

# QUABOAG CURRENT

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Newspaper

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Volume 17, Number 5

Friday, December 29, 2023

## Preschool program sees increased need for services

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

**NORTH BROOKFIELD** – Director of Student Services Ann Knapp provided an update about the school district’s preschool program, after changes were made to the program last year to accommodate enrollment.

The preschool shifted from a full-day program to a half-day with two sessions; one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

In order to meet Department of Elementary and Secondary Education requirements, the school district must ensure that the program is available to eligible children 3-4 years of age; developmentally appropriate;

and specifically designed for children ages 3-4 years old.

“There are two types of programs,” Knapp told School Committee members at their Dec. 18 meeting.

The inclusionary program integrates children with and without disabilities and adheres to the following standards: no more than five students with disabilities and a maximum

class size of 20 with one teacher and one paraprofessional, or six or seven students with disabilities with a maximum class size of 15 students with one teacher and one paraprofessional.

“The industry standard is six or seven students with disabilities and a maximum class size of 15 students with one teacher and one paraprofessional,”

Knapp said. “That ensures that there is one more peer in the classroom than there are students with disabilities.”

Knapp said there is also a substantially separate program, which requires that more than 50% of students in the class have disabilities and that class size is limited to nine students

See **PRESCHOOL** | **PAGE 8**

### Looking back on 350 years

## Brookfield celebrates birthday with yearlong celebration



A giant birthday cake on the common celebrated Brookfield’s 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary throughout 2023. FILE PHOTO

**BROOKFIELD** – In recognition of the town’s 350th birthday celebration, community members joined together to enjoy a variety of fun events.

From holiday celebrations like the Easter egg hunt or the Crazy Hat Parade and tree lighting with Santa Claus, to a massive parade filled with

lights, sirens and more, Brookfield made sure that its 350th was a year to remember.

See **MORE 350TH PHOTOS** | **PAGE 12**

## MassDOT lists winners of ‘Name A Snowplow’ contest

**BOSTON** – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announced the winners of the second annual, “Name A Snowplow” contest for statewide elementary and middle school students in Massachusetts.

The winning plow names are Flower Plower, Edward Blizzardhands, Glacier Gobbler, Polar Pathmaker, Snow B Wan Kenobi, The Snolar Express, Sleetwood Mac, Snow Place Like Home, Snow-hemian Rhapsody, The Mayplower,

Snow Monstah, Fast and Flurryous.

This contest received entries from public school classrooms from across Massachusetts. The contest chose names for 12 MassDOT snowplows that will

See **SNOWFLOW** | **PAGE 2**

## Opacum Land Trust protects land, water, wildlife, and plants trees

### Year-end matching challenge kicks off with \$15,000 matching gift

**BRIMFIELD** – The Opacum Land Trust, a 13-town regional land conservation organization that protects land, water, and wildlife in south central Massachusetts, has launched a year-end matching gift challenge supported by an initial gift of \$15,000 in combined personal donations from members of its board of directors and other generous supporters.

According to Executive Director Laney Wilder, Opacum is a nonprofit organization that works hand-in-hand with local communities and landowners who want to protect and conserve land, water, and

wildlife for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

“Opacum’s Year-End Matching Challenge is an opportunity for local residents to support the protection of natural properties and forests in our local community,” said Wilder in a press release.

“In the past year, thanks to the support of our members, we have made great progress on a number of important projects,” said Wilder. “We’ve also been able to permanently conserve over 2,441 acres of critical land and water on 28 properties in Brimfield, Brookfield, Charlton, Dudley, Holland, Monson, Palmer, Southbridge, and Sturbridge. Many of these properties are open to the public with trails for local residents to enjoy.”

See **OPACUM** | **PAGE 8**



A view of one of the properties being protected through the Emerald Forest Borderlands. SUBMITTED PHOTO



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# - community -

## Healey-Driscoll Administration announces \$24 million for trail projects

BOSTON – The Healey-Driscoll Administration recently announced in a press release an investment of \$24 million to expand and maintain the state’s network of trails in environmental justice communities across the state.

Massachusetts has an ever-expanding network of trails that create connections between communities, promote tourism and economic growth, provide opportunities for transportation that help reach the state’s climate goals, and give residents access to the Commonwealth’s natural, recreational, and cultural resources.

“This funding is an investment in the well-being of our residents and our economy,” said Governor Maura Healey. “Already, outdoor recreation contributes \$11 billion to our economy. By investing in our trails system, more people will look to Massachusetts for their next vacation in nature, and we can get our own residents moving out on our trails, whether to work or just to appreciate Massachusetts’ natural beauty. We’re grateful to the Biden-Harris Administration and our Congressional delegation for making this transformational funding available through the American Rescue Plan Act.”

“Investing in our trails pays off for cities and towns. During my time as mayor, I saw firsthand how enhancing the trail system can improve public health and bring in new revenues,” said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. “By leveraging the power of our state’s trail network, we are uniting communities and creating opportunities for tourism, sustainable transportation, and exercise.”

“Trails are a key piece of our sustainable transportation infrastructure that many residents depend on to commute to work. It’s important that this infrastructure can withstand the impacts of climate change,” said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper. “This investment is a matter

of equity. The trails system belongs to all of us, and this funding demonstrates our commitment to clean and healthy spaces for our environmental justice communities.”

“DCR manages a vast trail network that helps us build healthy families through outdoor recreation and support sustainable transportation, tourism, and economic opportunity across the state,” said Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner Brian Arrigo. “These ARPA investments in our trail systems will enable us to create a more connected, accessible, and vibrant Massachusetts.”

The \$24 million investment, funded through the American Rescue Plan Act, will make possible projects in environmental justice communities that otherwise might have waited years. Of the total investment, \$15 million will be used for the construction of major trail systems within the DCR trail network, including the Charles River Greenway in Waltham, the Mystic River Clippership Connector in Medford, the Blackstone River Greenway, and the Massachusetts Central Rail Trail in Waltham.

Additionally, municipalities, through the MassTrails Grant program, will receive \$6 million to support the creation and upkeep of municipally owned trails in West Springfield, Agawam, Clarksburg, Wendell, Ashland, Boxford, Leominster, Beckett, Granby, Dorchester, Milton, and Mattapan, Waltham, Medford and Blackstone.

The MassTrails Grant Program is an inter-agency grant program through the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, EEA, and DCR, that provides matching grants, technical assistance and resources to individuals, municipalities, non-profits, and other public entities. These funds go toward the design, construction, and maintenance of diverse, high-quality trails, including hiking trails, bikeways, and shared-use paths.

The program supports projects that build public-private partnerships and provides essential funding for project development, design, and construction of shared-use pathways, facilitating connections to where people live, work, and recreate. In June, the Administration announced \$11.6 million in funding through the grant program to support 68 trail improvement projects across the state.

Additionally, \$3 million will be used for the upkeep of the DCR trails, ensuring their longevity and quality for years to come.

“The last few years have highlighted how important it is to have access to safe trails and outdoor recreational opportunities, especially for those in environmental justice communities,” said Senator Brendan Crighton, Senate Chair of the Trails Caucus. “This investment will make a tangible difference to our state’s expansive trail network, which benefits us all.”

