

# QUABOAG CURRENT

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Newspaper

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A TURLEY PUBLICATION  
www.turley.com

Volume 17, Number 3

Friday, December 15, 2023

## West Brookfield celebrates 175 years since incorporation

By Richard Murphy  
Correspondent

WEST BROOKFIELD – In 2010, The towns that run along the Quaboag River celebrated the 350th anniversary of what was known as the Quaboag Plantation and then history stopped.

Well, no. The plantation was a large region that ran from the western end of Warren to the border of Spencer. Eventually, the territory would break into towns and incorporate separately.

The town of West Brookfield would do so in 1848 which means 2023 is the year it observes the 175th anniversary incorporation.

Granted, it does not have the ring of a centennial year, but one could be forgiven for

not wanting to ignore it. What to do?

Fortunately, West Brookfield is not without folks who have an interest in the past of their town.

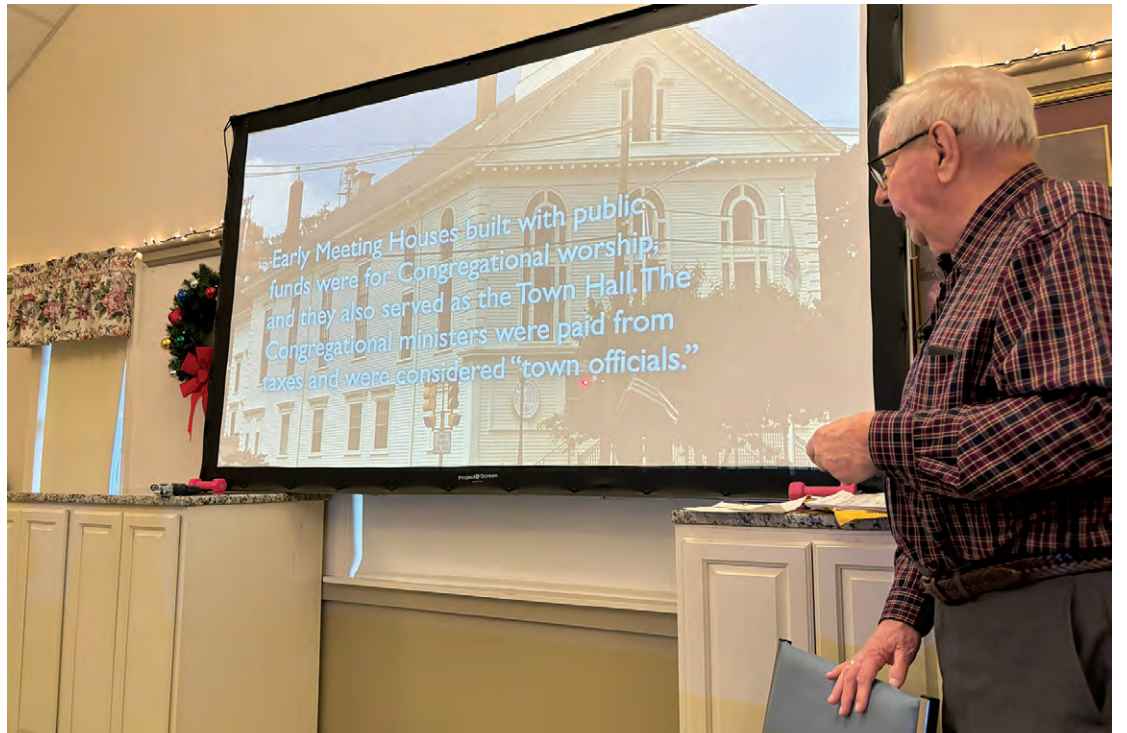
So, on Dec. 10, Bill Jankins, Town Historian, presented “A Stroll Through West Brookfield History.”

Jankins is the man behind the Facebook page also titled A Stroll Through West Brookfield History. His knowledge of local lore is exhaustive.

The presentation at the Senior Center was preceded by a tour of the West Brookfield Historical Society Museum from 12:30-1:30 p.m. with refreshments available.

The museum, once the train station, contains no dearth of town history itself, and Jankins was there to discuss the con-

See CELEBRATE | PAGE 12



Bill Jankins is shown presenting his slideshow “A Stroll Through West Brookfield History.” TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY

### Christmas in New Braintree

## Craft fair returns to continue 20+ year tradition

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

NEW BRAINTREE – In what should have been its 23rd year, the Christmas in New Braintree craft fair returned

this past Saturday, the first time since the start of the pandemic.

“December of 2019 was our last one,” volunteer and organizer Jessica Bennett said.

This year, there were 30 vendors, with all proceeds from the

See CRAFT FAIR | PAGE 13



Liam Letendre pulled the winning raffle ticket for the scratch ticket basket while his brother Weston held the bucket. TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE

## Santa delivers presents in New Braintree

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

NEW BRAINTREE – Santa Claus came to visit Sunday morning as there were presents to be delivered all over town.

A busy day was ahead for Santa as his reindeer took the day off and had to seek a different source of transportation.

Thanks to the New Braintree Police Department and

See SANTA | PAGE 2



Santa Claus stands alongside Lt. Josh Gagnon of the New Braintree Fire Department. TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

## Longtime fire chief retires; deputy and assistant move up

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Deputy Chief Darin Anderson was named North Brookfield’s newest fire chief, following the retirement of Fire Chief Joseph Holway.

At the Dec. 5 meeting, the Board of Selectmen expressed

their gratitude to Holway for his years of dedicated service to the town and its residents.

“Joey Holway has served this town for many years,” Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis said. “As a fire chief, as a fireman, and everything in between,” including a police sergeant.

Petraitis said according to Massachusetts General Law,

Holway has reached the maximum age allowed to be a paid firefighter, and he asked everyone in attendance to join him in giving Holway a round of applause.

Captain David Martin is also retiring from the Fire Department.

“He’s been an integral part of the Fire Department, in

See CHIEF | PAGE 11



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# - community -

## Quabbin High lists first quarter honor roll

BARRE—Quabbin Regional High School announces the first quarter honor roll.

### Grade Nine, High Honors

Madeleine Boisselle, Makenzie Casey, Benjamin Darcey, Jack Desjean, Tess Dunphy, Anna Hautala, Scarlett Merriman, Anna Metcalf, Ella Reeves and Brandan Welch.

### Grade Nine, Honor Roll

Klavdiya Antonian, Skyler Bard, Carter Bassett, Jacob Bassett, Halo Bissonnette, James Cook, Isabel Doty, Leah Doucette,

Brody Faucher, Quinlan Fauteux, Grace Fl-  
amand, Alijah Flint, Kathryn Ford, Jacoby  
Hartshorn, Violet Kelley, Sadie Kennan, Jil-  
lian LaMontagne, Alisha LaRange, Audrey  
Laurson, Ailey Majoy, Mia Miville, Saman-  
tha O'Connor, Owen O'Donnell, Charlotte  
Oliver, Sadie Ouimette, Nahdiya Pena Leary,  
Julia Quintal, Arianna Riendeau, Emma  
Ryan, Kailynn Schuster, Sienna Shaw, Owen  
Twarog, Grace Vanoudenhove, Ellary White  
and Leanna Zou.

### Grade 10, High Honors

Aaron Bodine, Micah Cerezo, Kenzie Galla-  
gher, Elizabeth Mattheson and Zoe Orella-  
na Cadenas.

### Grade 10, Honor Roll

Owen Breuer, Tricia Bruso, Troy Budreau,  
Kylee Costello, Mia Ducos, Kalina Dyer,  
Garrett Erickson, Aiden Fuller, Evelyn  
Giese, Ava Gilman, Madeleine Hardy, Ad-  
elaide Harmon, Ian Haupt, Emma Kahlau,  
Samuel Kane, Jacob LaValley, Collin Lind-  
ley, Madison Lyden, Grace Manna, Hunter  
McQueston, Garrett Pease, Parker Proulx,  
Wesley Sanderson, Allison Sprankle, Made-  
lyn Stauder, Cameran Vega, Samantha Ves-  
sair, Andrew Warfield, Bianca Wilder, Farah  
Wojcik, Aiden Woodruff and Jin Xi Zou.

### Grade 11, High Honors

Kevin Boles, Matthew Erickson, Isabel  
LaBelle, Ethan Salvadore, Irene Stolgitis and  
Jaxon Warburton.

### Grade 11, Honor Roll

Alexander Bedard, Kaeliana Boucher,  
Ava Conlee, Teaghan Earle, Adam Faul-  
ha, Angelina Feliciano, Ellie Frost, Samuel  
Guertin, Rylee-Anne Harty, Lianna Leger,  
Kun Liu, Vincent Marinelli, Veronika Men-  
drek, Alexandra Pease, Ezequiel Santoro,  
Sadie Sheldon, Sydney Slattery, Isabella  
Smith, Richard Tucker and Abigail Ure.

### Grade 12, High Honors

Baylee Garcia, Kylie Casey, Sophia Ja-  
nuszewski, Grace LaValley, Ally Legare,  
Camryn Orsini, Eleanor Thompson, Mi-  
chael Tobin, Benjamin Vasseur, John Waltz  
and Brianna Whitelaw.

