

Volume 15, Number 52

A TURLEY PUBLICATION www.turley.com

Friday, November 11, 2022

# From Metal to NuPunk: guitarist Cody Buteau

By Eric Troy Correspondent

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Modern "Metal" music isn't for everyone.

The intricate guitar solos, unconventional time signatures, and bone crushing breakdowns are sweet serenades to some and unintelligible screams to others.

In the coordinated chaos, a guitarist's creativity is often the spark which starts the musical fire. Guitarist Cody Buteau has been setting six-string fret-boards aflame since the third grade.

From his early teens, Buteau has been the lead guitarist of numerous local metal bands, and has hit the stage at venues like the Worcester Palladium and Southbridge's The Mill and Tammany Hall. Currently, Buteau is guitarist for NuPunk band Pretty Killer [We Are Triumphant Records], where his metal roots—and the band's collected creative vision—guide his songwriting.

Although he's come far in his musical journey, Buteau's foray was sparked early on by a Deep Purple song and supposed bass riff:

"There was this Deep Purple song called 'Perfect Strangers', and it had this weird riff—he [Buteau's father] said it was a bass guitar. I thought it sounded so cool; I wanted to play bass guitar really bad."

After Buteau expressed his interest in the bass guitar to his mother, she got him his first instrument.

That was the start. Over the next few years,

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Cody Buteau, guitarist of NuPunk band Pretty Killer. (COURTESY PHOTO)

# 'Wizard of Oz' comes to Quabbin stage

## By Karen A. Lewis Correspondent

We're not in Kansas anymore...

BARRE - You could say the casting came from overseas as Quabbin enlisted the talents of junior German exchange student Sara Amina Ercik to play the role of the Tin Man in the beloved "Wizard of Oz" this coming weekend.

"Learning lines without my accent is so hard," Ercik said. "You can still hear the accent, but I was trying to handle the words as well as I could."



# On Veterans Day, remember the sacrifice of service

By Jennifer Baublitz, Guest Contributor Executive Director

HomeFront Strong (formerly known as the Brookfield Institute)

As Veterans Day approaches we are once again encouraged to consider the immense sacrifices made by our service members, veterans and their families. In a state like Massachusetts, where our military presence is small compared to many other states and the vast majority of those currently serving belong to the National Guard and Reserves, it is an unfortunate reality that those sacrifices often fade into the background when we are not approaching a holiday or faced with the coverage of an ongoing military conflict.

See VETERANS | PAGE 8

# Quaboag cheerleaders soar to regional competition

Pretty admirable considering Ercik has only been learning the English language at school since she has been in third grade.

"It's mandatory in Germany," said Ercik. "German is my main language next to Kurdish."

Ercik was no stranger to the beloved story, only the version she remembered

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(Turley Publications Photo by Karen A. Lewis) They're off to see the Wizard! Dorothy (Brianna Pascale), Scarecrow (Harry Lewis) and Toto step in tune as they begin their journey to Oz during a recent rehearsal.

By Dallas Gagnon Correspondent

WARREN – The Quaboag Regional High School varsity cheer team advanced to Regionals after competing at the Southern Worcester County League Cheerleading competition [Leagues/ SWCL], this past Sunday.

While 14 teams competed in total, the competition was **See CHEERLEADERS PAGE 6** 



(Courtesy Photo) Junior Amber Gagnon (left) cheer captain, flyer; gets a hug from senior Arianna Belen, cheer captain, base.



## - community -

## New projects take shape at Lucy Stone Park

WARREN – Volunteers at Lucy Stone Park in the town of Warren have started work on two new projects that will enhance the existing pollinator garden at Lucy Stone Park.

The volunteers are also supporting the development of a new pollinator garden at the Little Marshy Meadow Park being in neighboring West Brookfield by the East Quabbin Land Trust and volunteers from the town of West Brookfield.

As recently announced in a press release, the Town of Warren was awarded a Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities Program grant totaling \$16,487, which includes a town municipal share of \$4,946.

The award will go toward the design and construction of new educational signage that will describe existing native plants and shrubs, their methods of pollination, associated pollinators and insects, birds, and small mammals that exist at Lucy Stone Park.

In addition to the descriptions on the signs, additional scientific information will be available using QR codes accessed by visitors' personal cell phones.

This will promote greater awareness and interpretation of native species and their pollinators for the benefit of all ages but especially students who are interested in learning about native plant species and related insect, bird, and animal populations.

Lucy Stone Park's Master Gardener Dee Blanton is acting as a liaison to the East Quabbin Land Trust.

EQLT volunteers are developing the new Little Marshy Meadow Park in the neighboring town of West Brookfield. This is a small park located near the town common, previously the site of a derelict house, which is now to become a "pocket park."