“Shared-use trails are a key tool for connecting our communities and bolstering public health,” said Representative Michelle Ciccolo, House Chair of the Trails Caucus. “They are a particularly important transportation and recreational resource in underserved areas of our state where residents may not otherwise have access. I’m thrilled that the Healey-Driscoll Administration is prioritizing this important financial investment which will provide numerous benefits across the state.”

All existing trails are expected to remain open to the public while maintenance and construction take place, ensuring the continued enjoyment of these important pathways.

This announcement is part of the Administration’s ongoing work to connect environmental justice communities across Massachusetts with access to open space for recreation, economic development, and environmentally friendly transportation.



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For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for the Quaboag Current please email [ekennedy@turley.com](mailto:ekennedy@turley.com).

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### SNOWPLOW | FROM PAGE 1

be in service during this 2023/2024 winter season.

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

“Keeping our roads across Massachusetts clear and safe every winter is a tough job. We are glad to see educators engage their students in a fun competition that pays

tribute to this essential public service,” said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbitts-Nutt in a press release. “I want to congratulate the winning classrooms and look forward to seeing all of the snowplows in the field.”

“This is a fun way for schools across the state to connect with the crews who perform vital road work every year during New England’s harsh winters,” said Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver. “Congratula-

tions to the winners, and our appreciation to everyone who participated.”

Winning submissions for students in grades five through eight include Melissa Forni, grade five of Burgess Elementary School in Sturbridge with her entry of “The Snolar Express.”

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

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# - community -

## News from the Quabbin Regional School District

**From the desk of  
Colleen Mucha,  
Interim Superintendent of QRSD**

Do you ever wonder what it is like to spend a day with children ages 3-5 in our preschool programs?

Some would say it is absolute joy. Upon walking into our preschool classrooms, you are greeted with curiosity and warm grins.

The children want to know ‘What’s your name?’ ‘Why are you here?’ and ‘Can I show you what I’m doing?’ You can’t help, but be drawn into their world of learning. Thematic play areas, books, puzzles, letter tiles, craft materials, puppets and games fill the space.

During the 2023-2024 school year, Quabbin Regional School District is piloting a full day Preschool Program at Hardwick Elementary School. Students attend Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and they come from all of our five towns. We have half day programs at Hubbardston Center School, New Braintree Grade School and Ruggles Lane Elementary School.

We recently surveyed our parents of full day preschoolers to elicit feedback on their experience so far this year. “There is more structure during the full day and my son does well with the routine. His language has improved significantly because of more hours.” There are “more in depth lessons that work through the alphabet and various themes that better prepare them for kindergarten.”

Another parent recognized that there is increased socialization and this has resulted in her child having more fun and learning a lot more through

these interactions. “This program is giving my child a head start on numbers, colors, child interactions, learning to share and learning to attend.” “I think it was a big change, but he loves coming to school.”

“I think he has made more progress being in a full day program between speech and kindergarten readiness skills, he’s made leaps and bounds this year.” “A full day keeps his brain engaged. He’s made friends and he has more opportunities to be social. He is ready for a full day kindergarten program.”

Teachers and administrators report that the students have adjusted very well to the full day program. Currently, there is a brief nap time and on most days all students do fall asleep. They believe that the structure and predictable routines that mix both academic and social learning times really have helped students to adjust. There are lots of opportunities for thematic play as well as quiet times such as reading aloud that allows for our youngest learners to release energy as needed and build stamina for activities that require more sustained attention.

You may be wondering about how to register your child for our preschool programs? Registration is ongoing, however, as students transition from Pre-Kindergarten to Kindergarten we do have more opportunities for enrollment at the start of each school year and we assign slots to families in late spring.

People may visit our QRSD website for more information or you can email Laura Holbrook at lholbrook@qrsd.org. We look forward to welcoming our youngest learners.



Preschool students from Hardwick Elementary School work on math activities on the rug. Shown, top of the 1/2 circle to the bottom are Levi Lund, Wayland O’Gara, Julian Overstreet, Grace Letendre, Ryan Lowe, Maddox Peddle, Anthony Camp, Micah Morrison-Horne, Gabriel Harrington, Roman Marte and Portia Lee Ziemba. SUBMITTED PHOTO

### Knights host spaghetti dinner on Jan. 13

WEST BROOKFIELD – Knights of Columbus Council 11080, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, is sponsoring a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024, in Dugan Hall, Sacred Heart Church, 10 Milk St.

Dinner includes pasta fagioli, garden salad, meatballs and sausage, spaghetti and sauce, garlic bread, dessert, water, soda and coffee. The cost is a \$15 donation and \$10 for children under 12 years old.

Take-out is available at 6 p.m. and sit-down dinner is served at 6:30 p.m.

Advance ticket purchase is encouraged and appreciated. Tickets are available from any Knight or by calling 508-612-1649 or 41- 813-8100 or by emailing bobfalter@gmail.com or wallyconnor122@gmail.com.


Tickets will only be available at the door while they last. Admission tickets

are also good for entry for special door prizes.

Raffle tickets for a 50/50 raffle and more will be available.

Proceeds from this event will help provide ongoing support to children orphaned by the conflict in Ukraine coordinated by Supporting Orphans Nationally & Globally (S.O.N.G.) of Brookfield.

Wally Connor, past Grand Knight of Council 11080, and Executive Director of S.O.N.G., Inc. recently returned from Rzeszow, Poland, and Irpin, Ukraine coordinating support for orphaned children in Refugee Centers and for children who have recently lost a parent, and some cases, have lost both parents in the war. S.O.N.G. has been providing ongoing direct support to these children since shortly after the invasion.



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# - opinion -



## Pre-planning this year's vegetable garden

It's so exciting to think about planning my vegetable garden; all kinds of possibilities await.

Right after Christmas is usually when I get started. There are less paper catalogs arriving in the mail lately, but it is still my preferred method of shopping.

I like to peruse the pages, "starring" items and bending the corners of the pages so that I know to come back and consider whatever vegetable variety I think I must have. It's here in the early stages that I dream big.

I save the tailoring to later, once I've inventoried my seed stash and know exactly what I need.

But before I even get out the blue container that contains all of my seeds, I have some thinking to do. What did I have too much of last year? Too little? What consistently performs well in my garden? What doesn't do well? Am I ready to simplify by paring back or do I like the challenge of a big garden?

So many things to consider.

What did I have too much of? Roasting peppers come to mind.

I roasted and roasted and roasted some more. In between roasting I was giving them away.

"Carmen" is grown specifically for that purpose, and last year I grew eight plants more than normal. Maybe I'll cut back this year.

My "Picnic" peppers did well, too. They were great to eat right from your hand, and in yellow, orange and red, they certainly made my husband's salads colorful.

I was pretty well spot on with 12 total plants.

Sadly, I struggled with tomatoes last year. I didn't have anywhere near enough!

This was the year that the girls grew to love my roasted tomato sauce, too. I couldn't make very much of it because the tomatoes petered out early.

Oddly enough, I enjoyed tomatoes that self-sowed in different spots of my yard much later into the season. It gave me an idea that I ought to make a couple of indoor sowings. One the third week of March as always, and maybe another two weeks later.

