Students get hands-on science knowledge

By Emma Monahan
Staff writer

BROOKFIELD - Brookfield Elementary School held a night full of science fun at their annual science night, featuring experiences by Top Secret Science, based in Woburn.

“We wanted the kids to have a hands-on experience,” said science coach and fifth and sixth-grade special education teacher Paula Casey. “This is a way to spark their interest in science.”

Michael Bergen, of Top Secret Science, said before the event that these experiences are ones that can be done at home, and it’s a way for parents to work together with their kids. At Brookfield’s event, the students focused on chemical reactions.

The event, which was held to all grades over two nights, brought together excited students and interested parents, who sat with their supplies in the cafeteria, awaiting Berger’s experiments.

By Emma Monahan
Staff writer

‘Seussical’ comes to the stage

Tantasqua Drama Club

By Emma Monahan
Staff writer

STURBRIDGE - Tantasqua High School will be performing a family-friendly production with their staging of “Seussical,” a musical written by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty. Based on the classic children’s stories by Dr. Seuss, the main storyline features Horton from “Horton Hears a Who!” And his interactions with others popular Seuss characters, such as the Cat in the Hat, The Grinch, and the Whos, the citizens of Who-ville.

The cast sat together during their April vacation on the edge of town, lake cleanup

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

NORTH BROOKFIELD - Global warming was the topic of discussion on Earth Day for North Brookfield Public Schools and the town on Monday, Astronomy Dr. Jeffrey Bennett spoke to students, faculty and held a public lecture on his presentation “Global Warming Demystified.”

His talks, which began in 2015 and continue today, take him all over the country explaining how global warming happens and what people can do to help the planet. Although few attended the public lecture Monday evening, the information Bennett presented was important to understand.

Astrologist discusses global warming with community

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

Bennett, who is also the author of the popular children’s book series “Max Science Adventures,” ties in his children’s books in lectures when he speaks to younger students as an easier way for them to understand the topics he discusses. His book “The Wizard Who Saved the World” was one he presented earlier in the day.

Bennett began his lecture by discussing the difference between Earth and Venus, which have high difference in surface temperatures. This is a result of the Greenhouse Effect, which traps the sun’s warmth in the planet’s lower atmosphere.

When you put a planet over

See GLOBAL WARMING | PAGE 13

Chamber celebrates Choice Awards

The park is located on 5.4 acres of land located within walking distance of Warren town center, the Quaboag Regional Middle/High School and about three miles from the Lucy Stone homestead. The land was originally granted to the “Inhabitants of the Town of Warren” in the 1960s.

Over time, the park became overgrown with a variety of vegetation. But several years ago the Warren Conservation Commission took on the restoration of the park and everyone from the Scout Troop 142, the CAR Watershed Council has gotten involved.

Still, Conservation Commission Chairwoman Joyce Eichacker said it was O’Brien’s hand that guided this work.

See CHOICE AWARDS | PAGE 12

By Emma Monahan
Staff writer

STURBRIDGE - Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Timothy O’Brien, of West Warren, for his work in making the Lucy Stone Park an attraction to be proud of. But the first thing he did upon taking the stage last week was thank those who toiled with him to make it happen.

“This couldn’t have happened without the volunteers,” he said. “This is totally a volunteer project, with residents from Warren and other towns and the Scouts, and students from Quaboag Regional High School who helped clear the trails.”

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All American River Race to be held April 28 in Sturbridge

STURBRIDGE
The Sturbridge Lions All American River Race is an annual event enjoyed by canoeing and kayak-ing enthusiasts and spectators alike, and this year it will be held on Sunday, April 28, at 9 a.m., at Turners Field in Sturbridge. This is a timed race of over six miles, starting one craft each minute. The first craft leaves Turners Field at 11:01 a.m. and heads for the finish line at Westville Dam Recreational Area. The Westville Dam Regional Recreation Area features food and entertainment as well as strategic viewing spots to see the competitors negotiate the rapids. A good time is had by all.

The Sturbridge Lions Club will hold a raffle and that winner will receive a brand new Loon Kayak, life jacket and paddle included. Which will be on site. Tickets are available for the raffle at a donation of $5 each. Registration fee is $20 per person. For information and registration forms, contact Chairman Lion Dale Favreau at 508-347-9636 or Lion Randy Peppard at rpeppard@msn.com.

Pathfinder Class of ’84 to hold reunion

PALMER — The Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School Class of 1984 will hold a reunion Friday, April 26, at the Grapehold at Turners Field in Belcher-Road, in Belcher-Road, April 26, at the Grapehold at Turners Field in Belcher-Road, at the Grapehold a reunion Friday, April 26, at the Grapehold a reunion Friday, Pathfinder Class of ’84 to hold reunion

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town at 6 p.m. The invite is on Face-book by Dave Mortor. The cost is $30 per per-son and payment is due by Sunday, April 14 to Timothy Brothers, 7 Har-rison Avenue, Monson, MA 01057. The committee needs help updating classmate addresses, whether they are coming or not. For more information, people may email timbroth ers6@aol.com.