Turkey Hill Brook Farm, the garden designer for Lucy Stone Park, has donated a number of native plants to Little Marshy Meadow for the initial planting.

In addition, since the pollinator garden at Lucy Stone Park (currently occupying an area of 5,000 square feet) is already fully established, it is planned that divisions of pollinator plants and shrubs can be readily transferred and re-planted by volunteers at the Little Marshy Meadow Park.

This "sharing of nature's bounty" will allow EQLT to maximize monetary donations for the Little Marshy Mead-ow pollinator garden.

The town of Warren and its volunteers at Lucy Stone Park welcome this opportunity of working with EQLT and its volunteers at the Little Marshy Meadow Park. Such joint activities can only benefit local towns in developing community gardens and parks for the benefit and enjoyment of all.

For updates, please visit www.facebook.com/warrenconservation or call Tim O'Brien, project manager at 413-813-7110.



(Courtesy Photo) The fall foliage is on display at Lucy Stone Park.



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## - community -

## Hannaford Giving Tag Program benefits Haston Library

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Haston Free Public Library has begun generating donations through the Hannaford Giving Tag Program.

The Giving Tag Program, which launched in February 2020, is a reusable bag program that facilitates community support with the goal to make a difference in the communities where shoppers live and work. The reusable bags are also great for the environment.

Shoppers purchasing the \$2.50 Community or Fight Hunger Bag at any Hannaford store have the opportunity to direct a \$1 donation to a local nonprofit of their choice by using the attached Giving Tag.

"North Brookfield Hannaford has always been so supportive of our library, and the Giving Tag program

# Haston Library gets wireless network upgrade

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Technicians from CW MARS installed a new wireless network at Haston Free Public Library, by the name of LibraryPublicHotspot.

No password is needed to access the wireless in the building or outside it.

Once you have selected LibraryPublicHotspot as your wireless network, you will arrive at a splash page that provides the Haston Free Public Library Wireless Internet Policy. Before you can access the internet, you must click on the button that says, "Continue to the Internet."

By doing so, you are acknowledging that you are aware of the library's wireless policy.

In addition to the convenience of no password, the new network has a greater range within the building. Now the meeting room now offers full internet access, along with the rest of the building.

This network upgrade was made possible with funding from the American Rescue Plan Act grant administered by the Town of North Brookfield and the Robert T. Salem bequest. is just another way Hannaford is helping us and giving back to the community," said Library Director, Dawn Thistle, in a press release.

"Every dollar raised helps us to buy books and provide services to the people of North Brookfield. We truly appreciate Hannaford and all the shoppers that designate the library as a recipient of their donations!"

For more information on the Hannaford Giving Tag Program, visit hannaford.2givelocal.com.

# Author presents novel inspired by Lucy Stone Nov. 17

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Merriam-Gilbert Public Library is pleased to welcome local author, Katherine Sherbrooke, for a presentation/discussion of her most recent book in the Great Hall of the Town Hall at 6 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 17.

"Leaving Coy's Hill", is a historical novel inspired by Lucy Stone, abolitionist and first woman to speak out on women's rights in the United States. Copies of her book are available for loan at the Library, and will also be available for purchase at the program.

This program is made possible through the generosity of Art and Elizabeth Jay.

Please stop by or call the Library to register or call 508-867-1410.



EAST BROOKFIELD – St. John the Baptist Parish's Harvest Thyme Craft Fair will be held from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 19 in the parish hall, 131 Blaine Ave.

There will be raffles, gift baskets, a lottery tree, silent auction, gift certificates, attic treasures, and craft tables. A café will also be available with delicious food: meat pies, soups, baked goods, chili, cider and more.

Craft tables are available to rent by calling or emailing Lou Meyerdierks at 508-885-5456 or LouLouxx-Mike@gmail.com.

# Parks and Recreation hosts dance for children

WARREN – Parks and Recreation and Friends of the Parks will chaperone a dance for Warren Community Elementary School and West Brookfield Elementary School students in grades 4-6 at the Shepard Municipal Building gym, 48 High St., from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 18.

The gym is located at the back of the building.

Donation is \$5. Refreshments will be available for purchase, and parents are welcome to stay.





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# - opinion -



## The peace lily

Here is a reprint of a favorite column, in honor of a very special holiday. We are grateful for the service of all of our veterans.

t 5 a.m. on the eleventh day of the eleventh month of the year 1918 the Germans signed the Armistice, an agreement of truce that ended the hostilities of the first World War. All over the world people rejoiced.

The following year President Woodrow Wilson set the tone for an annual observance of the day, remembering those who had fought so hard for victory.

In 1938 Congress passed a bill that each Nov. 11 "shall be dedicated to the cause of world peace and…hereafter celebrated and known as Armistice Day." The holiday became Veteran's Day in 1954, a day to honor all veterans and reinforce hope of enduring peace.