Regardless, now that the sauce is a hit, I'm going to increase the number of transplants I grow, and definitely improve the soil where the tomatoes are planted. Something that probably went unthought of is that the buckets of rain we had last summer likely leached nitrogen from the soil.

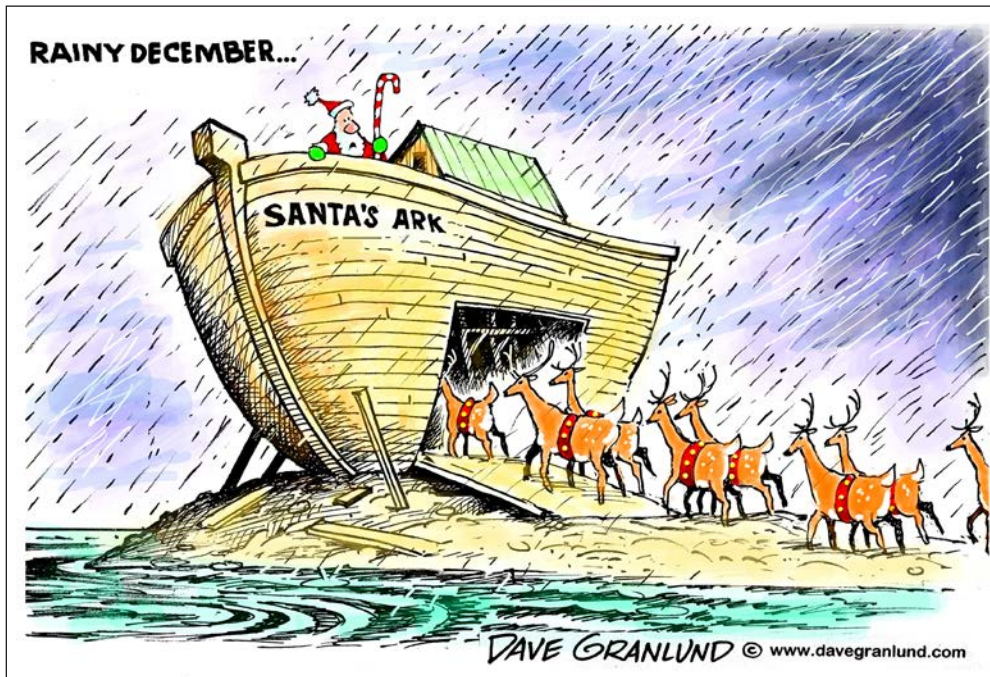
I had best remember to fertilize at planting then supplement after the first month or so.

Another area where low nitrogen may have been a factor is with my winter squash. My harvest wasn't just disappointing, it was embarrassing!

The Garden Lady better figure this one out, especially with the squash habit she has. Soups, breads, lasagna, and more all require that amazing orange flesh; and if you don't grow your own it can certainly get expensive.

I definitely want to grow butternuts in abundance again.

On the flip side, I didn't need as many cabbage or broccoli plants. The sauerkraut is taking up lots of space in the fridge, but hasn't made its way into our bellies for some



Sandhill cranes

Rick Hendra of Oakham took this photo of sandhill cranes foraging in a field on Stone's Road in Oakham.

In his email, he wrote, "I took this picture this morning (Sunday, Dec. 17) about halfway up Stone Road. Their call was so loud it startled me from 50 yards away. And they were large, but oddly colored."

The sandhill crane is a tall bird about 45 inches, gray colored with a dark red patch on the forehead and a black bill. They have staining of feathers on their back and tail caused by the iron rich soil on its beak when it preens feathers.

The immature crane lacks the red patch and has an orange bill. It also may have more rust colored feathers on the back and tail.

The sandhill crane summers on prairies and tundra and during winter feed on agricultural fields and roost in shallow water. For several years now, Hardwick had a pair of nesting sandhill cranes, who successfully raised chicks.

The female lays one to three olive eggs with dark marks in a mound like nest of marsh plants, grasses and weeds either placed on the ground or shallow water. Courtship displays are seen during migration and involve graceful jumps off the ground in a dancing manner.

Many years ago, Richard Jankauskas, saw some in a field on South Street in Barre. He commented about a pair jumping up and down and dancing.

Their voice is a low pitched "karoo, karoo, karoo." Rick Hendra mentioned their call in his email printed above.

### Bird count

A Brimfield resident, who visits ponds in Warren, Brimfield, Holland and Sturbridge with his wife listed birds seen on Dec. 8. They

included 210 Canada geese, 93 mallards, 70 hooded mergansers, three black ducks, two pied-billed grebes, one great blue heron, one bald eagle, two crows, one white-breasted nuthatch, two black-capped chickadees, three bluebirds, four house finches, one goldfinch, six white-throated sparrows, six dark-eyed juncos and three cardinals.

He also emailed in late November, "I checked the ponds in Warren and there were 14 hooded

mergansers very actively feeding and a very cold looking great blue heron that looked like it was not enjoying the 36 degree temperature.

### Christmas bird count

For over 120 years the Audubon Society has been doing a Christmas bird count and this year is no different. People can participate in an organized count or just do one on their own in their backyard.

### Decline in bird numbers

I received an email on Wednesday, Nov. 29 from a long time birder. He said, "[I] regularly feed them but have noticed a steep drop off of the number and type of birds since around September. Right now we have a loyal troop of blue jays and that's about it. Usually we have copious amounts of starlings, chickadees, grackles, crows, titmice, cardinals, juncos, etc."

He said he asked many people about this phenomena and "they have noticed the same thing but can't explain it either. We are all aware of some birds heading South but the sheer volume has dropped dramatically."

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.



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Quaboag Current Newspaper

# Rocky Mountain HIGH!

By Julie Midura

Tom and I spent two weeks circling the state of Colorado last month, filling our days trodding through the wilderness and spending our nights sleeping in a rented van.

For perhaps the very first time, I was at a loss for words. Because how does one go about describing moments when there is a visceral connection between what your eyes are seeing and what your heart is feeling?

The landscape was profoundly beautiful, and mere words could never convey the depth and breadth of the majesty we witnessed.

Glacial lakes infused with a shade of blue that is most often seen in a gemstone rather than in a basin of water. A blue that is more of a celebration than merely a color.

Jagged, snowcapped mountain peaks stretching to the heavens. Abundant wildlife encounters with elk, moose, bighorn sheep, coyote, fox, deer, pine marten and marmot.

For two weeks, we couldn't stop smiling...except for the day we climbed Mount Elbert. Behind the summit smile was the worst physical suffering that I have ever endured.

Tom and I live in Ludlow, which is approximately 360 feet above sea level. The highest mountain we've ever climbed is Mount Washington in New Hampshire, which stands at 6,288 feet.

The elevation gain of 14,433-foot Mount Elbert in Colorado is just a few hundred feet more than the elevation gain of Mount Washington, and the terrain itself is no more challenging. But there's one enormous difference.

Altitude.

At 12,000 feet above sea level, the reduced air pressure means that you're sucking in 30-40% less oxygen than you take in at sea level. Breathing increases and your heart pumps faster to deliver oxygen to your organs and extremities.

