

QUABOAG CURRENT

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Quaboag Current
Newspaper

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Volume 17, Number 11

Friday, February 9, 2024

Quaboag presents 'The Addams Family' musical Feb. 9-11

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARREN – They're creepy and they're kooky, mysterious and spooky and they're all together ooky; but the cast of Quaboag Drama Club's upcoming musical "The Addams Family" is also all together tal-

ented as they put their own spin on a favorite tale.

With opening night this Friday, Feb. 9 at 7 p.m., the large cast is ready to sing and dance through a performance that is sure to have you laughing out loud. Other dates include Saturday, Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 11 at 2 p.m. at Quaboag Regional Middle-

High School's auditorium, 284 Old West Brookfield Road.

A preview of the show will be performed for students at the middle/high school during the school day on Friday.

Quaboag's Fine Arts Director James Joinville said "The Addams Family" musical is a slight departure from the club's usual performances, with the

characters' quirky and oftentimes dark humor.

"The kids have been really excited," he said of performing the show. "We wanted to do something a little different. This really was the right show for this year."

"The Addams Family" also features one of the largest casts to take the stage at Quaboag,

with students in all grade levels playing a role either onstage or backstage.

"The experience has been great," Joinville said. "This gives so many kids an outlet to be creative, take risks...just being involved in a team."

Taking on the role of Wednesday Addams is senior

See MUSICAL | PAGE 11

Selectmen recognized two local Eagle Scouts

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Board of Selectmen recognized two Eagle Scouts, Joseph Standrowicz and Daniel Daige, for their service and contribution to the town.

At the Jan. 30 meeting, Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis said he recently served on the Board of Review for the two Scouts, and said it was "an impressive thing to do."

"Getting to meet and know these two outstanding indi-

See SCOUTS | PAGE 6



Tom Clough gives instructions to players prior to a game of pickleball. He runs the pickleball club at the Town Hall and enjoys seeing players having fun every week. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO

Farmers Market Spotlight

Back to the Winter Farmers Market for Tamsin's bread

Editor's note: The Quaboag Current will regularly feature a spotlight story on different farmers market vendors. Learn about the people that bring food and locally sourced items to your community.

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

WEST BROOKFIELD – The last day of January, saw the dark weather continue so it was over to brighter climes at the

See MARKET | PAGE 8



Tamsin Lucey of The Bread Box Company is a vendor at the West Brookfield Winter Farmers Market on Wednesdays through March 13. TURLEY PHOTO BY RICHARD MURPHY

Town Hall serves up indoor pickleball

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

NEW BRAINTREE – Pickleball sessions are now being offered at the Town Hall.

This pickleball club has re-

cently found a temporary home at the Town Hall. The club provides paddles and sessions for newcomers and regular pickleball players from the area.

Regular members of the pickleball club also provide helpful instructions for those

who have never played before.

Running the pickleball club is pickleball player, Tom Clough. Getting into pickleball this past summer, Clough wanted to provide a location for players in the town of New

See PICKLEBALL | PAGE 11

Friends of JHPL 'Stewing Over Mysteries' with Edwin Hill

By Rowan Bernstein
Correspondent

STURBRIDGE – The Friends of the Joshua Hyde Public Library gave guests the chance to escape the cold and enjoy a cozy dinner at their "Stewing Over Mysteries" event.

Held on Jan. 31 at the Publick House, the event includes a meal and a talk from a New

See MYSTERIES | PAGE 7



Author Edwin Hill was the featured speaker at the Friends of the Joshua Hyde Public Library's "Stewing Over Mysteries" event held on Jan. 31 at the Publick House. TURLEY PHOTO BY ROWAN BERNSTEIN

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Celebrate love with Our Valentine's Dinner. Your choice of filet mignon or salmon. Served with sautéed green beans, duchess potatoes, chocolate-covered strawberries, bacon-wrapped dates, and a delightful flourless chocolate cake.

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- community -

Tickets available for 25th Annual Second Chance Dinner Auction

EAST BROOKFIELD – Embrace the spirit of compassion as tickets for the 25th Annual Second Chance Dinner Auction are now available for purchase.

This significant fundraising event marks the kickoff of Second Chance's yearlong 25th-anniversary celebration, promising an evening of philanthropy and joy to benefit homeless shelter pets in need of veterinary care. The event is scheduled for Saturday, March 23, at the La Salle Reception Center in Southbridge.

Animal lovers and advocates are invited to join us in making a difference for shelter pets by participating in this milestone event. The evening commences with cocktail hour at 4 p.m., giving attendees the opportunity to peruse and bid on a myriad of silent auction items and try their luck with exciting raffle prizes.

Dinner will be served at 6 p.m., followed by the highlight of the night - the auction. Tickets are \$55 per person with the option to reserve a table for nine for \$495.

Lindsay Doray, Chief Development Officer, emphasizes the importance of this year's dinner auction, stating in a press release, "Our annual dinner auction serves as a lifeline for our shelter pets, ensuring they receive the necessary veterinary care to embark on their new journeys. With

the challenges we anticipate this year, your support is more crucial than ever."

The success of the event relies on the generosity of sponsors and item donors. Second Chance encourages businesses and individuals to consider lending their support by becoming a sponsor or contributing items to make this event truly impactful.

The popular event features both a silent and live auction featuring hundreds of items ranging from gift certificates for local businesses and restaurants to gift baskets and everything in between.

Doray said, "Our community's commitment to animals through the years has been truly heartwarming, and we welcome sponsors to join us in our mission to ensure that all pets can get the second chance they deserve. Your support will directly contribute to providing shelter pets with the medical care they need for a brighter future."

To enhance the auction experience, a selection of gift cards and small, easy-to-ship items will be available for advance online bidding March 14-21.

For those interested in sponsoring, donating items, or attending the event, complete information and tickets can be found at <http://www.secondchanceanimals.org/dinner-auction>.



The 25th Annual Second Chance Dinner Auction will help shelter pets like Bella get the care they need. Bella was suffering when she came to Second Chance in need of surgery for a severely broken leg. She stole the hearts of her foster family who planned to adopt her. SUBMITTED PHOTO

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Library hosts community benefits information program

EAST BROOKFIELD – The East Brookfield Public Library is hosting an informational program on Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 10 a.m.

The Town Treasurer will present on the Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit program - a great opportunity to save for those who qualify. The Town Assessor will cover various tax exemptions that can lower your tax

payments as well as what documentation you will need to file.

The Library Director will be sharing information about services such as SNAP, MassHealth, fuel assistance and more. Feel free to bring questions about specific programs that you need more information about.

Light refreshments will be served.

THE JOURNAL REGISTER & WARE RIVER NEWS

is offering our local businesses an opportunity to advertise at a **reduced rate!**

- Business profile - 250 words
- Photo - yourself, employees or building
- Advertisement - 3 x 6

ALL FOR ONLY \$275

This special section will run in the April 4th issue of The Journal Register & The Ware River News.

Ad deadline: March 20, 2024

Quarter page ad with story (4.75x6) \$275
Half page ad with story (9.75x6) \$460
Full page ad with story (9.75x13) \$650

Contact Dan Flynn to reserve your space today
413-297-5886 or dflynn@turley.com

Nesco Sales, Inc.
has been offering great service for over 30 years

For more than 30 years, Nesco Sales, Inc., located at 89.5 State St., Dundeeville, has been helping people with quality auto body repair and managing all the necessary insurance paperwork. "We try to make it as easy and convenient as possible for our customers," said owner Kevin Comstock. Comstock said customers can rely on Nesco's experience to walk them through the repair process. "We deal with the insurance companies all the time," he said. "Call us and we'll take care of everything." According to Comstock, the true key to Nesco's success is the quality of the body work performed by the team of Mike Rich and Gregg Richardson, George Shorette and McColl Rhodes. Whether your vehicle has some dents and scratches or was in a major collision, they can return your vehicle to pre-accident condition. "They are trained with the latest techniques to repair today's vehicles," said Comstock. The garage features updated spray booths and uses a special water-based paint that not only gives a better color match to the original factory finish, but is also more environmentally friendly. "We use only high quality products," said Comstock. "That makes a big difference. We don't take any shortcuts." For more information about Nesco Sales, Inc., call 413-283-6414 or visit www.nescosales.com.

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LEGAL NOTICE

The Annual Meeting of Corporators of Country Bank for Savings will be held on Monday, March 11, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at 420 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA for the election of Corporators, Trustees and any other business as required by law or the Bylaws of Country Bank for Savings.

Dawn Piechota
Clerk of the Corporation

QUABOAG REGIONAL MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL

Craft/Small Business Fair
February 10th, 9am-3 pm

Vendors include handmade woodcrafts, candles, soaps, seasonal decor, pottery, jewelry, and many more!

Enjoy a fun day of shopping and make this your one stop shop for Valentine's Day, or shop early for Mother's Day and Father's Day!

80+ vendors participating in the fair, there will also be a huge raffle table, so please be sure to bring cash

There will be no ATM on site.
Venmo / Cashapp / etc. accepted at the discretion of vendors.

Fair Location is at the Quaboag Regional Middle High School, 284 Old West Brookfield Road, Warren, MA

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Country Bank supports QV CDC with \$10,000 donation

WARE – Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving central and western Massachusetts, announced a \$10,000 donation to the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation to support various programs to help local communities in the region.

“The Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation is grateful for this generous donation from Country Bank. We appreciate Country Bank’s support for our initiatives and its investment in the economic growth and stability of the Quaboag Region,” said Melissa Fales, QV CDC executive director in a press release.

To learn more about the various support programs the QV CDC offers, visit www.QV CDC.org.

