

# QUABOAG CURRENT

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Friday, March 15, 2024

## School Committee approves updated FY 25 budget

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
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**NORTH BROOKFIELD** – Superintendent Timothy McCormick provided an update to the School Committee regarding the school district’s pro-

posed fiscal year 2025 budget. At the Feb. 26 meeting, McCormick told committee members that the FY 25 budget is 10.35% more than last year’s budget, and higher than he had initially presented at a previous meeting (8.5%). He said the initial fiscal year

2024 was \$7.191 million, which was lowered by over \$97,000 after there was an unaccounted cost for an out-of-district placement. The number of students in out-of-district placements has also increased. “With that reduction in the overall budget, and the addi-

tion of one more student that we absorbed into the district... we’re looking at a \$734,000 difference between FY 24 and FY 25,” McCormick said. He said the budget drivers remain the same, with salaries accounting for 62.9% percent of the total budget, and 30%

of the increase. Other drivers are special education tuition (increase of 10.4%) and transportation (increase of 20.7%). “If we take away these three major budget drivers, our increase would be less than 2%,”

Please see **SCHOOL**, page 5

## Community Reading Day



TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE  
Charlton Police Officer Nick Harney gives a high-five to students before heading to Ghina Harney’s kindergarten class. More photos on page 12 & 13.

## Potential override explained by Town Administrator

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

**WEST BROOKFIELD** – Town Administrator Ron San Angelo hosted a discussion to explain a potential override for the town.

Overrides are used to raise money to address annual operating costs for a town or city. Residents would have to vote to decide if they need to raise the levy limit to cover the costs of operating the local government.

Residents will have to vote at their May annual election to decide if they want the override for the town.

San Angelo, the Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Committee provided paper copies of the override presentation for residents to look over and notice the categories that make up the town budget. Ac-



TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO  
Town Administrator Ron San Angelo had a meeting with West Brookfield residents to discuss a potential override for the town.

cording to San Angelo, if expenses are higher than the 2.5% limit on tax increases (known as Proposition 2 ½) then the town would need an override.

Please see **OVERRIDE**, page 5

## Student’s art displayed at West Brookfield library

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

**WEST BROOKFIELD** – For a month, guests at Merriam-Gilbert Public Library will witness talented artwork.

This past weekend, the work done by the Quaboag National Art Honor Society and National Junior Art Honor Society Chapter members was featured during their opening night of the exhibit. These talented students at

Quaboag Regional Middle High School in grades seven-12 were excited to share their work in the community.

Art comes in all forms and these students have explored numerous artistic opportunities throughout the school year. The students’ work that was showcased came in the form of watercolor landscapes, line drawings, acrylic paintings, sculptures and photographs.

The display featured the work of 30 students in middle school



and high school. These works were selected to be displayed and many students were excited to share their work.

For years, Quaboag has hosted students’ artwork at the school, but wanted to reach out to other venues in the community that would be interested in having an art exhibit. Art teacher, Nicole Giguere of QRMHS appreciates the opportunity of having her students’ artwork dis-

Please see **ART**, page 3



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# Hitting the links at JHPL



The Joshua Hyde Public Library hosted their annual mini golf weekend where the quiet library turns into a miniature golf course.



The golf clubs for mini golf at the library were provided by Bogey Lanes in East Brookfield.



The library mini golf course consisted of 15 holes designed by a talented construction team.



This hole during mini golf brings the world of pirates, treasure, and the sea to life.



Every hole during miniature golf had a unique theme, including three-dimensional obstacles.



Hole 9 was a road trip that leads the ball downstairs to the children's room of Joshua Hyde Public Library.

## Library transformed into miniature golf course

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – The Joshua Hyde Public Library converted into a fun miniature golf course this past weekend.

The idea of hosting mini golf at the library dates back 10 years when the library did a fundraiser for the children's room renovations. The idea was a tremendous success and led to becoming an annual activity.

The mini golf event at the library now helps the Friends of the Joshua Hyde Public Library programming.

The event was held in conjunction with the Bruins/Cradles to Crayons PJ drive to benefit children in foster care. Anyone that brought a new pair of pajamas to the event received one free entry.

In support of the library's mini golf weekend, Bogey Lanes of East Brookfield generously loaned some of their golf clubs to the library. The bowling alley offers 18 holes of miniature golf course and has always supported the Joshua Hyde Public Library when their



Mini golf at the library was fun for all, kids and adults.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO

annual mini golf weekend arrives.

"We couldn't have done this without them," Leila Glaser said.

Glaser is one of the Friends of the JHPL and enjoys having this fun activity at the library every year. Glaser thanked Bogey Lanes for lending their golf clubs.

Other supporters of mini golf at the library were an entire construction team with creative ideas for the library mini golf course. The Tantasqua CAD classes put in a lot of creativity and thought into ideas for a mini golf course that would be

enjoyed by families around the community.

The construction team includes Tantasqua Golf Team and their Coach, Aaron Berthiaume, the Senior Girl Scout Troop #64510, Stephen Celuzza, Lisa and Pat McGarrah, Jane Zavistoski, Leila and Michael Glaser, Sue and Cliff Gregory, and the Neslusan Family.

A team effort brought a fun display of miniature golf. The mini golf at the library was designed to be fun for all and took up both floors of the library.

Fifteen holes in total were offered for mini golf and had



Instead of scoring a hockey goal, get a hole in one.

fun themes for kids. Glaser said they had over 80 players in attendance on the first day.

When players reach hole 9, they experience a fun road trip adventure. Hole 9 began on the top floor of the library and made its way down the stairs into the Children's Room.

The Children's Room of the Joshua Hyde Public Library featured holes 10-15 and has such unique themes to them. For all the wizards in the world, Harry Potter and his friends made an appearance on the miniature golf course with Hedwig greeting you at the end of the hole.

For sports, the Boston Bruins made an appearance on one hole of the library course. The ramp itself was held up with actual hockey sticks. A hole in

one could also be a goal.

Glaser was pleased to see a great turnout of families enjoying mini golf at the library. Her fellow members of the Friends group referred to Glaser as the "Mini Golf Wrangler."

According to Glaser, the miniature golf course was not only entertaining for the children, but for the adults as well.

"Adults have just as much fun as the kids," Glaser said. "Family fun for all."

Joshua Hyde Public Library is located at 306 Main St. and features fun activities for children and adults. For more information, visit [www.sturbridgeliibrary.org](http://www.sturbridgeliibrary.org) and get involved with your local library.



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# - community -



National Art Honor Society Vice President Abigail Long of the senior class had her artwork displayed.



Photography was featured during the art display. The photograph was taken by Quaboag Regional High School senior Aurora Powers.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO  
This artwork was created by National Junior Art Honor Society President Farrah McDonald.



A fantastic dog drawing created by Olivia Hebert of eighth grade.



Persephone Piermarini of ninth grade had her shark artwork displayed at the library.



This amazing house sculpture was made by Quaboag Regional High School senior Chloe Fredette Arbor Villa.



National Junior Art Honor Society Secretary Isabella Santos shared this artwork for the art display.



Isabelle Aberle, a Quaboag Regional High School junior, had these pieces of her artwork displayed together.



National Junior Art Honor Society Treasurer Addison Peloquin shared this art piece for the art display.



The flowers of this boot vase artwork really makes the canvas three-dimensional.



This was created by National Art Honor Society Secretary Sammy Martin.

## ART from page 1

played at the Merriam-Gilbert Public Library. "This is our first collaboration with the library, which is awesome," Giguere said. "We're trying to branch out to other parts of the community, make those community connections."