### Grade 12, Honor Roll

Annabel Audino, Conner Breeds, Brian-  
na Caponigro, Evan Cole, Samantha Dube,  
Jadyn Gonzalez, Colin Harmon, Carsyn  
Harty, Emmah Hinckley, Abigail Hughes,  
Jaxon Kelley, Gavin Majoy, Joshua Mar-  
cotte Jr, Kelsey Marsh, Emma Masser, Cole  
Morrill, Carlee Rich, Kayla Sherblom, Juli-  
anna Stanger, Amy Stauder, Heather Stuart,  
Lillian Swett, Gracie Talbot, Seth Twarog  
and Nicholas Whitelaw.



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newspaper is published by  
Turley Publications, Inc. • www.turley.com

### SANTA | FROM PAGE 1

the New Braintree Fire Department, Santa didn't have to work alone. For the past four years with the help of transportation from one of the fire trucks, Santa has been able to deliver some early Christmas presents to the children of New Braintree.

This year, the firetruck serving as Santa's sleigh delivered to more than 20 homes throughout New Braintree. The truck pulls up to your house and delivers a present to your front door.

Joining Santa on the delivery was Lt.

Josh Gagnon of the New Braintree Fire Department.

Santa enjoyed his time in New Brain-  
tree and the town appreciates him and the departments for their generous efforts of bringing gifts around the town.

In the spring, the police and fire de-  
partment will be working with the Easter  
Bunny around Easter time. Santa in New  
Braintree will continue next Christmas as a  
fun holiday tradition.



The firetruck leaves the Town Hall to begin delivering presents to the children of New Braintree. TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

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

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# - community -

## Quaboag Regional Middle High School lists honor roll

WARREN – Quaboag Regional Middle High School announced the first quarter honor roll for the 2023-2024 school year.

### Grade 12, 1st Honors

Ethan Araujo, Ty Armitage, Camrin Bolduc, Alexandra Cacace, Antonio Congelos, Olivia Dumas, Chloe Fredette, Lily Gianfriddo, Cameron Giroux, Jason Houle, Ayla Iwaniec, Dawson Kelly, Rachel McGrath, Hanna Nemeroff, Asya Osei-Opoku, Dennis Pease, Thomas Robidoux, Kenady Sloan, Riley Sloan, Owen Stevens, Haleigh Swistak, Alina Taro and Matthew Tiberii.

### Grade 12, 2nd Honors

Mason Blount, Aeron Bridges, Isabelle Burgess, Zachary Carlson, Matthew Carter, Raven Casey, Emily Cieslak, Genesis Dembowski, Evelyn Doe, Bryce Douglas, Laine Hatstat, Christian Judd, Paige Leach, Abigail Long, Ryan Miner, Selina Mohamed, Isabella Paolucci, Aurora Powers, Hunter Regan, Joseph Standrowicz, Patrick Toomey and Cole Waz.

### Grade 12, 3rd Honors

Lillian Black, Aidan Flood, Kendall LaRiviere, Evan Long, Samantha Martin, Aiden McManaman, Laura Orne, Jaden Ostiguy, Dylan Piazza, Lily Potvin, Adrianna Russell and Alexander Russo.

### Grade 11, 1st Honors

Isabelle Aberle, Aviendha Andreoli, Jacque Boulais, Lila Broadley, Samuel Carrasco, Abigail Jolin, Elise Kopeck, Joshua Leaming, Dante Martino, Norah McElroy, Erin McGrath, Blake Merrill, Matthew Miller, Alessa Parks, Nora Pennington-Russell, Norah Schwenker, Katelynn Swistak, Sydney

Tracy, Parker Tunley and Sebastian Veliz-Baldizon.

### Grade 11, 2nd Honors

Mackenzie Archambault, Juliette Boos, Casyn Carpenter, Allison Duszak, Michael Enetzels, Izaiah Flores, Lauren Grover, Hailey Hennessey, Sadie May, Corah Neilsen, Madison Neilsen, Victoria Powell, Joseph Reynolds, Jarrett Shipman, Cristyna Tambolleo, Caydence Tetreault, Richard Tracy, Nina Vorobiova, Hart Waz and Makenna Williams.

### Grade 11, 3rd Honors

Reilly Comptois, Skylar Cook, Daniel Hobart, Brasen Sauriol and Kandace Wilcox.

### Grade 10, 1st Honors

Juliana Augusto, Kenadi Chenevert, Emma Dion, Kadin Dufault, Hayssa Freitas, Morgan Lakota, Gianna Lindsey, William Lopes, Reece Miner, Olive Moulton, Madison Sears and Kyle Withers.

### Grade 10, 2nd Honors

Madic Andreoli, Emma Astrella, Madelyn Bagg, Jaylin Bailey, Milo Biedron, Shelby Bridges, Jacob Cacace, Megan Cline, Gretchen Conn, Brennan Doe, Madeline Dufresne, Gabriela Feeney, Serenitee Gagnon, Briana Hawk, Landon Hogan, Alison Jones, Brayden Lopato, Jackson McGarry, Kaitlyn Nault, Lilly Nimtzt, Camden Olivo, Jacob Plante, Madeline Potvin, Madison Schreier, Grace Smart, Lennon Smith, Camden Williams and Ashton Winders.

### Grade 10, 3rd Honors

Saharah Ackerman, Isabelle Bellizzi, Isaac Cowher, Evangeline Iwaniec, Lily Lancey, Mia Letendre, Jason Read, Gabrielle Riendeau, Makayla Savoie, Jack

Stevens, Matthew Twomey and Elijah Wilhelm.

### Grade Nine, 1st Honors

Logan Baldwin, Riley Black, Devlyn Bridges, Sierra Brote, Ava Cassavant, Haylee Dumont, Brielle Gerulaitis, Riley Gray, Josephine Hescock, Lucian Kerkow, Emma Landine, Lyndie Miller, Kasey Narov, Jonah Phillips, Persephone Piermarini, Brea Sauriol and Lillian Sturges.

### Grade Nine, 2nd Honors

Jennifer Adams, Cameron Bennett, Kira Bouchard, Abigail Degnan, Hunter Dodson, Jade Fontaine, Scott Garrand, Tina Hamm, Amarie Martino, Lani O'Clair, Leo Paquette, Malory Piazza, Caden Prinsen, Asher Sargent, Brielle Sullivan, Jasmine White and Gavin Williams.

### Grade Nine, 3rd Honors

Cameron Aponte, Thomas Bellizzi, Sylvia Dube, Alexis Gauthier-Vanderpuye, Aiden Gundlach, Jackson Gundlach, Brianna Hubbel, Patrick Needham, Christian Rudz, Steven Smith and Reed Waz.

### Grade Eight, 1st Honors

Anthony Araujo, Violet Atwood, Jack Beall, Andrew Boudreau, Yesenia Carrasco, Cadence Cieslak, Riley Corder, Ayden Laird, Austin Letourneau, Nathen Louis, Alyssa Lussier, Bryann Lussier, Isabelle Manzano, Aydan Marsh, Liliana McIsaac, Emma Nault, Victoria Paradis, Jonas Rossi, Maeve Smith, Connor Snay, Logan Spring, Caroline Stevens, Buddy Stocks, Leah Thomasian, Jontae Todd and Natalia Veliz-Baldizon.

### Grade Eight, 2nd Honors

Maci Astrella, Mackenzie Ben-

nett, Travis Bigda, Liam Bray, Lincoln Brown, Julisa Carrasco, Allie Choquette, Rolando Galvan, Olivia Hebert, Julianna Hibbard, Evelyn Lyon, Robert Menard, Kourtney Nichols, Lucia Norman, Hunter Oldenburg, Hunter Pietrzak, Hannah Pytel, Cooper Rose, Izaak Santiago, Isabella Santos, Theodore Sexton, William Sexton, Stephanie Smith and Maggie Taro.

### Grade Eight, 3rd Honors

Harper Bradley, Julie Chenier, Ronin Czub, Jazmine O'Clair, Gabriel Ortiz, Addison Peloquin, Payton Schreier, Tyler Snow and Emily Tobiasz.

### Grade Seven, 1st Honors

Elaina Amoros, Kayla Barrett, Louis Beaugard, Teagan Besette, Annabelle Bloom, Jaden Boudreau, Lyric Bradley, Kamryn Chenevert, Grayson Contacos, Igor Costa, Davin Douglas, Abigail Landine, Kennah Martino, Desmond McElroy, Delaney Merkel, Stella Paquette, Travis Pensinger, Julia Queiroga, Jonathan Reynolds, Cydrin Salcines, Evalina Santos, Maxwell Sturges and Audrey Wilhelm.

### Grade Seven, 2nd Honors

Zoey Adams, Shawn Chobot, Peyton Damon, Cayden Dupell, Aiden Galarneau, Gianni Holland, Brody Kenney, Samuel LeClair, Hayden McAnuff, Aria Miller, Logan Parks, Mia Parsons, Adelina Petersen, Sage Raba, Arie Robbins, Jadyann Stanikmas, Andrew Sternowski, Ryder Tunley and Hunter Wilk.