The reduced oxygen affects everyone differently. Tom did fine. I did not.

We spent six days hiking in Colorado to acclimatize our bodies to the higher altitude before attempting to climb Mount Elbert. As it turns out, six days wasn't enough.

Our hike begins at the North Mount Elbert Trailhead at 5:15 on a chilly Thursday morning. The light from our headlamps illuminates the path below our feet for the first hour.

By the time we break tree line at 7:30 a.m., my heart is beating furiously. I slow down in an attempt to catch my breath and I tell Tom to take the lead, while I fall further and further behind.

The trail steepens. I can no longer breathe through my nose.

I pant. Mouth open. Heaving breaths. In-out-in-out. Too fast.



On the summit of Mt. Elbert. COURTESY PHOTOS

I'm feeling lightheaded, as if there is a plastic bag over my head.

I stop, bend at the waist and rest my forehead on my trekking poles. I speak aloud, "Where is the oxygen?! I can't breathe!" Tom is too far ahead to hear.

Every fiber of my being is telling me to turn back.

Instead, I start moving again. Thirty steps. Stop.

Twenty steps. Stop. Ten steps. Stop. Over and over and over again. Tears come. "I can't do this!"

I'm fighting a war of my own making. Of my own choosing. A battle is raging between my heart and my head.

"God, please help me!"

"This is impossible!"

"Turn back!"

"Push on!"

Desperation. Determination. Accept defeat. Pray. Beg. Rage.

It begins to snow. Hard white pellets. Fierce wind. Cold. I pull on more layers. Tom waits. I catch up. The summit is so close, yet seems impossibly far away.

"You can do this!" Tom encourages. I feel broken.

I have given everything I have and there is nothing left to give. My lungs have failed me. My heart has given up the fight. My head is aching.

My legs, however, keep propelling me forward. They are strong. Conditioned. Adapted to such climbs. They are not affected by the lack of oxygen and they are all I have left to advance my body those final steps to the top.

After six merciless hours, we rise to meet the highest summit of the Rocky Mountains of North America, the highest point in the state of Colorado, and the second highest mountain in the contiguous United States.

But instead of feeling victorious, I collapse into Tom's embrace, sobbing uncontrollably as he gathers me in his arms and holds me tightly. I feel no triumph.

No victory. No pride. I did not "conquer" this mountain. I simply feel relief that the pain has ended.

When I finally have enough energy to look around at the greatness surrounding me, I only feel one thing... humbled to the very depths of my soul.

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# - sturbridge -

## JHPL presents 'Stewing Over Mysteries' Jan. 25

STURBRIDGE – The Friends of the Joshua Hyde Public Library will present the annual Stewing Over Mysteries event on Thursday, Jan. 25, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

Since 2011, Stewing Over Mysteries has been held at the Publick House in Sturbridge. A dinner of beef stew is offered along with a New England mystery writer to entertain and enlighten, all in the cozy atmosphere of one of the oldest taverns in the commonwealth.

This event is limited to 75 people and has sold out in the past.

“Edwin Hill’s new book, ‘Who to Believe’, will be released on Jan. 23 and we are thrilled to be his first celebratory public ap-

pearance,” said Becky Plimpton, library director in a press release. “This event is not a fundraiser, but a community event subsidized by the Friends of the JHPL and supported by the Publick House. Our goal is to make this an affordable and entertaining evening with a first class author.”

Tickets are still available for \$16 per person and include beef stew, rolls, coffee and dessert. Tickets can be purchased at the Joshua Hyde Library’s temporary location at the second floor of the Sturbridge Town Hall, or online at [www.sturbridgelibraryfriends.org](http://www.sturbridgelibraryfriends.org).

Hill’s books can be purchased at the event. There is a snow date of Jan. 31, 2024.

Hill is the Edgar- and Agatha-award nominated author of three novels in the Hester Thursday series: “Little Comfort”, “The Missing Ones”, and “Watch Her”. “The Secrets We Share” and his latest novel to be released in 2024, “Who to Believe”, are standalone thrillers.

After attending Wesleyan University and graduating with a bachelor’s degree in American studies, he headed west to San Francisco for the dotcom boom. Later, he returned to Boston, earned a master’s degree from Emerson College, and switched gears to work in educational publishing.

His first novel was published in 2018.

## Light the Night contest winners announced

WARREN – The Parks and Recreation Department announced the winners of this year’s Light the Night holiday decorating contest.

First place went to 144 Quaboag St.; second place, 1213 Reed St.; and third place, 321 Brimfield Road. The Best of Quaboag went to the Class of 2030 (grade six).

Random prize winners were 732 Old West Warren Road, 719 Keys Road, 20 East Road, 122 East Road, Quaboag Class of 2027 (grade nine) and Quaboag Class of 2024 (grade 12).

### GARDEN | FROM PAGE 4

reason, and as far as broccoli goes, I just can’t seem to freeze it in a way that is palatable.

Someone told me to give up blanching it. Just cut it up and throw it in bags in the freezer. After all, it worked well for kale, and they are cousins, right?

I tried a stalk that way, then thawed it out and ate it the next day. I thought it worked great, so I froze the rest of my harvest that way.

A month or so later I steamed some up and it was the most inedible thing that ever popped out of my freezer. Silly me, if this was the preferred preservation method it would have been touted as such long before I hit the gardening scene.

Maybe I should grow three or four different varieties of broccoli with different days to harvest, so that the majority of the harvest can be enjoyed fresh over a longer period.

I always analyze if my vegetable garden is too big for my lifestyle these days. I really don’t want to pare back because it is important that I grow a good amount of our family’s food.

What I have to accept is that it may become a jungle. I will keep up until I can’t anymore. Someday there will be time for more order, but these are not the days, at least for me, and that’s okay.

As you begin planning this year’s garden there are a lot of things to consider. But maybe for now, make a lot of “stars” and bend those corners.

Enjoy dreaming! Reality doesn’t really have to play a part until the order is placed.

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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.



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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 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.



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



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[apalano@townofware.com](mailto:apalano@townofware.com), 413-478-2526.



# - community -

## PRESCHOOL | FROM PAGE 1

with one teacher and one paraprofessional.

She said the previous rationale to continue four-day preschool programming is still appropriate this school year into the next.

Having a four-day program allows for consultation between parents, paraprofessionals, Applied Behavior Analysts, clinicians and outside providers; development of individualized education plans; scheduling and completion of assessments; implementation of behavior and skill building programs; data collection; observation of students in home and school settings; and preparation of classrooms for morning and afternoon settings.

The number of evaluations has also increased from the previous school year, going from 15 to 20.

By continuing the half-day program, morning and afternoon sessions will continue to offer typical peers the opportunity to attend preschool in the school district, Knapp said.

Knapp said beginning this year, there will be one group (called Bridges) during each session that is not open to typical peers, but is limited to high needs students and provides discreet services.

"I can only see both the substantially separate programs growing, given what we're seeing, children who are being referred to, come in with needs," Knapp said.

Knapp said there is also an extended day program for select students with individualized education plans. The goal of this program is to meet IEP services and provide students with the foundational skills needed to successfully transition to kindergarten in a regular classroom.

