinville played the JFK tribute song, while Tyler Shepard provided the narration.



Eighth grader Sydney Sturgis sang the National Anthem.

Send Us Your Community Winter Events

Turley Publications will print your Autumn event FREE OF CHARGE in our Winter Fest Supplement which will be published December 23-25, 2026. Total circulation of 85,000 which reaches over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley.
Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public.

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

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Description _____

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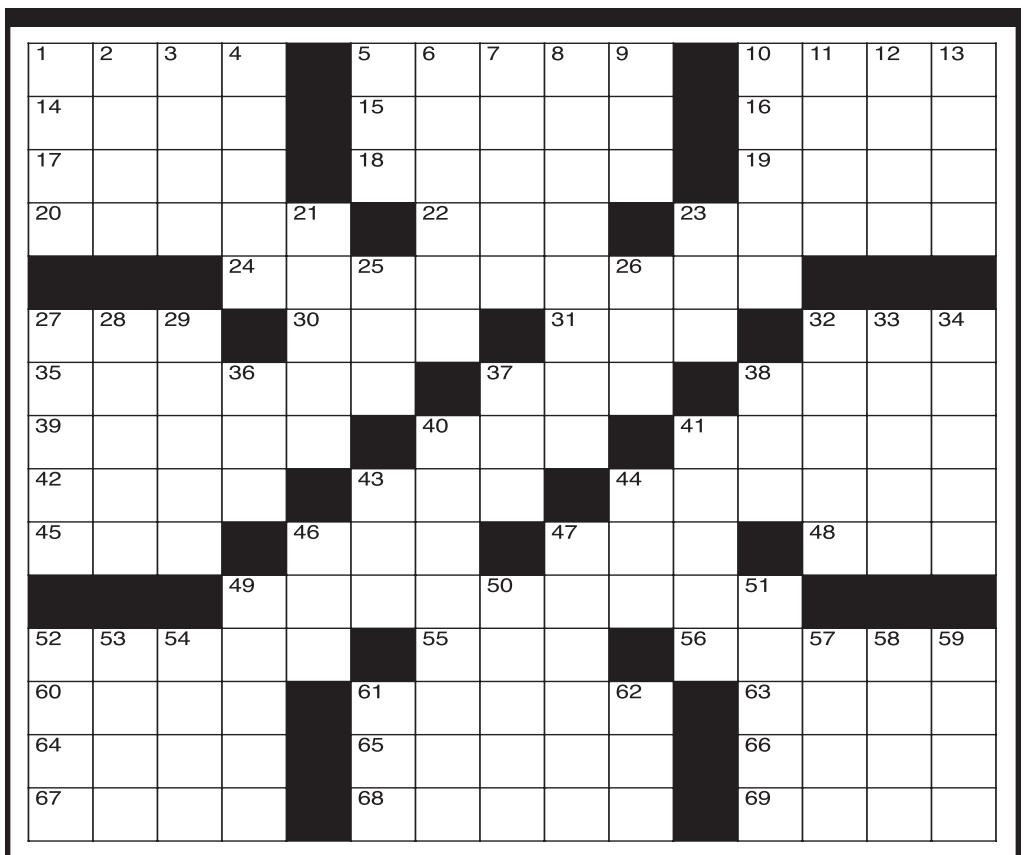
Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

_____

Deadline for Calendar submissions is Dec. 9.

MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO:
Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
or email* them to: jamie@turley.com
***Be sure to indicate "Winter Event" in the subject line of your email.**



CLUES ACROSS
1. Perceive a sound
5. Pretends to be
10. Type of guitar
14. Actor Idris
15. A citizen of Iran
16. Creative
17. Keep under control
18. Weight unit for precious stones
19. You better call him
20. Fanatical
22. Male cat
23. Jewish spiritual leader
24. One who takes risks
27. A way to nail
30. Cool!
31. Progressive policy supporter
32. "Losing My Religion" rockers
35. Step-shaped recess
37. Round globular seed
38. Somewhat
39. Butterhead lettuces
40. Color at the end of the spectrum
41. Lines where fabrics are sewn together
42. Dodgers great Hershiser
43. Floor covering
44. Traveled aimlessly
45. Rocker Stewart
46. Body art
47. Congressman (abbr.)
48. No seats available
49. Categorizes
52. Iraq-Syria border town
55. Ballplayer's tool
56. Type of sword
60. Baseball team
61. Upper bracts of grass
63. Italian seaport
64. Ancient city in Syria
65. Shoelace tube
66. U. of Miami mascot is one
67. South American nation
68. "Nebraska" director Alexander
69. Upper body part

CLUES DOWN
1. German courtesy title
2. Ancient Greek City
3. Skin care manufacturer
4. A long-legged frog
5. Photo
6. Delivered a speech
7. Lute in northern Indian music
8. Decorated
9. Take a seat
10. Bottom layer
11. Type of horse
12. Ticket part
13. Defunct currency of Guinea
21. Challenges
23. Popular BBQ food
25. Subway rodent
26. By way of
27. Shady garden alcove
28. City in Egypt
29. __ and flowed
32. Large quantities of paper
33. Eurasian wheat
34. Act incorrectly
36. Layer of water right above sediment (abbr.)
37. Al Bundy's wife
38. Ocean
40. Large, round root
41. Sound units
43. Knock
44. Soak in water
46. Hot drink
47. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
49. Rumanian city
50. Come back from being down
51. Vaccine developer
52. Canadian law enforcers
53. Wings
54. "Perry Mason" actor Raymond
57. Small fry
58. __ Clapton, musician
59. Gamble
61. Semi-liquid food
62. Consumed food