### Grade Seven, 3rd Honors

Bryce Drolet, Declan Ferguson, Keilynn Grieco, Jayden Jablonski, Makayla Towlson and Elle Waz.



## This holiday season, protect yourself and your loved ones from COVID & the FLU!

**Holiday gatherings are starting up, which means it's time to prevent the spread of germs by getting vaccinated!**

The Flu and Covid vaccines are safe and effective for ages six months and older, and can help protect you from serious illness.

Healthy Quaboag is here to remind you to take care of yourself and those around you by getting vaccinated ahead of the holiday season, because YOU MATTER!

Find vaccines near you at [www.healthyquaboag.org/rural-vaccine-equality-initiative-rvei/](http://www.healthyquaboag.org/rural-vaccine-equality-initiative-rvei/)

Go to [www.healthyquaboag.org](http://www.healthyquaboag.org) to find vaccines near you.

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# - opinion -



## Experiment with American Holly seeds

I was taking a walk in my yard along the wood line and came across the tiniest holly plant I have ever seen.

I got so excited that I snapped a picture and sent it to my husband. When we bought this house, we inherited a twenty foot tall, pyramid shaped holly bush-tree.

It fruits almost every year. While this year's berry show is mediocre, the year prior was outstanding!

The birds must have dined on some of the red berries awhile back and planted them for me resulting in this photo opportunity. I got to thinking about what needed to happen for holly seeds to germinate in the first place.

Read on for a bit of a botany lesson on a beloved holiday plant.

American Holly (*Ilex opaca*) are native plants and dioecious, meaning there are male plants and female plants. In the home landscape you need one of each nearby for berry production; in natural conditions this typically happens on its own.

One of my neighbors must have a male so that I end up with berries. The tiny white flowers on my holly bush-tree usually come in such abundance that you hear the buzzing a good distance from the plant.

I get excited about that, too!

It is said that less than 5% of the world's plants are dioecious. Others well-known and ironically, also holiday plants, include a cousin of the American Holly, Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) and Bayberry (*Myrica pennsylvanica*).

If you would like to try and get some holly seeds to germinate, first you need to pick the berries and squish them to get the seeds out. This becomes a little easier after the seeds have sat awhile; mixing them with water also helps.

Once the seeds are separated from the skin, they need to go through a pretreatment. Not an actual sowing, but a time of waiting whereby the seed coat can break down.

Mix the seed with sand and compost and let it sit outside for the summer and through the following winter, totaling about eighteen months. It's a good idea to protect this mixture from mice who would find the seeds delectable.

As the seed coat breaks down, water can be absorbed, and the germination process begins.

Take a look at the seeds and if you see a root emerging, it's time to plant them in pots. Young holly seedlings do not like to be disturbed, so for that reason the seeds are planted individually, one per 3-4-inch pot.

Keep the pots outside and water as needed.

During the growing season the plants could put on up to seven inches of growth, and by fall, could use a new, bigger pot. Transplant carefully, allowing the plant to grow for another season before finally planting in its permanent location.

American Holly can thrive in varying exposures from sun to shade. It is tolerant of heat and cold, but prefers somewhat acid soil and most soils other than clay.

This is a fun experiment that may encourage you to try your hand at germinating the seeds of other native trees or shrubs. Similar instructions apply!

*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.*



I received an email last month from a Brimfield resident who reported an acquaintance from Hardwick had a fox sparrow and pine siskin in his yard recently.

The fox sparrow is a large sparrow, seven inches. It has rufous sneaking on a gray head and back, whitish underparts and boldly streaked with brown or rufous. It has an irregular central dot on its breast and a reddish brown rump and tail.

These sparrows feed on the ground with seeds, fruits and insects making up its diet. They often jump forward and back to remove debris from the ground to uncover food. They come to feeders eating the seeds scattered on the ground by other birds.

The female lays four to six light blue, green eggs with darker marks in a cupcake

nest if grasses, lichens and leaves lined with grasses, fur and rootlets. It is placed on the ground under a small tree or shrub. Their song is a series of clear melodious whistles and is more melodic than most sparrows.

### Loon life span

In the Loon Preservation Committee newsletter, they discussed the loon life span.

"How long do loons live?" is one of the most common questions that LPC biologists are asked.

The two oldest known loons in the world breed in Michigan, at the Seney Wildlife Refuge. They used to be a pair, however, in recent years they have gone their separate ways.

The male's exact age is known because he was banded the year that he hatched. The female's exact age is unknown because she was banded as an adult, however, we know her minimum age. This summer, the female was at least 37 years old, while the male turned 36 years old.

New Hampshire has a male loon who was banded as an adult in 2000, making him at least 26 years old. In addition to

his advanced age, he has another claim to fame: he is the only loon, so far, in New Hampshire that has produced chicks after surviving lead poisoning.

The oldest known loon in New Hampshire is a female, who occupies a territory on Lake Umbagog. She was originally banded as an adult in 1993. Because she was banded as an adult, we don't know her exact age.

We only know for sure that she was at least 3 years old in 1993. However, loons don't hatch chicks, on average until they are 6 years old, and this loon hatched chicks the year she was banded. That means she was likely 6 years old or older in 1993. She is at minimum 33 years old, but more likely 36 or older.

### Decrease in bird activity

I received an email from a man who said this year he has a very noticeable decrease in bird population.

He reports he has a male and female bobcat and squirrels, rabbits and chipmunks have disappeared.

He said, "maybe that's part of it." He said he started to leave one feeder out overnight testing

to see if there are still bears about.

Here's hoping they have all gone into hibernation.

### Bird club

A Brimfield resident emailed, "On Nov. 30 I took part in a project for the bird club and afterwards we

went to Forest Park in Springfield and saw a black duck, a chilly looking great blue heron, a hermit thrush and several golden-crowned kinglets."

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



Fox sparrow

## OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

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

### Send opinions to:

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

**QUABOAG CURRENT**  
THE QUABOAG CURRENT (USPS# 10860) is published weekly (every Friday) by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069. Telephone at 413-283-8393 or fax at 413-289-1977. Periodical Postage Prices are Paid at Palmer, MA.  
POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to: Quaboag Current, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

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Quaboag Current Newspaper



Roses for Rescue

# Annual fundraiser benefits local shelters

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Staff at Otto Florist & Gifts have wrapped up another successful year of the Roses for Rescue fundraiser to benefit local animal shelters.

Owner Michele Lariviere said this year's fundraiser, which was held in October, sold out for the first time since the pandemic, helping to raise crucial funds for BARC (Belchertown Animal Relief Committee) and Second Chance Animal Services.

"I just want to give a big thank you to all who donated to support Roses for Rescue, to help our local animal shelters," Lariviere said.

Since 2017, Otto Florist & Gifts has held Roses for Rescue, offering a dozen high-quality roses for \$15. Prior to that, from 2001-2015, the rose sale was called the Shirley Batsie Memorial Rose Sale benefiting Mary Lane Hospital's cancer services.

The Shirley Batsie Memorial Rose Sale raised over a quarter of a million dollars.

This year's fundraiser also resulted in a very generous donation tied in with the rose sale, after one business purchased 35 dozen roses and donated them to residents at Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center in West Brookfield.

Lariviere and her staff arranged the roses in vases that people had donated to Otto Florist & Gifts, and presented them to the residents.

"It brightened up the whole nursing home," Lariviere said. "It was so beautiful."

The residents of Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center had a surprise in store for the Otto Florist & Gifts staff when they received their roses; having baked homemade dog treats to give to all the animals in the shelters who are still waiting to go to their forever homes.

"They were our superstars for the day," Lariviere said of the residents, adding that their gesture was a "beautiful, heartwarming thing."



Michele Lariviere, owner of Otto Florist & Gifts (center), delivered arranged roses to BARC (Belchertown Animal Relief Committee) for the annual Roses for Rescue fundraiser. Proceeds from the fundraiser were donated to BARC and Second Chance Animal Services. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



The staff at Otto Florist & Gifts held another successful Roses for Rescue fundraiser, helping animals in local shelters.

Many people in the community also purchased roses in groups of 10 dozen or more, which gave them free, local delivery. These roses were delivered to family and friends, bringing smiles to the faces of all who

received them.

Lariviere thanked everyone for continuing to support the Roses for Rescue fundraiser, and helping pets in need.

"Everybody needs a helping hand, including our local shelters," she said.

For more information about next year's Roses for Rescue fundraiser and how you can help, call Otto Florist & Gifts at 413-967-5381 or visit www.ottoflorist.com.



Staff at BARC (Belchertown Animal Relief Committee) accepted a check from Otto Florist & Gifts owner Michele Lariviere.



Residents at Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center in West Brookfield received 35 dozen roses and in turn, baked homemade dog treats for animals at the shelters.



Second Chance Animal Services accepted a check from the Roses for Rescue fundraiser.

**CUSTOM KNIVES**

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# - sturbridge -

## The Webster Five Foundation gives local nonprofits a boost

*\$38,000 in grants to be awarded to community organizations*

AUBURN – The Webster Five Foundation enters the season of giving with funding for nine Worcester County based organizations.