West Brookfield Senior Center offers numerous programs

WEST BROOK-FIELD — West Brook-field Senior Center has a number of regularly-scheduled programs and activities available for seniors. For more details, call the Senior Center on come in and pick up a newsletter, or call the Senior Center at 508-867-1407. Regularly scheduled programs include:

- Monday, 10 a.m., Functional Fitness $3 a class
- Monday, 12:30 p.m., Canasta
- Tuesday, 9:30 a.m., Wii Dancing
- Tuesday, 11 a.m., Line Dancing $3 a class
- Tuesday, noon, Whist
- Tuesday, 12:30 p.m., Busy Bees Needlework
- Wednesday, 10 a.m., Flex and Stretch Yoga
- Wednesday, 10 a.m., Veteran Agent Office hours
- Wednesday, 12:30 p.m., Pitch
- Thursday, 9 a.m., Tai Chi
- Thursday, 12:30 p.m., Mah Jong
- Friday, 12:45 p.m., Duplicate Bridge
- Monday through Friday, 11:30 a.m., Lunch
- First Wednesday, 1 p.m., Book Club
- First and third Thurs-days, 12:30 p.m., Bingo
- Third Thursday, 10 a.m., Coffee with the Police Chief
- Third Friday, 10 a.m., Coffee hour and birthday celebrations
- Third Tuesday, 10 a.m., Podiatrist (West Brookfield residents only)
- Third Tuesday, 9 a.m., Council on Aging meet-ing
- Third Tuesday, 10 a.m., Blood Pressure/Ask the Nurse
- Second Wednesday, 1 p.m., Genealogy
- Last Tuesday, 7 p.m., Ham radio
- First Tuesday, 7 p.m., CW Meeting
- Fourth Friday, 10 a.m., Hearing clinic (ap-pointment required)
- Also available are the Flu Shot Clinic, Hearing Clinic, Blood Pressure Clinic, bus trips, SHINE counseling, Quilting Guild and an special programs.

Free Community Shred Day

STURBRIDGE — On Saturday, May 4, do some spring cleaning and get rid of those unwanted documents, hard drives and media safely and securely at McCurdy Insurance’s Free Shred Day. The truck will be at the office location at 212 Mineral Street, from 9 a.m. to noon, rain or shine.

On Saturday, May 4, the Haston Library will host a free Lyme disease prevention and the seri-ousness of Lyme disease. Seating is limited. To reg-ister, people should call 413-377-6613.

Earth Day book walk

NORTH BROOKFIELD — The Hardwick Farmers’ Co-Op, 444 Lower Rd., will host a free Lyme dis-ease seminar presented by Michele Miller, co-founder of Central Mass Lyme Foundation on Saturday, May 4 at 10:30 a.m. Participants can learn tick prevention and the seri-ousness of Lyme disease. Seating is limited. To reg-ister, people should call 413-477-6613.

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Huge Rebates on Dishwasher and Kitchen Packages!!

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The Quaboag Current • www.quaboagcurrent.turley.com
Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance - opinion -

A

ll of the towns in the Quaboag Hills (Barre, Belchertown, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Had- wick, Holland, Hubbardston, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham, Palm- er, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren, and West Brookfield) have permanent medicine drop- boxes installed at local Police Stations that can take expired and unused drugs any time day or night throughout the year.

On Saturday, April 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the towns of Belchertown, Barre, Holl- and, and Spencer will also hold events in collaboration with the U.S. Drug Enforce- ment Administration (DEA) to help residents prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, un- used, and unwanted prescription drugs.

On April 27, bring your pills for disposal to the Town Common in Belchertown and to the Police Departments in Barre, Holland and Spencer. Just remember that sites can- not accept liquids or sharps, only pills or patches. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. The April 27 event is part of twice-yearly “Drug Take Back Days”.

Last fall Americans turned in nearly 460 tons (more than 900,000 pounds) of prescrip- tion drugs at more than 5,800 sites operated by the DEA and its law enforcement partners. This initiative and year-round dropboxes address a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabi- nets can become accessible to children, misuse, and abuse. To avoid potential safety and health hazards, don’t dispose of unused medicines by flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash.

In the Quaboag Hills region, the good news is that almost all of the towns in our area are NOT abusing prescription opioid drugs that were not prescribed for them. Based on our 2017 Prevent Needs Assessment Survey, less than 1 percent of eighth and of 8th and 10th graders misused prescription opioids about 2 percent of 12th-graders do. Among the very small number of students who did use a prescription opioid, most of these were prescribed to them, about 25 percent of such students got the drugs from a home without any parental permission. Almost 6 percent of those students got the medications from someone else’s medicine cabinet, all the more reason for adults to properly dispose of ex- pired prescription medicines. It also helps to reduce the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to such drugs.

In addition to using year-round dropbox- es and “Take Back Days”, the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance strongly encourages parents and grandparents to use a lockable box to safely store prescription medicines. A lock-box can also be used to store retail marijuana products keeping them away from underage youth and reducing the chances of accidental poisoning among young children.

For more information about the disposal of prescription drugs or about the April 27 “Take Back Day” events, go to http://www.DEATake- Back.com or the QHSSA Facebook page.

Many times on the way to Easter din- ner my kids commented on the plants they saw from the car window. There was lots of skunk cabbage sprouting along the edges of streams. Spicebush too, with its pretty yellow flowers was putting in a nice show at the edge of the woods. Another plant that was growing in the culverts caught my attention some years earlier and spawned some research on my part. The answer was removal of a dandelion but the leaves were all wrong. Read on to learn what I discovered about coltsfoot.