Joining Giguere during the opening night of the art display is Heather Gaucher who also teaches art at the Quaboag Regional School District. Both teachers were supporting their students as did many families and friends in attendance of opening night.

Several students had more than one piece of art to share and were displayed together with their name and grade they're currently in. Several guests went around the room to ask questions to the artists behind the talented artwork.

All guests agreed a lot of hard work was put into these art pieces as the students showed passion and perseverance. Rachel McGrath, a senior at QRMHS and the NAHS Chapter President shared the story behind what made this fun art display possible.

One of the members of the NAHS Chapter brought up the idea and reached out to the Merriam-Gilbert Public Library. Soon afterwards, the library offered to display the artwork beginning with the opening night.

"The idea was great," said McGrath. It is a great start to share art with the community and display it in other venues besides the schools. The artwork will be on display through April at the Merriam-Gilbert Public Library, on the second floor, 3 West Main St.

Learn more at [www.westbrookfieldlibrary.org](http://www.westbrookfieldlibrary.org) or call the library at 508-867-1410.

The National Art Honor Society have provided national recognition and opportunities for students who exhibit outstanding scholarship in the visual arts, and for their teachers.



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# - opinion -

## editorial



### Will my friend's fiancée be entitled to a survivor benefit?

Dear Rusty

I have a very good friend who has cancer and will begin chemotherapy this week. He is 71 years old and is currently receiving Social Security benefits.

He has been living with his fiancée for a little more than two years, but they have been a couple for about 15 years and will be married in the next few weeks. She is 60 years old.

I am naturally concerned about his and her, future so my questions are:

What, if anything, should he and his wife do to ensure that she gets his Social Security benefits?

What benefits will she be entitled to and how soon will she be able to begin receiving them after his death?

**Signed: A Friend with Questions**

Dear Friend

You are kind to be concerned about your friend and his fiancée. Here's what you need to know:

Social Security goes by state rules when it comes to what is often referred to as "common law marriage." That means that whether your friend's fiancée will receive any benefits as a surviving spouse in a "common law" relationship depends on whether they live in a state, which recognizes common law marriage.

Most states do not, but state laws have changed over the years and many states which once recognized such unions as "marriage" no longer do. Although they may have "been a couple" for 15 years, if your friend and his fiancée have been living together for only two it is likely only the last two years will count for Social Security benefit purposes.

So, whether your friend's fiancée will get anything when your friend dies depends on where they live, unless they get married, in which case the rules are different.

In order for a married widow(er) to receive surviving spouse benefits, the couple must have been married for at least nine months. If they marry and your friend lives longer than nine months thereafter, then his wife will be entitled to a surviving spouse benefit from her husband.

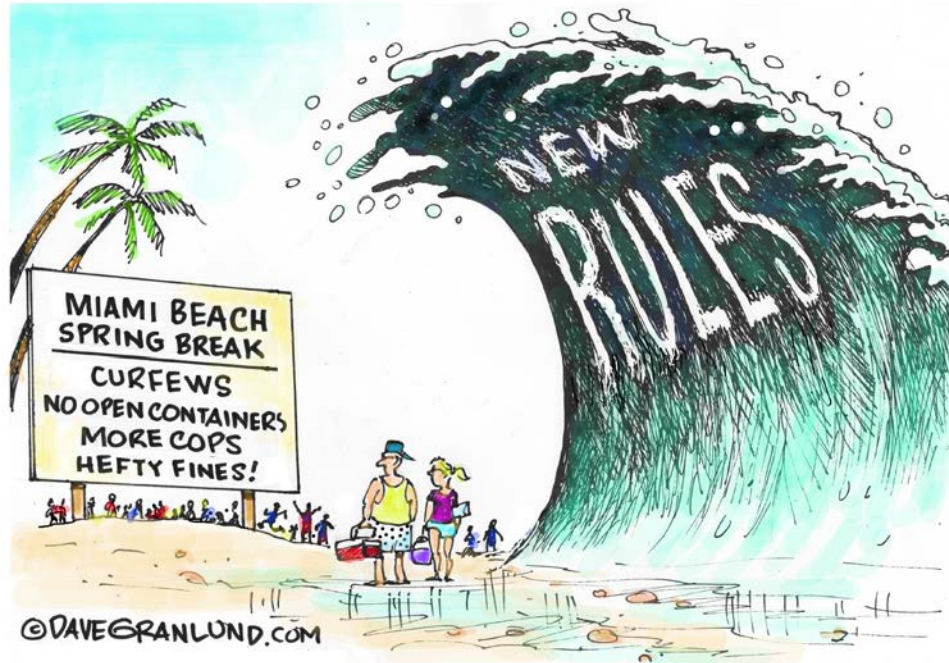
The amount of his wife's benefit will be based upon the amount your friend is receiving at his death, adjusted for her age when she claims her surviving spouse benefit.

A surviving spouse can claim benefits from the deceased as early as age 60, but those benefits will be reduced for claiming before full retirement age (FRA). Taken at age 60, the wife's benefit would be 71.5% of your friend's SS benefit at his death.

The wife need not claim the survivor benefit immediately; she could opt to delay claiming in order to get a higher percentage of the husband's amount. Survivor benefits reach maximum, 100% of the deceased's benefit amount, at the recipient's FRA.

So, if your friend and his fiancée now live in a state which currently recognizes common law marriage (Colorado, Iowa, Kansas,

Please see **SOCIAL SECURITY**, page 6



### News from my garden to yours

I received a text from a friend earlier today asking what is covering my strawberry plants.

I answered her with one word: water.

Yes indeed, a good portion of my garden is drowning at the moment, as are various parts of my yard. We have had too much rain in too short of a period and the ground is still frozen partway down.

It's happened before and will likely happen again, but every time it does, I wonder how these areas could possibly rebound and look good come spring. Usually, they do and with little help from me.

The water recedes and spring comes.

Keep in mind that the soil, be it in your garden or yard, will lose some of its fertility because of leaching, and it will be compacted from such excessive rainfall. Give your plants a side dressing of compost this spring; it will be sure to help restore fertility and improve the condition of the soil in general.

According to a soil test, my garden was notoriously low in nitrogen, so I incorporated blood meal into the soil at planting time with another dose a few weeks later. It didn't occur to me at the time, but flooding a couple of times early in the year could be the culprit of the low nitrogen reading.

Soil that is heavy with water literally pushes out the space that was meant for oxygen and becomes compacted. Without oxygen, plants' vascular systems won't function properly.

As I said before, a few days in the off season likely won't hurt much, but if this were to happen during the growing season, your plants may look wilted even though they are sitting in water.

Root rot, perhaps, or simply that the roots are unable to absorb the water around them.

Lawns should be aerated to remedy this problem, and garden soil should be loosened – once it's dry of course – to get some air into the soil. This can be done numerous ways, by use of various hand tools.

Although scratching around with a three tine cultivator will likely bring some weed seeds to the surface, it is one of my favorite things to do in the garden. I find it a great stress-buster, too.

Do remember to try not to walk on saturated soil or it will compound the problem. Even in the spring when you are working in

your garden, place a board under your feet to distribute your weight evenly and prevent more compaction.

Have you noticed that your houseplants have begun to put on an abundance of new growth? Mine sure have! Support this with a dose of half strength liquid fertilizer.

I need to take cuttings of fuchsia and geranium plants that

I overwintered. It will sure be great to make cemetery logs with our own geraniums this year.