- public safety -

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of Nov. 9-16, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 56 calls including 23 building/property checks, 12 directed/area patrols, five radar assignments, one traffic assignment, two citizen assists, one utility issue, one scam, one motor vehicle investigation and four motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, Nov. 9

11:35 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

Friday, Nov. 13

9:05 a.m. Assist Citizen, Barre Road, Services Rendered

10:22 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Moore Road, Transported to Hospital

12:34 p.m. Utility Issues, Padre Road, Services Rendered

Saturday, Nov. 14

9:30 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, West Road, Negative Contact

1:58 p.m. Serve Warrant, Gilbertville Road, Arrest(s) made

3:28 p.m. Scam, Oakham Road, Officer Handled

Sunday, Nov. 15

9:19 a.m. Officer Initiated, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

East Brookfield Polic Log

During the week of Oct. 12-18, the East Brookfield Police Department responded to 132 building/property checks, 77 directed area patrols, 24 radar assignments, 14 traffic controls, six emergency 911 calls, two citizen assists, three assist other agencies, three complaints, two suspicious activities, two safety hazards, one vandalism, one fire/illegal burn, two animal calls and 22 motor vehicle stops in the town of East Brookfield.

Monday, Oct. 12

4:37 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

5:34 a.m. 911 Fire Alarm, Harrington Street, Patient Refusal

9:23 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Park Street, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, Oct. 13

8:09 a.m. Welfare Check, Park Street, Services Rendered

9:13 a.m. Complaint, East Main Street, Officer Handled

9:16 a.m. Complaint, Lashaway Drive, Investigated

9:35 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Spoken To

5:07 p.m. Medical Alarm, Park Street, Transported to Hospital

6:22 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Doane Avenue, Transported to Hospital

8:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Criminal Complaint

Wednesday, Oct. 14

3:38 p.m. Parking Complaint, Park Street, Officer Handled

7:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Street, Citation Issued

7:30 p.m. 911 Suspicious Activity, East Main Street, Officer Handled

Thursday, Oct. 15

1:32 a.m. Safety Hazard, South Pond Road, Removed Hazard

11:33 a.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Services Rendered

6:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

7:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning

Friday, Oct. 16

1:57 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Mechanic Street, Transported to Hospital

Saturday, Oct. 17

3:58 a.m. Suspicious Activity, East Main Street, Services Rendered

3:18 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Services Rendered

Sunday, Oct. 18

12:41 a.m. Assist Other Agency, West Main Street, Transferred Call to C3

1:20 a.m. Radar, East Main Street, Arrest(s) Made

8:26 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation Issued

11:25 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

1:39 p.m. Vandalism, Connie Mack Drive, Investigated

5:53 p.m. Safety Hazard, West Main Street, Removed Hazard

7:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Written Warning

7:58 p.m. Fire/Illegal Burn, Elm Street, Extinguished

11:53 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Officer Handled



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SPORTS

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Quaboag, Ware to clash on Thanksgiving

WARE – Last year on the eve of Thanksgiving, Ware and Quaboag battled it out with Ware scoring early and often and defeating the Cougars 34-7. The win for Ware gave the Indians their 10th win in the holiday rivalry between the two teams. Now, on Thanksgiving morning, Ware High School will welcome their rivals for the 17th matchup held between the two teams on the holiday. While Ware is not coming in with as strong a record as in previous years, the Indians are still coming off another appearance in the state tournament as well as an appearance in the Class C championship game against Belchertown in Week 10.

Quaboag has had another tough season, going 1-9. The Cougars did not achieve their first win of the season until just last week in a non-playoff game against Southbridge. The Cougars did finally get some offense going, winning 38-0.

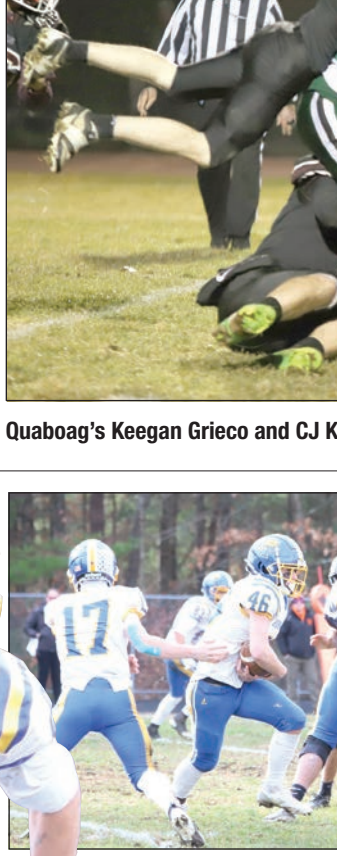


TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Jacob Cacace returns the ball to start the second half.