I started my research in my na- tive plant books but it was missing for good. In my garden I have been able to locate it but none of my favorite plant books have it. I find it interesting that the common name of coltsfoot is derived from the Latin word “tussius” which means cough. Centuries ago Greeks and Romans found the herb to be an effective treatment for lung con- ditions. It was utilized for the same purpose more recently, by Native Americans and early settlers to this country. Today, however, the use of coltsfoot as medicine is cautioned. Re- cent studies suspect it may be a carcinogen. One non-medical use that struck me as in- teresting was the custom Scottish Highland- ers had of stuffing bedheads with the tufted seed heads.

Over the years coltsfoot has had a variety of medicinal uses. Its genus name of Tussilago is derived from the Latin word “tussius” which means cough. 1007

Other funny names include: ass’s foot, bullfoot, colt- herb, foalfoot and sowfoot. It’s surprising that none of these other names take into consideration the beauty of the flowers.

In my backyard

I saw a common flicker on in New Braintree Monday. I also saw one in Oakham last Tuesday. Both birds flew up from the ground and displayed its conspicuous white wings. I also have of seen it flight.

Unlike other members of the woodpeck- er family, flickers feed on the ground for ants rather than pecking on rock for insects. The male flicker has a black mustache. Both the male and female is a black patch on the upper chest, a red nape and black speckles on a light buff breast. The back is brown with black. In flight, it flashes golden yellow under the wings and tail. Flickers are either yellow-shifted or red-shifted depending on their location. Eastern flickers display the yellow coloring and western ones display salmon red.

The male flicker is a large, loud bird, “wick.” The notes are “kley-er” and “flick-a, flick-a.” They inhabit open forests, woodlots, groves, farms, towns and semi-open country. The Massachusetts Audubon Society re- ported that the winter irruption of evening grosbeak continued last week in Hubbard- ston. The Grosbeaks have returned to your yard.

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less, and guest columns between 300 and 500 words. No unsigned or anony- mous 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 sub- missions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiat- ed allegations, personal attacks, or defamations of character.

Send opinions to:
Letters to the Editor, 80 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082, or email to ekennedy@turley. com. Deadline for submission is Monday at noon for the following week’s edition.
May Festival set for May 4

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The May Festival will be held on Saturday, May 4, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Haston Free Library, the Town House, the Congregational and Episcopal churches as well as local businesses. It is a full day celebration of the community and all it has to offer. Imagine, create, explore, and discover at the 10th annual May Festival, expanded to showcase the 12th grade. An adult team entry fee is $30 and a student team registration is completed by May 18. It is $50 per team after May 18 and on the day of the event. Registration can be downloaded from the Quaboag Athletic Booster Club Facebook page or email Marty at mar@qabog48@gmail.com or Pam at pamskold@charter.net. Payment can be made online at PayPal at quaboagbooster@gmail.com or make checks payable to Quaboag Athletic Booster Club and mail payment and registration form to PO. Box 780, Warren, MA. 01083. There are cash prizes for both adults and students. All proceeds benefit the Quaboag Middle High School athletes.

REGION – A birds and wildflowers walk will take place Wednes- day, May 8, from 8 a.m. to noon at the East Quabbin Rail Trail in New Braintree. Leaders are Christy Barnes and Wendy Howes. This trail provides easy walking ac- cess to a variety of Ware Valley River habitats. Participants will look for returning neotropical migrant birds and also keep watch for emerging wildflowers alongside the trail. This is a new field trip location. People should meet at the train parking area in New Braintree just south of where Hardwick/Ravine Road and West Street meet. People should bring binoculars, cameras, field guides, insect repel- lents, snacks and beverages if they wish. The event will be cancelled in case of steady rain. The Ware River Na- ture Club will host an Alas Wildness: A Canoe Journey into the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge by Mark and Marcia Wilson Saturday, May 18, at 10:30 a.m. at the Rutland Public Library, 280 Main St. (Rte. 147), Rutland. This program includes a colorful slide show and live owl ap- pearance. There are views of snow owls at the nest, caribou maneuvering icy river crossings and Bar- ren Ground Grouse. Grizzly Bear foraging the tundra as well as close-ups of musk ox, peregrine falcons, yel- low-billed loons, king ei- ghts and Royalton. How- ever, most of the grooks in coastal Massachusetts and low-lying areas have left for the northern breed- ing grounds. Birds seen at Bolton Flats in Lancaster included a common Gallin- nule, five sand hill cranes, 10 Wilson’s snipes, sev- eral raptors, and a student team entry fee is $30, if registration is completed by May 18. It is $50 per team after May 18 and on the day of the event. Registration can be downloaded from the Quaboag Athletic Booster Club Facebook page or email Marty at mar@qabog48@gmail.com or Pam at pamskold@charter.net. Payment can be made online at PayPal at quaboagbooster@gmail.com or make checks payable to Quaboag Athletic Booster Club and mail payment and registration form to PO. Box 780, Warren, MA. 01083. There are cash prizes for both adults and students. All proceeds benefit the Quaboag Middle High School athletes.

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Pathfinder to hold plant sale May 11 and 18

WARE – Students at Pathfinder Regional Vocational High School will be holding its new and improved FFA Plant Sale on Sundays, May 11 and May 18 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on both days. Lynn DuPuis, the new horticulture instructor has spent the year teaching the students all aspects of horticulture and floriculture and they have out done themselves. This year’s plant sale should prove to be the best ever. There will be beautiful hanging baskets in all colors as well as annuals and for the first time perennials. The students have also designed small and large mixed pots for the home or cemetery needs. Everything has been grown and maintained by the horticulture students. The horticulture department will also be open during the school day as well from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. Anyone with questions may contact Lynn DuPuis at dupuis@pathfindertech.com or call 413-233-9701 and leave a message.