Combined, these nonprofits will receive up to \$38,000 in grants from the Foundation to further their missions.

The Foundation is committed to supporting non-profit organizations or programs that support expanding or improving access to education, culture and the arts, social services, charitable activities, and community development. The Foundation awards funds on a quarterly basis and has fulfilled 54 grant requests, totaling \$246,500, in 2023 alone.

In this grant cycle, the Webster Five Foundation awarded funding to the following organizations:

Venture Community Services: \$1,000 and a match of up to \$1,000 to support Peltask, which is a digital medication administration tool aiming to reduce medication errors and increase efficiency of delivering medication and to ensure complete compliance with the Department of Public Health Requirements. Venture Community Services, headquartered in Sturbridge, provides support to individuals facing diverse challenges through a compassionate and dedicated workforce using innovative practices that encourage independence, empowerment, and opportunity.

Boys and Girls Club of Webster-Dudley: \$5,000 to support its Evening Teens Program to help members with job-readiness skills, leadership opportunities, and academic support through the related programming. The Club is a licensed after-school program providing year-round care for kids ages 5-13 in a safe, caring, supportive environment.

Boys and Girls Club of Worcester: \$2,500 for the Club's eSports programming for club members. All Club programs are based on a youth development model that builds self-esteem and offers a sense of belonging, competence, and influence.

Open Door Arts: \$1,000 to support the Open Door Gallery at the Worcester Art Museum and the related programming associated with the gallery. Open Door Arts works annually with more than 2,000 students, teaching artists, educators, and leaders of cultural organizations through innovative and inclusive programming designed to improve access and ensure equitable



Open Sky Community Services' CARE team received \$15,000 from the Webster Five Foundation to support the organization's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Champions capacity building project. From left, Ken Bate, CEO; Liz Olivera-Mustard, senior vice president of Quality & Compliance; Amy Kukta, director of Health Information Management & Privacy; Stephen Osei-Bonsu, director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging; Jennifer Galbraith, director of Quality; Lori Girard, AFC South Division director; Moses Osagie, interim program coordinator; Jessica Reid, assistant program director; Maria Caicedo, clinician; and James Castell, care coordinator. SUBMITTED PHOTO

representation by people with disabilities in the arts.

Open Sky Community Services, Inc.: \$15,000 for Open Sky's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Champions capacity building project. Open Sky has served Central Massachusetts and the communities of the Greater Worcester region for 50 years and offers over 100 health services/programs serving 5,000 individuals with complex health challenges per year.

Quinsigamond Community College Foundation: \$4,000 to support its Student Emergency Aid Program, which is a lifeline that helps low-income, at-risk students with emergency expenses for basic needs so they can stay in college and obtain a post-secondary degree or certification, and ultimately, family-sustaining wages. The QCC Foundation is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization working to enhance opportu-

nities for over 7,000 students.

Rachel's Table: \$2,500 for its Children's Milk Fund. The mission of Rachel's Table is to end hunger in the Worcester area and to prevent the waste of excess nutritious food. Their vision is a community where no one goes hungry, and excess food is utilized to its full potential, benefiting those in need.

VNA Care Network: \$1,000 to support the organization's Removing Barriers: Nursing and Medical Social Work Case Management programming. VNA Care provides home health, palliative, and hospice care to individuals and families in their own homes.

Worcester County Horticultural Society (New England Botanic Garden): \$5,000 to help fund the organization's general education initiatives. The mission of New England Botanic Garden is to engage the local community and create experiences with plants that inspire people and improve the world.

"At Webster Five, we celebrate the role that local nonprofits play in creating positive change in our communities," said Don Doyle, president/CEO, Webster Five in a press release. "We're thrilled to contribute to their efforts through the Webster Five Foundation, empowering them to continue making a difference in Worcester County."

Since its inception in 1996, the Webster Five Foundation has awarded \$3,900,508 to 292 organizations. The next round of grant recipients will be awarded in January of 2024.

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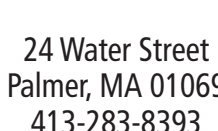

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# - community -

## Exchange Club hosted Reality Fair for high school students

SPENCER – The Exchange Club of Spencer recently hosted its second annual Reality Fair to promote financial literacy for students at David Prouty High School.

Students enthusiastically participated in educational activities related to the financial reality of the cost of living. The program gives students a glimpse of managing a budget based upon career choice and allows them the freedom to make smart, economical choices in various categories such as housing, transportation, self-care, clothing, food and more.

Administering the program on the day of the event were David Prouty High School teachers and administrators as well as volunteers from Cornerstone Bank and the Exchange Club of Spencer. It was a great hands-on event providing much useful information to the students.

Sponsors included FLEXcon, Cornerstone Bank and A. Arsenaault & Sons Landscaping.



David Prouty High School students unlocking financial literacy at the Exchange Club's Reality Fair. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Exchange Club member and program emcee Jeff Sauvageau (left) is shown counseling a Reality Fair participant.



Exchange Club member Arnie Arsenaault (center) helped students navigate reality and instilling financial wisdom.

## Library to hold 'Feliz Naviduckie' soap making workshop

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Haston Free Public Library will be offering a “Feliz Naviduckie” soap making workshop for children ages 8+ on Saturday, Dec. 16 from 10-11 a.m., hosted by Gariné Arakelian of Kulina Folk Arts.

This event is free to attend.

Participants will get to make their own soap creations using glycerin based soap and adding colors and scents, topped with an adorable festive rubber ducky. These are perfect to give as gifts (or to keep for yourself).

Children must be 8 or older to participate and must be accompanied by an adult. No admission will be allowed after initial instructions are given,

due to safety reasons.

Although this is primarily a children's workshop, adults are encouraged to sign up too.

Arakelian has developed youth art programs for the Worcester and Fitchburg art museums, and the Worcester Center for Crafts. She hosts many different creative workshops in the area including soap and candle making, painting, paper crafts, and skin care.

To register for this event, please call the library at 508-867-0208 or email Youth Services Librarian Brianna Lamb at blamb@cwmar.org. Space is limited.

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# Tombstone Trading Company celebrates grand opening

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – After a year in the making, Tombstone Trading Company, Inc. opened the doors to its new location at 126 West Main St., this past Saturday.

A crowd of eager customers, state and local officials, friends and family gathered to celebrate the occasion, and tour the newly renovated building that is fully stocked with all of your firearms needs.

“I’m absolutely blown away by the support,” David Bourdeau, president of Tombstone Trading Company, Inc. said at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Last year, Bourdeau announced that Tombstone Trading Company, Inc. would be relocating from Brookfield to Ware, where both Bourdeau and Vice President of Operations Jason Turcotte reside. He said it took them two years to find just the right location.

“When this opened up, it seemed to click,” he said of the West Main Street site.

Bourdeau said he first started Tombstone Trading Company, Inc. in 1994 as a firearms training company, and became a full-service gun shop in 2002 in Brookfield.

“I got my Federal Firearms License and started the business more or less as a hobby,” Bourdeau said, above his longtime company Richard’s Furniture, which he ran for over 30 years. Around 2004, Bourdeau decided to go into the firearms business full-time and close his furniture store.

Turcotte also joined the firearms industry after owning and operating his own business, a website design company.

He started going to gun shows and eventually approached Bourdeau about becoming the store’s manager, a role he took on in 2016.

“Since then, the two of us have worked hard,” Turcotte said. Together they have brought Tombstone Trading Company, Inc. into the top nine gun stores, competing with some of the big chain stores.

Turcotte is also a trainer at Tombstone Trading Company, Inc., and he said there are over 600,000 people with



Jason Turcotte (left), vice president of operations and David Bourdeau, president of Tombstone Trading Company, Inc. cut the ribbon at their new location at 126 West Main St. TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE



Ware Police Chief Shawn Crevier, state Reps. Donnie Berthiaume and Todd Smola and state Sen. Peter Durant listen as David Bourdeau speaks to those in attendance at the grand opening of Tombstone Trading Company, Inc.

gun licenses in the commonwealth, with a higher concentration in this region.

Training is of the utmost importance for Turcotte and Bourdeau, with Tombstone Trading Company, Inc. offering an approved firearms safety class, in addition to other classes, based on interest and availability of instructors.

“We started as a training company,”

Bourdeau said. “It’s the most important thing.”

Turcotte said in over 20 years, the instructors have put “thousands and thousands” of people through firearms classes.

“You have to understand that firearms are a passion,” Bourdeau said.

People from all walks of life share

that same passion Bourdeau and Turcotte said, regardless of political, social and economic backgrounds, with all supporting 2nd Amendment

rights.

“The [gun] laws are in political context, not the people,” Bourdeau said. “Not everyone is in a box.”

On its opening day, customers browsed Tombstone Trading Company, Inc.’s expansive supply of firearms, ammunition and accessories, ranging from black powder to fully automatic.

“We wanted a shop that offered everything,” Bourdeau said. “There’s something for everyone.”

Tombstone Trading Company, Inc. even has a broad selection of military and collectible firearms, dating back to the days of early militia.