About Country Bank

Country Bank is a full-service \$1.7B with 17.0% Tier 1 Capital mutual community bank serving central and western Massachusetts with 14 offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton and Worcester.

Country Bank is a member of FDIC, DIF, and the SUM network. Country Bank can be reached by calling 800-322-8233 or online at countrybank.com.



Shown from left to right are Lisa DiMarzio, vice president of Compliance and CRA at Country Bank; Melissa Fales, executive director and James DaRosa, loan program coordinator for the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Opioids and Opioid Rescue Training



- Understand what opioids are and why people become addicted.
- Address the stigma of addiction.
- How to recognize and respond to an overdose
- How to use Narcan (naloxone) safely and effectively
- Resources for help
- Narcan kit (free!)
- Can be done at your location as a group presentation!
- Can be individual or small groups by appointment.

Join us for this in-person training at:

E2E (Education to Employment)

79 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082

On: February 26, 2024, at 4:30 pm

Presented By:

Kirsten L. Krieger RN, BSN

Public Health Nurse

(413) 967-9615

Email: kkrieger@townofware.com

Website: www.quabbinhealthdistrict.com

Please RSVP by 2/23/2024 to:

kkrieger@townofware.com

New Date and Time!

Training provided courtesy of the following organizations:



- opinion -

in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid

Spare the vase this Valentine's Day

My husband gave me a bouquet of roses on the first Valentine's Day we spent together.

They were beautiful in the vase, but I felt bad that he had spent the money he did for the gift. Being in the business, I told him how much roses are marked up because of the holiday.

It's a supply and demand thing mostly, and tradition to give them of course, but wouldn't it be nice if we received a gift that kept on giving? One solution would be to pre-order your sweetheart a rose bush through a mail-order nursery.

What excitement it will bring when it arrives in springtime, and then imagine the delight when it blooms year after year. If your interest is piqued, then read on to learn about proper planting techniques and basic rose culture, so that you (or your sweetheart!) will be a successful rose grower.

Rose bushes will be shipped once it is deemed safe from freezing temperatures. In my experience, mail-order roses can arrive anywhere from the end of April through the end of May.

First off, unpack the rose and soak its roots in room temperature water for at least one hour (and up to twelve). This is necessary to rehydrate roots that may have dried out in the shipping process.

Once rehydrated, the rose is ready for a quick pruning. Carefully snip back any broken or crossing canes.

A rose bush 8-12" tall at planting will start out nice and bushy. If you need to trim back canes that are longer than that, prune back to an out-facing bud, that way growth will be directed out and not towards the plant's center.

Consider placement carefully. To bloom their best, roses need, at the very least, six hours of sunshine.

Morning sun is preferred, so that dew foliage will dry quickly, diminishing the chances of foliar disease such as black spot or powdery mildew. Soil should drain well and be rich in nutrients or amended to that end.

The planting hole should be prepared while the rose bush is soaking. Dig a hole about twice the diameter of the plant's roots, roughly one and a half feet by one and a half feet.

As long as the soil removed from the hole is decent, in other words, not all sand or clay, 50% of it can be mixed with well-rotted manure (fresh will burn!) or cured compost, and used as back fill. First, take a small amount of the mixture and make a mound in the hole for the plant to sit on and the roots to spread down.

In our locale, and anywhere that temperatures dip below 0°F, the graft union (the bump at the plants base), if there is one, should be planted two inches below the soil surface. With that in mind, position the rose on the mound at the proper depth and begin to refill the hole with soil, a third of the hole at a time, firming as you go.

Once the rose bush has been planted, water it well at the base of the plant (a couple gallons at least). If you find that the water isn't sinking in, but running away, dam up a couple inches of soil about a foot away from the base of the plant to act like a basin.

Water is crucial at this stage; never let a newly planted rose dry out. A three inch layer of bark mulch or cocoa bean hulls can be applied around the rose to reduce moisture loss and discourage weed competition.

Avoid fertilizing until the rose has broken dormancy and is growing vigorously. Use



in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer

I received an email from a birder in Brimfield, who sends bird updates on a regular basis.

He reported an acquaintance in Hardwick have five fox sparrows visiting their yard this winter. He said, "Lucky them, I only see one or two fox sparrows in the yard during migration and didn't see any this year."

The fox sparrow is a large sparrow about 7 inches in length. It has rufous streaking and a gray head and back. The tail and rump are reddish brown and the underparts whitish with brown streaking. There is a central, irregular shaped dot on the breast

Like many sparrows, it feeds on the ground eating seeds, fruits and insects. It jumps forward and back pulling up ground debris to uncover food beneath. It may come to feeders where seed is scattered on the ground.

Fox sparrows inhabit deciduous or coniferous woods, brushy areas and wood edges. Their song is a short series of clear, melodious whistles.

The female lays four to six light blue green eggs in a cup like nest of grasses, lichens and leaves lined with hair fur and rootlets. The nest is placed on the ground under a small tree or shrub.

Brimfield birds

I received an email from a Brimfield resident. He said, "[I] wanted to pass on some of my backyard action this winter. I was surprised to see five or six cowbirds along with a solitary red wing blackbird last week."

He has a lot more juncos around with the white throated sparrows. He said chickadees and nuthatches and the titmice population is down a bit. He had a few starlings that stop by now and then along with cedar waxwings. He has not seen as many wild turkeys this year.

Golden crowned kinglet

A Brookfield resident emailed two photos of a golden crowned kinglet he took on Saturday, Jan. 27. He said, "Walking into my home, I spotted this tiny bird at the door." Tiny is an apt description of this bird as it is only 3 1/2 inches long.



Fox Sparrow

More Brimfield birds

A frequent emailer said he read about the sighting of bluebirds and grackles in this column. He wrote, "Coincidentally we had a lone grackle in the yard last week. It showed up for a couple of days. I thought it was unusual to see just one grackle, they are most often seen in a group especially this time of year."

The Brimfield resident said, "When I mentioned to a friend from Belchertown that I had seen a grackle at the feeders he mentioned that he had a group of about 30 grackles visit his feeder briefly one day last week."

He said three days ago "I noticed a male bluebird at the feeders. It has visited daily since first being seen. The bird is feeding on suet cakes and a 'log' that is made of seeds, fruit and meal worms."

He counted over 70 juncos and four white-throated sparrows in the yard. He

recently had three starlings, who seemed to like a feeder containing suet pellets. He said he rarely sees starlings at his feeders. He removed the feeder to deter the voracious eating starlings.

Bluebirds

This seems to be the year for flocks of bluebirds showing up at feeders. On Friday, Jan. 26 six or eight male and

female bluebirds were at my suet cake, which contained fruits.

I removed the ice from a small dish like feeder, I use for mealworms, grape jelly or orange halves. The bluebirds ate all the mealworms and I filled it again. They have been hanging around daily and I put out mealworms twice a day.

Tuesday, I looked out the window and saw several bluebirds perched on my car. One occupied a side mirror, another was on the roof and two on the hood by the windshield wipers. I think they may have been drinking the water from the melting snow on the car.

Later, when I looked to see if they were still there, a mourning dove was perched by the wiper blade.

Large flock of robins

A North Brookfield resident, who lives on Lake Lashaway, emailed on Friday, Jan. 17 and said she had a flock of 30 or more robins zoom in to the neighborhood.

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.

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

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

Send opinions to:

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

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Quaboag Current Newspaper

- community -

News from the Quabbin Regional School District

From the desk of Colleen Mucha,
Superintendent of QRSD

The Quabbin Regional School District offers a Post Grad program that is designed to assist students with gaining necessary skills as they transition from high school to adult life.

Students acquire functional academics and daily living skills both in their school environment and throughout their work in our greater community. Our Post Grad program is housed at New Braintree Grade School.

Students consistently work across multiple learning spaces. They have a more traditional area when they may work on their academics individually or in small groups.

Additionally, they have a kitchen and multipurpose area. It is here you can find students practicing daily living skills as they learn how to use a stove, prepare meals and more.

However, the students' favorite space is their "chill" zone. This is a large open area outfitted with electronics, exercise equipment and comfortable seating.

Students enjoy chatting, listening to music and playing the occasional video

game. This is a time they can work on social skills.

If you ask our students what they like best about the program, most would answer their "jobs." In partnership with local community businesses, our students have vast opportunities to spend part of their week engaged in real work experiences.

There are two types of jobs that students have, jobs that the whole group participates in and individual jobs. All of the jobs are meant to give our students real life experiences and skills that they will be able to take with them in life beyond school.

As a group, they have worked at locations like the Barn at Wight Farm in Sturbridge, the Harding Allen Estate and the Town of New Braintree. Individually we have students placed at a number of locations in the area, these include J and J Family Restaurant, Hamshaw Lumber, the Quabbin Regional School District and the New Braintree Public Library.

All of these work experiences help our students to develop as productive contributors to our society. We thank all of our community partners for sup-

porting our students and providing opportunities for them.

If you or your organization is interested in providing an internship opportunity to our students, please reach out to Greg Devine at gdevine@qrsd.org.

QRSD is also thankful to partner with both the Ashburnham-Westminster and Narragansett School Districts. Students from all three districts spend time together consistently throughout the year and many wonderful friendships have been formed.

Recently, I had the opportunity to spend time with the students from all three districts during their annual holiday party. Students enjoyed wonderful food, a photo booth and lots of dancing at the Harding Allen Estate. Whether they were enjoying the cupcakes, dancing to a favorite song, or interacting with their peers - it was done with pure joy.

Should you have the pleasure of seeing one of our Post Grad students at work in the community, be sure to let them know that they are doing a great job and share a smile. I think you'll see their joy first hand.