Sparkle 5K Run/Walk to be held June 29

WARE – Buy Ware Now is hosting its third annual Sparkle 5K Run/Walk at Greeneville Park by Lake Quaboag on Saturday, June 29. The 5K walk starts at 8 a.m., the 5K run at 9 a.m. and the 1K at 10 a.m. All participants are encouraged to wear sparkles and the louder the better. There will also be vendor give-aways and The Sparkle-run exhibitions. Awards will be given out for best costume male and female runners; best race times and all runners will receive medals and goodie bags. Registration is available on line at www.raceentry.com, or by calling 413-967-8304 for more information.

Now is proud to support Ware nonprofits. In the past two years the annual Sparkle Run has raised $9,000 for Ware nonprofits. This year’s Sparkle Run/Walk at Greeneville Park will again benefit local nonprofits and support Ware home buyer grants.

Art Works to exhibit and sell the works of Elizabeth Howe Lincoln in May and June

WARE – Art Works Gallery is proud to feature accomplished artist for eight decades, and received recognition throughout her career for her paintings, sculptures, lithographs, paintings, and illustrations. She generously donated her artistic works to local charities and organizations. Lincoln was born and raised in Ware, graduating from Ware High School in 1935, and continuing her education at Chestnut Academy and Acadia University in Nova Scotia. She took courses at the Vesper George school in Boston. She was a beloved art teacher at Ware High School and continued teaching in art at Welbraham-Monson Academy. She illustrated her father’s book, “Quabbin, the Lost Valley,” in 1951, as well as six books her husband wrote after his retirement. She published a retrospective of her own works, “Here’s Ware and Elsewhere,” as she approached her 90th year. She died in 2011 at the age of 93. Don’t miss your chance to purchase a piece of history. Art Works Gallery is open on Thursday and Friday from 3 to 7 p.m., and Saturday from 1 to 7 p.m. Art Works is located at 69 Main St. in downtown Ware. For more information, check out our website www.workshop13.org/gallery.

Spring Shop Hop on Main Street set for April 27 to offer events

WARE – Join us for the 1st annual Spring Shop Hop in downtown Ware on Saturday, April 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Local businesses, civic and community organizations invite everyone to come and take a stroll down the beautiful Main Street of Ware. Local businesses will sponsor a variety of free drawings, refreshments, music, and kids’ crafts.

Many of the stores will also offer this day only “Special Sales.” Maps of Main Street with entertainment spots will be available on April 27. The PVTA Trolley will be in Ware to shuttle shoppers to participating merchants, or to just take a ride. The trolley is compliments of PVTA and is free. Participating merchants to date are Artworks Gallery, Country Bank (West Street Branch), Churt’s Appli- ance, Dioguardi Jewelers, The Brookfield Institutes of the Warehouse, Dioguardi Jewelers, and the Ware Grange plan as well as six books her husband wrote after his retirement. She published a retrospective of her own works, “Here’s Ware and Elsewhere,” as she approached her 90th year. She died in 2011 at the age of 93. Don’t miss your chance to purchase a piece of history. Art Works Gallery is open on Thursday and Friday from 3 to 7 p.m., and Saturday from 1 to 7 p.m. Art Works is located at 69 Main St. in downtown Ware. For more information, check out our website www.workshop13.org/gallery.

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**Community**

**Trauma, military family workshop is June 18**

WARE - A Trauma and the Military Family workshop will help people understand the military family’s effects and healthy responses, build resilience, and engage with the community. The free workshop is scheduled for Cobblestone Room, Tuesday, June 18, at Holyoke Community College E2E, 799 North Blvd. The workshop is a collaboration between The Brookfield Institute and Clear Path for Veterans New England. Jeanine Germain of Clear Path, herself a military spouse, will talk about the role of families in the military and how to build a community of supporters, even if you live off-base or your family member isn't in the military any longer.

"The families get forgotten about a lot," says Germain, executive officer and treasurer of Clear Path for Veterans New England. She founded a family group to help strengthen and increase family support to each other. When her husband, Scott, was on active duty, she relied on fellow military spouses but now, those people aren't right in her backyard any longer. "I started the family group in case other military spouses felt the same way I did."

Besides having been a "proud military spouse" for decades, Germain has earned a master's degree in counseling and education. Yet she is still sometimes stymied by living with a person who is living with the effects of trauma.

"You really need to understand it," Germain said. "And it's very hard to understand. It changes and there are so many areas of my husband's life it affects." She did a lot of research and has learned not to take things too personally, to understand her husband, and to deal with his problems. "But you still have boundaries, things you’re not willing to put up with."

Other facilitators are the Rev. Dr. Beverly Prestwood-Taylor, executive director of The Brookfield Institute who is an organizational consultant in communications and conflict transformation and is certified in Community Education in Trauma Healing. Jennifer Baubitz, adjunct professor at Assumption College and a member director of Shoulder to Shoulder, will also lead. Registration is needed to get a head count for the light supper that will be provided. Register at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/trau- ma-and-the-military-fam-
ily-workshop-tick-
ets-59443956474.