### Special education update

Knapp said the special education staff have been discussing student progress reports and she shared that there have been formatting issues using SchoolBrains.

Knapp said staff also discussed IEPs and notification letters.

Knapp said elementary school staff and herself have identified a need to redraft the post-preschool and kindergarten screening letter for parents. She will work with Elementary School Principal Sarah Priestley and staff to create a more comprehensive document.

Knapp said she has also begun using a declination of services form, for parents of students with IEPs. She said the form is used when a parent no longer chooses to have a service delivered to their student.

"They will now be notifying the district in writing, by completing that declination form, that they no longer wish to have their child access that service," Knapp said.

Knapp said she is still working to establish a Special Education Parent Advisory Council in the school district. School Committee member Tonya Matthews said the previous school year, there was no attendance at SEPAC meetings.

"It's really important to be able to have that sup-

port," she said of SEPAC.

### Regionalization update

School Committee Chair Ron Ryel said himself and other representatives from the town on the Regional Agreement Amendment Committee have not heard back from the chair of that committee since September.

"I don't know that we're going forward," Ryel said with regionalization with the Quaboag Regional School District.

He said his personal opinion is that there is "no longer any interest" in moving forward, adding that he hopes he is wrong.

"I think at some point, North Brookfield has to know what its plan is for moving forward and make plans based on that," Ryel said.

### Superintendent's report

Superintendent Timothy McCormick said the school district has started transitioning to the new student information system. He said it will be fully transitioned for the 2024/2025 school year.

McCormick said staff from the school met with a team of professionals from Heywood Hospital about a program they offer in collaboration with local police departments, regarding confidential alerts to the school if a student has been involved in an incident.

"It just gives teachers an alert notification that this student is coming in with some potential trauma, and how to support this student," McCormick said. "I think this is great addition for the school district."

### Administrators' reports

High School Principal John Diorio said his staff is working on completing the portrait of a graduate description, which focuses on five key areas: resilient and flexible learners, innovative critical thinkers, communicators and collaborators, character and global citizens.

"These are things that we'll focus on in our classrooms we feel will best prepare our kids for a future after they leave our school, whether it's a career or college," Diorio said.

He said 12 of the 33 seniors have been accepted into one or more colleges.

Diorio said a family information night about the high school will be held on Jan. 23 at 6 p.m. at the elementary school. Diorio said students and staff will share information about programs and opportunities at the high school with elementary school families.

Priestley the math and literacy leadership committees are working on different focus areas.

She said the math committee is doing lesson studies, which they have seen and practiced at the high school. The literacy leadership committee continues to explore the science of reading and what that means for instruction, especially at foundation levels.

Priestley said she and McCormick met with representatives from Champions, the school district's before and afterschool program for elementary school students. There are 39 total enrollments and care is pro-

vided on half days as well as school vacation days.

Priestley thanked the Fire Department for coming to the school on Fridays to teach fire safety and emergency prevention to students.

### Student Council update

Student Representative Olivia Giangrande said this year's Giving Turkey was slightly different this year, helping to collect items for the school's food pantry.

Students would drop specific items in a teacher's bag, with the teacher with the most items collected getting to wear a turkey costume. This year's winner was Diorio.

Giangrande said the Student Council helped with the Christmas in North Brookfield event.

"It's amazing seeing the children so happy. It is definitely an event that is very much looked forward to every year by the community," Giangrande said.

She said the Giving Tree collected donations for Abby's House with items to be distributed over Christmas break.

Giangrande said the Student Council is working on its Excellence Book and awards submissions, including the Top 10 Project and the National Council of Excellence. She said last year the Student Council won Gold Council of Excellence.

"It shows just how much determination and hard work that our Student Council puts in," Giangrande said, with around 25 student members.

The Student Council will be leading Unity Week in February, to help enhance a sense of community at the school and support all different types of people.

### Recognitions

McCormick recognized Tabby LeBlanc for leading Christmas in North Brookfield, a free event that is open to the community. He said the event is held at the Elementary School every year, and has free crafts, food, raffles and more.

"It's a fantastic community event," McCormick said, thanking LeBlanc for making it happen for 15 years.

Ryel said LeBlanc has done a "tremendous amount of things for this district and for this town."

McCormick also recognized Trish Tarentino for organizing Cocoa with Cops, featuring local police departments and State Police.

McCormick also thanked those who made donations to send students to a theater trip earlier this fall.

### M.A.S.S. certificate

McCormick said each year, the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents presents a certification of academic excellence to a student in the district and this year it will go to Jake Standrowicz.

Standrowicz is "Truly an outstanding student, but also an outstanding student leader," McCormick said.

Standrowicz and other students earning the distinction from across the commonwealth will be honored in March at Holy Cross.

## OPACUM | FROM PAGE 1

"This year, we've continued work on the Emerald Forest Borderlands project. This is an ambitious multi-year conservation project that will protect 1,011 acres of forests, wetlands, and wildlife habitat. This project is made possible by grant funds from the USDA Forest Legacy Program, an Anonymous Foundation, and individual donors, which allows Opacum to conserve even more land, and protect even more local forests, water, and wildlife habitat than what we could do alone," Wilder added.

In addition, Opacum Land Trust is heading into their fifth year of urban tree planting in Southbridge. To date, they have planted 427 trees and have been lucky to work with hundreds of residents and businesses to bring the benefits of trees to their community.

This program, funded by the U.S. Forest Service and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, provides free trees to homeowners, renters, businesses, and organizations in urban areas of Southbridge.

Modeled on Massachusetts's Greening the Gateway Cities Program of urban tree planting, the goal of this project is to improve community health and provide economic benefits to residents by improving air quality and reducing temperatures through increased tree cover.

Opacum Land Trust will continue to plant trees in Southbridge in the spring of 2024; if you are a Southbridge resident and are interested in getting a free tree, visit Opacum's website to sign up at [www.opacumlt.org](http://www.opacumlt.org).

Exciting work for 2024, thanks to a donation of



Opacum volunteer Jeff Hehman and employee Steve Brady help with tree planting in Southbridge. SUBMITTED PHOTO

land, Opacum Land Trust is working to acquire, revive, and reopen the former Sleepy Hollow property in Brimfield. This unique property has both a rich cultural history, as a former Scout camp and community center, and a rare ecological environment, thanks to the early successional forest habitat created by a tornado that ripped through the property in 2011.

This habitat type is increasingly rare and favored habitat for many species of birds and other wildlife.

Throughout the year, Opacum holds educational events and meet-ups, which are free and open to the

public. They also host the popular Tour Opacum Bike Ride for Land Conservation every September, which takes riders past conserved properties and forests throughout the area. Information about upcoming events in 2024 will be shared on their website, [www.opacumlt.org](http://www.opacumlt.org), and on their Facebook page.

To support local land conservation and double your donation by participating in the Year-End Matching Challenge, you may donate online at [www.opacumlt.org/donate](http://www.opacumlt.org/donate) or mail a check to Opacum Land Trust, PO Box 233, Sturbridge, MA 01566.