I will simply cut a terminal (meaning top) stem about 4-5 inches long just after a node (that's where the leaved join the stem). I'll carefully take off all but the top two or three leaves and insert the leafless section into a small pot (say around 2-3 inches in diameter) of good quality moist potting soil.

The two or three leaves you left will be above the soil line. If you have rooting hormone on hand, you can dip the stem into that first, but you don't have to; plants in active growth usually root fine even without it.

I will place my cuttings in indirect light and mist with a spray bottle a couple of times a day to keep them from wilting before they root. Check in about a month, and if you are lucky, roots will have formed.

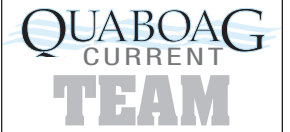
Depending on the size pot you used, and the size of the roots, it may be a good time to put the plants into a bigger pot and place them in a sunnier window until it's safe to plant them outside.

My daffodil plants are starting to pop up here and there in the yard. I had a little bit of balanced organic granular fertilizer left from last year, so I sprinkled it around the clusters.

Now and once the flowers have gone by are the two best times to fertilize narcissus. I am so excited to enjoy the varied colors and scents from this huge Genus of plants.

To me, they are the epitome of a true spring flower. Soon enough, soon enough!

*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.*



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# - from page one -

## SCHOOL from page 1

McCormick said.

The committee voted to approve the budget, which will now go before the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen for review.

### Superintendent's report

The school district received funding through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's grant 311 in the amount of \$95,000 to support social emotional learning, behavior and mental health and wellness.

McCormick said the school district will meet with a grant coach to use the money prior to June 30.

"We're looking to increase our in-school counseling for our students," he said. "We've seen a rise in chronic absenteeism...we've also seen a rise in students who have mental health needs. We right now have two outside agencies to work with our kids during the school day. We want to increase that so we can now have students access the small groups with the counselors during the school day as well."

McCormick said the money will also be used to purchase sensory supplies for both schools to offer support to students with increased anxiety. It will also purchase social emotional learning curriculum for grades K-12 from Second Step.

People can review the Second Step curriculum at secondstep.org.

"That's a tried and true curriculum that has been used at the Elementary School for several years," he said of the curriculum.

McCormick said the school district also received a Project Lead the Way grant for grades K through five. Project Lead the Way provides science and technology instruction for students in preschool through grade 12.

Last year, the school district received a PLTW grant for grades six through eight.

McCormick said the school district received just under \$19,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act Committee to upgrade the video camera system and add three external cameras. The system will also be changed from analog to digital.

He said the upgrade is expected to be completed by the end of the school year.

### Regionalization agreement

School Committee Chair Ron Ryel said the chair of the Regional Agreement Amendment Committee informed its members that the latest regionalization agreement has been received from attorneys. A meeting will be scheduled in March.

Ryel said he hopes to have more information to share at the next School

Committee meeting.

### Washington, D.C. trip update

Margaret Hanson said an information night for parents of students attending the Washington, D.C. trip will be held on March 14. Information will also be sent to parents of current sixth grade students, as they will be eligible to attend the trip, which is scheduled for April 2025.

She said about 40 people (including parent chaperones and a nurse) have expressed interest in attending the trip.

Hanson said she doesn't have a final cost for the trip yet, and fundraising has been successful and ongoing.

Hanson shared photos taken during previous Washington, D.C. trips, highlighting some of the sites they visited and events they participated in.

"We're working really hard to see who wants to go, and we will do our best to make sure they all are able to go," Hanson said.

### Senior class trip

The School Committee approved the Class of 2024's senior class camping trip scheduled for May 17-19 at Nickerson State Park in Brewster. About 20 students have expressed interest in attending the camping trip.

During the trip, students will enjoy the beach, a water park and hiking trails. There will also be a class cookout at the campground and a campfire.

Senior Class Advisor Caitlyn Malone said the cost is expected to be around \$100 per student, and everything will be included (tents, camping gear, campsite rental, admission fees and food).

Malone said there will be "a lot of class bonding" on the trip and students are looking forward to it.

### Student Council update

Student Representative Olivia Giangrande said the Student Council is looking for-

ward to attending the annual conference in Hyannis. A lot of students will be attending for the first time.

"We're very excited to show them just how much fun it is," she said.

Giangrande said the Student Council submitted the Massachusetts Association of Student Councils Excellence Book earlier in February. The council also applied for the National Council of Excellence Award.

Unity Week was held at the school the week prior to February break and was used to enhance the school's sense of community and show support for all different types of people.

### Recognitions

McCormick recognized Elementary School teacher Mike Shelburne for organizing Camp Read-a-Lot prior to February break. Camp Read-a-Lot featured guests speakers and activities.

"It's a great way to segue into vacation," McCormick said. He also thanked those who volunteered during the event.

McCormick also recognized both the boys and girls basketball teams for qualifying for the state tournament.

"We want to wish our teams the best," McCormick said.

McCormick congratulated basketball player Jose Rivera, who recently became the High School's newest 1,000-point scorer.

### Correspondence

Ryel said he received a request from a community member about converting one of the tennis courts into a pickleball court. He said he wasn't sure if there would be a reason to do so within the school district, and said it could make a good addition to the town's common.

Ryel said he wanted to share the request with the other members of the committee.

## OVERRIDE from page 1

The town budget includes public works, library and recreation, human services, member benefits and insurance, debt service, general government, public safety and education. According to the chart provided by San Angelo, education makes up about 54% of the budget.

What helps balance the budget for the town is the use of free cash. Free cash is what a town can utilize in the fiscal year.

Under the Massachusetts law, free cash is certified as of the beginning of each fiscal year by the State Bureau of Accounts. Together with certain subsequent tax receipts, the funds are used as the basis for any subsequent appropriations from available funds, which are not required to be included in the annual tax levy.

San Angelo looks at it as someone saving what they have at the end of the year after all expenses are paid. However, he doesn't believe it is right to use funds from a one-time payment system to balance the budget.

"The town should not be paying for continuing operations from one-time revenue," said San Angelo.

Free cash is used for one-time expenses a town may encounter, but San Angelo believes it should be only used for one-time expenses and not for continuing operation costs.

In fiscal year 2024, West Brookfield utilized \$380,164 to balance the town budget. Although free cash was used in the past, the town also wants to avoid any possible financial deficit.

The town has developed a five-year plan for how the

funds will be used to maintain government services. An override helps cover a five-year timeframe based on best estimates of future costs.

San Angelo believes an override is needed for the town and voters would no longer have to use free cash to balance the budget annually. Certain services to the town would not have to be reduced in case of any financial deficit.

"We want to keep services where they are," San Angelo said.

Services that could be in jeopardy of being cut relate to employees of the town. San Angelo believes these cuts could happen if the override is voted down.

With an override, over the next couple years the town will gradually use the excess levy capacity to fund the normal operation of local government. If the override is voted down then the town may have to make cuts for town departments over the next couple years.

San Angelo mentioned several departments that could be impacted if cuts are necessary in the next couple years if there is no override. Departments such as police, fire, highway, library, senior center and town hall would have to reduce staff, hours and services to the community.

With an override, it is designed to maintain the current services the town provides to its residents.

After his presentation, San Angelo began taking questions from residents who attended the discussion taking place at West Brookfield Elementary School. Many residents shared their thoughts and concerns and had mixed feelings about wanting to favor an override.

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**Monday - 6:30 p.m.**  
**TRIVIA NIGHT**

**Wednesday - 6:30 p.m.**  
**MUSIC BINGO**

**Sip & Paint**  
Tuesday, March 12,  
Tuesday, March 26,  
Tuesday, April 9,  
Tuesday, April 23  
Starting at 6:30 p.m.