**Women's Alliance holds auction May 4**

BROOKFIELD - The BUUC Women's Alliance will be holding their 23rd annual Goods & Services Silent Auction on Saturday, May 4, from 6:30 to 9 p.m., at the Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church, at 9 Upper Village St. Please come to this delightful evening for appetizers, an asparagus cook-off challenge, good conversation, and the excitement of bidding on some wonderful items.

This is a very popular event, and items donated for previous auctions have included art works of all kinds, specialty foods such as tax preparation or bread-making lessons, and jewelry. There will also be raffle baskets and a $500 raffle. The Women's Alliance of the Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church has met since 1859. The Alliance provides support to the church and serves the community. It also serves the social and spiritual needs of women through fellowship, group expression, and programs of education, service and community.

The proceeds will benefit the food services program at the Brookfield Senior Center, as well as the annual Goods & Services Silent Auction.

**Music for the Soul, May 17**

BROOKFIELD - The George Whitefield United Methodist Church will host its third annual Music for the Soul Concert on May 17, at 7 p.m., at the church, 33 W. Main St. Featured this year will be professional classical singers, violinist and pianist as well as the GWUMC Violin School string ensemble. These annual concerts have been an amazing gift to our local communities, as this caliber of music is rarely available in this area. This year, the program will include bass-baritone Seungyun Kim and tenor Heejae Kim singing classical and popular selections, in addition to a string ensemble of Juhee Lee, on violin, and Alice Da Eun Ryu, on piano. For the first time, students of the violin school will also perform. The community is invited and encouraged to partake of this beautiful opportunity to hear world class musicians perform timeless music to refresh the soul. A free-will offering will be accepted to benefit the missions of the George Whitefield United Methodist Church. Past concerts have provided hurricane relief and violin school seed money.

**Free plant swap, May 4**

BROOKFIELD - The Brookfield Asparagus Festival will take place on Saturday, May 18, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the town common, at routes 6 and 67. It is free and open to the public. Come enjoy the 17th annual celebration of asparagus, and all things earthy and artisanal. One hundred juried exhibitors of plants, flowers, arts, crafts and animals will be there. There are free games for kids to venture to Asparagus Alley, which features homemade pies, chowder and other diverse vendors of varieties of foods. The frog jumping contest is at 1:30, and there is music all day. There is parking near the common and there is also a free, all-day shuttle bus from the town garage at the junction of Central and Front Streets.

**Annual Lake Wickaboag and town cleanup**

WEST BROOKFIELD - The Lake Wickaboag Preservation Association is planning a 25th annual lake cleanup day, from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 4, at the town beach and the town’s Common. The committee will hold an initial annual town-wide street clean-up from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Common. Sandy Cassidy, chairwoman of the lake cleanup event, is encouraging volunteers to meet at the town beach to pick up assignments and items for clean-up, and then to return to the lake and along the shoreline. As in previous years, the volunteer effort will also include the lake area and Wickaboag Road to Snow Road and the rest area on Route 9 across from the lake. A visit to the Pynchon land acquisition to pick up any trash in that area will also occur. Refreshments will be provided and LWPAs t-shirts, “I voted and hats will be available. Committee Chairman Rayne Petruzzi and Common Committee member Leanne Pierce and Ma Linda Mathiasson will be meeting volunteers at the Common to give them street assignments and blue bags for collecting trash and clear bags for collecting recycle items to be returned to a dumptruck. This is an initial effort, and Petruzzi hopes it will become an annual effort, to walk the streets of West Brookfield and pick up the town trash.

Early volunteer sign-ups suggest this will be a very successful program.

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SCIENCE I FROM PAGE 1

gen’s instructions. “This is a way for the kids to learn outside of the classroom,” said Casey. Bergen kept the stu-
dents on their toes and asked them constant questions, such as what type of substance they were working with. Pink and blue liquid in small plastic cups were the mystery of the night, with kids guessing if it was their favorite sugary drink or not. What was really water with food coloring turned into dif-
ferent experiments.

In the first experiment, the students were able to create their own snow by combining the pink water and instant snow powder. The combination of the two caused a foam-like substance to form, which then died down and re-
sembled snow, overflowing in its small cup. Bergen explained that this is the same type of stuff that is used in movies and TV shows because it lasts a long time. When the kids touch it, it gets warm, just as real snow would. The second experiment required a little patience. To create their own crys-
tals, the kids combined blue water and water crystals. Within one hour, crystals formed, but were squishy and wet. Bergen said these crystals are a great source of water for plants by putting them in the soil. They grab onto the water, store it and release it into the plant, which then needs less watering is need-
ed. Once the crystals dry out, more water can be added as needed.

As the students patiently waited for their crys-
tals to form, they applied themselves to the challenge of trying to balance sticks. Using the stick, a piece of wire and two metal wash-
ers, the students followed Bergen’s instructions to bend and wrap the wire in certain ways around the stick. The sticks then re-
sembled small people, and the students were allowed to draw faces on them. Students balanced their sticks on the fingers, noses and heads, some even trying to balance two at a time.

A night full of science experiments ended up be-
ing fun both for the kids and the parents, who may try similar experiments at home.

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Contact name & phone number for more information __________________________________________

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Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
or email* them to: jamie@turley.com

*Be sure to indicate “Summer” in the subject line of your email.
Sophomore Price making early impact

By Karen A. Lewis  
Sports Correspondent

BARRE - Quabbin sophomore Gavin Price may be young, but he’s been a force on the Panther baseball team so far this season.