Tyler Gregory enjoys the skate sled. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

GARDEN | FROM PAGE 4

half strength fertilizer and only do so until mid-July so that succulent growth will have a chance to harden before cold weather hits.

This way your rose will be less prone to winter kill. I do not provide any winter cover for my roses.

There will likely be a few branch tips that suffer winter kill regardless. Those I prune back in spring-time when the roses start to leaf out.

I prune just past the damage, at a leaf bud. Besides that, and general shaping, the only other pruning I do is deadheading.

Spent blooms should be removed from rose bushes to direct energy away from seed production and back to flower production. Where the cut is made depends on the type of rose that you have.

Over the last decade, tremendous gains have been made in rose breeding, resulting rose bushes that blend well into landscape plantings and require less maintenance for the homeowner. I still enjoy my heirlooms, and grow the Rugosa to remind me of the beach.

Still others prefer climbers or hybrid teas. Whatever your sweetheart may fancy, indulge this Valentine's Day in a gift that will keep on giving!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

Nominations papers available for town election

WEST BROOKFIELD – Town Clerk Heather E. Gough announced that nomination papers are available on Monday, Feb. 5 for the upcoming town election to be held on Tuesday, May 7.

These papers must be filed with the Board of Registrars, in the Town Clerk's office, for certification on or before Tuesday, March 19 at 5 p.m. Final day to withdraw as a candidate is Thursday, April 4 at 5 p.m.

Appearing on the ballot will be the following: Board of Selectman, three-year term; Board of Assessors, three-year term; Board of Health, three-year term; Common Committee, three-year term; Housing Authority, two-year term; Library Trustee, three-year term; Library Trustee, three-year term; Planning Board, five-year term; Water Com-

missioner, three-year term; Water Commissioner, two-year term.

The Quaboag Regional School District positions will also be incorporated on the Town Ballot. Two members from the Town of Warren for a three-year term and two members from the Town of West Brookfield for a three-year term. These nomination papers are available on Feb. 5 at the Superintendent's office at 284 Old West Brookfield Road, Warren.

The deadline for returning these papers is Friday, March 22 by 4 p.m.

The last day to register to vote before the Town Election is Friday, April 26 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Town Clerk's office.

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USDA INSP. FRESH OCEAN GOURMET STUFFED CLAMS **\$6.99** lb

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USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN WHOLE PORK BUTT **\$2.09** lb

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90 Meat Outlet 90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288 www.90meat.com We reserve the right to limit quantities.

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HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

- sturbridge -

Brookfield UUC presents Jeff Warner in concert

BROOKFIELD – Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church, 9 Upper River St., will host a benefit concert featuring Jeff Warner on Sunday, March 24 at 2 p.m.

A \$20 suggested donation will be taken at the door.

Warner is among the nation's foremost performers/interpreters of traditional music. His songs from the lumber camps, fishing villages and mountaintops of North America connect 21st-century audiences with the everyday lives – and artistry – of 19th-century North Americans.

His songs, rich in local history and a sense of place, bring us the latest news from the distant past.

Warner grew up listening to the songs and stories of his father, Frank Warner, and the traditional singers his parents met during their folksong collecting trips through rural North America. He accompanied his parents on their later field trips and is the editor of his mother's book, "Traditional American Folk Songs: From the Anne and Frank Warner Collection."

He is producer of the two-CD set, "Her Bright Smile Haunts Me Still", the Warners' recordings of rural singers, many of them born in Victorian times.

Warner has performed widely, from large festivals in the UK, to clubs, festivals and schools across America. He plays concertina, banjo, guitar and several "pocket" instruments, including bones and spoons.

A native of New York City, Warner has lived in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, since the late 1990s. He is a speaker for New Hampshire Humanities, an artist for the New Hampshire Council on the Arts, and a former State Arts Council Fellow.

He has toured nationally for the Smithsonian Institution, taught at Pinewoods, Ashokan, Augusta and Swannanoa summer music programs



Jeff Warner will perform at Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church's benefit concert on Sunday, March 24 at 2 p.m. SUBMITTED PHOTO

and recorded for Flying Fish/Rounder, WildGoose (UK) and other labels.

His 1995 recording, "Two Little Boys" received a Parents' Choice Award. Warner is a founding officer of Folk Alliance International, a producer of the Portsmouth (NH) Maritime Folk Festival and past president of the Country Dance and Song Society, which gave him a Lifetime Contribution Award in 2016.

All proceeds from this concert will fund Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church's missions to strengthen the local community, to maintain its wonderful music and choir programs, and to bring all joyfully together again and again by giving the opportunity to share more traditional folk and community music.

To learn more about BUUC, please visit <http://www.buuc.org/>.

West Brookfield Historical Commission announces 2024 scholarship

WEST BROOKFIELD – The West Brookfield Historical Commission is pleased to announce its 2024, 13th annual scholarship in the amount of \$2000.

Qualified students must reside in West Brookfield and may attend Quaboag Regional High School, or be school-choice students, homeschooled students and independent school students.

This award is made possible through the J. Irving and Jane L. England Charitable Trust.

Application criteria

The students must be planning to attend either a four-year college/university program or a two-year college with the intent to a transfer to a four-year college.

The Commission will show prefer-

ence to study plans with concentration on history and history-related areas. Major or minors may include political science, social studies, anthropology, archaeology, historical preservation, museum studies and education in any of these related fields.

Applicants must submit a brief essay based on one of the notable persons or significant places listed on the application. All necessary information and the application can be found on the West Brookfield Historical Commission website. <http://westbrookfield.org>.

Essays are due no later than April 8 and can be emailed to info@westbrookfield.org or mailed to West Brookfield Historical Commission, P.O. Box 372, West Brookfield, MA 01585.

SCOUTS | FROM PAGE 1

viduals was quite an honor," Petraitis said. "They've attained a degree that a lot of people don't get to do and don't try to do. It's quite an honor to be an Eagle Scout...it's a fantastic thing to go through."

Only about 6% of all Scouts BSA earn the rank of Eagle.

The highest rank in Scouting, many colleges, businesses and even the military consider this to be a mark of distinction among candidates. Eagle Scouts that enlist in the military start two ranks higher than others.

Petraitis said the board wanted to recognize Standrowicz and Daige and have them share information about their projects and how they will benefit the community.

Standrowicz built a gaga ball pit at North Brookfield Public Schools to be enjoyed by students. He said gaga ball is a sport almost exclusive to Scouting, and he thought it would be a great game to be enjoyed by the community.

Daige built an American flag retirement box which is located at the North Brookfield Recycling Center. Old and worn flags can be deposited there, to then be properly retired on Flag Day.

He said donations to build the box came from the Lions Club, American Legion, Country Auto, as well as his school, Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School.

"The town of North Brookfield recognizes your efforts, and thanks you for the work that you do," Petraitis said to the Eagle Scouts.

Resignation

Petraitis said at a previous meeting on Jan. 9, the board regretfully accepted the resignation of Vice-Chair John Tripp.

Elizabeth "Brooke" Canada thanked Tripp for his service to the town and his hard work.

"He really did put a lot into this town," she said with Petraitis agreeing.

Tree work bid

The board received one bid from Rusty's Tree Experts in West Brookfield for fiscal year 2024 tree work. The daily rate for the chipper is \$650; bucket truck, \$1,200; lift, \$1,200; stump grinder, \$1,100 and \$1,800 with the log truck.

The board approved granting the tree service bid to Rusty's Tree Experts.


Public comment

A resident said the stop sign is missing from the end of Smith Hanson Road, heading toward Waite Corner Road. He said there used to be a stop sign at the intersection, and he has called the Police and Highway departments to notify them as well.

Brandon Avery shared concerns about trash on the Common and its surround, as well as at Town Forest Park. He said he is picking up countless bottles and cans, along with bags of food, including open containers of food, which could attract rodents.

"It's a little discouraging to have to constantly pick that kind of stuff up," he said.

Petraitis said those caught littering can receive a \$300 fine according to town bylaws.




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The Southbridge Softball league is now enrolling teams and players for the 2024 season.

Games are played at Henry Street Field (located off Rt. 169) in Southbridge.

We have 3 levels of Mens Leagues (A, B & C) that play weeknights starting @ 6:30 PM, a Mens JB draft league (for players age 39 by Sept. 30th) that plays Sunday AM starting at 9 AM and a COED league (5 & 5) that plays Sat & Sun evenings starting @ 6 PM.

The potential for a Women's league or a weekday COED league (6 & 4) exists depending on the number of teams we receive – a minimum of 4 teams would be required for either to be considered.

THE FEES FOR 2024 ARE AS FOLLOWS:

\$425 team roster fee and a \$125 forfeit fee for a total of \$550.
If your roster is turned in on or before 3/5 the fee is \$550.
If your roster is turned in between 3/5 + 3/12, the fee is \$600.

No rosters will be accepted after 3/12/24.

Player fees for 2024 will be \$55 and a \$5 additional fee will be charged to those players playing on (2) or more teams.

Please email info@southbridgesoftball.org or check out our Southbridge Softball Association Facebook page for more information.

- community -

Cornhole event helps fund Nature's Classroom

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
epappas@turley.com

EAST BROOKFIELD – The sixth grade class at East Brookfield Elementary School and their parents have been working to raise money for their trip to Nature's Classroom in May.

Nature's Classroom is a five-day sleep-away camp where students can learn about the world outside of the four walls of a classroom and dive deeper into learning about science.

The cost of the camp is high, at nearly \$700 a student, but it is worth it for the memories made, and things learned.

The parents of the 16 children planning to attend Nature's Classroom worked together to put on a cornhole fundraiser event this past weekend with the partnership of cornhole competitors the Backwood Baggers. All money raised from the event will go toward funding the trip.