**Easter Egg Hunt**  
Sunday, March 24 at 1 p.m.  
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**St. Patrick's Day Party**  
Sunday, March 17  
Live Music Starting at 3 p.m.  
*Tequila Mockingbird*  
Food & Drink All Weekend Long

**Easter Brunch**  
Sunday, March 31  
Seatings at 10:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m. & 2 p.m.  
*Menu Available on Facebook & Website*

# - community -

## Library announces events

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Haston Free Public Library, 161 North Main St., lists upcoming events and programs for the month of March.

### Strategic Planning meeting

The library's Strategic Planning Committee will meet on March 21 at 6 p.m. Please speak to a staff member if you would like to be a part of this important committee.

### Discussion groups

The Book Group will discuss "Interpreter of Maladies" by Jhumpa Lahiri on March 26 at 7 p.m. The Movie Discussion Group will talk about "Far and Away (1992, PG-13)" on March 28 at 6 p.m.

### Story Times

March Story Times with Miss Bri will be held in the Children's Room on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. Upcoming programs include March 19, "Rechenka's Egg" by Patricia Polacco and children will make a fake egg decorating craft and March 26, "Corduroy's Easter Party" by Don Freeman and children will make a bunny craft.

### Children's Art Club

Art Club for children will be held the first and third Mondays of the month from 4-5 p.m.

## Quabbin Visitor Center offers free event to be held on Sunday, March 17

BELCHERTOWN – The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center, 100 Winsor Dam Road, will offer a free program on Sunday, March 17 from 2-3 p.m.

"Be a Good Neighbor - Don't Kidnap Wildlife! or How to help our wild friends without unintentionally causing harm" will be offered in person and remotely.

There is a 45 seat limit for the in-person presentation at the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center and a Zoom link will be sent to remote participants. Registration is required by visiting [www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events](http://www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events).

For those registered for the remote presentation, a link will be sent out a few days before the date of the presentation.

Often in spring and summer, well-intentioned people pick up wildlife they believe to be "abandoned," but this is not always the case, and the animal is at greater risk being taken in by humans than being left alone. Learn what is normal behavior for common wildlife and when you should or should not intervene.

The Quabbin Interpretive Services program operates the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center, offering public and school education programs, teacher workshops, and general information about DCR's water

supply resources and watershed management, the history of the Quabbin Valley and wildlife of the area.

Staff members are available to assist with visitor information and services. An automated telephone system, 413-323-7221, provides 24 hour access to current information on fishing, hunting, programs, rules and regulations, and public access.

All ages are welcome to these events. Email [QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov](mailto:QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov) with questions or to be added to the mailing list.

Recordings of previous programs are available on the Division of Water Supply Protection's YouTube page.

## - obituary - Ronald R. Rainka, 82

WARREN – Ronald R. Rainka, 82, of Warren, passed away on Monday, March 11, 2024 at Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center in Columbia, Maryland.



to many. He enjoyed dealing and collecting antiques. He was part of the Brimfield Antique Shows from the very beginning, and was a member of the Somers Antique Bottle Club. He also enjoyed playing basketball, golf, playing cribbage, and spending time in his beloved woods, caring for

the property, planting rare trees, and spending countless hours enjoying nature. He will be greatly missed by all. Calling hours for Ronald will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 from 5 - 7 p.m. in the Varnum Funeral Home in West Brookfield. A funeral mass will be held the following day, Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 10 a.m. in Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, 10 Milk St. in West Brookfield. Guests are asked to meet directly at church In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Second Chance Animal Shelter, P.O. Box 136, East Brookfield, MA 01515, or online at <https://www.secondchanceanimals.org>.

the property, planting rare trees, and spending countless hours enjoying nature. He will be greatly missed by all.

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Ronald graduated from UMass and worked as a math teacher at Tantasqua Regional High School for 34 years.

Varnum Funeral Home, Inc., 43 East Main St., in West Brookfield is assisting family with arrangements.

Ronald was a loving and devoted father, grandfather, brother, and friend

An online guest book is available at [varnumfuneralhome.com](http://varnumfuneralhome.com).

## New Braintree Library to hold Story Time

NEW BRAintree – The New Braintree Public Library, 45 Memorial Drive, offers their next Story Time program on Monday, March 18 at 9 a.m.

The focus will be spring weather and will feature "Little Cloud" by Eric Carle, "It Looked Like Spilt Milk" by Charles G. Shaw and "Rain!" by Linda Ashman.

This reading and crafts program for preschool children is held twice a month on Mondays at the library. Parental supervision is required.

People may call the library at 508-867-7650 during regular business for more information.

## Easter egg hunt at Lucy Stone Park set for March 30

WARREN – The annual Easter egg hunt will be held at Lucy Stone Park, Old West Brookfield Road, on Saturday, March 30.

There will be three separate egg hunts by age, starting with the 5-7 year olds at 10:30 a.m., 8-10 year olds at 10:45 a.m. and ages 4 and under at 11 a.m. Rain date is Saturday, April 6.

There will be prizes for all ages groups, photos with the Easter Bunny and refreshments.

Please park at Quaboag Regional Middle High School, 284 Old West Brookfield Road, or on one side of the street.

### SOCIAL SECURITY from page 4

Montana, New Hampshire, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Rhode Island or in the District of Columbia), then your friend's partner will be considered his "wife" and entitled to survivor benefits as normal (the fiancée would need to prove they cohabitate in a marriage-like relationship to claim benefits).

If they do not live in one of those states, but they get married and the marriage lasts for at least 9 months, then the wife will be entitled to normal benefits as a surviving spouse as described above.

tionships or if their soon-to-occur marriage doesn't last at least nine months or if they do not get married, I'm afraid your friend's partner will not be entitled to any survivor benefits from your friend.

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

But if the couple do not live in one of the above states which recognize "common law" rela-

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SLICED IN OUR DELI TURKEY BREAST... <b>\$3.99</b> lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF 7 LB BAG... <b>\$3.66</b> lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN TUNA STEAKS... <b>\$5.99</b> lb
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USDA INSP. FROZEN GOAT MEAT... <b>\$6.99</b> lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN BEEF TRIPE... <b>\$2.99</b> lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN BEEF OXTAILS... <b>\$9.99</b> lb

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200 OLD LYMAN RD., SOUTH HADLEY

# Area students participate in Drama Festival

By Nick Boonstra  
Staff Writer  
nboonstra@turley.com

Students from Quabbin Regional Middle High School and Eagle Hill School participated in the Massachusetts Educational Theatre Guild's annual High School Drama Festival on March 2, putting on exceptional performances that demonstrated a remarkable ability and maturity from the youth participating.

For the Festival's preliminary round on Saturday, Quabbin performed "Silenced on Barbour Street" at Leominster High School, while Eagle Hill took their production of "Horse Girls" to Westford Academy. Unfortunately, neither school moved on to the competition's semi-final round, but a number of students from both schools were recognized for their efforts in shaping their respective productions.

The METG High School Drama Festival is an annual competitive one-act play festival, with preliminary, semi-final, and State Final rounds, the latter of which occurs over the course of three days in Boston. The history of Festival traces back almost 100 years to 1928, according to the METG website.

This year, a total of 94 schools participated at 13 different host schools in the preliminary round. Most sites had seven performances on the day, three of which moved on to the semi-final round, while three schools had eight shows performed and four moving on. Ultimately, 14 schools will participate in the State Finals at the end of this month.