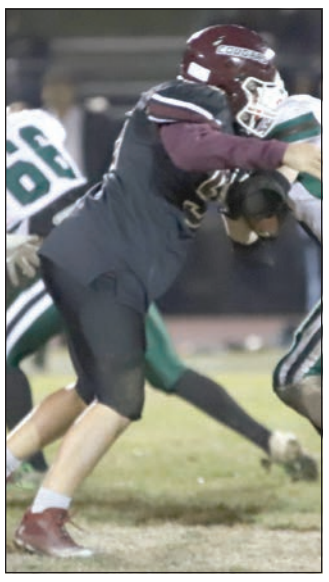
Braiden Bradley makes the block on the offensive line for the Cougars in last year's matchup.



Thomas Bellizzi launches a pass attempt.



Jason Pensinger makes a tackle for the Cougars.



Jayden Mioduszewski tries to overcome a Ware lineman.



Bayer Sargent starts a carry for Quaboag.



Quaboag's Keegan Grieco and CJ Kady make the takedown.

Previous Scores

WARE VS. QUABOAG
Ware leads series 10-6
2025: Ware 34-7
2024: Ware 14-13
2023: Ware 20-14
2022: Quaboag 26-21
2021: Quaboag 22-7
2020: No game – COVID
2019: Ware 8-0
2018: Ware 20-16
2017: Ware 56-6
2016: Ware 34-7
2015: Quaboag 33-28
2014: Quaboag 36-12
2013: Quaboag 34-6
2012: Ware 46-8
2011: Ware 31-8
2010: Quaboag 48-13
2009: Ware 38-14

2026 Schedule

QUABOAG FOOTBALL (1-9)
Friday, Sept. 11 – Belchertown 38, Quaboag 0
Friday, Sept. 18 – Quabbin 20, Quaboag 14
Friday, Sept. 25 – Mahar 23, Quaboag 6
Friday, Oct. 2 – Worcester Tech 44, Quaboag 8
Friday, Oct. 9 – Bartlett 36, Quaboag 0
Saturday, Oct. 17 – Brighton 14, Quaboag 0
Friday, Oct. 23 – Worcester North 42, Quaboag 6
Thursday, Oct. 29 – Smith Vocational 36, Quaboag 0
Thursday, Nov. 5 – Abby Kelley 34, Quaboag 0
Thursday, Nov. 12 – Quaboag 38, Southbridge 0
Thanksgiving Game
Thursday, Nov. 26 – at Ware 10 a.m.

WARE FOOTBALL (4-6)
Friday, Sept. 11 – Easthampton 36, Ware 18
Friday, Sept. 18 – Belchertown 44, Ware 12
Thursday, Sept. 24 – Ware 22, SICS 20
Friday, Oct. 2 – Franklin Tech 32, Ware 28
Friday, Oct. 9 – Ware 28, Mahar 8
Saturday, Oct. 17 – Ware 36, Athol 8
Friday, Oct. 23 – Ware 30, Greenfield 0
Thursday, Oct. 29 – Lee 46, Ware 14
Friday, Nov. 6 – Division 8 State Tournament First Round – (Lee 46, Ware 16)
Friday, Nov. 13 – Belchertown 40, Ware 36
Thanksgiving Game
Thursday, Nov. 26 – vs. Quaboag 10 a.m.

Previous Scores

BELCHERTOWN VS. PATHFINDER
Belchertown leads series 14-10
2025: Belchertown 17-14
2024: Pathfinder 20-14
2023: Belchertown 61-14
2022: Pathfinder 47-22
2021: Belchertown 44-8
2020: No game - COVID
2019: Belchertown 44-7
2018: Belchertown 46-6
2017: Belchertown 39-0
2016: Belchertown 30-0
2015: Pathfinder 16-0
2014: Pathfinder 3-0
2013: Pathfinder 30-6
2012: Pathfinder 30-8
2011: Belchertown 29-0
2010: Belchertown 9-7
2009: Belchertown 41-6
2008: Pathfinder 15-13
2007: Pathfinder 34-8
2006: Belchertown 8-6
2005: Belchertown 25-0
2004: Pathfinder 28-0
2003: Belchertown 27-6
2002: Belchertown 9-6
2001: Pathfinder 48-24



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Jarett Skowyra takes the return toward the right sideline.

Trevor Alexander makes a carry for the Pioneers.



Grayson Griswold takes the snap for Pathfinder.



The Pathfinder defense comes up with a big stop during last year's close 17-14 loss.



Aiden Girard makes a great block.



Cassian Kowalik lumbers through the crowd on a carry.

Sliver anniversary for Orioles, Pioneers game

PALMER – Next Thursday, on Thanksgiving morning, Nov. 26, Pathfinder Tech will take the football field at Legion Field to matchup with Belchertown on Thanksgiving for the 25th time.

Belchertown does not hold a huge advantage, winning last year to go up 14-10 in the rivalry.

In last year's game, on a windy and cold Thanksgiving morning, a field goal from Belchertown's Leandro Martins made the difference for the Orioles in a 17-14 win over Pathfinder. With Belchertown up 7-6 in the second quarter, Martins sent home a field goal to make the score 10-6. Both teams would score an additional touchdown later in the game, but the field goal remained the difference that helped the Orioles earn the holiday win.

This year, Belchertown goes into the game holding a huge advantage over Pathfinder from a record standpoint, as well as a possible mental advantage.