The community came together to sponsor the event,

and eighteen local businesses donated to the fundraiser items for a raffle.

"It was really good support from the town," Michelle Richard, one of the proud moms said.

But it wasn't just the community and parents, but the staff and teachers of the school who also stood up to raise support for the trip.

Many of the classes and other grades helped to put together themed gift baskets for the fundraiser to raffle off. There was a self-care basket, a football basket and a chocolate lovers just to name a few.

The raffle was also filled with donations of gift cards and more from other businesses including Uncle Sam's Pizza, Webster First Bank, and Second Chance Animal Shelter.

The parents wanted to bring a special thank you to the students at Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School and the graphics department that created the banners, signs and flyers for the event.



These sixth graders are ready for Nature's Classroom. From left are Brayden, Wes, Ryder, Austin, Casey and Kenzie.



The cornhole boards are set up and ready for the bean bags to be tossed.



The cornhole competitors lined up to make their shot. TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

MYSTERIES | FROM PAGE 1

England mystery author. This year, the featured guest was Massachusetts author Edwin Hill.

The evening began with dinner, which included beef stew, rolls, coffee and tea and cookies for dessert. There was a lively atmosphere over dinner in the Publick House's Historic Tap Room, which continued for about half an hour until library director Becky Plimpton stepped up to the podium to introduce the event and the guest author.

The Friends of the library have been hosting "Stewing Over Mysteries" for about 12 years, Plimpton said, and "at the Publick House for about eight or nine years." After thanking the Publick House, she thanked the Friends for sponsoring the event.

"This is not a fundraiser," she said, explaining that the tickets for the program are subsidized by the Friends in order to keep the price point more affordable.

Plimpton then introduced Hill, who spoke about his journey as an author, sharing funny anecdotes and details about some of his books.

Hill's first book, "Little Comfort", was published in 2018.

"Your first book is special," Hill said. "You can work on it forever," he said, because "hardly anybody is waiting for it."

Hill started his first novel in 2010, and worked on it for years before it was finally published.

Hill talked about the process of writing a novel, and how the story and characters can completely change as they are developed. The book began, he said, as a story about two male "antihero" types, but the characters were not working in his story.

Wanting to add a female perspective, and a

more straightforward hero character, he created the protagonist Hester Thursby, who would be the main character of his first three books.

"Writing a second book," Hill said. "Is different from your first, because now there is someone waiting for it."

Being part of a series meant the next book had to come out fast, and tie in to existing character arcs. Hill said that developing a book series "is like writing a TV series," because the story and characters need to have a thru-line between books.

On the other hand, Hill said, "you can do whatever you want in a stand-alone."

"You can kill whoever you want," he joked, because no one will be waiting to see them come back in the next book. Hill's first standalone book was "The Secrets We Share", published in 2022, and it went through many changes since it was first pitched.

Hill signed the contract for the novel on March 1 of 2020, he said, and the limitations of lockdown affected his approach to the book. He found himself

"narrowing the scope as much as possible," and writing about a town that was similar to his own.

Hill's most recent book, "Who to Believe", was published just days before the "Stewing Over Mysteries" event, and Hill shared some stories and information about the book, without revealing anything too juicy.

"I'm not giving anything away when I tell you that not everyone survives the night," he said. "Who to Believe" recounts the same events from multiple points of view, and Hill shared a couple excerpts from the perspectives of different characters.

Finally, Hill took questions from the audience. One person pointed out that Hill was very funny during his talk, and asked if that humor came through in his books.

"Humor is so subjective," Hill answered. "But I think my books are super funny."

Another audience member asked about what drew Hill to mysteries as a genre, and he said that he first got hooked on Agatha Christie stories as a child, and became a fan of authors like Sue Grafton as he got older.

As a surprise, the first few guests to ask questions received free copies of some of Hill's books. His books were also available for purchase at the event, with proceeds supporting the Friends of the Joshua Hyde Public Library.

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See Website for More Information

- community -

Students celebrate Catholic Schools Week at St. Aloysius

HARDWICK – St. Aloysius Catholic School in Gilbertville observed Catholic Schools Week Jan. 28-Feb. 3 by participating in different themed activities for each day of the week.

On Monday, the community was celebrated, and school officials delivered goodie trays to town offices, thanking them for all the hard work they do in the community.

Students enjoyed a pizza lunch on Tuesday and had the chance to showcase their collections. It was interesting to see what they brought in and learn why they collect what they do.

On Nation Day, flag etiquette was shared in each classroom by three resident Boy Scouts. The entire school participated in making sensory blankets for the Holyoke Soldiers Home, thanking our veterans for their service to our nation.

Thursday was vocation day; it was honored by inviting guests to talk about religious life. Students had many questions for Sister Madonna, Sister Susan and Father Derek.

Parents also visited and talked about their professions. It was great to see all of the varied jobs students can aspire to.

On Friday, in celebration of staff, students left their uniforms behind and got to dress like a teacher. Staff enjoyed

a special lunch and other treats from parents.

Bingo wrapped up the week on Saturday with a first ever family bingo tournament.

“Here at St. Aloysius, we celebrate our Catholic faith every day, but Catholic Schools Week is a chance to highlight what we do by focusing on these daily themes. We had a wonderful week full of special outreach, great visitors, and many activities for the students. We know we are blessed beyond measure!” said Dawn Rudnansky, Head of School, in a press release.

St. Aloysius Catholic School serves students from preschool through grade eight. The school day runs from 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. with an afterschool program through 5:30 p.m.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2024/2025 school year. Visit www.staloyuscs.com for more information and all the necessary enrollment paperwork.

For more information email Roberta McQuaid, Enrollment Coordinator, at rmcquaid@staloyuscs.com or call the school at 413-477-1268. Private tours and shadow days are great opportunities for prospective families to experience St. Aloysius Catholic School on a typical school day.



Boy Scouts demonstrate proper American flag etiquette.



Students at St. Aloysius Catholic School made sensory blankets for veterans at the Holyoke Soldiers Home. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Parents visits the school to talk about their professions during Catholic Schools Week.



Students admire each other's collections.

MARKET | FROM PAGE 1

West Brookfield Congregational Church and the Wednesday Winter Farmers Market.

A steady crowd was on hand to make purchases from the growers and producers. This was not going to make it easy to interview the vendor who was to be spotlighted that day.

The Bread Box Company does not make boxes, but is renowned for baking what can fill cartons.

Tamsin Lucey is the impresario behind the business and her odyssey to her local enterprise is a story in itself.

Speaking with Lucey for any length of time, it quickly becomes obvious she was not born in Boston, or, for that matter locally. Lucey is from England, though her first name is not English.

There is a peninsula in the southwest of Britain known as Cornwall that once even had its own language. Tamsin is Thomasina in that patois, and that was selected for her name.

One could argue that baking and the culinary arts are in Lucey's blood. Her father was a publican, that is someone who ran a Public House. Her mom was a home baker who did everything from scratch.

Lucey married an American and they lived over there until he wanted to come home around 1990 and they settled in. Then in 2016, after being laid off from two part time jobs, Lucey decided to start baking.

The name The Bread Box Company was chosen as the initials BBC worked. Maybe not alliteration, but it worked.

The output of Lucey's operation is all homemade and handmade. Ingredients are as local as possible. The wheat is from Ground Up Grain, grown not too far away in Holyoke, and only Cabot Cheeses are used.

Milk is from the Cooper Dairy over in Rochdale and is used in the production of yogurt and other cultured dairy products useful in baking.

No seed oils such as canola are used. It is only olive oil.

The debut of the business was at Overlook Farm, an organic producer located at 15 Long Hill Road in Brookfield. Lucey has built up the business well.

The variety of items on the table was wide ranging, but it diminished over the afternoon as customers constantly approached.

One popular offering is, to be honest, not exactly my cup of tea. Scotch Eggs may be fun, and hard boiled and encased in breakfast sausage, bread-crumbed and deep fried, but pour moi, her Tourtiere, that is a French-Canadian meat pie, truly hits the spot. I could be in trouble for being judgmental, but there it is.

The meat pie is a mix of ground beef and pork with onion, sweet potato, garlic, thyme, sage in a flaky homemade pastry. Rich is an understatement.

There are many more savory treats and meat/savory pies, but you may want

to leave room for sweet treats such as the blueberry lemon coffee cake and the other offerings.

Lucey's cornbread is, interestingly enough made with Overlook Farm's whole kernel corn with homemade buttermilk.

Of course, as the company name has it, bread is at least a major element. Whether breakfast Oatmeal or Cinn-Full* for sandwiches.

Free form breads include Farmhouse, a hearty white, to Rustic Sourdough and others.

It is difficult not to find something baked that will be a temptation, and you will be able to do it every Wednesday until March 13.

Soon after, the market will cross the street and the Bread Box Company will be there for you all summer.

*Cinn-Full is buttermilk dough, lots of raisins and swirled with brown sugar and cinnamon. Maybe not a theological statement, but quite rich no matter what.

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SPORTS

Quaboag's offense shut down by Northbridge



QUABOAG – Last Monday evening, Northbridge visited Quaboag and hurt the Cougars' offense with a 40-15 defeat. Parker Tunley had nine points for Quaboag in the defeat. The Cougars are now 5-7 on the season.

Parker Tunley drives through the Cougar defense. TURLEY PHOTOS BY JACK CASCIO NEAP:SMUGMUG.COM



Hailey Dumont moves to the paint.



Maddie Potvin maneuvers to center court.



Evelyn Doe takes command as she muscled through the Northbridge defense.



Isabelle Manzano goes to the net.

Panthers compete against Leominster

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BARRE—The Quabbin Regional High School boys basketball team gave Tyngsborough High School a hard fought battle in last Friday night's Mid-Wach C match-up. Unfortunately, the Panthers lost the game, 55-38.