“We’ve had Revolutionary War guns that came through the building,” Turcotte said. “Many if not most of these firearms have seen action,” he added, pointing to the back wall.

Bourdeau said he hopes to someday own a single action Army revolver that was owned by a famous historical person (perhaps Wyatt Earp).

Turcotte said he already owns his favorite historic gun, a 1911 pistol made in 1913 and used in the Battle of the Bulge. Thinking about what this gun saw in battle gives him goosebumps, Turcotte said.

In the season of giving, Tombstone Trading Company, Inc. is looking to support the town’s emergency responders, with a raffle to be drawn before Christmas. Four guns donated by the company will be raffled off, with proceeds to be divided between the Ware Police and Fire departments.

Raffle tickets are available at Tombstone Trading Company, Inc. during open hours.

“We truly want to be stewards of the community,” Turcotte said.

Both Bourdeau and Turcotte thanked town officials for making the transition smooth

“The support has been phenomenal,” Bourdeau said. “From Town Hall to the Water Department, everybody made us feel tremendously welcome.”

Turcotte said all of the department heads they worked with were quick with a response to any question they had.

“The town has been absolutely amazing,” Turcotte said.

## About Tombstone Trading Company, Inc.

Tombstone Trading Company, Inc. is open Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. For the holiday shopping season, they will also be open on Sunday, Dec. 17 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

For more information, people may visit [tombstonetrading.com](http://tombstonetrading.com), call 508-867-6800, email [shop@tombstonetrading.com](mailto:shop@tombstonetrading.com) or follow them on Facebook.



Tombstone Trading Company, Inc. has moved into the newly renovated space at 126 West Main Street (Route 9).

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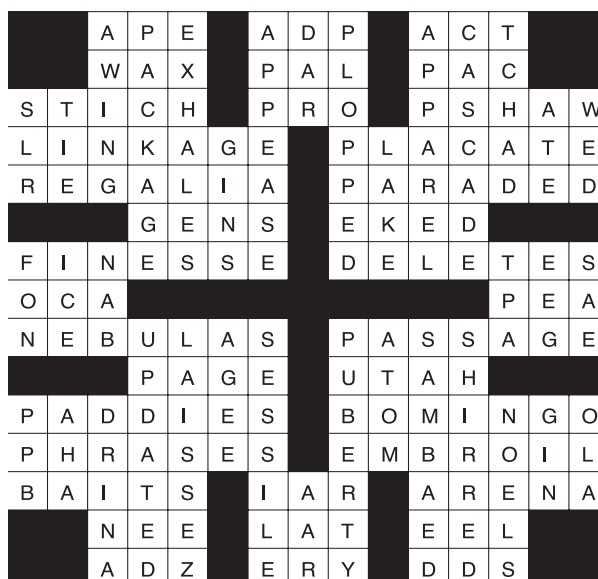
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# SPORTS

## Warriors fall in season opener to Holyoke

FISKDALE – Last Friday night, Holyoke boys basketball traveled to Central Mass. to face Tantasqua in an independent matchup. The Knights led early and came away with a 57-47 win. Tantasqua challenged the lead on a few occasions, but were never able to get any sustained momentum throughout the matchup. The Warriors were led by Sam Pieczynski with 13 points. Colm McGrath had 11 points for the Warriors as well.



Colm McGrath holds the ball high as he is guarded closely. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Max Cohen tries to bring in the rebound.



James Sciaraffa looks to move the ball under tight coverage.



Jack Repose makes a three-point attempt.



Sam Pieczynski attempts to get the layup.

## Pioneers pick up season-opener victory



Richie Gula reaches up to try and bring in a rebound. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

SPRINGFIELD – Last Thursday night, Pathfinder was aggressive early on and was able to score a win over Pioneer Valley Christian School 58-46 in the season opener for both teams. The Pioneers remained on the road facing Mt. Everett earlier this week and host Ludlow in its home opener this Friday evening at 7 p.m.



Adam Slonker takes a shot.



Hunter Griswold takes a free throw in the first quarter.



Following a defensive rebound, Adrian Moskovitz sprints down the court.



Seth Mitchell looks to get around an opponent and head for the hoop.

## Panthers look for return to tournament



Quinn Geary drives to the hoop. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RAY DUFFY

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

BARRE – For only the sixth time during the past 32 years, the Quabbin boys' varsity basketball team didn't qualify for the postseason tournament.

With only one senior and seven juniors listed on this

See PANTHERS | PAGE 10



# - sports -

## Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

### Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – December has arrived in the 2023-2024 candlepin bowling season at Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes.

The Tuesday Night Commercial Elks has had momentum shifts happening so far in round two of their league. As of Nov. 28, Life is Good ranks #1 with a 7-1 record.

This past week, Life is Good bowled against Last in Line who is currently tied for fourth place in the 2nd round. In game one, Last in Line won a close game 333-329. In game two, Life is Good turned the tides by dominating game two 380-340.

Jeff Knight of Life is Good was over his average by bowling 106. Paul Cyr led the team confidently by scoring 122.

In game three, the two teams tied at 338 and received one point each. Life is Good won total pinfall by a final score of 1047-1011.

Blue B's bowled against Champs R Here. In game one, The Champs were victorious by a score of 389-374. In game two, The Champs won again 385-371. In game three, The Champs won 404-381 for the sweep. John Colkos of the Champs had a strong finish by scoring 121.

The Champs R Here won total pinfall by a final score of 1178-1126.

Team BK bowled against the 1st round winning team, Compression. In game one, Compression bowled well and took the first game 383-335. In game two, BK rebounded with a win of their own by a score of 376-315. In game three, BK managed to win the last game 372-354.

BK won total pinfall with a final score of 1083-1052.

Acres bowled against their average and won two out of three games.

### Thursday Night Mixed League

The Thursday Night Mixed League witnessed a momentum shift as one team took over the #1 spot as of Nov. 30.

Team Six is the current leader with a record of 29-19 and is 1.5 points ahead of Team One. Team Three was the team to bowl Team One this past Thursday night. In game one, Team Three was victorious by a score of 403-399.

In game two, Team One came back with a win 415-383. In game three, Team Three won the last game of the night 408-386.

Team One took total pinfall by a final score of 1200-1194. Each team received two points.

Team Five bowled against Team Two as both teams were trying to move up in the ranks before the conclusion of round one. In game one, Team Two was

the winner in a close game 383-377. In game two, Team Five managed to come up with a close win 399-396. In game three, Team Two had a strong last game and won 448-412. Team Two took 3 out of 4 points as they won total pinfall 1227-1188.

Team Four bowled against the #1 seed Team Six. In game one, Team Six had a strong showing as they won 438-409. The first game victory was thanks to anchor bowler Ron who bowled 113, 28 pins over his current league average (85).

In game two, Team Six won a close game against Team Four, 429-428. In game three, Team Four won the last game of the night 426-402.

Team Six won total pinfall 1269-1263.

### PANTHERS | FROM PAGE 9

year's varsity roster, the Panthers are still in the regeneration process.

"This is the youngest basketball team that I've coached since the 2003-04 season," said Quabbin head coach Dennis Dextrateur. "We struggled that season, but we did win the Clark Tournament title and advanced to the semifinals of the Central Mass. Division 1 tournament in 2005. We just need to be very patient with this group of players."

The Panthers graduated five players from last year's team, which finished with a 4-16 overall record. They are Will Hood, Tyler Clark, Mark Halaby, Kyle Vander Baan, and Aidan Welch.

According to Dextrateur, the ramifications of the COVID 19 pandemic is still impacting his squad.

"The pandemic years without a program and facilities really set us back in a devastating way," he said. "We are dealing with the repercussions and results now. We didn't have a middle school program or a youth program for two years."

Under the direction of Tim Hay, who's one of the 1,000 point scorers in the history of the Quabbin boys' basketball team, the Quabbin Youth Basketball League is in the rebuilding process. The program has more than 300 participants this year.

"Tim Hay has done an outstanding job of rebuilding the youth basketball program, which is our feeder system,"



Jacoby Dilling with a hard-earned layup.

Dextrateur said. "We have more than 300 players playing in the league this year. We're hoping to get back to where we were before the pandemic started. We do have a great group of kids on the varsity basketball team."

The Panthers lone senior on the varsity roster is Nick Whitelaw, who's a forward.

ward.

"Nick is an outstanding defensive player," Dextrateur said. "He moves up and down the court very well. He's someone that the younger basketball players should watch during our games. He gets the most out of his ability."

The seven juniors are Kyle Clark, Quinn Geary, Frederick Jenoure, Luke Salvadore, Zeke Santoro, Bryce Venne, and Jaxon Warburton.

Whitelaw and Geary, who's a guard, were chosen as the Panthers co-captains. The duo are also returning varsity players.

"Naming the team captain was a community wide decision," Dextrateur said. "You can pick your captains, but you can't choose your leaders. Nick and Quin are our two leaders this year."

Geary, who's the only returning starter, was the Panthers leading scorer last season. He averaged nine points per game.

Clark, who's a power forward, is another returning varsity player.