Belchertown had a 7-1 regular season, a phenomenal mark for the Orioles this year. Their second loss game against Norwell in the state tournament.

Pathfinder, despite a respectable 6-4 record, suffered a loss against Belchertown already this year in conference action, and they did not qualify for the state tournament this year.

Momentum sometimes is only as good as your previous matchup or previous week. Belchertown defeated Ware in Week 10 while Pathfinder lost to Keefe Tech in the vocational tournament matchup held at Framingham State.

In terms of the rivalry between the two teams, Belchertown and Pathfinder have actually split the last four games, trading wins for the past four years.

Unlike the other Thanksgiving morning games that get going at 10 a.m., Belchertown and Pathfinder kick off a little bit earlier as this game gets underway at 9 a.m.

2026 Schedule

BELCHERTOWN FOOTBALL (8-2)
Friday, Sept. 11 – Belchertown 38, Quaboag 0
Friday, Sept. 18 – Belchertown 44, Ware 12
Thursday, Sept. 24 – Belchertown 53, Ludlow 0
Friday, Oct. 2 – Belchertown 37, Monument Mountain 8
Friday, Oct. 9 – Belchertown 48, Smith Vocational 12
Friday, Oct. 16 – Worcester North 35, Belchertown 28
Thursday, Oct. 22 – Belchertown 34, Pathfinder 6
Thursday, Oct. 29 – Belchertown 54, McCann Technical 0
Friday, Nov. 6 – Division 5 State Tournament First Round – (Norwell 51, Belchertown 6)
Friday, Nov. 13 – Belchertown 40, Ware 36
Thanksgiving Game
Thursday, Nov. 26 – at Pathfinder 9 a.m.

PATHFINDER FOOTBALL (6-4)
Friday, Sept. 11 – Pathfinder 43, Ludlow 0
Friday, Sept. 18 – Pathfinder 56, Commerce 0
Friday, Sept. 25 – Franklin Tech 48, Pathfinder 20
Thursday, Oct. 1 – Pathfinder 31, Smith Vocational 16
Thursday, Oct. 8 – South Hadley 34, Pathfinder 0
Saturday, Oct. 17 – Pathfinder 41, McCann Technical 8
Thursday, Oct. 22 – Belchertown 34, Pathfinder 6
Friday, Oct. 30 – Pathfinder 34, Monument Mountain 6
Friday, Nov. 6 – Pathfinder 28, Frontier 21
Friday, Nov. 13 – Keefe Technical 41, Pathfinder 7
Thanksgiving Game
Thursday, Nov. 26 – vs. Belchertown 9 a.m.

Pathfinder Tech recognizes staff/students for Cold Springs opening

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – At its recent General Advisory meeting, Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School faculty was recognized by the commonwealth for the opening of its second campus this year.

On the evening of Oct. 15, Pathfinder Tech held its regular General Advisory meeting in the gymnasium. The event featured displays by students and staff from the school's various technical departments, and featured a dinner, speeches, and a special recognition for the recent opening of the Cold Springs campus.

"This is an opportunity for our teachers and our students to connect with people in industry, and people in higher education," said Counselor Brenda Turner.

Turner said the advisory is an opportunity for the school to hear from local businesses and past students about trends in the school's technical fields.

Superintendent Eric Duda began his comments by marveling at the number of people he recognized from his 20-year career with the school.

"I don't have to remind you why you're here and what's so important, but I do have to remind other people in this room, including our wonderful students that are here, all around this room," Duda said. "The businesses and the communities we serve are the drivers of literally everything. They're the drivers of the type of education we deliver. They're the drivers of construction projects and house building assessments that happen that pay for fire and police."

Duda recalled recent projects, including renovating the HVAC program, the new plumbing program paid for with grant funding, and renovations to the gymnasium to support the town's youth sports program. He also announced a historic anonymous donation of $800,000 that the district has received.

"We're going to be making a huge announcement about the biggest private donation ever in this district's history," Duda announced. "It was through a foundation from a private entity, and it's going to outfit the entire Cold Spring campus with new HVAC, mini splits, A/C, heat, and it's going to install an elevator there next year as well – all paid for without tax dollars."

Much of the evening's recognitions involved a presentation on the new Cold Springs campus, which opened in Belchertown at the start of the school year. Calling back to the announcement of the opening of the campus last year, Duda said there was a lot of risk in the proposal.

"We promised an awful lot. We had no money when we made that promise. It was all contingent upon getting grant funding, $5 million," Duda said. "When that announcement was made and I brought it to this advisory committee, I had droves of you coming over to me saying, 'How can I help?'"

The event recognized Electrical Teacher Eric Simard, who served a principal role in ensuring the campus was able to open on time. Duda credited the collaboration of local businesses and community partners toward making this project possible.

"On July 1, we got this school, and I had promised," Duda said. "We were opening up eight weeks later. That's what the promise was. And any business person, especially in construction, would say 'you are crazy.'"

However, Duda said he was able to make this promise with confidence because of his faith in the teachers and students who volunteered their time to make the necessary renovations to the new campus.

"This time we needed all the construction teachers, and then some," Duda said. "We started immediately. We started doing ceilings, we started doing electrical work, we started doing plumbing work. We put in sinks and drain lines and gas lines and electrical, and everything you could think of."