Now that outdoor temperatures have moved our gardening endeavors indoors, there is no better a houseplant than the peace lily (Spathiphyllum) to mark the occasion of Veterans Day.

This easy to grow plant is appreciated for its versatility, long lasting flowers, glossy green foliage, and even its ability to filter the air.

The peace lily is commonly seen in office settings and mall plantscapes. White, calla-like flowers stand up above the foliage, evidence of the plant's tropical nature.

There are small varieties that will flower profusely even in a 4- or 6-inch pot just as there are types that grow 4 feet tall, appreciated mostly for their strappy dark leaves.

In the home setting, peace lilies prefer bright filtered light. They survive in low light, but blooms will be sacrificed.

Likewise, leaf burn will occur if set in direct sun.

Temperatures on the warm side (68-85 degrees) with a 10 degree night time drop are best. Growth will slow at temperatures below 50 degrees.

Keep the peace lily moist but not soggy, allowing it to dry out in between waterings. A balanced liquid fertilizer used at one-quarter strength during the summer months is optional but not necessary if the plant is potted in a good growing medium.

A combination of peat moss, bark, and



## Gunther, Havlat, Knauss, and Veterans Day

### **By Joseph Reagan, Guest Contributor** Director of Military and Veterans Outreach for Wreaths Across America and Afghanistan veteran

The 11th hour has become synonymous with Veterans Day, originally called Armistice day, in recognition of the document signed at the 11th hour, on the 11th day, of the 11th month.

In reality, the Armistice ending the war to end all wars was signed around 5 a.m. on Nov. 11.

Over the course of the next six hours, nearly 3,000 men would lose their lives in the final hours of a war that had already claimed the lives of 20 million military personnel. The final death of World War I came at 10:59 a.m., one minute before the guns of war would fall silent.

Private Henry Gunther was a German American drafted in the fall of 1917; most accounts state that his final actions were motivated by Gunther's need to demonstrate that he was "courageous and all-American."

A chaplain from Gunther's unit recounted, "As 11 a.m. approached, Gunther suddenly rose with his rifle and ran through thick fog. His men shouted for him to stop. So did the Germans. But Gunther kept running and firing. One machine gun blast later, he was dead. His death was recorded at 10:59 a.m."

In every conflict, inevitably a final service

In every war, there is always one that must fill the dignified but dubious role in history as being the last to give the full measure of devotion.

Each year on the 11th day of the 11th month as a nation we pause, not only to honor those that have given their lives but for all those who believed so deeply in American exceptionalism that they were willing to give their lives to defend it.

For most Americans talking about war is conceptual, something learned through history books, news reports, and movies those that have served do not have that luxury. Not only should we remember that the democratic principles we hold so dear have been defended by generations of Americans whom we honor on Veterans Day, but more importantly we should take inspiration from that sacrifice.

Our country, despite all our self-imposed differences, needs to look to our veterans and see that there are no divisions in a foxhole - there are only those who stand in defense of democracy and those who stand against it.

While we may only celebrate Veterans Day with a few moments of silence each year, we have an opportunity to use those moments to find our own way to serve as part of our commitment to living up to the legacy of our veterans.

When the Armistice was signed in 1918 when the Japanese surrendered, and when the last flights departed Kabul and Saigon

## OPINION PAGE/ Letters Policy

etters 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.

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at Palmer, MA. POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to: Quaboag Current, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

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SOCIAL MEDIA

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sand makes a well-draining blend. Insect pests are rarely a problem with the peace lily. A moist cloth can be used to remove any dust that accumulates on the foliage.

Two common questions posed by those who grow peace lilies concern lack of flowers and brown-tipped foliage. As mentioned, few or no flowers are usually due to low light.

It could also be that the variety you are growing (especially if it's on the tall side) was bred more for its foliage than for its flower production.

If your foliage is dark green and the plant appears otherwise healthy, this scenario is likely the case.

Brown tipped foliage is probably due to underwatering. Do not let your plant wilt before you finally water it!

As the plant uses every last bit of moisture from the growing medium, the root ball will shrink away from the sides of the pot. When you water it the next time the liquid will escape out of the drainage holes without even penetrating the plant's roots.

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member pays the ultimate sacrifice.

In World War II, Private Charlie Havlat, the son of Czech immigrants, in the closing days of the war, found himself liberating his parents' former homeland - word of the cease-fire reached his position minutes after he was killed.

Officially, the United States has never declared a final casualty in the Korean War; since the armistice was signed, nearly 100 U.S. Soldiers have been killed in combat on the Korean peninsula.

On April 29, 1975, Charles McMahon and Darwin Judge were two of a small number of Marines tasked with safeguarding the U.S. Embassy in Saigon. They had been deployed for only 11 days when they were killed by a rocket attack.