This year's squad had a 2-13 overall record, and a 0-11 league record following last Friday night's loss.

"We're a very young basketball team with only one senior, but we played one of our better games of the season tonight. The players from the 1999 championship team provided us with a lot of energy tonight," said Quabbin head coach Dennis Dextrateur. "You lose touch with your former players over time, and it's always nice to reconnect with them."

Dextrateur, who started his varsity basketball coaching ca-

See **PANTHERS** | PAGE 10



Kyle Clark drives to the hoop. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RAY DUFFY

Pathfinder girls close in on tourney spot

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—Only three of the twelve players listed on the Pathfinder Tech girls' varsity basketball roster have ever experienced playing in a postseason tournament game.

The Lady Pioneers moved a step closer to clinching a berth in the 2024 Division 5 state tournament with a 49-22 home victory over Tri-County North League rival Gateway, last Tuesday night.

"One of our goals every year is to make the postseason tournament. We just need two more wins to qualify for the state tournament," said Pathfinder Tech head coach Kevin Aldrich. "We're also currently sitting in fourth place in the small school vocational tournament standings. This game counted towards that record. We haven't made the vocational tournament since 2019. It would be

See **PATHFINDER** | PAGE 10



Victoria Stephens rushes to the hoop. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

- sports -

PATHFINDER | FROM PAGE 9

great if we could qualify for that tournament as well. Anytime that you can play extra games, especially with a younger team, it's invaluable."

Pathfinder Tech, who had an 8-5 overall record following the home victory, were ranked 33rd in the MIAA Division 5 power rankings. They can automatically earn a berth in the Division 5 state tournament for the first time in two years by winning two of their remaining six regular season games. They'll also qualify by finishing in the top 32.

Two years ago, the Lady Pioneers entered the inaugural Division 5 state tournament as the 48th seeded and lost to 17th-seeded Georgetown in a preliminary round road game.

During the past twenty years, they've only played one postseason home game,

which took place in 2019. The Lady Pioneers squeaked out a 28-27 home win over St. Mary's of Westfield in a Western Mass. Division 4 tournament game before losing at top-seeded Monson on the road two days later.

The Lady Pioneers probably won't be one of the eight teams competing in the Western Mass. Class C tournament.

Two of the current Lady Pioneers players, who were members of the 2021-22 varsity squad are seniors Victoria Stephens, who scored a game-high 10 points in the game against the Gateway Gators (4-7), and Brianna Beynor, who contributed eight points.

"Our two seniors normally play a lot of minutes, but our younger players are learning from them," Aldrich said. "They've been our team leaders this season."

Beynor has been a member of the varsity basketball team since she was a freshman.

Junior Greenly Lagimoniere (9 points) was also a member of the team two years ago.

One of the Lady Pioneers younger players is junior Addison Doktor, who scored all six of her points before half-time. She also pulled down a team-leading 11 rebounds.

Another underclassman is sophomore Desiree Croteau, who hit a jumper from the right corner making the score 9-0 with five minutes left in the first quarter. It was her only points of the contest, but she was credited with five steals.

"Desiree has a very high basketball IQ," Aldrich said. "She played very well defensively in tonight's game."

The Lady Pioneers were leading 16-2 at the end of the first quarter and they never looked back after that.

Freshman Ciara Green (4 points) and Doktor combined to score eight points during the second quarter, as the Lady Pioneers built a commanding 30-7 halftime lead.

Pathfinder Tech scored the first ten points of the third quarter and led by as many as 35 points during the second half.

The other Pathfinder girls' basketball players are freshman Megan Clark (8 points), freshman Taylor Allen (2 points), sophomore Cassandra Nykiel, junior Althea Jewell, and sophomore Jinx Ripley.

Freshman Hannah Mellor is also a member of the girls' basketball team, but she's sidelined with an injury.



Greenly Lagimoniere looks to drive to the hoop. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Addison Doktor makes the free throw.



Desiree Croteau overcomes a block to shoot.



Taylor Allen heads down the court to start a play.

PANTHERS | FROM PAGE 9

reer as the Quabbin girls coach in 1980, has been coaching the boys' varsity team since 1992. He has won more than 450 games.

Junior Quinn Geary made a lay-up on the game's opening possession giving the home team a 2-0.

Geary, who scored a team-high 17

points and pulled down nine rebounds, gave his thoughts about the special evening following the game.

Quabbin junior Kyle Clark posted a double-double with 13 points and 10 rebounds. He also had a team-leading five steals.

The Panthers only senior is Nick Whitelaw.

"Our basketball program has a great history," said Whitelaw, who didn't score any points in the game. "I'm really looking forward to coming back and watching the returning players play basketball next year. They've been great teammates."

The Tigers (9-7, 7-5) outscored the Panthers, 15-4, during the rest of the

opening quarter.

The second and third quarters were evenly played, as the Panthers entered the final eight minutes trailing by 10 points (37-27).

The Tigers outscored the Panthers, 18-11, during the fourth quarter.



Quinn Geary with a baseline jump shot. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RAY DUFFY



Jaxon Warburton puts up the rebound from under the hoop.



Zeke Santoro goes in for the lay-up.

- community -

PICKLEBALL | FROM PAGE 1

Braintree.

Clough first started playing at the pickleball courts at Grenville Park in Ware.

On a regular basis, about 10 pickleball players show up every open play session. Playing times are offered and scheduled to help accommodate the players who want to squeeze in some playtime during the week.

During the winter, Clough wanted to find an indoor location to play pickleball. After receiving approval from the Selectman, Clough and many pickleball players got to play a couple times a week at the town hall.

Throughout the month of January, sessions of pickleball have been offered on Monday evenings and Tuesday afternoons. Recently, the pickleball club got approval to have more sessions in the later months of the year.

In other words, more pickleball sessions are available at the Town Hall in the months of February, March and further on. Sessions involve teams of two playing head-to-head.

The club will soon begin charging a

playing fee to help support a fund that will go towards investing in a new pickleball court. Clough's plan is to raise enough money to have a pickleball court installed in the town.

One regular pickleball player is Deb Morrison, who according to Clough is a very dedicated supporter of the pickleball club. Morrison started playing pickleball in 2020. She heard of the game when her children brought her a net and pickleball set.

On Jan 30, it was Morrison's third time playing in the pickleball club. For this session she brought her friend Donna to play alongside her in one pickleball round.

To experience a friendly and recreational atmosphere, try out pickleball at the Town Hall at 20 Memorial Drive.

If you don't have equipment, the pickleball club does provide paddles for newcomers. For anyone new to the game of pickleball, Tom Clough is there to give detailed instructions on how to play the game.

Sessions are Monday evenings from 6-8 p.m. and Tuesday afternoons from 1-3 p.m.



A player serves the ball to the other team during a pickleball match. TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO



Deb Morrison, right, plays alongside friend Donna in a pickleball match.



A pickleball player gets ready to serve.

MUSICAL | FROM PAGE 1

Rachel McGrath.

This is McGrath's third year of performing in a cast, with two years before that as a crew member.

When asked how she felt about playing such an iconic role, recently made more popular by the Netflix series "Wednesday", starring Jenna Ortega and also by Christina Ricci in the 1993 hit movie "The Addams Family Values", McGrath said she is making Wednesday her own.

"She's so bold and confident," McGrath said of Wednesday. "She's unapologetic of herself."

McGrath said she since taking on this role, she often asks herself "what would Wednesday do?" when faced with challenging situations.

"It's amazing to play her," she said.

McGrath shared that her favorite moment in the show happened during a late night rehearsal of the "One Normal Night" dance, which had the cast and crew laughing.

"That was the best," McGrath said of that moment.

Playing Wednesday's brother Pugsley is freshman Jade Fontaine. This is her second year on stage with Quaboag Drama Club.

"It's a lot of change," Fontaine said of her role as the mischievous little brother. "It's really fun to reach out of my comfort zone."

Staying in character while dancing and singing in a child-like voice has been a challenge that Fontaine has faced head-on and met.

Fontaine said her favorite part of being involved in this show is the camaraderie the cast and crew have shared with each other.

"It's definitely when we all cheer each other on," she said.

Junior Abigail Jolin is in her fifth year of drama club, and has taken on her biggest role ever as Morticia Addams. Last school year she played the mother in "Freaky Friday".

Playing Morticia, "is such a new experience," Jolin said. "It's a very unique challenge, staying true to her character."

Jolin said the rehearsals for "The Addams Family" have been a lot of fun and that all of the students get along "really well."

Opposite Jolin as Gomez Addams is senior Ty Armitage, in his second year of drama club and his first leading role.

Gomez is a "super fun dad type," Armitage said, but in a more morbid way.

"He brings such 'dad joke' energy to the whole thing...more so taboo," he said.

Armitage said he's comfortable singing and dancing on stage (something he's done his whole life), but he is still getting used to acting.

"It's the one thing I struggle with," he said, but through months of rehearsals he is well-prepared.

The best part of being involved with "The Addams Family" has been getting to know the cast through countless rehearsals.

"It's been a great experience," Armitage said.

Landing the role of Wednesday's love interest Lucas Beineke is Joshua Leam-

ing in this third year with the drama club.

"He's the most normal person in the show," Leaming said of Lucas. "He's a normal amount of happy, a normal amount of mad, and almost too normal for Wednesday."

This role has challenged Leaming, who is a baritone, as some of Lucas' songs have high tenor notes.

"It's helped my singing a lot now in general," he said.

Leaming gets to experience a lot of firsts in "The Addams Family", with his first stage kiss, and marriage.