Rounding out the Panthers varsity roster are freshman Jacoby Dilling, who's a returning varsity player, and eighth grader Brady Patchen.

"Jacoby and Brady are the only eighth graders to play for the varsity team during my coaching career," Dextrateur said. "They're learning how to compete at this level from the older players."

Dextrateur coached Patchen's father, Harley, at the AAU level. He was a 1,000 point scorer at North Brookfield High School.

"Brady has a basketball mind and great instincts," Dextrateur said. "What we need to do is slow down the game for him. He has a very bright future."

The Panthers are a member of the Mid-Wach C League, along with Hudson, Maynard, Tyngsborough, Clinton, Littleton, and Gardner.

"All of the top teams in our league are returning their best players this season," Dextrateur said. "We're still in the rebuilding process, but we'll be trying to improve in every game. We're also hoping to qualify for the postseason tournament."

The Panthers, who haven't won a league title since 2020, are scheduled to play three games this week.

The season began with a home contest with Murdock on Monday night. After playing at Narragansett Regional on Wednesday night, the Panthers will be returning home to battle Hudson High School on Friday night.

The members of the Panthers coaching staff are Jason Ayer, who's an associate varsity coach, Eli Sulmasy, who's the j.v. coach, and Nick Farrell, who coaches the middle school boys team.



Luke Salvadore with a left-handed layup.



Kyle Clark a force under the basket. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RAY DUFFY



# - community -

## News from the Quabbin Regional School District

From the desk of Colleen Mucha, Interim Superintendent of QRSD

**BARRE** – If you have had the opportunity to step on the campus of the Quabbin Regional Middle High School chances are that you have met Sergeant Russell Davidson, School Resource Officer.

Davidson wears a warm smile and is able to put people at ease. Students report that he is “kind and caring.”

Davidson strives to build positive relationships within the school setting and the community. His days are spent at QRMHS and Ruggles Lane Elementary School.

Establishing strong connections ensures that Davidson knows students well and is able to mentor, coach and teach kids whether he sees them in the hallways or down on the common.

QRMHS Principal Purnima Demorais states, “Officer Davidson is a consistent safety presence for our staff,

students and families. He promotes a positive school culture throughout the day especially during important informal school times including student arrival, lunch and dismissal.”

Students come to Davidson for all kinds of advice. Student Samantha Dube reports that “he makes everyone feel safer just having him around.” Student Hunter Young states, “I talk to him every day after school, he cares about my well being.”

Barre Police Chief, James Sabourin, is passionate about the impact and importance of Davidson’s position.

“I strongly believe that an SRO is essential for not only ensuring a safe learning environment, but also for developing a positive relationship between the Police and the public. Sgt. Davidson’s impact reaches far beyond a positive relationship with students, he also fosters a strong trusting relationship with staff and family members. Of course, students, staff and family are the com-



Shown from left, Max Camacho, grade 10 and Riley Scott, grade 11 with School Resource Officer Sergeant Russell Davidson enjoy a moment connecting during lunchtime. SUBMITTED PHOTO

**CHIEF | FROM PAGE 1**

particular in training,” Petraitis said of Martin, who is staying on as an unpaid volunteer to continue assisting with training.

“They’ve served well, and they’ve served a long time,” Petraitis said.

Holway said he recommended promoting Anderson to fill his position, with current Assistant Chief Keith Marshall then becoming the new Deputy Chief. Holway said the assistant chief position will be filled at a later date.

Holway said Anderson and Marshall are both qualified and familiar with the community.

“I think Darin is a good candidate,” Board of Selectmen Vice-Chair John Tripp said. “He’s been doing a lot of training, and I know he’s been under your wing for quite a few years, and I know Keith has been with you guys also...and the rest of the crew is phenomenal.”

Tripp said he was sorry to see Holway retire.

“I just want to thank everybody,” Holway said. “It’s been a ride. I loved every minute of it and everybody that I worked with. My whole life’s been doing this, with my dad and everybody...and you guys just make it all worthwhile. There’s 30 individuals here that will stand behind these new guys as a family – they always will. I’m real proud of every single one of them.”

Holway thanked everyone in attendance for allowing him to serve as fire chief.

“It’s been just unbelievably wonderful,” he said of the experience.

Holway thanked the Board for supporting the new Fire Department building and renovation of the existing one, which he said has been an ongoing project since two fire chiefs before.

“Jimmy Black, Brad Gannon...we’ve been trying to do this for a long time,” Holway said of the building projects. “That’s a really great accomplishment.”

**ARPA recommendations**

Petraitis said at the American Rescue Plan Act Committee’s meeting on Nov. 29 the committee made the following spending recommendations for repairs at the Haston Free Public Library: \$13,960 for two dual temperature pumps for the HVAC system, including installation of new pumps, salvage of existing pumps and system monitoring and calibration; and \$1,795 for two condensate mini pumps for the HVAC system.

Selectmen voted in favor of approving the recommendations.

Resident Joanne Carey asked the Selectmen to rescind their Oct. 24 approval of an additional \$100,000 in ARPA funding to go toward hiring a town administrator. Carey said the money could be spent on water and broadband infrastructure instead.

Carey said using ARPA for a town administrator was a “misuse” of the funds.

Carey said the town could share a town administrator with another town, which would reduce the salary by half.

Petraitis said the Board would take Carey’s concerns under advisement.

**Broadband letter**

Petraitis read a letter of support from the Board of Selectmen to the Massachusetts Broadband Institute, regarding Verizon’s application for the Broadband Infrastructure Gap Network’s grant program.

“We’re pleased that Verizon plans to expand their fiber optic network and facilitate broadband for unserved and underserved residents and businesses in North Brookfield,” Petraitis read from the letter. “Access to broadband is critical to full participation in a global, digital economy.”

**License renewals**

The Selectmen approved the following license renewals for 2024: alcohol for Still Hart’s Café, Stars & Stripes, North Brookfield Liquors, Bob’s Deli, North Brookfield Sportsmen’s Club, American Legion Post 41, Common Ground Ciderworks and North Brookfield Farms; common victualler for Vibram Corporation, Brookfield Orchards, North Brookfield Pizza Palace, North Brookfield Subway, Hannaford Food and Drug, Jim’s Pizza, North Brookfield Liquors, Bob’s Deli, American Legion Post 41, North Brookfield Sportsmen’s Club, Still Hart’s Café, Stars & Stripes, North Brookfield Farms and Common Ground Ciderworks; auctioneer for Dupre Metal Recycling; pool table for Stars & Stripes and Still Hart’s Café; jukebox/pinball/video games for Stars & Stripes and Still Hart’s Café; live entertainment for North Brookfield Sportsmen’s Club, Still Hart’s Café and Common Ground Ciderworks; Class II for Country Auto Body, Dupre Metal Recycling and Stephen M. Woods Auto Sales; and Class III for Dupre Metal Recycling.

**Financial items**

The Town Collector requested approval to purchase two ink jet cartridges at \$154 each for a total of \$308. Selectmen approved the request.

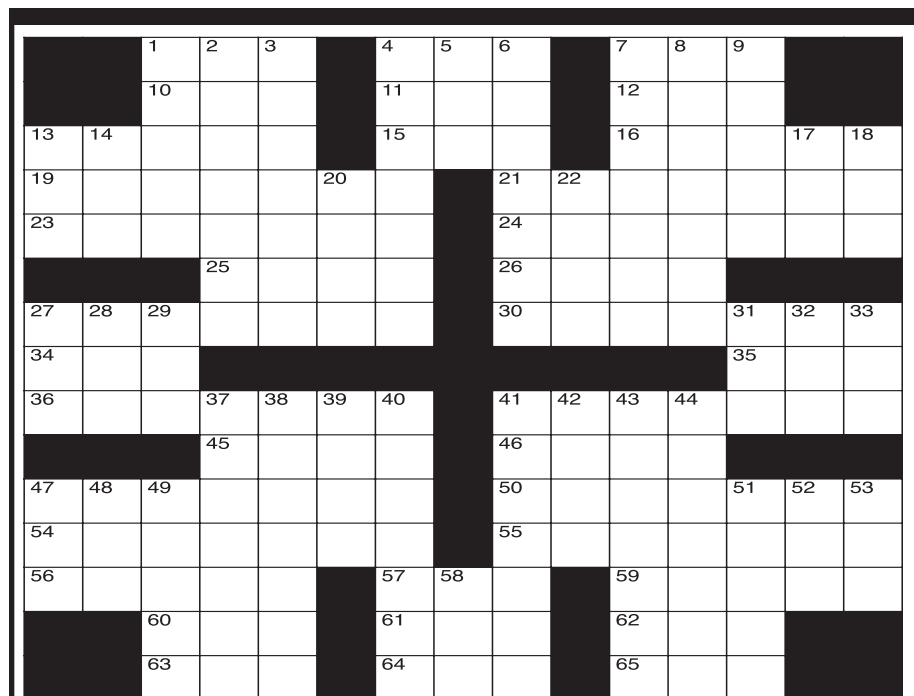
munity, so this relationship builds trust and legitimacy with the Barre Police Department as a whole,” Sabourin said.