The U.S. would complete the process of withdrawing from Saigon the following day. Staff Sergeant Ryan Knauss was the last of the 2,461 servicemembers who died in Afghanistan; he along with 12 of his comrades was killed in a suicide attack during the withdrawal from Kabul. - these were not simply endings - they were new beginnings. We honor those who serve by recommitting ourselves to making the sacrifices necessary to preserve our way of life.

As Adlai Stevenson once stated, "Patriotism is not short, frenzied outbursts of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime." Let this Veterans Day be a new beginning. Go forth and find a way to serve, our nation, our communities, and each other - we owe it to our veterans.

Joseph Reagan is the director of Military and Veterans Outreach for Wreaths Across America. He has over 10 years' experience working with leaders within government, non-profit, and Fortune 500 companies to develop sustainable strategies supporting National Security, and Veterans Health. He served eight years on active duty as an officer in the U.S. Army including two tours to Afghanistan with the 10th Mountain Division. He is a graduate of Norwich University, the oldest private military college in the country.



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## Quaboag Current Newspaper

## From PTSD to post-traumatic growth

## Equine Immersion Project connects veterans with horses

**By Paula Ouimette** *Editor pouimette@turley.com* 

For many veterans dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder, support groups and traditional therapy can only go so far, but hours or days spent with a horse can bring relief beyond what was thought possible.

"We've had people say, 'that's the first time I haven't thought about Afghanistan in a few hours," said Tara Mahoney, CEO and founder of Equine Immersion Project, an organization that connects veterans with horses.

Many of the cognitive blocks veterans face during talk therapy are removed, because they can connect with a horse, and you never know which horse a veteran will connect with, Mahoney said.

EIP's model, also gives veterans choices, something they didn't have in the military. The veteran decides if they want to do ground work with the horse, or vault, drive or ride.

"Sometimes we have 18 hand, 2,000-pound draft horses with the smallest person who didn't think they could handle it, and they find their voice. Or the toughest guy with the smallest pony, connecting to their sensitive side...we let them have a choice to connect with the horses."

EIP partners with horses, including rescue horses, all over the country to offer therapeutic immersion experiences that can last a day, or even a whole weekend.

This past summer, EIP traveled to a military base in Georgia to help survivors of a fatal severe weather event cope with the loss of two comrades.

With the help of the Georgia Equine Rescue League, EIP brought 15 horses to the base for two days.

"First, they didn't want to touch the horses...then hours later they're riding on the trail. They said it was the best day they had since enlisting," Mahoney said. "The idea is to reorient the processing of that trauma into growth. That's PTSD into post-traumatic growth."

Post-traumatic growth can happen within a day she said, and healing is a collaboration, not a competition.

By trade Mahoney is a trauma counselor, having worked in psychiatric hospitals, homeless shelters for veterans, jails, outpatient clinics and more.

About 15 years ago she formed EIP, drawing on her love for horses and firsthand knowledge of the impact these animals have on human emotions.

"There is a place for traditional therapy, but we wanted to look at whole person health, which is social, emotional, cognitive and spiritual. When we're looking at that, we're finding we're able to reach people better," Mahoney said.

Next week, EIP will be presenting two events at the Equine Affaire, held at the Eastern States Exposition grounds, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield, which runs from Nov. 10-13.

The first event will be held from 10-11 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 11, called "Post Traumatic GROWTH: Turning Your Negative Experience into a Positive One through Horses," and the second event will be held from 4-5 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 12, called "Using Equine Assisted Therapy for Military Couples, Preand Post-Deployment."

Joining Mahoney at EIP are Chief Operating Officer, Ryan Casavant; Director of Projects, Jenn Guer-



(Courtesy Photo) Equine Immersion Project gives veterans the opportunity to connect with horses on a therapeutic level.

ette and Equine Specialist, Kelly MacCorquodale.

Casavant is a pastor and a Marine veteran, who served in two combat deployments, Mahoney said, and can talk a lot about moral injury with other veterans. Guerette is the wife of an active-duty Army medic, and understands the family life of a veteran.

MacCorquodale, is the mother of a wounded warrior.

"She really understands what it's like as a caregiver. There are 11 million veterans in the United States and



(Courtesy Photo) Therapeutic immersion sessions can last for a day or a whole weekend.

5.6 million caregivers or 'hidden heroes.' Sometimes the health of the warrior really depends on the health of the family," Mahoney said.

Someone once famously said, "There's something about the outside of a horses that is good for the inside of a man," and this is certainly true for anyone who has shared a moment in the presence of a horse, even if the feeling is difficult to describe.

Mahoney, who is on the board of the Horses and Humans Research Foundation, said there is more than just magic in the healing powers of a horse, there is science. Vigorous research looks into the biofeedback that occurs when horses and humans interact.

"Horses have partnered with us for centuries," Mahoney said, including on the battlefield. Through trauma-informed care, the partnership continues.