Both on the mound and behind the plate, Price has been a solid player and made substantial contributions in a pair of victories over spring vacation last week.

“I’m extremely happy with the way our team has started,” Price said. “All the boys are super locked in and only want to win.”

Defeats over Leicester, 2-0 last Thursday at home and North Middlesex 6-4 last Wednesday on the road helped push the Panthers to an overall undefeated record of 3-0.

“We are starting to incorporate some new things at practice and our team has really bonded together, which really shows on the field,” said Price.

In a come from behind win against the Patriots at their place, Price pitched seven innings with 13 strike-outs, giving up only one earned run and created scoring when the game was on the line in the seventh inning.

“I came up (to bat) in a very clutch position,” explained Price. “We were down by two, with bases loaded and two outs. I went up to the plate knowing how important this was, and knowing if I saw my first pitch was a fastball, I was going to put it in the gap, and that’s exactly what I did. I couldn’t have done it though, without the help of my teammates.”

Price’s go-ahead two-run double and an additional run actually put Quabbin ahead 3-2, but the Patriots answered back in the bottom of the seventh with a Sean Hawyard RBI double to send the game into extra innings.

Quabbin junior Max Leroux (2-for-3) stepped up big when it mattered with a Sean Hawyard RBI double to send the game into extra innings.

“Coming back from behind large margin,” Jenkins said. “We just weren’t able to get our friends and peers to help us out and play. Unfortunately, nobody showed up.”

“We had eight committed players throughout the two weeks of practice,” Baldino said. “I stressed it daily to the team that we could not afford traveling to an away game and depend on just the eight kids, and they had to try their best to get their friends and peers to help us out and play. Unfortunately, nobody showed up.”

Many people are at a loss for things were initially looking positive. In late February, new coach Fran Baldino was hired and a new energy was spreading throughout the school. A successful basketball season was wrapping up, with many of the athletes on that team mentioning their excitement to transition to baseball.

Unfortunately, that never happened, as less than ten players showed up for practice, despite the fact that over a dozen athletes from the middle and high school gave verbal pledges to join.

“We had eight committed players throughout the two weeks of practice,” Baldino said. “I stressed it daily to the team that we could not afford traveling to an away game and depend on just the eight kids, and they had to try their best to get their friends and peers to help us out and play. Unfortunately, nobody showed up.”

Many people are at a loss for how the baseball team phased out the way it did, because at one time North Brookfield had a thriving program, beginning with a successful youth and little league program.

Perhaps the overall lower enrollment of students across the state, many students who school choice out of the North Brookfield district or the fact that a higher number of athletes only stick to one sport depend on just the eight kids, and they had to try their best to get their friends and peers to help us out and play. Unfortunately, nobody showed up.”

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**The week ahead**

**Quaboag Regional High School**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, April 26</td>
<td>Home 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Leominster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, April 29</td>
<td>Home 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Auburn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 1</td>
<td>Home 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Murdock</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 2</td>
<td>Away 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Northampton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 2</td>
<td>Girls Track 3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Boys Tennis 3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Home 3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Home 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Wachusett</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, April 29</td>
<td>Home 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Auburn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 1</td>
<td>Home 3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 1</td>
<td>Home 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Auburn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, April 29</td>
<td>Home 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Auburn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, April 30</td>
<td>Away 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Northampton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, April 26</td>
<td>Away 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Franklin Tech</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 1</td>
<td>Home 3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, April 26</td>
<td>Home 3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, April 26</td>
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<td>Grafton</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Granby</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, April 26</td>
<td>Home 3:30 p.m.</td>
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**Tantasqua Regional High School**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, April 26</td>
<td>Home 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Granby</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, April 29</td>
<td>Home 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Oxford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 1</td>
<td>Home 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Auburn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 27</td>
<td>Away 2 p.m.</td>
<td>St. John's</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 27</td>
<td>Away 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>St. John's</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, April 29</td>
<td>Home 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Auburn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, April 30</td>
<td>Away 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Hopedale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, April 26</td>
<td>Away 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Franklin Tech</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 1</td>
<td>Home 4 p.m.</td>
<td>Sabis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, April 26</td>
<td>Home 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Worcester North</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, April 30</td>
<td>Away 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Hopedale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, April 26</td>
<td>Home 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Worcester North</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 27</td>
<td>Home 10 a.m.</td>
<td>Wachusett</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 27</td>
<td>Away 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>St. John's</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 1</td>
<td>Home 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Auburn</td>
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<td>Monday, April 29</td>
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<tr>
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**Quabbin Regional High School**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, April 26</td>
<td>Home 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunenburg</td>
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<td>Friday, April 26</td>
<td>Away 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Auburn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 27</td>
<td>Boys Track 1:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 27</td>
<td>Girls Track 1:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 27</td>
<td>Home 2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>St. John's</td>
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<td>Saturday, April 27</td>
<td>Boys Track 2:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 27</td>
<td>Girls Track 2:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Monday, April 29</td>
<td>Home 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Auburn</td>
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<td>Monday, April 29</td>
<td>Girls Track 3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, April 29</td>
<td>Home 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Auburn</td>
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<td>Home 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Auburn</td>
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<td>Home 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Auburn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 1</td>
<td>Home 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Auburn</td>
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<tr>
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<th>Opponent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, April 26</td>
<td>Home 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Worcester North</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 1</td>
<td>Home 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Saint Bernard</td>
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**Pathfinder High School**