Here at Quabbin Regional School District, we are grateful for the partnership and support from the Barre Police Department.

Davidson truly brings warmth and caring to our schools and our students. We could not be prouder to have him on our team.

This is also true of all of our towns, while each school may not have a full time school resource officer, all of our students know their local police chiefs by name and sight. They visit our schools frequently and not only share their smiles but their knowledge.

We recognize and thank them for their commitment to our students, staff, families and communities. We are better together.



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Mimic
- 4. Payroll firm
- 7. Perform in a play
- 10. Opine: \_\_\_ philosophical
- 11. Crony
- 12. Political action committee
- 13. 1991 Wimbledon winner
- 15. Affirmative
- 16. Exclamation of disgust
- 19. Action of connecting
- 21. A way to calm
- 23. Especially fine or decorative clothing
- 24. Walked proudly
- 25. Group of people related through male heir
- 26. Supplemented with difficulty
- 27. Soft touch
- 30. Erases

**CLUES DOWN**

- 34. Spanish river
- 35. A princess can detect it
- 36. Clouds of gas
- 41. A way to get through
- 45. Part of a book
- 46. Southwestern US state
- 47. Fields where rice is grown
- 50. Area in Ghana
- 54. Sayings
- 55. Involve deeply
- 56. Compels to act
- 57. “Ignore all rules”
- 59. Indoor entertainment space
- 60. Born of
- 61. Back muscle
- 62. Sea dweller
- 63. Tools that resemble an axe
- 64. Prefix denoting class or kind
- 65. Tooth caregiver

**CLUES DOWN (abbr.)**

- 1. Inspiring
- 2. Put into a box
- 3. Breathes out
- 4. Pacify
- 5. Patriotic society for women
- 6. Fell down
- 7. Clothing
- 8. Dishwasher detergent brand
- 9. Former French republic
- 13. Single lens reflex
- 14. Men’s fashion accessory
- 17. Consumed
- 18. Marry
- 20. \_\_\_ up: intensifies
- 22. Body of water
- 27. People of southern Benin
- 28. Decorate a cake with frosting
- 29. Snag
- 31. Yearly tonnage
- 32. Records brain activity (abbr.)
- 33. Car mechanics group
- 37. Brought up to snuff
- 38. \_\_\_ faire: Economic approach
- 39. Phil \_\_\_, former CIA
- 40. Affixed
- 41. Period of adolescence
- 42. Substance
- 43. Danced
- 44. Baked without its shell
- 47. Parts per billion (abbr.)
- 48. Satisfaction
- 49. Balkans river
- 51. Christmas carols
- 52. Partner to tonic
- 53. “The Godfather” character Johnny
- 58. Swiss river



**CELEBRATE | FROM PAGE 1**

tents with anyone interested.

At 2 p.m. it was over to the Senior Center where a good-sized audience had gathered.

Louise Garwood, co-chair of the Historical Society, introduced Jankins and the celebration lecture began

Jankins would humorously admit to not being a native as he was born in a Quabbin town that ceased to exist upon the building of the reservoir and he arrived in West Brookfield as a baby. No matter, his fund of knowledge makes up for that.

Jankins displayed many projected slides and explained their meanings. There are aspects of the town's story that may be in question.

Such as when did David Hitchcock build what is now the Hitchcock Tavern?

It is reported that Hitchcock built the tavern in 1760. Jankins put up a slide that gave Hitchcock's year of birth as 1741 and that would have made him 19 if he had built it in the reported year. Maybe better to think it was done in the 1760s.

Jankins addressed, rather touched on, who owns our lovely common, but did not wish to incite conflict on the question.

He had slides that traced how separation of church and state happened and developed in West Brookfield. "Early Meeting Houses built with public funds were for Congregational worship, and they also served as the town hall. The Congregational ministers were paid from taxes and were considered 'town officials.'"

Church and state were one, and public support of religion was not questioned. "The only conflict was which denomination would be supported by a citizen's taxes."

An 1811 state law allowed residents to withdraw tax support from the Congregational Church and a group of five or more men "could unite as a religious society and the tax money that they had formerly paid to support the Congregational Church could then be used for their own denomination...the religious society taking the place of government in supporting that religion."

Our town's Congregational Church is not the first structure to serve that purpose. They seem to have been prone to disaster.

Of the four structures, one was destroyed by fire and the Hurricane of 1938 wrecked all but a portion of the next church which was not that well-liked by parishioners.

Oh well, the current church is lovely and fits in nicely across from the common.

Jankins's talk covered a lot of ground. He addressed that many businesses arose and there was quite the en-



These arrowheads were found in a field in West Brookfield.

trepreneurial spirit locally.

The W.K. Lewis Condensed Milk Factory that opened in 1870 was typical of that.

Milk is perishable and thus cannot be transported too far as it will sour fairly quickly without refrigeration. What to do?

If it is condensed milk, it will be stable enough for a considerable time. Jankins spoke of how it could be sent to Boston and taken on ships. It was a successful business model until destroyed by fire in the second decade of the 20th Century.

The Standard Fishing Rod Co. made rods in town, and Bill was able to procure one, albeit with a small struggle.

The fountain that graces the Common was also struck by the 1938 hurricane.

That knocked The Lady atop the fountain down. She was restored by the efforts of J. Irving England, founder of Brookfield Machine, and a philanthropist who, as noted by Jankins, wisely refused to deal with a committee and personally spearheaded the effort.

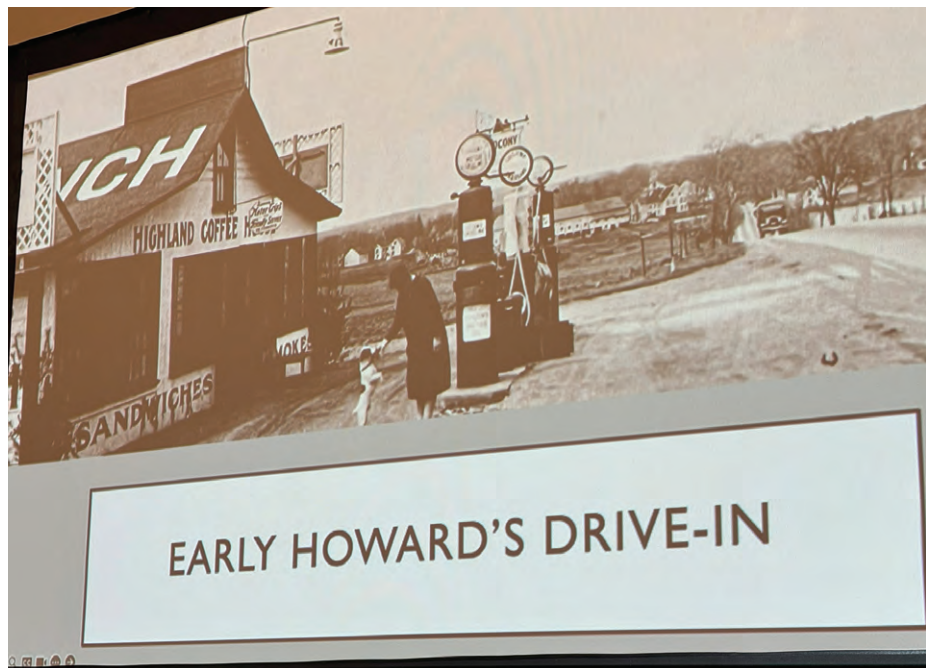
There was so much history gone over on Sunday that it would take many pages to properly cover it all. Jankins went over so much, from the aqueducts and trolleys and the boys' camp that ended in the depression and more.

Jankins did it all in a pleasant manner accented by a lovely sense of humor.

The presentation was recorded and will show up eventually on YouTube. It will be posted to all the West Brookfield pages on Facebook as well as others. You will be doing yourself a favor if you watch it.

Remember, only 25 years until the bicentennial.

Please note, most of the pictures are from Jankins' slides.



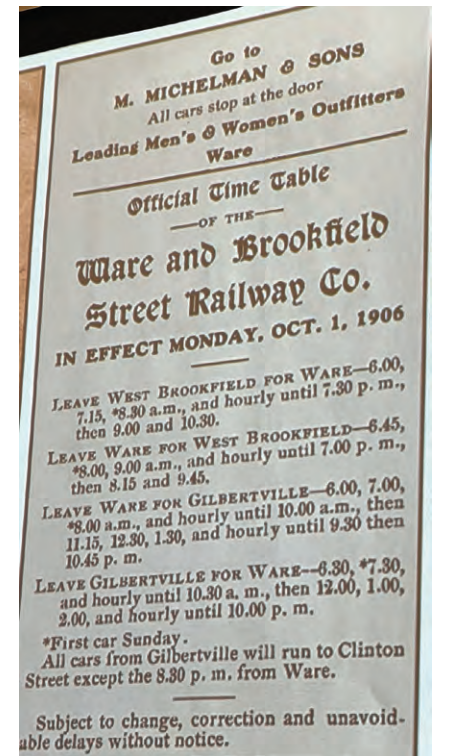
Bill Jankins shared this early photo of Howard's. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY



This photo shows portraits of J. Irving England and Jane England.