"Horses are social also. In the military, you live in your unit, horses in a herd. It's very relatable."

Part of EIP's mission is to work with active duty servicemembers who are transitioning out for suicide prevention. "We catch them upstream, and help them prepare," Mahoney said.

EIP also works to address the invisible scars of war; military sexual trauma, traumatic brain injury, and moral injury.

Immersion sessions are available to veterans and their families at no charge, Mahoney said.

EIP offers a scholarship program on their website, equineimmersionproject.com, where people can donate to help cover the cost of these sessions. "Only 1% of our population serves in the military...on Veterans Day, what better way to say thank you for your service," she said.

For more information about EIP visit equineimmersionproject.com or find them on Facebook. For more information about the Horses and Humans Research Foundation visit horsesandhumans.org or find them on Facebook.

Tickets to the Equine Affair are available by visiting equineaffaire.com or calling 740-845-0085. Limited tickets are also available at the gate.



(Courtesy Photo) Veterans can use ground work to connect with the horses they are paired with.



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### CHEERLEADERS | FROM PAGE 1

separated into divisions 1, 2, 3, 4, coed, junior varsity and game day performances.

Quaboag competed against three teams in division 4, consisting of Millbury, Oxford and David Prouty high schools.

Only three of the four teams advanced to Regionals, with Quaboag coming in third place, Millbury in second and Oxford in first.

Cheer captain Amber Gagnon won first place in the jump competition, competing against 27 participants.

Amber said she believes the team "did amazing" as they "worked so hard to get here". She added she was "really excited" to win the jump competition.

"I have been cheering since I was five years old," said Gagnon.

Amber's dad, Shawn Gagnon explained, "she has worked very hard and cheered her whole life," and he is "very, very proud of her and excited."

Coach Jennifer Gagnon said the team "gets scored on their partner stunts, their pyramid, tumbling, jump, motion, dance and their performance their showmanship."

She said their routines are "a numbers game."

Gagnon explained, "We work on eight counts as cheerleaders; there's 122 of them in your routine...You have to physically write down what is going on during each one of those seconds and it's broken down on the entire routine."

There are ques, or "dings", in the music that signal when a body position or stunt needs to be hit for the team to stay in sync.

Cheer mom, Mary Beth Czaja said it is stressful watching the team compete because "you know how hard the girls work and you want us [Quaboag] to do good. They have two minutes and 30 seconds essentially to get it right, once."

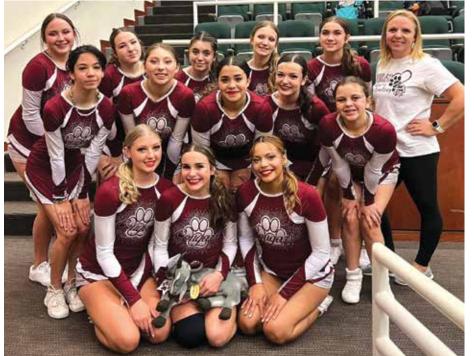
"It's not like football where you get four quarters, and you can come in and out and play different sides of the ball you get one shot. And if you screw it up, you screw it up. And if you hit - you do well," she said.

Cheer mom Crystal Floyd said, "I know that the girls do get a 'rush', but parents definitely get a rush as well. I get really nervous when they're [announcers] calling their names - you almost feel the girls, waiting for them - the anticipation."

Last weekend, the team attended an invitational competition at Shepherd Hill to help prepare for Leagues.

Gagnon said, "something that they got judged really high this week on and they did not get really high last week was their smile - it looked very nervous [last week]."

Another improvement she noted was their arm placement, adding one of the "not so good" comments they



(Courtesy Photos) Quaboag Regional High School's varsity cheerleading team placed third in Division 4 for the Southern Worcester County League Cheerleading competition held this past Sunday. Quaboag will now move forward in the cheerleading championship and compete in Regionals on Sunday, Nov. 13 at Shrewsbury High School.

received at invitationals was "unsure of motions." Feedback they received this Sunday included "good arm placement" and "vocal sections."

"Those kinds of things they improved on which is where their confidence building comes in," said Gagnon.

Freshman cheerleader, Serenitee Gagnon said, "I think our tumbling went well" and "got the sense that we did really well on our jumps and motions."

Elizabeth Czaja, senior and cheer captain said competing as a senior is "bittersweet."

"It's exciting to be moving forward," she said, but it is also "a little sad," as her and fellow senior Arianna Belen have cheered together since seventh grade.

She said Leagues "could have been our last competition in the fall season."

Senior and cheer captain Arianna Belen said she "teared up a little bit" watching her coach hug the team and tell everyone they've "got this."

"It was a little overwhelming, but I enjoyed the moment," she said.