### About Opacum Land Trust

Opacum Land Trust, Inc. is a regional land conservation organization formed in 2000 to protect natural and cultural resources in the towns of Brimfield, Brookfield, Charlton, East Brookfield, Holland, Monson, North Brookfield, Palmer, Sturbridge, Southbridge, Wales, Warren and West Brookfield.

These non-renewable resources include fertile farmland, forests, river corridors, wetlands and watersheds, vernal pools, habitat for endangered animals and plants, scenic vistas, and historic and prehistoric sites.

Its mission is to protect the New England charm and rural character of our communities, promote proactive conservation, and the creation of greenways and wildlife corridors.

Opacum Land Trust is able to permanently protect open space through donation or purchase of land, bargain sales, or by holding a conservation easement. Opacum Land Trust is a member of the Mass Land Trust Coalition, The Land Trust Alliance, MassConn Sustainable Forest Partnership, and Central Mass South Chamber of Commerce.





# SPORTS

## Warriors win OT thriller over Comp

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

FISKDALE—In the middle of the 2022-23 regular season, the Tantasqua girls' varsity basketball team made the trek west on the Mass. Pike to Chicopee Comp's Herbert H. Curry Gymnasium where they lost a heartbreaker in overtime.

When the two squads battled each other in the Tantasqua Regional Fieldhouse on Dec. 22, the outcome of the non-league contest was once again decided in overtime.

This time, it was the Lady Warriors players doing the celebrating following a thrilling 67-64 victory over the Lady Colts.

"This is our best win so far this season," said Tantasqua head coach Andrew Haley. "We lost to them on a buzzer beater in overtime at their place last year. Tonight's game was

very similar, but it ended up in our favor. They're a very good basketball team and we had this game circled on our schedule since the beginning of the season."

The home victory improved Tantasqua's overall record to 4-1. It was also the Lady Warriors' second win of the season against a Western Mass. opponent. They posted a 57-35 win at Holyoke High School in the season opener. They were scheduled to play at Minnechaug Regional on Wednesday afternoon and will be hosting Longmeadow at the end of the regular season.

The trio of senior point guard Gabby Scanlon (20 points), sophomore center Sophie Webb (20 points), and junior forward Maya Gidopoulus (17 points) combined to score 57 of Tantasqua's 67 points.

"Those three players are ca-

pable of scoring from anywhere on the court," Haley added. "Sophie is a very good young basketball player. She plays inside and outside. Maya made a couple of big shots, which kept us in tonight's game. Gabby is one of our leaders. They really don't care who scores the points."

Scanlon, who's a tri-captain, along with senior's Riley West (2 points), and Nicki Vejak (4 Points), scored 13 of her points before halftime.

Webb and Gidopoulus picked up the scoring slack in the second half with 15 points apiece.

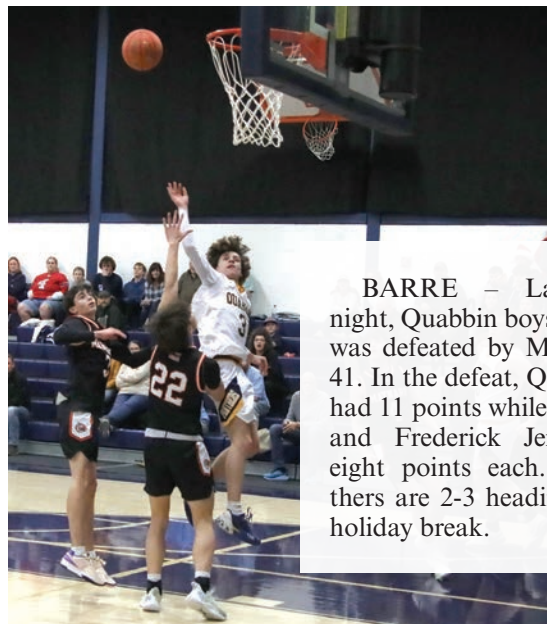
"We really wanted to win tonight's game more than anything," said Gidopoulus, who made a couple of huge 3-pointers late in the fourth quarter and during the four minute overtime period. "We lost to

See **WARRIORS** | PAGE 10



Nikki Vejak slings a pass away. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

## Quabbin falls to Maynard at home



Rickey Jenoure takes a hook shot. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RAY DUFFY

BARRE – Last Friday night, Quabbin boys basketball was defeated by Maynard 59-41. In the defeat, Quinn Geary had 11 points while Kyle Clark and Frederick Jenoure had eight points each. The Panthers are 2-3 heading into the holiday break.



Quinn Geary goes for a three-point shot.



Jacob Dilling brings in the layup.

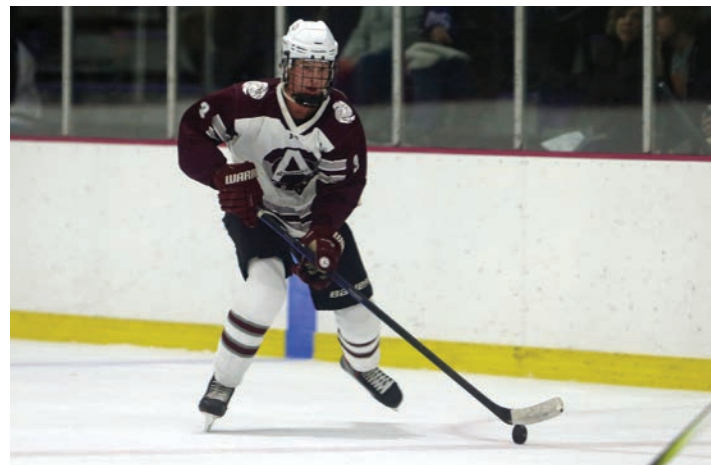


Nick Whitelaw hits a jumper from the top of the key.

## Amherst hockey perfect to start season

AMHERST – Last Monday night, Amherst hockey welcomed Chicopee to Orr Rink on the campus of Amherst College. The Hurricanes got a great offensive effort in a 6-1 win to improve to 4-0 for the season. Jack Dyjack had two goals and Benjamin Re-

mensnyder also added a pair of goals. Pathfinder's Ethan Nompoggi had a pair of assists in the matchup. Amherst has vacation week matchups with Taconic and on Saturday, Dec. 30 against Agawam at Olympia Ice Center at 6:30 p.m.



Liam Flynn looks to flick the puck up the ice.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Josh Goodhind chases down the puck.

# - sports -

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# Turleysports

## Athlete of the Month

**NAME:** Sophie Webb  
**SCHOOL:** Tantasqua

Sophie Webb had a big game for Tantasqua with 20 points in an overtime win over Chicopee Comprehensive on Dec. 22.

To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.




Sophie Webb gets a rebound. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

### WARRIORS | FROM PAGE 9

them in overtime last year and it just feels great to beat them. We're hoping to qualify for the Division 3 state tournament again."

It was the first time that Chicopee Comp (3-2) played a regular season game at the Fieldhouse.

"Even though we didn't come out on top, it was still a cool experience getting an opportunity to play a game here," said Comp head coach Tony Couture. "We did make a couple of big shots in the fourth quarter, which pushed the game into overtime. Then they made a few more shots than we did in overtime."