TURLEY PHOTOS BY MARCELO GUSMÃO

The gymnasium at Pathfinder Regioanl Vocational Technical High School was filled with faculty, students, families, stakeholders, alumni and business owners to hear about the school's advancements.

The school and Simard received a citation from the Senate and the House of Representatives, presented by state Sen. Jake Oliveira and state Rep. Aaron Saunders, who praised Duda for his work to ensure the opening of the campus.

"When you close a building, you don't know what you're going to do with it," Oliveira said. "A lot of districts have to either demolish that building because it's too expensive to breathe new life. Pathfinder chose a different course; Pathfinder chose to take a school that was coming offline in Belchertown to invest the money with the help of the state and with the help of your talented staff, and because of that, that school will live on for the future."

"Every step of the way, this is a two-way street," said Saunders. "We have an obligation in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and this is from our school committee members, our state legislators, our governor, to ensure that every kid who lives in our communities has access to the right education for them."

Simard said that he shared the honor with the many teachers in carpentry, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, horticulture and other departments, as well as the students.

"I wish there was more time this evening for credit to be given to the teachers and the kids that did the work," Simard said. "They would tell me what needed to be done, and I just needed to try to keep them moving forward.

"For teachers to do what normally is done by adult professionals, and to do that with young, eager, and talented – but still very green – student workers; that's where the remarkable side of this miracle happened," Simard said. "That's usually a job for highly skilled professionals, and to be able to do that with kids is really amazing. I was awestruck by watching it all unfold."

If you'd like to learn more about what's going on at Pathfinder Tech, you can visit their website at PathfinderTech.org.



Cold Springs Principal Joseph Brewer (right) greeted guests at the door, alongside students (from left) Julieta and Anna.

Music & Movement returns to Merrick Public Library

BROOKFIELD – Music & Movement with Julie has returned to the Merrick Public Library, 2 Lincoln St., on Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m.

Join Julie for songs kids know and love. Stretch, move, sing, and dance – all while developing early literacy skills through music and rhythm.

This program is free and no registration is required. Recommended for children ages 0 to 5.

Rachel Myers named to BJU Concert Choir

GREENVILLE, SC – Rachel Myers, a resident of East Brookfield, was named to Bob Jones University's Concert Choir.

Myers is a junior majoring in music.

The Concert Choir is one of BJU's upper-level choirs comprised primarily of juniors and seniors. Auditions are held for new members every August and January before the start of each semester.

The choral artistry of the BJU Concert Choir is intended to nurture spiritual reflection in the hearts and minds of both the performers and the audience.

The Concert Choir will be performing Oct. 30 at 7 p.m. in War Memorial Chapel on the BJU campus.

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HEALTH from page 4

ceremonies and events recognize and thank the men and women who have worn the uniform in defense of our country. Though many vets say they don't like talking to civilians about their service, please make an exception for your civilian doctor.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, a Monson resident, is a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate. She is the author of several books on advocacy and founder of Nurse Advocate Entrepreneur, which equips medical professionals with the knowledge and skills to start their own advocacy businesses. Contact her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com.

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VETERANS from page 1

students from the 1930s, Mr. Robert Briere, brought the tradition back and it's been maintained ever since."

Hersee was joined by students from Burgess Elementary School, who helped to replace American flags on veterans' graves in Old Burial Ground.

Hersee said he asked the students prior to the ceremony, what Veterans Day meant to them.

"They told me, it's to celebrate the veterans and give thanks to the veterans," he said.

Hersee shared the history of Veterans Day, including its start as Armistice Day following the signing of the Armistice at the end of World War I.

"It was on the 11th day of the 11th month of the 11th hour, the Armistice was signed in 1918," he said. "Woodrow Wilson, the president at the time, made it a national holiday one year later in 1919 and it stayed that way…then in 1954, then President Dwight Eisenhower made it Veterans Day."

Hersee said Veterans Day celebrates both the living and past veterans.

He invited Sgt. Seth Mansur to speak about Veterans Day. Mansur is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran.

Mansur said on his dog tags, he has a pendant that has been passed down through his family, first worn by his great-uncle who was a prisoner of ware in the Battle of the Bulge. The pendant then went to his great-uncle who served in the Korean War.

"I was honored to receive this prior to deploying to Iraq in 2008," Mansur said.

Mansur talked about military uniforms, and how each part of the uniform has a story to tell. He encouraged people to ask a veteran what the different parts of their uniforms represent.

"Veterans Day, for me serving as a veteran and being honored as a veteran, is about community service," he said.

Town Administrator Robin Grimm talked about meeting Briere when she first started her position in town and described him as "the heart and soul" of this annual Veterans Day ceremony.

"This is a time to celebrate veterans, to thank them," she said.

Grimm said the stories veterans share connect them all as Americans, as many people have veterans in their families.

She thanked the first veterans of the Revolutionary War. These veterans became the foundation of the National Guard.

"I am so grateful as an American and I am so proud to work in a town that allows us to celebrate and people like Mr. Hersee who will continue on with Mr. Briere's vision that children never forget how important this all is," Grimm said.

District Director for state Sen. Ryan Fattman, Amanda Galonek Hellyar shared greetings from Fattman and addressed the students from Burgess Elementary School participating in the ceremony and spoke about being from a military family.