Eagle Hill's show "Horse Girls", directed by Will Gelinas, told the story of seven equine-obsessed middle schoolers, concerned with fitting in with each other and protecting their beloved horses, who proved they had a dark side when the going got rough.

The all-female cast delivered a performance that was at some points gut-busting and at others heart-wrenching. The performances were accented by a simple, yet beautiful set made to resemble a quintessential teenage girl's bedroom circa 2014, complete with posters of Taylor Swift and One Direction.

Despite not progressing to semis, the production



Aidan Mahoney, right, was recognized for his role as the Ringmaster in Quabbin Regional Middle High School's production of "Silenced on Barbour Street".

was recognized with a number of All-Star Awards, which are given by each site's three judges in acknowledgement of student excellence and must be unanimous among the judges.

The entire cast received All-Star Cast awards for their excellence as an ensemble. On the technical side of things, awards were given to Alec S., Huck R. and Sam J. for excellence in Sound, Lighting Design and Stage Management, respectively.

Quabbin's production of "Silenced on Barbour Street", directed by Julia Tuttle and Lisa Payne, revolved around the true story of a circus fire that killed over 100 people in Hartford, Connecticut on July 6, 1944.

The larger ensemble cast was driven forward by Aidan Mahoney in the role of the Ringmaster, a twisted overseer of the show's purgatory for those who caused and fell victim to the blaze. The backdrop of a minimalistic but artistically compelling set fostered the imaginative setting of the show's circus, and gave the actors the freedom to inhabit a variety of spaces through their performances.

Mahoney also received an All-Star Cast award for his dedicated performance, as did Irene Stolgitis, who played the role of Mae, a passionate character who refused to let her own secrets stop her from standing up



"Silenced on Barbour Street" revolves around the true story of a fatal circus fire in Hartford, Connecticut on July 6, 1944.

to the menacing Ringmaster and his dark games.

Quabbin was also recognized for the technical aspects of their show, with Student Director and Stage Manager Em Gentile being recognized with an All-Star Award for their significant role in crafting the show.

Both schools were gracious in defeat, recognizing the quality of all of the shows they each got to see performed, and enjoying the opportunity to have participated in the event.

The semi-final round will be held on Saturday, March 9 (snow date March 10), with seven different locations playing host to six schools each. State Finals are scheduled to take place from March 21-23.

Further information about METG and the High School Drama Festival can be found online at <https://metg.org>.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Second Chance Animal Services Dinner Auction raises funds to care for pets like Clarissa and Charlie who were born with severe eye defects and came to Second Chance in need of surgery.

## 25<sup>th</sup> annual dinner auction benefits shelter pets

EAST BROOKFIELD – Second Chance Animal Services is calling on all animal lovers to place their bids in the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner Auction.

The event, dedicated to the welfare of homeless shelter pets, will be held at the La Salle Reception Center in Southbridge on Saturday, March 23. Advance online bidding for select items begins this week.

Chief Development Officer, Lindsay Doray, expressed gratitude for the overwhelming support received from local businesses and animal lovers, noting the array of exciting auction items available, including lavish gift baskets, Red Sox State Street Pavilion tickets and Yukon Solo Stove bundle.

Advance online bidding is open to everyone for select items and gift cards from Thursday, March 14 at 1 p.m. to Thursday, March 21 at 1 p.m. Those attending the event will have the opportunity to bid on a dizzying array of additional items, as well as surpassing online offers to support shelter pets in need.

With a limited number of tickets remaining, Doray urges prospective attendees to secure their reservations promptly. Doors open at 4 p.m., offering a delightful cocktail hour amidst hundreds of auction and raffle items.

A sumptuous dinner will be served at 6 p.m., followed by an exhilarating live auction featuring premium items, concluding with the silent auction. Tickets are priced at \$55 per person.

Second Chance is still accepting sponsorships and item donations to elevate the success of the dinner auction. Doray acknowledges the unwavering support of local businesses, underscoring the event's goal to provide medical care to shelter pets in need.

For sponsorship inquiries, item donations, or to purchase tickets for the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner Auction, please visit <http://www.secondchanceanimals.org/dinner-auction>.

## Join Us For the 2nd Annual Senior Resource Fair

**NO COST!  
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**Date: Saturday, March 23rd**  
**Time: 11am-1pm**  
**Place: Ware Senior Center,  
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**Participants include**

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danielle.souza@fairwaymc.com**



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# SPORTS

## Quaboag defeated in final regular season game

SOUTH HADLEY – Last Saturday afternoon, Quaboag 5-6 Suburban League boys basketball was defeated 47-15 at South Hadley in a matchup played at South Hadley High School. It was the final regular season game for both teams and the Suburban League playoffs were scheduled to begin this week.



Will Goodwin makes his way down the court.



Adam Benkert shoots from the free throw line.



Zach Dermian shoots in traffic. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Hunter Griswold passes on the run.



Adrien Moskovitz passes on the run.



Trevor Allard makes a shot. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

## Pioneers lose state tourney opener to Panthers

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—The Palmer Panthers won a preliminary round home game in the Division 5 state boys basketball tournament for the second time in the

past three years. Led by senior Andrew Menard and freshman Taydem Haley, who combined for 48 points, the 23<sup>rd</sup>-seeded Panthers advanced into the round of 32 with a 79-51 victory over the 42<sup>nd</sup>-seeded Pathfinder Tech Pioneers on Feb. 27.

“It’s really good for these guys, especially the two seniors, to have a home win in the states,” said Palmer head coach Missy Rocker said. “As soon as we found out that we would be facing Pathfinder, the kids were very excited about playing against their friends.”

Two years ago, Palmer defeated the Hampden Charter School East, 61-40, in a preliminary home game before losing at Hopkins Academy in the round of 32.

This year’s postseason journey also

Please see **PIONEERS**, page 10

## - sports -

## St. Patrick's Road Race set for this Saturday afternoon



PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

The first wave of harriers are off in the 2023 St. Patrick's Road Race in Holyoke.

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – The weekend of St. Patrick's Day is synonymous with the popular parade in the streets of downtown Holyoke. But equally tradition is the 10K St. Patrick's Day Road Race.

The road race was disappointingly cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and again in 2021 when COVID-19 rates rose due to the vaccine not being as widely available at the time.

But last year, the race returned to the joy people throughout the region and beyond and Holyoke once again became a hub of activity beginning with "Race Day."

And the sights and scenes of St. Patrick's Day weekend were also back in the Paper City the past two years as the downtown area around Maple and High Streets were lined with patrons. Bars and restaurants were filled with people going in and out, the Mummies gave their performance, and children and others were able to participate in the Kids Walk and Fun Run prior to the "main event" taking place at 1 p.m.

This year's race, the 47<sup>th</sup> running of the tradition, will take place this Saturday, March 16. Once again, many will be looking to add their name to the list of winners of the 10K.

In 2023, it was the ideal day for Jenna Gigliotti, an Amherst woman who won the 10K Road Race for the second consecutive year. She crossed the finish

line at 35:29.

This year's male and overall winner was Michael Norberg, who also is from Amherst. He finished with a time 30:50. He was more than 30 seconds ahead of the second-place finisher, Bradley Mish, of Hadley.

There were more than 5,000 participants in this year's event, which is part of a big weekend in Holyoke, going along with the parade that took place on Sunday. It also is viewed as a practice course for runners participating in more races later in the year, including the Boston Marathon. There are harriers who will run 6.2-mile course multiple times to simulate 26.2-mile marathon distance, including participating in the main race.

Of the more than 5,000 harriers signed up, 3,813 registered finishes.