Playing Lucas' very normal parents Mal and Alice Beineke are Haylee Nash and Falon Rice, respectively.

Nash said Mal is the biggest role she's ever taken on and that it's been really fun. She said there's an inside joke amongst the cast and crew involving a spoof song "When You're a Beineke" (a play on "When You're an Addams") and a good old-fashioned knee-slap.

Rice said Alice is a "very bubbly and in-your-face" character with a cheesy sense of humor.

"She's like the American dream reinvented as a person," she said.

Acting as timid as Alice is in the show, is definitely a challenge for Rice, who is more outgoing than the character she plays.

Dante Martino is playing Lurch, a character that "takes some finesse" to play, due to his lack of speaking parts and emotionless demeanor.

Martino said he's finetuned his "zombie stare" to embody the family's tall and mysterious butler.

Parker Chaffee has been performing at Quaboag since the seventh grade and is taking on the role of fun-loving Uncle Fester.

"I feel like it's pretty natural for me," Chaffee said of this role.

As Fester, Chaffee has had to learn how to play the banjolele, which has been a less than enjoyable experience for his friends and family. Practice has paid off and Chaffee is ready to amaze audiences with his acting and musical talent.

"It's a good show," Joinville said. "I think the community is really going to enjoy it."

About 'The Addams Family'

"The Addams Family" musical is presented by the Quaboag Regional Middle/High School's Drama Department and 21st Century Program. "The Addams Family" is based off a book by Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Warren Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Music and lyrics for the musical are by Larry Hockman, which is based on the characters created by Charles Addams.

Tickets to the show are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students and seniors, and are available at the door.

The Quaboag Performing Arts Booster Club will offer concessions, a 50/50 raffle, and launch new merchandise featuring a new logo. Money raised by the booster club helps to support and promote the music and drama programs at the school.

Tantasqua Regional Jr. High School lists honor roll

STURBRIDGE – Tantasqua Regional Jr. High School announced the first and second quarter honor rolls for the 2023-2024 school year.

Grade Eight, High Honors, First Quarter

Kayley Lauren English, Summer Rose Ferreira, Greta Louise Gimm, Teagan Marie Gunnerson, Moira Rose Hill, Mason Jon Julian, Liv Katherine Kearns, Mark Andrew Richard Kenton, Samuel Jose Lamas, Westley Brian Nemet, Noah Mitchell Olszta, Jane Kelley Panek, Paul Edward Savage, Violet Caroline Spooner and Christian Anthony Viera Smith.

Grade Eight, Honors, First Quarter

Ella Robert Achi, Nathan Paul Alicea, Cadence Kay Allen, Madeleine Grace Bachand, Tess Marie Baker, Dylan Kaleb Barrows, Benjamin David Beaudry, Mylinda Blanc, Bret Edward Bond, Leeanna Faith Caouette, Finley Ireland Carlisle, Logan Xavier Cavaliere, Paige Louise Chick, Cameron Joseph Ciandella, Sydney Caroline Cizik, Mia Anne Cohen, Abigail Marie Corriveau, Nathan Stanley Cutler, Tayler Emma Dalrymple, Zachary John Dalton, Emilie Isabelle Dart, Lily Elizabeth David, Alynah Christine Desmarais, Matthew Ryan Ehrhard, Pandora Jade Faugno, Emilio Marco Fiorucci, Olivia Ann Fiske, Kylie Rose Formigal, Lillian Marie Gingras, Joseph John Gomes, Sofia Claire Goodwin, Dominic James Grillo, Austin Joseph Guinta, John David Gunagan, Tyler Bruce Gustafson, Grayson Jude Hand, Norah Eavan Hanrahan, Leah Samantha Hill, Catelyn Robin Holm, Nathaniel Andrew Jacques, Vivian Lara Jaeger, Andrew Colin John, Heather Elizabeth Kennedy, Isabella Rose LaFlamme, Christian James LeBeau, Cameron James Lemanski, Ella Caroline Lemieux, Theodore Jonas Leveille, Travis Victor Lloyd, Sarah Josephine Mabie, Piper Anne Mathiau, Augustin Dylan Mbouadeu, Keira Ayla McCord, Grant John Meacham, Andrew Do-jin Miller, Ainsley Ann Mills, Thomas Elliot Moore, Ryan Thomas Mount, Dane Patrick Mullin, Charlotte Eowyn Nameika, Tyler Warren Neifert, William Campbell Neslusan, Olivia Joy Neuenschwander, Maxwell Thomas Nickl, Alyssa Wendy Noga, Colby Peter Norman, Maeve Ada O'Neil, Miles Stefan Oprica, Joshua David Ortendahl, Harrison William Parks, Michael David Peloquin, Gibson DiLeo Pettis, Leah Grace Phaneuf, Tyler Aiden Phillips, Patrick Christopher Pope, Kaitlyn Jennifer Reed, Nathan Thomas Regan, Kaleigh Desmarais Sabelis, Madalynn Rose Saksa, Alexis Gabriella Santos, Jonathan Holland Solari, Wyatt Hans Springer, Matilda Rae St. Clair, Elway Andrew St. George, Arianna Starr, Parker Anthony Starr, Madysen May Stratford, Madalyn Ava Strause, Trysten Gabriel Torben Thor, James Alexander Todis, Callie Hana Toro, Tyler Nicholas Truax, Lucas John Tully, Mairenn Rae VonHold, Kayla Marie Weidler, Cameron Charles West, Roman Abram Whitcomb, Olivia Grace White, Roselyn Pokua Whyte, Logan Michael Zaniewski and Easton Hollow Zeleznok.

Grade Eight, High Honors, Second Quarter

Kayley Lauren English, Summer Rose Ferreira, Greta Louise Gimm, Teagan Marie Gunnerson, Moira Rose Hill, Mason Jon Julian, Liv Katherine Kearns, Mark Andrew Richard Kenton, Samuel Jose Lamas, Westley Brian Nemet, Noah Mitchell Olszta, Jane Kelley Panek, Paul Edward Savage, Violet Caroline Spooner and Christian Anthony Viera Smith.

Grade Eight, Honors, Second Quarter

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Peloquin, Gibson DiLeo Pettis, Leah Grace Phaneuf, Tyler Aiden Phillips, Patrick Christopher Pope, Kaitlyn Jennifer Reed, Nathan Thomas Regan, Kaleigh Desmarais Sabelis, Madalynn Rose Saksa, Alexis Gabriella Santos, Jonathan Holland Solari, Wyatt Hans Springer, Matilda Rae St. Clair, Elway Andrew St. George, Arianna Starr, Parker Anthony Starr, Madysen May Stratford, Madalyn Ava Strause, Trysten Gabriel Torben Thor, James Alexander Todis, Callie Hana Toro, Tyler Nicholas Truax, Lucas John Tully, Mairenn Rae VonHold, Kayla Marie Weidler, Cameron Charles West, Roman Abram Whitcomb, Olivia Grace White, Roselyn Pokua Whyte, Logan Michael Zaniewski and Easton Hollow Zeleznok.

Grade Seven, High Honors, First Quarter

Stella Alyce Angell, Rebecca Eve Ashe, Ellowyn Ann Audette, Jacob Michael Azevedo, Ramielle Valentina Azua, Kaylee Catherine Banks, Lily Anne Barham, Gabrielle Marie Bellofatto, Justin Phillip Berg, Kendall Catherine Boivin, Kelsey Pearl Bouchard, Milayna Vanessa Bousquet, Hannah Rose-Marie Buduo, Natalie Mae Carson, Natalie Marie Casperaites, Benjamin Louis Chechile, Kelsey Irene Clark, Sarah Amy Clark, Charlotte Rosslyn Courtemanche, Ellington Munroe Custance, Emrich Stephen Custance, Madeleine Elle Deatte, Lily Drew Deltoro, Samantha Shay Dion, Zachary Joseph Dores, Owen Nicholas Ehrets, Addison Grace Fiume, Mayson Gaetano Selzo Gambaccini, Caroline Josephine Gaspar, Natalia Jae Giannandrea Mustion, Charlotte Rose Gorton, Ella Marie Gregory, Teagan Abigail Grindle, Nicholas Conrad Hilborn, Tabetha Michelle Hilborn, Jackson Myles Hoenig, Holland Marie King, Elijah Mason Kirk, Ethan Ryan LaFortune, Theodore Michael LaFortune, Neela Grace Lakhani, Charlotte Eleanor Lariviere, Luke Watson MacFarlane, Hailey Elizabeth Mathurin, Cassie May McPartland, Ethan Carlo Melidone, Brennan Michael Mongeon, Kassandra Peninah Joy Mungai, Wyatt Arthur Neill, Owen Thomas Patee, Ellen Rose Peeler, Kaelyn Nicole Pellicane, Joseph Scott Pentoney, Harmony Lee Powell, Paul Harrison Quarles, Emma Rose Recknagel, Samvit Thatiparthi Reddy, Sarah Bridget Regan, Lily Cecile Rogers, Kassandra Jean Sluhocki, Vivian Jane Strause, Jack Henry Sullivan and Anna Wang.

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St. Peter, Alden Jonathan Stalker, Ava Jeanne Starr, Ely Christopher Sturgeon, Alexander Antonio Tarallo Bartolini, Logan Robert Thibault, Genevieve Eily Timmins, Nicholas Robert Tremblay, Donovan Bruce Trent, Gianna Lee Vega, Kensley Vernet, Marshall Guy Weaver, Noah Nakano Wexler, James Aiden Woloski and Rohn Julian Zeleznok.