Her grandfather, a U.S. Air Force veteran, attended the ceremony with her.

"Let us take a moment to reflect on the sacrifices made by generations of American veterans," Hellyar said. "Let us thank those who are with us today, those who are no longer with us and recommit ourselves to supporting all who have answered the call to serve."

State Rep. Todd Smola said it was good to see so many familiar faces at this ceremony, year after year. He spoke about Briere, and his unwavering support of this tradition.

Smola said this year was the nation's 250th anniversary of sacrifice and dedication to seek independence. He presented a historic reproduction of the Declaration of Independence to mark the semiquincentennial, reprinted by Revolution 250.

"250 years ago, it was those special individuals that were willing to pick up a rifle for their country, to defend the very best of what America eventually became, our United States," Smola said.

Smola said freedom comes from the sacrifice of the men and women who wear the uniform and serve their country.

"We owe everything that we have to all of them," he said.

Massachusetts Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Capt. Job Knapp Chapter Regent Noveline Beltram spoke to the Burgess Elementary School students about the organization, and how each of its members can trace their lineage back to a Revolutionary War soldier.

"I bet some of you may have that connection," she said.

She said the DAR has 1 million members nationwide and 40 chapters in the commonwealth.

Massachusetts Society Sons of the American Revolution, General Henry Knox Regiment Commander Christopher Tourtellot then gave a toast to the American flag, aided by Scott Tourtellot.

Students from Burgess Elementary School sang "You're a Grand Old Flag" before heading into Old Burial Ground to replace flags at the veterans' graves.

After this was completed, the General Henry Knox Regimental Color Guard fired a salute and sixth grade students Declan Sorensen and Jasmine Naginda performed "Taps" under the direction of Band Director Lucy Colwell.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Hersee unveiled the first Hometown Hero banner, which featured Briere, a U.S. Air Force veteran of the Cold War era.



The General Henry Knox Regimental Color Guard reloaded their muskets.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE

U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Seth Mansur spoke during the ceremony.



Massachusetts Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Capt. Job Knapp Chapter Regent Noveline Beltram spoke during the ceremony.



Massachusetts Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Capt. Ebenezer Learned Chapter Vice-Regent Helen Porier spoke during the ceremony.



Massachusetts Society Sons of the American Revolution, General Henry Knox Regiment Commander Christopher Tourtellot gave a toast to the American flag while Scott Tourtellot held the flagpole.



Burgess Elementary School students sang "You're a Grand Old Flag".



Wally Hersee held up a Hometown Heroes banner of Robert Briere.



American flags were placed at veterans' graves.



The Sturbridge Militia was led by Captain Timothy Parker, portrayed by Douglas Quigley.



Town Administrator Robin Grimm held a historical reproduction of the Declaration of Independence, which was presented to the town by state Rep. Todd Smola and District Director for state Sen. Ryan Fattman, Amanda Galonek Hellyar.



Burgess Elementary School fourth grade students placed American flags at veterans' graves.

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

HOME IMPROVEMENT



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FOR ADS, CLASSIFIEDS & LEGAL NOTICES

Thanksgiving will bring early deadlines for all legal notices to run in TURLEY PUBLICATIONS the week of November 23-27, 2026.

Thursday, Nov. 19 at 2 PM for November 26 issue
• CLASSIFIEDS FOR ALL PAPERS •
• Country Journal • The Register • Wilbraham-Hampden Times

Friday, November 20 at 2 PM for November 26 Issue
• Agawam Advertiser News • Sentinel • Quaboag Current

Monday, November 23 at 2 PM for *November 26 Issue*
• The Journal Register • Ware River News • Barre Gazette

Tuesday, November 24 at 2 PM for *November 27 Issue*
• Town Reminder • The Holyoke Sun • Chicopee Register

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29 Base Price $30.50	30 Base Price $31.00	31 Base Price $31.50	32 Base Price $32.00
33 Base Price $32.50	34 Base Price $33.00	35 Base Price $33.50	36 Base Price $34.00
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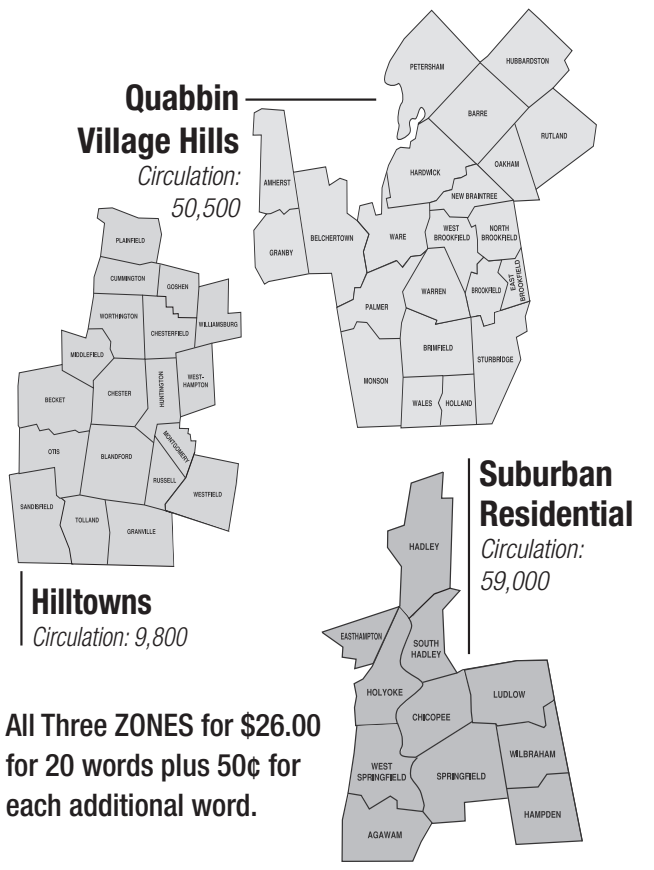