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<tr>
<td>Friday, April 26</td>
<td>Home 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>McCann Tech</td>
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<td>Granby</td>
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<td>Thursday, April 25</td>
<td>Boys Track 3:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Boys Track 3:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Boys Track 3:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Boys Track 3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, April 26</td>
<td>Home 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Belchertown</td>
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<td>Thursday, April 25</td>
<td>Away 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Granby</td>
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<td>Friday, April 26</td>
<td>Home 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Westfield</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 1</td>
<td>Home 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Sabre</td>
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**Digital Photos**

Each...
Big fourth inning leads Panthers to win

By Karen A. Lewis
Sports Correspondent

The Quaboag Current • www.quaboagcurrent.turley.com  |  Friday, April 26, 2019  |  PAGE 11

LEFT: Quaboag’s Bria Gillen gets ready to strike against Leicester. Right: Quaboag pitcher Alysha Swan throws to a Leicester batter last week.

No more said, about folding the team. We are supposed to open up that upcoming Friday and on Wednesday we gave the team the decision and they decided that it would be unfair to continue working as hard as they were if nobody else could commit.

Both coaches were perplexed that given baseball was the only sport offered for boys in the spring for North Brookfield – those interested in track had the option of joining the co-op with David Prouty, but out of the remaining eight, two play- ers are now continuing on a team in Spencer.

“We have two North Brookfield students on the team, both are middle school age,” David Prouty varsity baseball coach, Sean Bastien said, who shared that Michael Bokis is seeing both varsity and JV time while Parker Servi is playing on the JV squad.

“MJ pitched against Quaboag last week, pitching five innings, allowing three outs and striking out three,” Bastien said.

Burnett “We struggled against their pitcher and couldn’t really get anything going off of her until late in the game. It was just too little too late.”

Scoring in the top of the eighth, Mahar kept it a 1-0 game until Quaboag tied things up in the bottom of the seventh. Three additional Mahar runs in the top of the eighth was too much for the Panthers to handle, but the Panthers went down fighting with one last run, making it a 4-2 game.

“They were a good team and I thought we just didn’t play well enough to win,” said Burnett about the Mahar match up. “Alysha pitched another good game; we just couldn’t get the bats going to get some run support. Olivia hit a big hit to give us a chance in extra innings, and Alysha kept it close enough to give us that chance.”

Burnett added Os- tromoecki and freshman Lauren Olson were both 2 for 4 at the plate.

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Burnett added Ostromoecki and freshman Lauren Olson were both 2 for 4 at the plate.
"It's hard to think of Lucy Stone Park without Tim O'Brien attached to it," she said. "He's invaluable resources he's been able to pull in for the project. And he volunteered to help out during the 2011 tornadoes and the October snowstorm. Two things I've learned about Tim are that he loves a good fight and he's very generous."

O'Brien was but one of several winners acknowledged during the Chamber of Commerce's 2019 Choice Awards program, coordinated by the Chamber of Commerce and held at the Cultural Center at Eagle Hill in Hardwick on Thursday, April 18.

Each winner was presented with a handmade trophy designed by Linda Spolko and made with the help of the Ware Handicrafters Society. The pair run Juliet Rose Pottery Studio in Monson, the other member of the Ware Handicrafters Society.

The event was supported by "Oscar Sponsor" Country Bank, "Academy Sponsors" Burkhardt Pizzanelli and Monson Savings Bank, "Emmy Sponsor" North Brookfield Savings Bank, "Sponsor" Quaboag Rehabilitation & Skilled Care Center, "Director" Bell & Hudson Insurance Agency, Cornerstone Bank, Century 21 and Christian Light Church.

The announcer for the evening was Bruce Marshall of The Valley's Classic Hits 97.7 FM and 1250 AM.

Winners were congratulated by Lenny Weake, president of the Chamber, Patty Clark, director of member services (who was working behind the scenes for much of the evening), Chamber President Lucy Stone Park, and Assistant Principal Joe Salisbury.

"I've known Gretchen Mollins for 10 years and she's had a tremendous impact on the school and the district," he said. Mollins said she was gratified with receiving the award, and she felt she had "the best job in the world." She said she had great colleagues and students that have kept her going while in the local schools. She was credited with setting the "Mindful Mondays" where students would exercise both their minds and bodies to relax and rejuvenate themselves.

"We had a lot of kids, and staff, tell me that because of Mindful Mondays they are more aware of their emotions and their responses to them," she said. "I remember once a group of kids, 'What do you need to be your best self right now?' They responded with things like 'snack,' 'nap,' and 'recess.' These sound so simple, but what if they were on to something? Maybe optimal learning is achieved with the proper balance of body and mind, and not pushing all with the technology that is the focus of every-thing now."

The Business of the Year was presented to Linda Lloyd who runs Angels Answer Inc., founded in 2012 by Linda Lloyd. It has provided everything from new backpacks to Warren Community Elementary School students and food to low-income residents to pet food to the Ware Senior Center and even supplies to an orphanage in Kenya. It operates a warehouse on South Street in Ware.

"We wouldn't be able to do everything we do without the volunteers and donors who support us," Lloyd said. "And along similar lines, Weake said the Chamber itself couldn't function without the sup-port of the likes of Volunteer of the Year Dorrida O'Keefe's.