This is a trade card for G.A. Bailey, a West Brookfield jeweler.



The Trolley that ran through West Brookfield.



Lucy Stone holds a copy of The Women's Journal in 1893.



The Rice Fountain Committee is shown in this 1985 photo.



The Condensed Milk Factory.



**CRAFT FAIR | FROM PAGE 1**

event benefiting the New Braintree Fire Association and the Friends of the New Braintree Revitalization Committee.

“It was busy, but it was great,” Bennett said of the day. “A couple of people said they had the best show they’ve ever had.”

Vendors filled the cafeteria and gymnasium of the New Braintree Grade School and the Town Hall. A café offered by the New Braintree Congregational Church served treats and lunch in the Town Hall, while National Honor Society students from Quabbin Regional High School helped children make holiday crafts.

The Friends of the New Braintree Public Library hosted a book sale the morning of the event, giving people a chance to stock up for those cozy winter nights spent curled up with a book.

Following the close of the craft fair,

tractor rides were given, along with more refreshments, crafts, letters for Santa, caroling and the lighting of the town’s Christmas tree.

Many families took advantage of the Christmas in New Braintree event as the perfect opportunity to select their own Christmas tree, courtesy of Kip’s Christmas Tree Farm.

The New Braintree Fire Association held a raffle to win a scratch ticket basket, to help raise money to purchase a new combination tool for the rescue squad. The tool has multiple purposes and can be used for spreading, cutting, squeezing and pulling.

This lightweight tool is useful in tactical operations, road traffic incidents and urban search and rescue missions. It is especially suited for operations where access is difficult, such as narrow tunnels or natural disasters.



Running the raffle table at the Christmas in New Braintree craft fair were volunteers (from left) Dody Ayer, Kathy Letendre, Jessica Bennett, Liam Letendre, Andrea Letendre, Weston Letendre and Ellen Glidden. *TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE*



Barbara Pilch of In-A-Jam in West Brookfield had homemade jams as well as treats for four-legged friends.



Michelle Kibbe customizes one of her handmade ornaments.



Diane Birchenough had festive pins, earrings and other jewelry for the holiday season.



National Honor Society students from Quabbin Regional High School volunteered their time at the Christmas in New Braintree event. Sitting from left are Seth Twarog and Bella Smith; standing in middle is elementary school student Charley Chauvin; and back row from left are Julianna Stanger and Haley Ayer. Not shown is Jaxon Warburton. *SUBMITTED PHOTO*



Ellen Glidden represented the New Braintree Fire Association at the Christmas in New Braintree craft fair.



Katherine Landine and her daughter Emma Landine represented the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department.



John Thompson of Thompson’s Maple Farm in New Braintree had maple products and homemade ice cream available.



Mathilde Duffy of Barre had humorous, one-of-a-kind greeting cards, bookmarks and more, featuring photos she took of pets and farm animals.



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Questions will be answered by the Highway Superintendent at 64 Huntington Road, Monday - Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM; the telephone number is 413-238-5830.  
Send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to: [worthington-highway@gmail.com](mailto:worthington-highway@gmail.com) or to Worthington Highway Department, P. O. Box 643, Worthington, MA. This posting will remain pertinent until the position is filled.  
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# New Braintree Police Log

During the week of Dec. 4-11, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 15 building/property checks, 42 directed/area patrols, five traffic controls, two radar assignments, one safety hazard, one assist citizen, one motor vehicle investigation, two emergency 911 calls, two animal calls and four motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

### Tuesday, Dec. 7

7:46 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Oakham Road, Services Rendered

### Wednesday, Dec. 8

12:29 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

3:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ravine Road, Citation Issued

9:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled

### Sunday, Dec. 10

8:44 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

### Monday, Dec. 11

4:58 a.m. Safety Hazard, Padre Road, Removed Hazard

## Gullini named president of Massachusetts DAs Association

In a unanimous vote by the Commonwealth's district attorneys, Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni has been elected as the president of the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association.

This is the second time Gulluni has been elected president of the association, the first coming in November of 2019. He has been serving as vice president for the past year, and will now serve as president for the next year.

MDAA is an independent state agency whose mission is to support the eleven elected Massachusetts District Attorneys, their staff, including approximately 785 prosecutors and 260 victim witness advocates, while promoting public safety practices and policies on a state-wide basis.

Gulluni stated in a press release, "I am honored by the trust of my fellow district attorneys in electing me as president of our association. I am enthusiastic about representing my colleagues on matters affecting public safety throughout the Commonwealth and advancing our shared

commitment to justice, fairness, and integrity."

First elected in 2015, Gulluni is currently serving his third term in office.



Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni was elected president of the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association. SUBMITTED PHOTO

He currently sits on the Massachusetts Victim and Witness Assistance Board, which is the governing body of the Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance, which is the only state-wide board representing victims' rights. He also serves on the Governor's Task Force on Hate Crimes.

His appointments first came under Governor Charlie Baker and has been reappointed to both by Governor Maura Healey.

Gulluni is a pragmatic prosecutor whose work in promoting public safety includes strong partnerships, focused and strategic prosecutions, and ground-breaking preventative programming, such as the Emerging Adult Court of Hope, Future Lawyers of Springfield, Hampden County Addiction Taskforce, and his office's prolific outreach

and programming within the many school districts of Hampden County.

## Weekend fire displaces family; house deemed total loss

WEST BROOKFIELD – At 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9, West Brookfield Fire Department was toned for a fire at a residence at 319 Long Hill Road.

According to a press release from Fire Chief Richard Lapierre, at the time of the call, the deck attached to the house was on fire, and residents were evacuating. Car 1 signed on en route within a minute of the initial tone.

The address is four miles from the station in a southerly direction at the Warren town line. Halfway up Long Hill Road, Car 1 requested an engine from Warren Fire Department due to the location of the residence and because of the distance to get there.

Heavy smoke was visible from about a mile from the scene and Car 1 requested a second alarm assignment for outside the hydrant district.

On arrival Car 1 reported a working fire. Fire was visible from the rooftop and the entire back of the house. West Brookfield Engine 1 was first on scene and pulled a line to the rear of the building to try to knock down the fire.

Warren Engine 3 was second on scene and pulled a line to the front of the house to try and make entry. At this point the fire was already coming from windows in the front of the house.

As crews arrived two more additional hand lines from West Brookfield Engine 1 were pulled to assist with extinguishment. At one point, the house integrity was compromised, and all crews were pulled from the building and a defense tactic was initiated until some control could be gained.

A rural hitch system was set up for water supply. As tankers arrived, they supplied water to the rural hitch and the scene maintained water throughout.

Lapierre said the home is a total loss as a result except for contents in the garage, basement and a few items on the first floor. The cause of the fire was determined by a District 7 Fire Investigation Unit member as careless disposal of woodstove ashes under the deck from two days ago.

West Brookfield Fire Department would like to thank West Brookfield Rescue Squad for their rehab assistance with West Brookfield Emergency Management. Also, West Brookfield Police Department for their assistance as well as Warren Police Department.

Lapierre also thanked departments providing mutual aid, which included Warren Fire Department, Ware Fire Department, Brookfield Fire Department, Brimfield Fire Department, East Brookfield Fire Department, North Brookfield Fire Department, New Braintree Fire Department and Hardwick Fire Department.

Lapierre also thanked the Red Cross for their assistance with the family and National Grid for cutting power to the scene.

## Rutland business donates to Listening Wellness Center

BARRE – Brad Roy, owner of Quality Painting and Restoration in Rutland recently donated another check to Listening Wellness Center, 35 South St., as part of the Center's three year capital campaign.

Listening Wellness Center's Executive Director Laura Dusha Nelson said Roy is "making a positive impact" by supporting the Center.

For every referral or mention of Listening, Roy will make a donation to the Center once the work is complete. Call 978-230-2638 and mention "Listening" to help benefit the Center's capital campaign.

Roy also owns Quality Power Washing and Paver Restoration, which specializes in cleaning, restoration and sealing for homes, decks and pavers. Call 508-868-7688 for more information about these services.



Brad Roy and Quality Painting and Restoration will continue donating to Listening Wellness Center for every referral or mention of the Center. He is shown with Executive Director Laura Dusha Nelson (left) and Amy LaPointe. SUBMITTED PHOTO

### JOB OPENING

## STAFF WRITER

Turley Publications, based in Palmer, is seeking a storyteller who is curious about everything, and who understands how town government works to join our team of weekly reporters.

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If you're a self-starter who enjoys community journalism and who can envision themselves connecting with our communities, we encourage you to apply for this position. Not a remote position.

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Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor  
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069  
or email directly to  
ekennedy@turley.com

# Early Deadlines

for all LEGAL NOTICES...

**All Papers Will Deadline**  
**Thursday, Dec. 21**  
**at Noon for Publication**  
**Dec. 25-29**

*Happy Holidays!*

*Happy New Year!*

**All Papers Will Deadline**  
**Thursday, Dec. 28**  
**at Noon for Publication**  
**Jan. 1-5**



# QUABOAG CURRENT

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Volume 17, Number 3

Friday, December 15, 2023

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