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SUBMITTED PHOTOS

This necklace made by Jennifer Geldard will be raffled off to benefit The Sharing Cupboard food pantry.



This "Jailbird Crow" was painted by artist Rebecca Fay.





Above, Karen Bullock made this hand-bound journal. Left, this ring was made by Cathe Palo.



A live edge bowl by woodturner Frank White.

RAFFLE from page 1

The drawing night will have a reception from 5-7 p.m. Wine and cheese will be served, and festive fellowship will be enjoyed by all who are able to give back this holiday season and support those facing food insecurity.

Fay said the gallery has been hosting this fundraiser for the past several years, and that last year's proceeds were used to make improvements to The Sharing Cupboard's facilities including shelving and flooring.

"Food banks can stretch a monetary donation much further than retail grocery donations. While canned goods are helpful, financial contributions allow food banks to buy perishable items like fresh produce, dairy, and lean proteins that aren't often part of standard grocery drop-offs," Fay said. "Local food assistance eases immediate household budget pressures-freeing up scarce money so families can pay for rent, utilities, medicine, or childcare without having to choose between bills and a meal."

Fay will also be collecting nonperishable food items for The Sharing Cupboard on Nov. 20 and anyone who brings a full bag of groceries will receive a free raffle ticket.

Currently, The Sharing Cupboard is looking for items to help with holiday meals, including stuffing, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie filling, instant mashed potatoes, gravy, evaporated milk, cake frosting and cake mix.

The Sharing Cupboard serves households in Warren, West Warren and West Brookfield. The Sharing Cupboard was started in 2002 and operates out of the basement of the First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, 36 North Main St.

Each month, between 65-85 households are provided with food.

The Sharing Cupboard is open two days per week and both daytime and evening hours, to fit different schedules. Hours are Wednesday from 10-11:30 a.m. and Thursday from 7-8 p.m.

The Sharing Cupboard is closed the fifth week of the month and when school is canceled due to the weather,

One of the founding principles of The Sharing Cupboard has been to allow clients to choose what they receive from available supplies, as opposed to everyone getting a pre-packed bag of the same items. Clients can come once per month and get a list of available items in different categories.

Household size affects the quantity of food offered in each category.

The Sharing Cupboard receives food from the Worcester County Food Bank and donations from local businesses and individuals and it is staffed by a dedicated group of volunteers who stock the shelves and pack the orders for the clients.

For more information about The Sharing Cupboard, people may call the church at 508-867-7078.

About the gallery

For more information and a complete listing of gallery happenings, call the gallery at 508-753-8604, email yafacceber@hotmail.com, visit westbrookfieldartandframe.com or the gallery's Facebook page, or stop by the gallery during open hours, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

STM from page 1

is for long-term positions within the town.

Article 2 was to raise and appropriate or transfer $500 to establish a hospitality account for the Highway Department to fund regional meetings and for food during long-term operations in the winter.

Article 3 raised and appropriated or transferred $1,300 to fund a Massachusetts Emergency Management Association director salary, which is a separate salary for the fire chief acting as director.

Article 4 raised and appropriated or transferred $3,500 to fund an increase in highway wages for a heavy equipment operator to attract and retain an operator to replace one who is retiring.

Article 5 was to raise and appropriate or transfer a one-time highway vacation accrual cost of $7,000 which is a buyout of a retiring employee.

Article 6 transferred $12,000 from free cash to fund a core of the municipal building facility study of the HVAC system.

Article 8 was to transfer $28,000 from available funds to conduct a FY 26 audit which is required when the town is using over $1 million in federal grants.

Andrew Lynch, Board of Selectmen chair, said this comes out of free cash so it doesn't affect the tax rate. Town Accountant Donna Couture said the grant was identified as federal in September.

Article 9 was to raise and appropriate or transfer $5,000 for veteran's benefits to replenish amounts expended so far this year.

The final article 10 was to transfer from water retained earnings or other funds a total of $20,713.29 for Water Department projects and loans to complete projects.

MEETING from page 1

students and financially responsible for both North Brookfield and the Quaboag towns of West Brookfield and Warren.

During the meeting, Grant said an example of shared services would be a part-time person at Quaboag could also work some hours in North Brookfield.

The boards also discussed a feasibility report by Mark Abraham regarding a tuition agreement, but according to Board of Selectmen Chair Jamie Gilman, there were some numbers that were incorrect in the report, which Town Accountant Shiela LeBlanc corroborated.

Superintendent of Schools Tim McCormick said it was a five year projection, and some of the first year numbers were incorrect, which threw off the rest of the projection. He said the error was in the town version of the budget, as in the voted-on amount at town meeting, but offsets and formulas were all correct.