Benjamin Lasky, of Ludlow, was a top local finisher, coming in 14<sup>th</sup> at 33:41. Lasky has been a top 10 finisher in the past.

The race continued traditions of participants running for various charities and other causes, in honor of deceased loved ones, and of course, the running of the race in costume.

This year, the

The current cost, as of press time, to enter the race, is \$35. The two-mile walk price was \$25 as of press time, but was expected to rise on March 13.

The weather, as of press time, is expected to be warmer than in previous years, near 60 and sunny.

## Registration now open for Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to infuse new talent into its league for the 2024 season.

Registration for the 2024 season is now open and any interested players can go to [www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org](http://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org) to get registered, or to seek more information or make inquiries about the league. The league website will also be updated over the next month with information about the upcoming season.

There are many open roster spots available in the league for the 2024 season, which is tentatively scheduled to begin on Sunday, April 21. The league plays most Sunday from late April through late August with play-offs following that. The league plays a 15-game schedule and typically fields six teams each year. Games are usually played at 10 a.m. with fields in

Easthampton and South Hadley normally used.

The Quabbin Valley league is an all-abilities league and all are welcome to join. Eligibility is players who are age 28 and over. You must be 30 to be eligible to pitch in the league. Your age for eligibility is whatever age you will turn in 2024. The league is also able to entertaining taking in an entire group as a team to add to the league. Please email the league board for to inquire about entering a team.

The league is currently in the process of preparing for the 2024 season and held a meeting on Feb. 18 to discuss plans for the upcoming season. The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday March 24 at 11:40 a.m. at the Hangar Pub & Grill in South Hadley. All are welcome to attend the meeting, ask questions and express interest in joining.

**PIONEERS** from page 9

came to an end for the Panthers in the round of 32 following a 68-49 road loss to the 10<sup>th</sup>-seeded Douglas Tigers two nights later.

Palmer finished their season with an 11-10 overall record.

Menard, who scored 13 of his 22 points against the Pioneers during the second half, and Shawn Troche are the two seniors listed on the Panthers varsity roster.

"Andrew and I have been playing on the same basketball teams since we were little kids," said Troche, who chipped in with seven points. "It feels amazing to win a state tournament game in our final home game. We lost in the round of 32 two years ago and we're hoping to get to the round of 16 this year."

Haley, who's a tri-captain captain with the two seniors, played in his first state tournament game against Pathfinder Tech. He netted 18 of his career-high 26 points after halftime.

"Winning a game in the state tournament feels really good," Haley said. "There was a lot of pressure on us, but we worked very hard as a team."

Troche was very impressed with Haley's outstanding performance.

"Taydem is only a freshman, but he scored 26 points, which is amazing," he said. "He always plays every game with a lot of confidence."

Pathfinder Tech, who has made three appearances in the state tournament since the postseason format was changed in 2021, finished their season with an 11-10 overall record.

"Even though the final score was worse than the first time that we played Palmer, I thought it was a much more competitive game tonight," said Pathfinder head coach Zac Button. "We battled them to the end."

The seven seniors listed on the Pioneers varsity roster are Hunter Griswold, Adrien Moskovitz, Branden Hnitecki, Luke Magnus, Trevor Allard, Adam Slonka, and Richie Gula.

"We'll be losing seven very good kids," Button said. "I coached the seniors on the junior varsity team before coaching them at the varsity level the past two years. They work very hard on the court and in the classroom. They're a very special group."

Gula scored a team-high 17 points in his final high school basketball game.

Griswold, whos' planning on playing football at Mass Maritime Academy next fall, scored 14 of his 16 points during the second half.

"I do know most of the Palmer players and losing to them in a state tournament game is tough," said Griswold, who's an outstanding three-sport athlete. "It has been awesome being a member of this basketball team for the last four years."

At the end of December, the Panthers made the trip down the street to Pathfinder Tech and celebrated a 53-37 non-league victory. Haley scored a game-high 18 points in that contest.

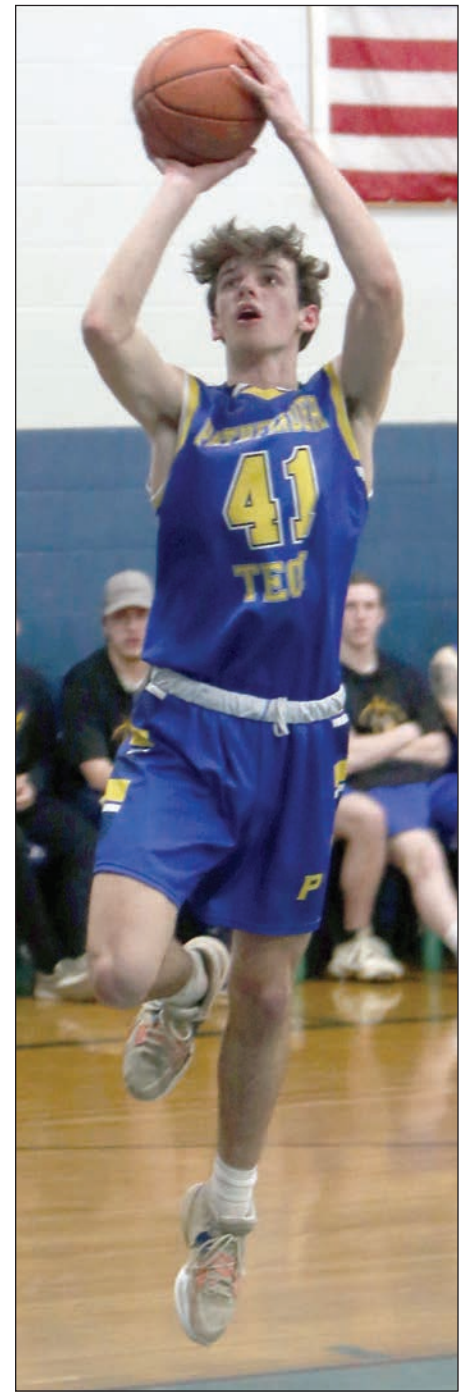
Menard scored the first four points in last Tuesday's contest and the Panthers never trailed.

A couple of minutes later, a lay-up by sophomore Angel Torres (7 points) gave the home team an 8-4 advantage.

Gula made the first of his two trifectas with 5:15 remaining in the opening quarter, which closed the gap to 8-7.

Then Haley buried a 3-pointer from the top of the key beginning a 13-3 Palmer run. Haley scored six more points during the final five minutes of the first quarter.

"Taydem is an outstanding point



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM  
Adam Slonka ranges for a layup from the right side.

guard for a freshman," Rucker said. "He's a big catalyst for our team and jump-starts things. His performance tonight was unbelievable. He made fantastic shots while driving, and that's what we need more of."

Sophomore Dylan Doherty (8 points) added a field goal and made a pair of foul shots for the home team during the run. Sophomore Stephen Fredette (5 points) also made a free throw, as the Panthers entered the second quarter holding a 21-10 advantage.

Pathfinder Tech began the second stanza with a pair of inside hoops by Allard (6 points) and Slonka (8 points) before Palmer scored the next seven points.

Late in the first half, a Doherty put-back hoop gave the Panthers a 37-21 lead.

Haley took over the spotlight offensively during the third quarter by scoring twelve points, which helped Palmer keep their double digit lead.

"Taydem is a heck of a basketball player," Button said. "He cut right through our defense, especially in the third quarter."

The Pioneers did cut the deficit to ten points a couple of times in the quarter quarter, but they weren't able to get any closer than that the rest of the way.