"We are a staff of two, and so the support of our volunteers is invaluable in putting together programs like this one, and Dorrida is always willing to help out when she's needed," he said. "I think one of the things I want people to take away from this evening is we have amazing businesses and amazing volunteers in our communities that make the Quaboag Region a great place to live and work."

Businesses celebrating milestone years were also presented with gifts on stage, including Dr. Robert Griffin, chiropractor, East Longmeadow (20 years); Complete HealthCare Solutions, Palmer (35 years); First Impression Sign & Graphics, East Brookfield (30 years); Five Star Gar- dens, Palmer (30 years); JCS Custom Carpentry, Palmer (35 years), Brim- field Sign and Company (35 years); White Law Offices, PC, Palmer (40 years); MapleTree Indus-trial Center, Palmer (40 years); Corner Jewelers and Art Gallery, Spen- cer (50 years); Quaboag Riders, Inc., Monson (55 years); Gaudreau/Foun-tain Insurance Agency, Warren (60 years); and Crimmins-Graveline In-surance Agency, Palmer (90 years).

The recipient of the Chamber's first $1,000 grant, which replaced a $500 high school schol-arships that had been given in the past -- was Here Today, Adopted To-morrow, a cat shelter that also works to sterilize the homeless cat population in the region, based out of Brimfield.

One way the high school is giving back is in-volving fourth, fifth, and sixth-grade students from the district's elementary schools such as Burgess and Holland. The cast described the kids as "the future of theater," and by having them involved, they're also introducing them to it. Including the kids was also a reason the musical was chosen.

"Playing characters they grew up reading about is something the cast is looking forward to," Briggs said it is a way for them to work on character-ization, and how to portray these different characters. "They aren't human," Briggs jokes. "This is a way for the students to learn how to embody their physicality, use their bodies."

The group of students, many of whom are in- volved in both the drama department and show choir, have no problem in being involved in the production. Because of their involvement, the students said they've become a family throughout the rehearsals. It's "a team effort," said Briggs. "We're not competing against oth-er schools of course, but we're working together as a team."

"We're theater geeks, kind of," joked one stu-dent. The long rehearsals and learning side of the theater is what the stu-dents enjoy, which is something that friends and family will see in "Seus-sical," One student said high school is the time to find ones "things," and if you haven't tried theater, then what's the harm in doing so? One doesn't have to be an actor or singer, they can work the behind the scenes, which is just as important."

"Seus-sical" will be Fri-day, May 3, at 7 p.m., and Saturday, May 4, at 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets are $10 for students and se-niors, $12 for adults, and free for children five and under. Tickets can be re-served by calling 508-347- 5858 or emailing music- tix@tantasqua.org.
BROOKFIELD POLICE LOG Between April 15 and April 22, Brookfield police made two arrests, Brett Sperang, 39, of 30 North St., Ware, was arrested on April 15 for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, and speeding at a rate exceeding the posted limit. Jeffery Craig Evans, 31, of 23 Kimball St., Brookfield, was arrested on April 20 on a warrant. Police made 26 motor vehicle stops, 18 building and property checks, one welfare check, one motor vehicle investigation, one escort or transport, one notification, performed traffic control twice, radar nine times, eight directed or area patrols, vehicle maintenance three times, served two warrants, served one summons and assisted two citizens. Reports are to one complaint about motor vehicle operations, one animal call, one report of utility issues, one neighbor dispute, two alarms, one scam, one parking complaint, one disabled motor vehicle, one disturbance, one report of vandalism and three reports of phone calls. They appeared for court-related matters once and four officers were initiated.

There were nine 911 calls. Of these, four were for medical emergencies, two were for motor vehicle accidents, one was for a disturbance and two were misdials. Brookfield police assisted other agencies seven times.

WEST BROOKFIELD POLICE LOG Between April 15 and April 22, West Brookfield police made 22 motor vehicle stops, 33 building and property checks, one welfare check, three parking complaints, one motor vehicle investigation, one notification, performed traffic control twice, 31 directed or area patrols, radar three times, served one warrant and assisted three citizens. Police responded to one disturbance, one medical emergency, one fire alarm, one animal call, one safety hazard, one lockout, one alarm, one complaint about motor vehicle operations, two reports of suspicious activity, one report of larceny, theft or shoplifting and three reports of phone calls. They appeared for court-related matters once and three officers were initiated.

There were 18 911 calls. Of these, seven were for medical emergencies, one was for a safety hazard, one was for a mental health emergency, one was for a complaint about motor vehicle operations, one was an animal call, one was for a report of suspicious activity, one was for a welfare check, one was for a lockout, one was to assist a citizen, one was for a disturbance, one was a hang-up call, and one was a misid. West Brookfield police assisted two other agencies.

NEW BRAINTREE POLICE LOG Between April 15 and April 22, New Braintree police made 20 motor vehicle stops, 22 building and property checks, one investigation, one motor vehicle investigation, performed 24 directed or area patrols, traffic control four times, radar 14 times, arrested three times and assisted three citizens. Police responded to three safety hazards, one report of phone calls and one report of suspicious activity.

There were five 911 calls. Of these, one was for a medical emergency, one was for a complaint about motor vehicle operations, one was for a motor vehicle accident, one was for a disabled motor vehicle and one was for a report of burglary or breaking and entering.
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