Grade Seven, High Honors, Second Quarter

Stella Alyce Angell, Rebecca Eve Ashe, Ellowyn Ann Audette, Jacob Michael Azevedo, Ramielle Valentina Azua, Kaylee Catherine Banks, Lily Anne Barham, Gabrielle Marie Bellofatto, Justin Phillip Berg, Kendall Catherine Boivin, Kelsey Pearl Bouchard, Milayna Vanessa Bousquet, Hannah Rose-Marie Buduo, Natalie Mae Carson, Natalie Marie Casperaites, Benjamin Louis Chechile, Kelsey Irene Clark, Sarah Amy Clark, Charlotte Rosslyn Courtemanche, Ellington Munroe Custance, Emrich Stephen Custance, Madeleine Elle Deatte, Lily Drew Deltoro, Samantha Shay Dion, Zachary Joseph Dores, Owen Nicholas Ehrets, Addison Grace Fiume, Mayson Gaetano Selzo Gambaccini, Caroline Josephine Gaspar, Natalia Jae Giannandrea Mustion, Charlotte Rose Gorton, Ella Marie Gregory, Teagan Abigail Grindle, Nicholas Conrad Hilborn, Tabetha Michelle Hilborn, Jackson Myles Hoenig, Holland Marie King, Elijah Mason Kirk, Ethan Ryan LaFortune, Theodore Michael LaFortune, Neela Grace Lakhani, Charlotte Eleanor Lariviere, Luke Watson MacFarlane, Hailey Elizabeth Mathurin, Cassie May McPartland, Ethan Carlo Melidone, Brennan Michael Mongeon, Kassandra Peninah Joy Mungai, Wyatt Arthur Neill, Owen Thomas Patee, Ellen Rose Peeler, Kaelyn Nicole Pellicane, Joseph Scott Pentoney, Harmony Lee Powell, Paul Harrison Quarles, Emma Rose Recknagel, Samvit Thatiparthi Reddy, Sarah Bridget Regan, Lily Cecile Rogers, Kassandra Jean Sluhocki, Vivian Jane Strause, Jack Henry Sullivan and Anna Wang.

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- public safety -

East Brookfield Police Log

During the week of Jan. 29-Feb. 4, the East Brookfield Police Department responded to 129 building/property checks, 75 directed area patrols, eight traffic controls, 12 radar assignments, eight emergency 911 calls, three complaints, one harassment, two citizen assists, one assist other agency, one safety hazard, one investigation, one motor vehicle investigation, one fraud, one harassment, one identity theft and 39 motor vehicle stops in the town of East Brookfield.

Monday, Jan. 29

2:20 p.m. Fraud, Connie Mack Drive, Services Rendered
 4:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation Issued
 5:08 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Route 49, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 7:15 p.m. Safety Hazard, Connie Mack Drive, Spoken To
 7:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Bridge Street, Citation Issued

Tuesday, Jan. 30

8:17 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 4:06 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Podunk Road, Officer Handled
 5:53 p.m. Assist Citizen, Unknown Location, Dispatch Handled

Wednesday, Jan. 31

8:54 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Court Trial, Dispatch Handled
 2:09 p.m. Medical Emergency, Howe

Street, Transported to Hospital
 2:11 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, East Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 3:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 3:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Mechanic Street, Citation Issued
 4:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 4:51 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Park Street, Transported to Hospital
 10:41 p.m. Suspicious Activity, West Sturbridge Road, Investigated

Thursday, Feb. 1

6:19 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 8:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Sturbridge Road, Citation Issued
 9:29 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Podunk Road, Transported to Hospital
 3:18 p.m. Harassment, Connie Mack Drive, Report Taken
 5:32 p.m. Assist Citizen, Maple Street, Services Rendered
 8:30 p.m. Identity Theft, Flagg Road, Officer Handled
 10:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation Issued

Friday, Feb. 2

10:24 a.m. Complaint, Pleasant Street, Dispatch Handled
 8:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 9:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued
 9:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East

Main Street, Citation Issued
 9:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued
 10:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued

Saturday, Feb. 3

12:03 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation Issued
 2:17 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Knox Trail Road, Spoken To
 9:23 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Written Warning
 10:36 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Citation Issued
 2:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East

Main Street, Citation Issued
 3:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued
 10:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Citation Issued

Sunday, Feb. 4

12:18 a.m. Medical Emergency, East Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 1:57 p.m. Investigation, Harrington Street, Spoken To
 7:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, East Main Street, Officer Handled
 7:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of Jan. 29-Feb. 5, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 19 building/property checks, 49 directed/area patrols, six traffic controls, one radar assignment, five emergency 911 calls, one citizen assist and two animal calls in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, Jan. 29

3:49 p.m. Disabled Motor Vehicle, Ravine Road, Vehicle Towed

Tuesday, Jan. 30

4:47 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital

Thursday, Feb. 1

2:47 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Dispatch Handled
 6:59 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Ravine Road, Officer Handled

Saturday, Feb. 3

5:44 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Barre Road, Transported to Hospital
 7:21 p.m. 911 Fire/Other, West Road, Services Rendered

Sunday, Feb. 4

4:58 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Unitas Road, Services Rendered

Keep fire safety in mind this Valentine's Day

Keep fire safety in mind this Valentine's Day to safely maintain the spark of a romantic evening. According to the National Fire Protection Association, that means keeping a close eye on what's cooking on the stove or in the oven and practicing caution when using candles.

"For anyone planning to celebrate Valentine's Day at home this year, there's a good chance those plans will include a special meal and glowing candles," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA in a press release. "Our goal is to make sure these romantic gestures are done with fire safety in mind."

Cooking is by far the leading cause of U.S. home fires with nearly half (49%) of all home fires involving cooking equipment. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of cooking fires and half of all cooking fire deaths.

"Keeping a close eye on what's cooking can be a challenge, particularly on special occasions like Valentine's Day when you're trying to get everything just right," said Carli. "But when you consider that unattended cooking is the leading cause of cooking fires, it's clear that carefully monitoring what's on the stove and in the oven is critical to ensuring a fire-safe evening."

Candles, which also represent a leading cause of home fires, need to be used with caution. NFPA data shows that half of all candle fires started when a flammable object - such as furniture, bedding, curtains, home decorations, or clothing - was too close to a lit candle. In 21% of home candle fires, the candle was either left unattended, discarded, or otherwise misused. Over one-third of candle fires (36%) started in the bedroom.

Carli recommends using flameless or battery-operated candles, which provide a similar look and feel to open-flame candles while eliminating the risk of associated fires. If you do plan to use real candles, following are tips from NFPA to do so safely:

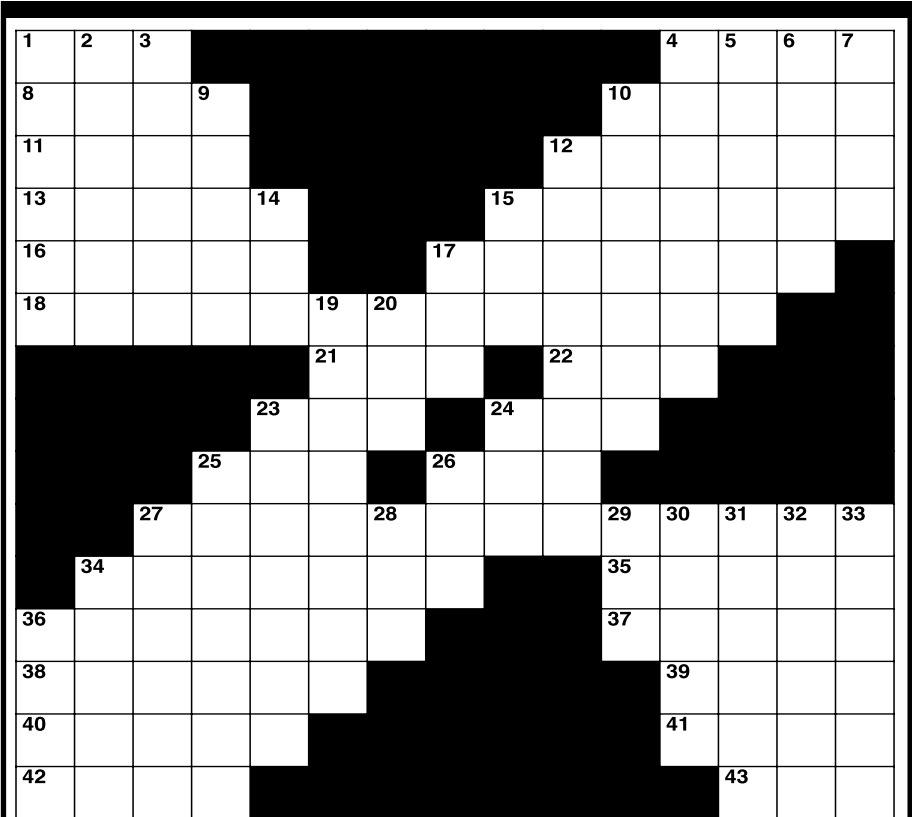
- Avoid using candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.
- Place candles on sturdy, uncluttered surfaces where they will not be knocked over.
- Use caution when lighting candles. Keep hair and any loose clothing away from the flame.
- Do not allow candles to burn down too close to the base of the holder or container.
- Never leave a child alone in the presence of a burning candle.
- Keep matches and lighters out of children's reach.

In addition, NFPA encourages the public to make sure they have working smoke alarms and to develop and practice a home escape plan.

About the NFPA

Founded in 1896, NFPA is a global self-funded nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property, and economic loss due to fire, electrical, and related hazards. The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission.

For more information, visit www.nfpa.org. All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed online for free at www.nfpa.org/freeaccess.