She added she believed Quaboag would progress in the competition before they competed because "you always gotta get in that mentality of - push, push, push - we got it."

However, she said it was a little "shocking" to move forward after a stunt did not "hit."

Ultimately, she was just glad that we were able to move on in the competition.

Serenitee added "We made mistakes that we can't fix - that had happened. So, we just had to keep pushing to move on. I know my team and they pull it together no matter what."

Gagnon said last year's cheer team advanced from the Southern Worcester

County League [Leagues], to Regionals and finally State's, ranking 6th overall.

She said seven of the 11 competing cheerleaders from that team graduated last year.

Czaja said this season "Out of our 10 cheerleaders, five of them have never competed before. So, this is only their second competition ever. And I think they did a great job considering that type of variant."

While there are ten girls on the mat competing this season, three alternates are prepared to perform if another cheerleader is unable to participate.

Gabrielle "Gabbie" Dumont, a former Quaboag cheerleader, came to support the team and her sister Haylee Dumont on Sunday.

She said she believed the team performed well, and said it was "very emotional" for her because she "miss[es] it so much."

Though the team does not have a spirit stick, they do have a stuffed goat. The goat was gifted to Gabbie from a relative for Christmas a few years back.

Her relative knew she "really liked goats," and at the time she received it, Stacy LaFlower was the coach.

Gabbie said, "we used to call her [Stacy] mama goat and we were her baby goats - and I was like - 'Oh my God. I have a stuffed goat. Like, let me bring it'. All the girls were on board. They wanted me to. So, we put a Quaboag cheer bow on it and started bringing it to all of our competitions as our good luck. We felt like we needed to have it with us."

She said even since she left Quaboag, the girls ask her to bring it "because they feel like they're not going to do as good without it", adding, "we all love the goat."

Elizabeth said the team is "very su-

perstitious."

She said they even carry around a piece of wood "so if you say anything that you don't want to jinx, everyone has to knock on it."

The team brings it to their competitions just in case they need it

Shawn Gagnon said, "I didn't realize there was so much to cheer until I married a cheerleader [Jennifer Gagnon] and had a daughter cheer [Amber].

He said a lot of people don't really understand how competitive and tough cheer is.

"It is a very dangerous sport because they're lifting up bodies and throwing them around and jumping and doing gymnastics. They have to time everything just right, otherwise people get hurt and then - to just throw an alternate in there when somebody gets hurt. It's very tough to do. They have to know every single part of that routine."

Crystal Floyd said, "the flyers are flying six feet in the air, and then they're coming back down., I always want to look, but I also always want to look away because if they miss the girl, they're gonna get hurt. It is dangerous."

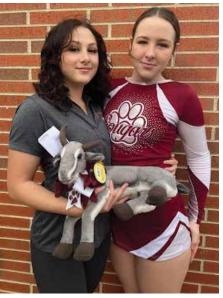
However, she also said it is both rewarding and exciting when they do hit their stunts.

Czaja said, "it's also worth noting too, that a lot of these girls, either take extracurricular gymnastics, or they hit the gym - strength training is a big part of being a cheerleader. Endurance, cardio. They really have to work to be all around athletes."

Coach Gagnon said, "It is hard. It takes a lot of practice. It takes a lot of it takes a lot of skills...There's so much more to cheerleading that people don't realize."

Regionals will take place at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 13 at Shrewsbury High School.

Tickets are available for purchase online and the link is provided on the Quaboag Cheerleading Facebook page.



Former cheerleader Gabrielle Dumont holds the team mascot with Haylee Dumont.



#### **STAGE | FROM PAGE 1**

was of course performed in her native tongue. It will be a whole new twist of an old classic for her, and she is up for the challenge.

"As a person who is doing this for the first time in English, it's a big role, but I really appreciate that they chose me as him (Tinman)," said Ercik, who has been performing since she has been in the third grade. "The best part is that he is a man. I've never played a different gender."

Approximately 60 Quabbin students - from seventh grade through twelfthare either members of the cast or stage crew for this exciting production, including a pit band with both students and adults.

"They are working so hard to make sure everything is prepared in time," said Quabbin music department head Toni Brown about those that are participating. "We (music staff) think it's really important, it teaches students more than they would learn in a classroom setting.'

For Quabbin senior Brianna Pascale, landing Dorothy was a dream come true.

"I was in the Wizard of Oz when I was little, but have not played Dorothy before," said Pascale. "I am very pleased with Quabbin's version of the show. The specific age range of the cast brings a very youthful and lively feel to the show as a whole."

A highlight for this lead is the opportunity to spend quality time with a family member.

"I get to share the stage with my best doggy friend Molly who plays Toto," said Pascale. "Another thing I enjoy about the role is the versatility. Dorothy gets to sing, dance and display an array of emotions while also getting to interact with many different characters."