Griswold made five field goals and a foul shot during the final eight minutes of the contest for the visiting team.

The returning Pioneers players will be looking for a little bit of revenge when they play another game at the Palmer High School gymnasium during the 2024-25 regular season.

- sports -

# Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

## Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – March has arrived for the Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League. The standings as of Feb. 27 had Acres and Blue B's tied for first place at 6-2. In third place, Team BK has a record of 5-3. The Champs R Here, Compression and Last in Line are tied for fourth place with a record of 4-4.

Life is Good is in last place at 2-6. Compression won in the first round and Life is Good won the second round. One more team is aiming to join them in the playoffs at the end of the season.

The Champs R Here bowled against Compression on this Tuesday night of March. In game one, The Champs prevailed with a commanding lead over Compression and won by a score of 423-378. Filling in for the Champs is Bryan Surprise starting off the evening with a 111.

John Colkos also bowled well over his average scoring 113.

In game two, Champs R Here won again by a score of 387-370. Surprise had the high score of game two out of both teams with a 102. In game three, The Champs won 395-368 for a three-game sweep over Compression.

Surprise finished strong with a 118 and a series of 331. Total pinfall was won by The Champs R Here with a score of 1205 with Compression having a total pinfall score of 1116.

## Thursday Night Mixed League

The Thursday Night Mixed League is several weeks away from wrapping up their season.

With a couple weeks left, several teams are aiming to win the second and final round. As of Feb. 29, Team Six, the winners of round one, are leading in round two at 25-15. Team One is in second place at 23.5-16.5. In third place, just one point behind Team One, Team Four is at 22.5-17.5.

In one match, Team Six bowled against Team Three. In game one, Team Six took the first game by a score of 412-400. Dan Mahoney of Team Six started off the evening with a 110.

In game two, Team Six won again by a score of 421-375. Josh Gorham of Team Six bowled well scoring 105.

In game three, Team Six won for a three-game sweep by a score of 430-422. Team Six won total pinfall by a score of 1263-1197.

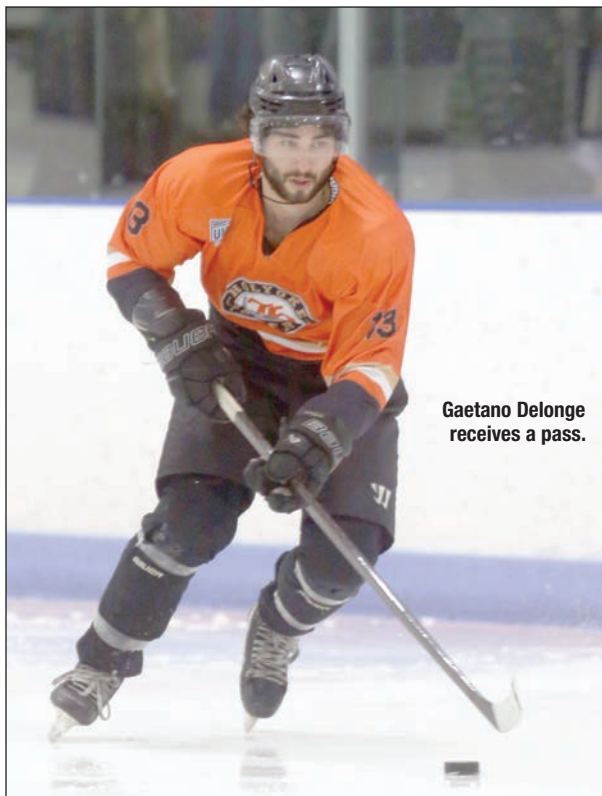
Team One bowled against Team Five and attempted to take first place from Team Six. In game one, Team Five took the first game by a score of 427-401. Mike Wadas of Team Five led the team starting off with a 108.

In game two, Team Five won again by a score of 408-386. In game three, Team One managed to win the last game by a score of 422-400. Team Five was the winner of total pinfall by a score of 1235-1209. Team One only managed to win one point where Team Six won four points.

The Thursday Night Mixed League will conclude on Thursday, March 28.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM  
Mark Laviolette, of Ludlow makes his way up the right side of the ice.



Gaetano Delonge receives a pass.



Nick Cambria looks to center the puck.



Nick McNally comes into the ice and immediately takes control of the puck.



Vinnie McAllister sends a pass away.



Zach Paisley heads up the left side of the ice.

## Papermen represent region in new league

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Papermen, an amateur adult hockey team, was in action last Saturday afternoon. The Papermen are brand new adult team participating in the Union Hockey League, a new adult league in the New York and New England region. The new team got started in January and is playing a 32-game season with seven other teams that joined the league. Home games are played at Fitzpatrick Rink in Holyoke.



Colton Allen attempts a three-pointer.

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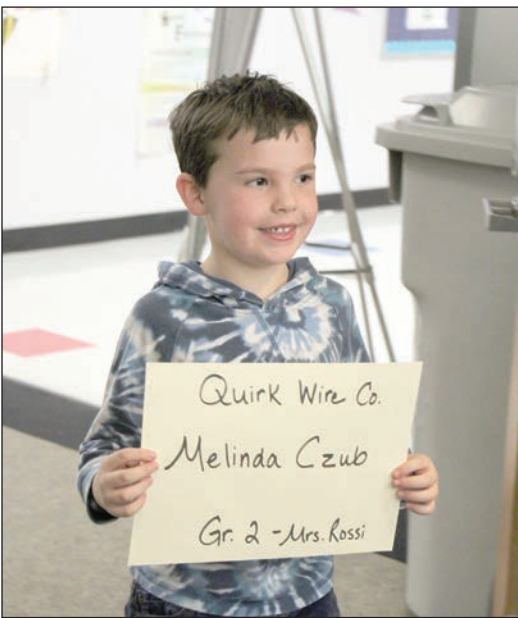
# Community Reading Day



West Brookfield Postmaster Matti Sjoblom enlists the help of students to carry items to Sarah Gay's kindergarten class.



Retired kindergarten teacher Deb Provencher reads "Thidwick the Big-Hearted Moose" by Dr. Seuss to Laura Marino's fourth grade class during Community Reading Day last week.



Students helped escort their guest readers to each classroom.

## Guest readers visit West Brookfield Elementary School

WEST BROOKFIELD — Over a dozen guests readers visited West Brookfield Elementary School last week for Community Reading Day.

Guest readers came from local businesses, organizations and public safety agencies. Each reader had a chance to introduce themselves to their class and answer any questions about the role they play in the community, before reading a book.

In honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday, many of the readers read his classics including "The Lorax" and more. Some of the guest readers chose books that highlighted the area's history.

Guest readers including West Brookfield Postmaster, Matti Sjoblom; Charlton Police Officer, Nick Harney; Merriam-Gilbert Public Library's Children's Library, Linda Higgins; North Brookfield Savings Bank, Patty Ostrout; West Brookfield Police Chief, Nathan Hagglund; Quirk Wire Co., Melinda Czub; Registered Nurse, Sue Teczar; West Brookfield Senior Center Director, Kelly Hitt; West Brookfield Dental hygienist, Savannah; retired kindergarten teacher, Deb Provencher; Country Bank, Jodie Gerulaitis; Superintendent, Stephen Duff; and Quaboag Principal, Casey Handfield.



Students eagerly listened to stories during Community Reading Day.



This student was excited to escort his grandmother.



West Brookfield Police Chief Nathan Hagglund reads to Ryan Hubbard's second grade class.



Superintendent Stephen Duff reads to fifth graders.