Tantasqua is the only team from outside of Western Mass. listed on the Chicopee Comp's regular season schedule.

The Lady Colts four double figure scorers were junior guard Taryn Carriveau (20 points), junior guard Kaitlyn Gilhooly (15 points), senior forward Alyssa Caney (12 points), and junior guard Eliza Burger (11 points).

Carriveau scored 24 points in last year's contest, including the game-winner at the buzzer in overtime.

In this year's meeting, Carriveau made two free throws with 7.8 seconds remaining in regulation, which sent the game into the extra session tied at 57-57.

The Lady Colts took a 60-58 lead with 2:45 remaining in OT following a Caney steal and fast-break lay-up. The Lady Warriors scored the next seven points.

West began the run with an inside hoop. Webb hit a pull-up jumper from the right side of the key and

a 3-pointer from the left corner by Gidopoulos increased Tantasqua's advantage to 65-60 with 1:43 left.

Then Comp made one final comeback, as a pair of free throws by Carriveau and Caney cut the deficit down to 65-64 with 41.7 seconds remaining on the scoreboard clock.

With 7.5 seconds left, Gidopoulos made a wide open lay-up, which turned out to be the difference maker for the

home team.

Following a Comp timeout, Gidopoulos stole the inbounds pass and was fouled with 1.3 seconds remaining. She missed both free throws and a long shot attempt at the buzzer by Gilhooly rattled off the back iron ending the action packed game.

Both teams had impressive runs in the opening half.

The Lady Colts put-together a 19-5 run between the last four minutes of the first quarter and the first four minutes of the second quarter.

Carriveau, who hit a buzzer beater at the end of the first quarter, hit another long bomb from beyond the arc with 3:46 left in the first half, which increased the visitors lead to 21-10.

It was the high water mark for the Lady Colts, as the Lady Warriors responded with an 11-0 run.

An inside basket by junior forward Maggie Johnson (4 points) knotted the score at 21-21.

The Lady Colts, who played their final game of 2023, headed into the locker room holding a slim 26-24 lead after Burger hit a jumper just before the buzzer sounded.

Led by Scanlon, Webb, and Gidopoulos, the Lady Warriors outscored the Lady Colts, 19-9, in the third quarter.

Trailing 43-35 entering the fourth quarter, the Lady Colts battled back with a 10-0 run.

The visitors made seven foul shots before taking a 45-43 lead with 5:20 left when Gilhooly hit a 3-pointer from the top of the key.

The score was tied several more times in regulation before the Lady Warriors outscored the Lady Colts, 10-7 in overtime.

It was the only game of the regular season between the two teams. They won't be meeting in the postseason tournament either because they're in different Divisions.

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Sophie Ezzo attempts a three-pointer.



Maya Gidopoulos lifts a long jump shot.



Riley West tries to overcome a block before shooting.

**WEBSTER | FROM PAGE 7**

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 opportunities 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 nu-

tritious food. Their vision is a community where no one goes hungry, and excess food is utilized to its fullest 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 in-

spire 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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*Presented By:*

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(413) 967-9615

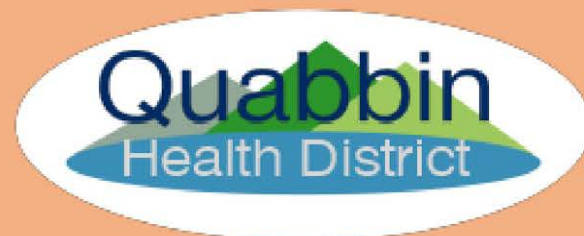
Email: [kkrieger@townofware.com](mailto:kkrieger@townofware.com)

Website: [www.quabbinhealthdistrict.com](http://www.quabbinhealthdistrict.com)

**Please RSVP by 1/12/2024 to:**

[kkrieger@townofware.com](mailto:kkrieger@townofware.com)

*Training provided courtesy of the following organizations:*



Looking back on 350 years

# Brookfield celebrates birthday with yearlong celebration



Alma provided a dance accompaniment for her mother's solo.



Students Adella Harvey and Riley Perron smile as they hold flowers and awards for their performances in "Little Orphan Samantha".



Brookfield's Town Clerk Michael Seery enjoyed a carriage ride in the parade alongside Barbara Wilson, a lifelong resident of Brookfield. The carriage was pulled by Leah Shattuck's team of Percheron draft horses, Bernie and Tim, a familiar sight around the Brookfields.



Visitors to the Civil War reenactment learned about the role women played on and off the battlefield.



Brookfield Water Department had the first place float in the parade.



Singers joined together for a final song.



Local talent amazed listeners at Brookfield's karaoke on the Common.



Civil War reenactors took part in a special program held on the common.



Brookfield's oldest resident and Boston Post Cane recipient, Pauline Herbert (front passenger seat), rides in style next to her son, Donald during the 350th parade. Her sisters (from left) Janet Morin, Rose Cassavant and Ruth Labonte rode in the back seat.



Cobblestone Road performed for line dance in March, then returned for a summer concert performance.



Children put on a performance of "Little Orphan Samantha".



Residents kicked up their heels for some line dancing to the sounds of Cobblestone Road.



Shown are characters Miss Shenanigans, orphan home director, with her brother and his friend plotting a scheme to get money.



Children enjoyed games, including sack races, at the annual Easter egg hunt.



Santa Claus gets ready to light the Christmas tree on the Brookfield Common, while Jeanne Lytle sports her third place-winning Crazy Christmas hat.



An Easter egg hunt was held at Lewis Field.



Brookfield Fire Department's forestry truck was decked out in Christmas decorations to escort Santa Claus during the parade this past Sunday.

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Work days Monday-Friday. Looking for a highly motivated individual who is able to:

- Read and follow instructions
- Have knowledge of cleaning procedures
- Experience in cleaning and maintenance a plus
- Lift 50 lbs or more
- Be self-motivated
- Work alone or with a group
- Good communication skills with staff and the public
- Knowledge of operation of equipment such as a floor scrubber, snow blower, etc.
- Work in the extreme cold and heat
- Have a valid driver's license
- High school degree or GED

Send letter of interest and resume to: William Sullivan, Interim Principal; Gateway High/Middle School, 12 Littleville Road, Huntington, MA 01050  
Deadline: January 5, 2024  
GRSD is an EOE

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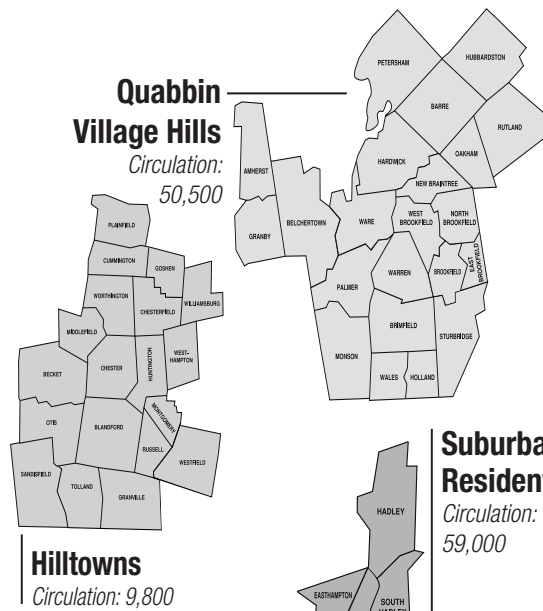
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	37	35	Base Price \$31.50
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# East Brookfield Police Log

During the week of Dec. 18-24, the East Brookfield Police Department responded to 135 building/property checks, 95 directed area patrols, one traffic control, 10 radar assignments, 14 emergency 911 calls, 12 safety hazards, one fire/other, two complaints, one assist citizen, four assist other agencies, one property damage, three motor vehicle accidents and 57 motor vehicle stops in the town of East Brookfield.