According to Brown, it made sense to bring to life an enjoyable and wellknown show, especially after the years of the stage being dark.

"This is our second show since COVID-19, 'Honk!' was the first show after COVID," said Brown who explained the selection of the musical. "We liked the large cast size, flexible casting and who doesn't love the 'Wizard of Oz."

Although rehearsals began back in September, the show was actually cast last spring, with the intention of hitting the ground running in the fall. Balancing the many fall activities with rehearsals was also a bit of a challenge for some of the cast members, but things have been coming together in the final stretch.

"We're excited to share our talents with the town," said Brown.

Despite the cast being a good size, they weren't so large which enabled many of the ensemble members to take on numerous crowd roles, allowing for more stage time.

"There really have been so many wonderful moments of growth and development among the cast," said Pascale. "I must say, I'm not used to being one of the oldest in the cast. And I am very impressed with the level of talent and commitment displayed throughout the seventh and eighth graders.

Pascale is no stranger to theater, dance and singing. A triple threat, she has seen the light of the stage participat-



Caylee Watts (left) and Anna Metcalf (right) are Ozians taking care of the hot air balloon.

ing in numerous shows in the area. As a freshman, Pascale's talent landed her the role of Adelaide when Quabbin performed "Guys and Dolls" back in 2019.

The future looks bright for Pascale, as she plans to attend college, but at this point is still weighing out just where and what she will major in. But as far as this weekend, she and what she refers to as the "fab four," her castmates Ercik, Harry Lewis as the Scarecrow and Irene Stolgitis as the Lion will slay the stage and hopefully engage the audiences as they take the ever-popular journey to Oz.

"It's been a lot of fun to work with my castmates," said Pascale. "The 'Wizard of Oz' is such a special show in that it has so many lead rolls. I've been able to have significant interactions with so many.

This family friendly show will be sure

to entertain all ages and both Pascale and Ercik have plenty of reasons for the public to attend.

"People should come to see this masterpiece of art played by good actors," said Ercik, who also added that it was a one-of-a-kind experience with a German Tin Man with a German accent.

"This was my absolute favorite movie as a child, and I'm sure the same is true for many others," said Pascale. "Another selling point would be my dog starring as Toto. She's a two-and-a-half-year-old highland terrier and I think she embodies the role like no other."

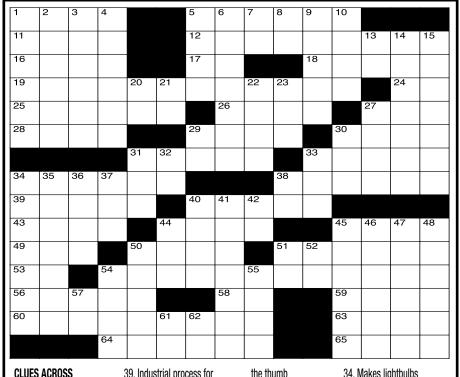
The curtain goes up at Quabbin Regional Middle High School, 800 South St., at 7 p.m. this Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door or by contacting Toni Brown at tbrown@ qrsd.org.



(Courtesy Photos) Quabbin senior Brianna Pascale graces the stage this weekend as Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz at the high school.



Janelle Hutchinson takes a break from her duties in 0z.





CLUES ACROSS	39. Industrial process for	the thumb
<ol> <li>Clip a small piece</li> </ol>	producing ammonia	5. Not moving
5. Enter forcibly	40. Sir Newton	6. Sports officia
11. Southwestern Native	43. Wild goat	7. Water purifica
American tribe	44. Muslim ruler	process (ab
12. Helps you smell better	45. Scottish ancestor	8. University of
16. Sun or solar disk	49. Hat	9. Indo-Malaysia
17. Low frequency	50. Horse mackerel	evergreens
18. Former Houston football	51. Alcoholic	10. High schoole
player	accompaniment	course
19. Federal crime	53. Tech department	13. Yankovic is a
24. Home to Boston (abbr.)	54. Manifesting approval	14. Adversaries
25. Approval	56. Upper bract of grass	15. Merchandise
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establishment (abbr.)	59. Large wading bird	21. Atomic #52
27. <u>   student, learns</u>	60. Military prisons	22. The back
healing	63. Famed American	23. One-time co
28. Indian groomer of	cartoonist	giant
horses	64. Rise	27. Female of a
29. Line where two pieces	65. Greek God of war and	29. Football's big
meet	courage	(abbr.)
30. One might be brief		30. Vehicle
31. Type of sword	CLUES DOWN	31. Single Lens
33. Knife for fruits or	1. Sewing needles	32. It's becoming
vegetables	2. Functionary	prevalent
34. Stinkhorns	3. Induces vomiting	<ol> <li>Political action</li> </ol>
38. Stroke	4. The finger farthest from	committee