Children's Library at the Merriam-Gilbert Public Library Linda Higgins gets ready to read "The Lorax" by Dr. Seuss to Julie Jaskowski's first grade class.

# Community Reading Day



Registered Nurse Sue Teczar reads to Jessica Harder's third grade class.



Patty Ostrout of North Brookfield Savings Bank reads to Judith Knight's first grade class.



Jodie Gerulaitis of Country Bank answers banking questions from Nicole Jones' fifth grade class.



Melinda Czub of Quirk Wire Co. talks about her homeland of Australia before reading a book about an emu to Tannis Rossi's second grade class.



Students enjoy listening to a story read by one of the many guest readers.



West Brookfield Senior Center Director Kelly Hitt reads to Melissa O'Neill's third grade class.

## - public safety -



SUBMITTED PHOTO BY RYAN J. WITKOS

A tree fell on West Brookfield Rescue Squad's ambulance last Thursday afternoon, damaging the windshield. Minor injuries were reported.

### Tree falls on ambulance, damages windshield

HARDWICK – A tree fell on the roof and windshield of West Brookfield Rescue Squad's ambulance 15A1 the afternoon of Feb. 29, striking the vehicle as it traveled along Main Street in Gilbertville, heading south.

High winds the day before and earlier that day caused trees and limbs to come down along roadways, and multiple power outages were reported throughout the area.

Witnesses saw the tree fall and strike the ambulance as it passed by the Myron E. Richardson Municipal Building, as it was returning to its station in West Brookfield with two rescue staff on board. There were no patients on board at the time of the accident.

The staff had minor injuries from the accident and were treated at a local hospital, according to a social media post by West Brookfield Rescue Squad.

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## HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

The Town of Brookfield is seeking an experienced full-time Highway Superintendent. Full job description at **brookfieldma.us**. Please submit resume and cover letter to **selectmen@brookfieldma.us**. Application review will begin after March 28th. Resumes accepted until position is filled. Brookfield is an equal opportunity employer.

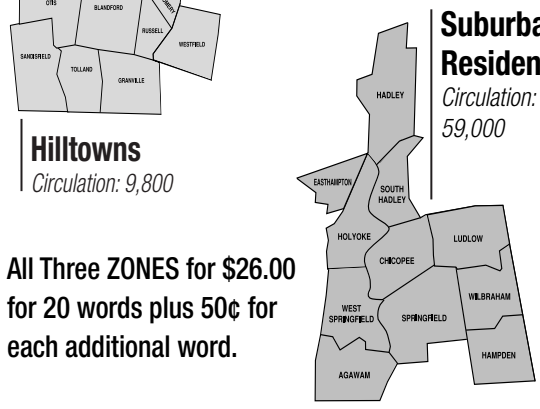
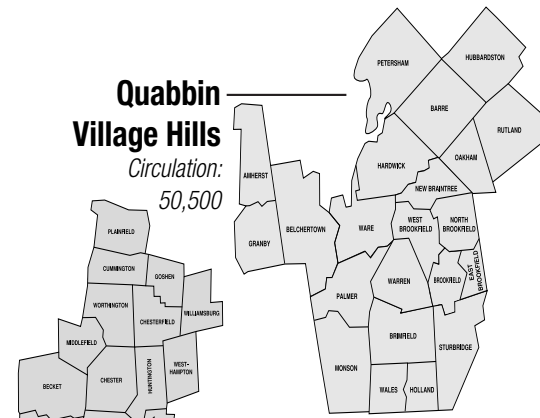
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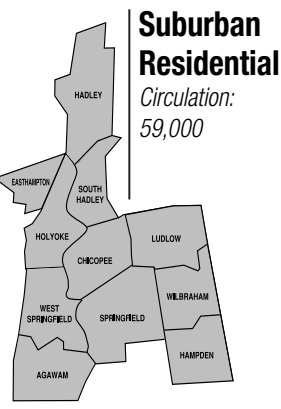
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# - public safety -

# - public notices -

## East Brookfield Police Log

During the week of March 4-10, the East Brookfield Police Department responded to 128 building/property checks, 108 directed area patrols, three traffic controls, 13 radar assignments, six emergency 911 calls, one complaint, two assist other agencies, one motor vehicle investigation, one investigation, one hazardous incident, one trespass, one motor vehicle accident, three animal calls and 50 motor vehicle stops in the town of East Brookfield.

### Monday, March 4

6:25 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Vehicle Towed  
 9:43 a.m. Radar, East Main Street, Citation Issued  
 11:49 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued  
 4:23 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Adams Road, Report Taken

### Tuesday, March 5

11:22 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, North Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital  
 2:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Vehicle Towed

3:51 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Main Street, Transported to Hospital

### Wednesday, March 6

11:15 a.m. Hazardous Incident, West Main Street, Services Rendered

### Thursday, March 7

11:15 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Bennett Street, Transported to Hospital  
 5:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Podunk Road, Citation Issued  
 7:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued  
 8:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued  
 10:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

### Friday, March 8

8:02 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued  
 9:04 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued  
 1:31 p.m. Investigation, Podunk Road, Investigated  
 8 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West

Main Street, Citation Issued  
 8:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation Issued  
 10:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued  
 10:58 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Howe Street, Services Rendered

### Saturday, March 9

12:37 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 49, Citation Issued  
 9:26 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Arrest(s) Made  
 4:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued  
 5:09 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, East Main Street, Officer Handled  
 5:34 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Doane Avenue, Served in Hand

### Sunday, March 10

1:14 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, West Main Street, Transported to Hospital  
 8:43 p.m. Trespass, Stevens Road, Investigated

## New Braintree Police Log

During the week of March 4-11, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 17 building/property checks, 38 directed/area patrols, seven traffic controls, three radar assignments, two emergency 911 calls, one citizen assist, two safety hazards, one motor vehicle investigation and one motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

### Tuesday, March 5

7:58 p.m. 911 Welfare Check, Moore Road, Officer Handled

### Wednesday, March 6

9:08 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Padre Road, Transported to Hospital

### Thursday, March 7

2:23 p.m. Safety Hazard, Hardwick Road, Removed Hazard

### Friday, March 8

5:12 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Services Rendered  
 4:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Gilbertville Road, Investigated

### Sunday, March 10

12:01 p.m. Safety Hazard, Cushman Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

### DEPARTEMNT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WETLANDS PROGRAM 401 Water Quality Certification Application Public Notice

Pursuant to 33.U.S.C.1341 and MGL c21 §43, notice is hereby given of a 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) application for the Salmon Brook Pond Dam Removal Project in Brookfield by the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (MassWildlife), 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA, 01581 on property owned by MassWildlife. The Project involves the removal of Salmon Brook Dam as well as an unnamed dam and failing stone culvert downstream for ecological restoration. Additional information may be obtained from the applicant's agent - Tighe & Bond, Inc. c/o Daniel R. Buttrick, PE, 53 Southampton Road, Westfield, MA 01085 (413-562-1600).

401 WQC Application may be emailed to: David Wong (David.W.Wong@mass.gov) Department of Environmental Protection Wetlands Program 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900 Boston, MA 02114 (617) 874-7155

Within 21 days of this notice. The Department will consider all written comments on this 401 WQC Application received by the Public Comments Deadline.

Any group of ten persons of the Commonwealth, any aggrieved person, or any government body or private organization with a mandate to protect the environment that has submitted written comments may also appeal the Department's Certification and that failure to submit comments before the end of public comment period may result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing. 03/15/2024

Written comments on this

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