## Monday, Dec. 18

2:10 a.m. Safety Hazard, Podunk Road, Removed Hazard  
 5:37 a.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Howe Street, Services Rendered  
 7:02 a.m. Safety Hazard, Young Road, Removed Hazard  
 7:15 a.m. Safety Hazard, Howe Street, Officer Handled  
 7:52 a.m. Safety Hazard, Flag Road, Services Rendered  
 9:54 a.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Podunk Road, Services Rendered  
 10:20 a.m. Safety Hazard, Podunk Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
 10:23 a.m. Safety Hazard, Maple Street, Dispatch Handled  
 11:08 a.m. Safety Hazard, West Main Street, Dispatch Handled  
 11:30 a.m. Safety Hazard, West Sturbridge Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
 12:56 p.m. Safety Hazard, Flag Road, Officer Handled  
 1:33 p.m. Fire/Other, Draper Road, Services Rendered  
 2:06 p.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Podunk Road, Services Rendered  
 2:30 p.m. Safety Hazard, Stone

Road, Unfounded

## Tuesday, Dec. 19

3:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued  
 3:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued  
 3:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued  
 4 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued  
 4:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued  
 7:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Citation Issued  
 7:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

## Wednesday, Dec. 20

2:09 a.m. 911 Suspicious Activity, North Brookfield Road, Spoken To  
 4:45 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Podunk Road, Transported to Hospital  
 6:56 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Faith Drive, Transported to Hospital  
 8:10 a.m. 911 Welfare Check, Shore Road, Gone on Arrival  
 10:43 a.m. Assist Citizen, Dunn Brook Road, Officer Handled  
 10:51 a.m. Complaint, Pleasant Street, Report Taken  
 1:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Shore Road, Citation Issued  
 2:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Shore Road, Citation Issued  
 2:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Citation Issued  
 3:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Citation Issued  
 3:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Citation Issued

3:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Citation Issued  
 4:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Citation Issued  
 4:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Citation Issued  
 4:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Shore Road, Citation Issued

## Thursday, Dec. 21

9:35 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Main Street, Transported to Hospital  
 10:37 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Cottage Street, Citation Issued  
 1:10 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, East Main Street, Spoken To  
 4:01 p.m. Assist Other Agency, West Sturbridge Road, Services Rendered  
 10:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Out of Town, Citation Issued  
 10:20 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Podunk Road, Transported to Hospital

## Friday, Dec. 22

7:36 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued  
 8:42 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Leicester, Dispatch Handled  
 12:16 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, West Sturbridge Road, Negative Contact  
 1:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Citation Issued  
 1:07 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Route 49, Services Rendered  
 1:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Citation Issued  
 1:53 p.m. Property Damage, Elm Street, Report Taken

2:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Shore Road, Citation Issued  
 2:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Citation Issued  
 2:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Citation Issued  
 4:30 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Connie Mack Drive, Services Rendered  
 6:31 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, East Main Street, Officer Handled  
 11:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued

## Saturday, Dec. 23

3:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Howe Street, Arrest(s) Made

## Sunday, Dec. 24

10:13 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Shore Road, Written Warning

**Support the local businesses that support your local newspaper.**  
*Let them know you saw their ad in the*  
**Quaboag Current**

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 In observance of **NEW YEAR'S**  
 There will be an **EARLY CLASSIFIEDS & ADVERTISING DEADLINE**  
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<p><b>CLUES ACROSS</b></p> <p>1. A way to injure</p> <p>5. Mutual savings bank</p> <p>8. Rock TV channel</p> <p>11. Large number of fish swimming together</p> <p>13. Military mailbox</p> <p>14. Female of a horse</p> <p>15. Category</p> <p>16. City</p> <p>17. Breezed through</p> <p>18. Officer who bears a mace</p> <p>20. Tax collector</p> <p>21. "Cheers" actress Perlman</p> <p>22. Pauses before acting</p> <p>25. Extracted information from a wave</p> <p>30. Tendency to revert to something ancestral</p> <p>31. No seats available</p> <p>32. Nocturnal rodents</p> <p>33. Moves gently to</p>	<p>and fro</p> <p>38. Not good</p> <p>41. A way to ready</p> <p>43. One who makes something better</p> <p>45. Things associated with American history</p> <p>48. Ancient Phoenician fertility god</p> <p>49. A continuous portion of a circle</p> <p>50. Volcanic craters</p> <p>55. Units of electrical resistance</p> <p>56. Gamble on</p> <p>57. Ethiopian town</p> <p>59. One point east of northeast</p> <p>60. Polynesian garland of flowers</p> <p>61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation</p> <p>62. State of fuss</p> <p>63. Keyboard key</p> <p>64. Partner to relaxation</p>	<p><b>CLUES DOWN</b></p> <p>1. "The world's most famous arena"</p> <p>2. Polite interruption sound</p> <p>3. Private school in New York</p> <p>4. Refuse of grapes</p> <p>5. ___ Tomei, actress</p> <p>6. Adult beverages</p> <p>7. Supporter</p> <p>8. Papier-___, art material</p> <p>9. Forests have them</p> <p>10. Most ancient Hindu scriptures</p> <p>12. Downwind</p> <p>14. Marketplace</p> <p>19. Flowering plant genus</p> <p>23. Street where nightmares happen</p> <p>24. Admirer</p> <p>25. Dip lightly into water</p> <p>26. When you hope to get there</p> <p>27. Partner to cheese</p>	<p>28. Egg</p> <p>29. A way to disqualify</p> <p>34. South American plant</p> <p>35. Fold-away bed</p> <p>36. Debbie Harry album "___ Koo"</p> <p>37. Swedish krona</p> <p>39. Displaying warmth and friendliness</p> <p>40. Official orders</p> <p>41. Bowling alley necessity</p> <p>42. Stray</p> <p>44. About milk</p> <p>45. Expressed pleasure</p> <p>46. Caribbean dance</p> <p>47. If not</p> <p>48. ___ fide (Latin)</p> <p>51. Swiss river</p> <p>52. Hebrew calendar month</p> <p>53. One easily swindled</p> <p>54. Point that is one point south of southwest</p> <p>58. Small island (British)</p>
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# QUABOAG CURRENT

**WEST BROOKFIELD**  
Knights host spaghetti dinner p3

**WARREN**  
Light the Night winners announced p6

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Governor announces funding for trails p2

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Classifieds  
Police Logs

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**15**

Volume 17, Number 5

Friday, December 29, 2023

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