The boards agreed to come back to the topic when the numbers are worked out, but Gilman noted budget season is on the horizon.

The School Committee also went over some numbers in enrollment, saying there's an unusually small kindergarten enrollment this year at about 21-22 students, which will be put in two classes.

McCormick said enrollment is declining across the state. McCormick noted there are eight students in the pre-K program who could potentially become a part of that class though.

The committee also noted that 200 students from K-12 choice out of North Brookfield, and that does not include students going to Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical School District. About 59 students choice into the district, and fewer than 80 students are in grades 9-12.

Finally, the committee noted there is some advocacy for more funding to rural schools, looking to make the state allot $68 million for rural districts.

Executive Assistant Mary Beth Kularski provided a written correspondence to the Quaboag Current going over the past seven years of this discussion, which she said has been going on much longer.

In the email, she said the newest study started in 2019 with a grant to explore regionalization because it's something the state encourages, and enrollment has been declining, and it looked like it would continue to decline because less people were being born.

She wrote that they looked at the districts in Spencer/East Brookfield, Quaboag and Quabbin Regional School District and found that Quaboag would be the most viable to regionalize with.

Kularski wrote they then moved on to drafting a regional agreement, but the Quaboag Regional School Committee had voted to cease pursuing regionalization in 2024. She wrote that in 2025, a tuition agreement became a talking point, which would require North Brookfield to pay a certain amount to send kids to another district.

Kularski said the current plan is to have a tuition agreement for grades six-12 and keep the elementary school children in town. She wrote that this was voted down in this spring under the former School Committee, but the current committee is opening up talks again.



- public notices -

Town Of
West Brookfield
Conservation Commission

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, 18-25, as amended by Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2009, The Wetlands Protection Act, the West Brookfield Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **WEDNESDAY, December 2, 2026 at 6:00 pm** in the first floor meeting room, West Brookfield Town Hall, 2 East Main Street.

6:00 – Public Hearing:

NOI – 69 Lake Shore Drive – Blair – Septic repair

NOI – 16 Pierce Road – Lattarulo – Landscape/Wetland Alterations

NOI – Existing Transmission Line Right of Way – Continuation - New England Power Company – Improvements to access roads and replacement of all structures/wires on the O15N electric transmission line

NOI – 380 West Main Street – Continued - Raymaakers Construction – Staging area

11/20/2026

TOWN OF
WEST BROOKFIELD
NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING

The Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, December 8th, 2026 at 6:00pm** in the Assessors Office, West Brookfield Town Hall, to act on an application for a Special Permit for West Brookfield Spirits LLC and Nicola Farms LLC, for the property located at 107 E. Main St, West Brookfield, for a Farmer Series Pouring Permit. A Special Permit is required per Section 3. Use Regulations, 3.23 Commercial Use of the West Brookfield Zoning Bylaws.

11/20, 11/27/2026

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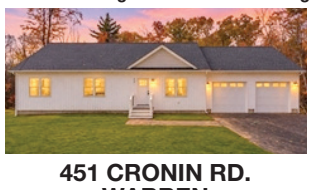
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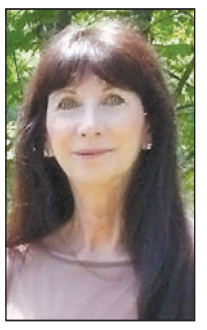
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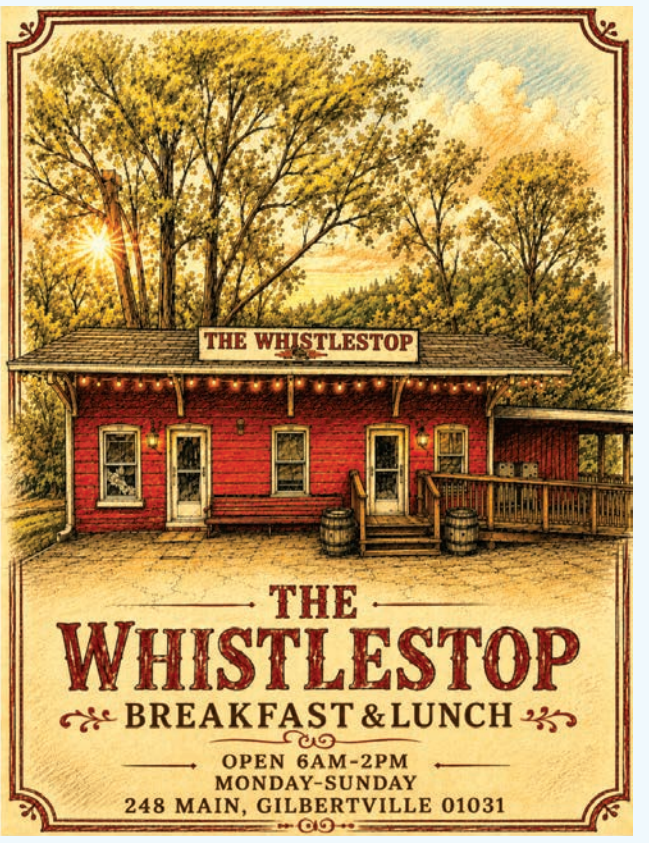

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