CLUES ACROSS

- One point south of due east
- Coagulated blood
- Fortifying ditch
- Devotee of Hinduism
- Trunk of a tree
- Bank note
- Capital of Guam
- Study again
- Covered with hoarfrost
- Opening
- Legendary Rolling Stone
- Stray
- Computer storing system
- Signal
- Pitching
- statistic
- Human being
- Malaysian isthmus
- The "Blonde Bombshell"
- A gland
- Bluish greens
- Endangered
- Three-dimensional
- In a way, precipitated
- God associated with dissolution
- Blemished
- Flow or leak slowly
- Disco legends
- The Bee ___
- Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

- A way to board
- Get down
- Highly seasoned sausage
- First day of month
- Eurasian shrubs
- The organ that bears the ovules of a flower
- Small lake
- Belief
- Sunrooms
- Metric weight unit
- Vasopressin
- Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- One-time family room staple
- Got back
- together
- Anger
- Sang merrily
- Sea eagle
- Military men
- Kilo yard (abbr.)
- Found in the sea
- Protects from weather
- Type of medicine
- City along the Rhine
- Animal disease
- Get away
- Martini ingredients
- Lack of disunity
- One-time European Commission officer

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**SECTION 00 11 00
INVITATION FOR BID
TOWN OF NORTH
BROOKFIELD
MOUNT PLEASANT
STREET WATER
IMPROVEMENTS
PROJECT**

GENERAL

THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. The bids are to be prepared and submitted at www.bid-docsonline.com. Tutorials and instructions on how to complete the electronic bid documents are available online (click on the "Tutorial" tab in the bottom footer).

The Town of North Brookfield invites sealed Bids for the Mount Pleasant Street Water Improvement Project. The project consists of furnishing all labor, tools, materials, and equipment necessary for the installation of approximately 1,435-LF of 8-inch water main, water services, hydrants, trench patching of all trenches, including all appurtenances. This project is being administered by the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) and funded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC), FY2021 North Brookfield Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The estimated construction cost is \$471,000.

Electronic bids for the Mount Pleasant Street Water Improvement Project shall be

submitted to BidDocs Online, Inc. until **February 29, 2024 at 10:00 AM EST**, at which time they will be publicly opened online. Complete instructions for filing bids are included in the project manual.

Contract Documents may be viewed electronically at www.BidDocsOnline.com and hard copies requested at Nashoba Blue, Inc., 433 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749 (978-568-1167). There is a refundable deposit of \$50.00 per set (maximum of 2 sets) payable to BidDocs Online, Inc. Deposits must be electronically paid or by certified or cashier's check. Bidders requesting contract documents to be mailed to them shall include a separate non-refundable check for \$40.00 per set for UPS Ground (or \$65.00 per set for UPS overnight), payable to BidDocs Online, Inc., to cover mailing costs. Plan deposits may be refunded for up to two sets for general bidders upon return of the sets within ten (10) days of receipt of general bids. Otherwise, the deposit shall be the property of the Awarding Authority.

All bids for this project are subject to the provisions and minimum wage rates required by M.G.L. c.30, §39M as amended, and M.G.L. c.149, §§26 to 27H, inclusive, or by the federal Davis-Bacon wage rates, whichever hourly rate is higher. The project is also governed by HUD's Section 3 of 24 CFR Part 75, whereas efforts occur to ensure that economic opportunities, most importantly employment, generated by this CDBG program shall be directed to

low- and very low-income persons. Bidders on the work shall also make a good faith effort to achieve the goals of the Federal Minority and Women's Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE) policy regarding utilization of MBEs and WBEs in order to be deemed a responsible bidder.

A bid bond with an acceptable surety, or a certified or bank check in the amount of 5% of the total bid shall be submitted with each bid. The successful bidder must furnish a 100% Performance Bond, and a 100% Labor and Material Payment Bond.

Bids may be changed or withdrawn prior to the bid opening by submission of such a change in writing in a sealed envelope, identifying the submitting party and indicating that it contains a correction of the bid for the Mount Pleasant Street Water Improvements Project. Bids may not be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days subsequent to the bid opening.

The lowest qualified responsible bidder shall be awarded the contract subject to availability of funds under the EOHLC Block Grant program. The Town of North Brookfield, the Awarding and Contracting Authority, may cancel this Invitation for Bid (IFB), in whole or in part, at any time that such an act is deemed in its best interest, reserves the right to waive any informality in the bidding or to reject any and all bids in total or in part as may be deemed to serve the best interest of the Town, and will not be responsible for any costs incurred by a bidder in preparing and submitting a

bid in response to this IFB.

A pre-bid conference will not be held for this project. Questions regarding the bid plans and specifications should be directed in writing to Joe Ferguson at Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission 1 Mercantile Street Suite 520 Worcester, MA 01608 or jferguson@cmrpc.com no later than February 19, 2024, at 4:00 PM.

BID SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. The bids are to be prepared and submitted at www.bid-docsonline.com. Tutorials and instructions on how to complete the electronic bid documents are available online (click on the "Tutorial" tab in the bottom footer).

All Bidders shall furnish with their Bid a bid guaranty in the form of a bid bond, certified check, treasurer's check or cashier's check issued by a responsible bank or trust company, in the amount of 5% of the greatest possible bid amount, considering all alternates if applicable, and made payable to the Town of North Brookfield.

There will not be a pre-bid conference for this project. Questions regarding the plans or technical specifications should be directed to Corey Brodeur at Haley Ward, 508-721-7600. Questions regarding general bid information should be directed to Joe Ferguson at CMRPC, 508-459-3359.

Bids must be submitted electronically to www.bid-docsonline.com.

Electronic bids for the Mount Pleasant Street Water Improvement Project shall be submitted to BidDocs Online, Inc. until February 29, 2024 at 10:00 AM EST, at which time they will be publicly opened online. Complete instructions for filing bids are included in the project manual.

BID CONTENTS

All bid submissions must include:

1. A fully completed Form for General Bid form signed by an authorized official of the firm.
2. A list of at least five similar jobs which the firm has successfully completed, giving the name and address of these projects as well as a contact person for whom the

work was done. See Bidders Reference form provided.

3. A fully completed copy of Bid Form for Unit Price Contracts with a price filled out for each of the items listed. Prices are to include all costs associated with the Central Street Water Main Improvement Project including, but not limited to, labor, equipment materials, excavation, dewatering, backfill, bedding, sheeting, shoring, pavement, loaming and seeding, and all other work required for, or incidental to, the construction of the completed project.

4. A fully completed Supplemental Bid Data form signed by an authorized official of the firm.

5. A fully completed Statement of Bidder's Qualifications form signed by an authorized official of the firm.

6. A fully completed Certificate of Non-Collusion signed by an authorized official of the firm.

7. A fully completed Tax Compliance Certification signed by an authorized official of the firm.

8. A fully completed Public Contracts-Debarment form signed by an authorized official of the firm.

9. A fully completed Foreign Corporation Certification signed by an authorized official of the firm.

10. A fully completed Certification of Bidder Regarding Equal Employment Opportunity signed by an authorized official of the firm.

11. A fully completed Form of Contractor's Equal Employment Certification signed by an authorized official of the firm.

12. A fully completed Non-Discrimination and Affirmative Action Certification signed by an authorized official of the firm.

13. A fully completed Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment Certification signed by an authorized official of the firm.

14. A five percent (5%) Bid Deposit of the greatest possible bid amount considering all alternates, in the form of a bid bond, certified check, treasurer's check of cashier's check issued by a responsible bank or trust company, payable to the Town of North Brookfield.

15. A fully completed HUD Act of 1968, Section 3 Compliance Certification signed by an authorized official of the firm.

SUCCESSFUL BIDDER REQUIREMENTS

Bids are also subject to

Minimum Wage Rates and Health and Welfare Pension Fund Contributions as determined for this project by the Commissioner of the Department of Manpower Affairs, Department of Labor and Industries as provided for under these specifications in accordance with and as required by M.G.L. c.30, §39M, and M.G.L. c.149, §§26 to 27H, inclusive. State wage information for this project is provided in the Project Manual. Bids and contracts are further subject to all laws governing Equal Opportunities and Non-Discrimination and applicable Civil Rights Acts.

Furthermore, compliance with Chapter 306 of the Acts of 2004 (10 hour OSHA course) is required. Be advised that a new Massachusetts law has been enacted that requires all employees who work on Massachusetts public works construction sites must have no less than 10 hours of OSHA approved safety and health training. See Chapter 306 of the Acts of 2004, which became effective July 1, 2006. This requirement will apply to any general bid or sub bid submitted on or after July 1, 2006 and to any contract awarded on or after July 1, 2006. This law directs the Massachusetts Attorney General to

restrain the award of construction contracts to any contractor who is in violation of this requirement and to restrain the performance of these contracts by non-complying contractors.

The project is also governed by HUD's Section 3 of 24 CFR Part 75, whereas efforts occur to ensure that economic opportunities, most importantly employment, generated by this CDBG program shall be directed to low- and very low-income persons.

The successful bidder must furnish the following:

1. 100% Payment and Performance Bonds.
2. Certificate of Insurance. The successful bidder must furnish Worker's Compensation Insurance, evidence of Auto Liability, and evidence of Contractor's Liability Insurance in a minimum amount of \$1,000,000 and as indicated in the General Conditions.
3. Schedule of Values for all Lump Sum bid items.

Upon completion of the submission of the documents specified above, the contractor shall submit a schedule of invoices for payment. 02/09/2024

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QUABOAG CURRENT

WEST BROOKFIELD Scholarship applications available p6	EAST BROOKFIELD Cornhole tournament for Nature's Classroom p7	STURBRIDGE Tantasqua lists Jr. High honor roll p12	Editorial/Opinion Sports Police Logs Classifieds	4 9 13 14
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Volume 17, Number 11

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