35. Natural home of an ۱q icial animal ification 36. In bed (abbr.) 37. Superman villain of Dayton 38. The Golden State 40. One who leads prayers avsian in a mosque ens oolers' math 41. They accompany a leader 42. Atomic #18 is a weird one ies 44. Electronic countermeasures disers ive metal (abbr.) 45. The appearance of 52 something 46. Connecting line on a e computer map 47. Deep red color of a horse 48. Secret affairs 50. Drenches s big game 51. Contains music 52. Expression of surprise 54. Intestinal pouches ens Reflex ming more 55. Where birds are born 57. and behold 61. Cools your home action 62. The First State

# Gobi works to update Move Over Law

BOSTON – State Sen. Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer) announced in a press release that she is working with the State Police Association of Massachusetts to update the Commonwealth's Move Over Law.

Enacted in 2009, the law requires motorists to slow down, and move to adjacent lanes, whenever possible, when approaching emergency or maintenance vehicles that are stopped with flashing lights. Currently, failure to comply can result in a \$100 fine.

Supporting the updates to the law, the State Police Association of Massachusetts references the on-duty death of Trooper Thomas Devlin. Devlin was killed as the result of a traffic stop when a motorist swerved into the breakdown lane.

On the proposed legislative changes, Gobi said, "Our police officers put their lives on the line daily. Common sense and common courtesy dictate that motorists should move over when approaching emergency vehicles. Sadly, common sense and common courtesy are not common enough, requiring updates to the existing law. I thank our officers for their work and dedication, and am proud to support them in working to make these necessary changes."

Updates to the law include an increase to \$250 dollars for a first offense, \$500 for the second offense, \$1,000 for a third or subsequent offense, and a \$2,500 fine or up to one year in a jail or house of correction.

Additionally, a second or third offense will require drivers, at their own cost, to complete a program as dictated by the registrar of motor vehicles. Third and subsequent offenses, or offenses that result in bodily harm will be surchargeable on insurance.



Cody Buteau is shown at So What Music Fest.

## GUITARIST | FROM PAGE 1

# Lisa Testa joins Haston library team on weekends

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Haston Free Public Library Director Dawn Thistle announced in a press release that Lisa Testa has joined the library's Saturday morning team as circulation assistant.

Testa will be filling in while Youth Services Librarian Brianna Lamb attends class for her Simmons University library science master's degree program. Testa is working alternate Saturdays along with Assistant Librarian Gabby Holmes.

Testa is a long-time resident of North Brookfield and a regular library user. She brings a lot of experience working with children and in education, as well as experience in clerical roles, Thistle said. "She loves libraries and has passed that feeling on to her children."

Testa's daughter Roan was an intern at the library last summer.

"The library has been a large part of my history for 22 years of living in North Brookfield. Both of my kids were super active in library activities growing up from weekly story hour and crafts to summer reading and attending so many other events and programs. It was always a haven for me, to steal away and get lost in the books I was so eager to meet! I'm so proud and happy to be on the staff there! The other reason I wanted to work there was to continue to be a part of the community, and already I have chatted with old friends and met many new ones during my shifts on Saturday morning. It just feels like it was a natural progression for me to work there," Testa said.

Funds from the Robert T. Salem bequest have made it possible to add Testa to the library team.

## VETERANS | FROM PAGE 1

The call of duty, however, never fades for those who serve, and we rely on their tireless efforts each day, (whether conscious of it or not), especially here at home as our National Guard stands at the ready to respond to everything from natural disasters and terrorist threats to bus driver shortages. veterans, and their family members are matched with trained volunteers to develop and record their service-related stories.

These stories are then shared with the broader community, including through art, such as in "Welcome Home", a play based on the true accounts of four local veterans developed through the storytelling process. This play encompasses tales from varied branches of service and transcends generations from Vietnam to the Post 9/11 era. Buteau learned that the strange riff in "Perfect Strangers" wasn't a bass, but was likely a cello. He also learned he wanted to play guitar.

The only formal training Buteau received along the way came as a Christmas gift: Ten guitar lessons at a local music shop. The lessons taught him important fundamentals when it came to playing guitar.

"That [guitar lessons] was big. I remember watching the teacher play, like, regular old chords and I was thinking you're picking that pretty cool. I soaked in as much information as I could."

After the lessons were concluded, Buteau's inherent interest in music and ability to learn from his surroundings carried his skill to the next level.

Throughout our conversation, Buteau referenced how he's taken a firsthand approach to learning. He observed bands and their onstage performance, the riffs they played, how the crowd reacted to particular portions of a song, and more.

Like a sponge, Buteau soaked these experiences up, turning them into lessons to apply to his own music craft.

One key influence for Buteau early on? North Brookfield-based metal outfit, Welcome The Tide.

"At sixteen or seventeen years old, we [Primal Fate/Mercy Told] would play with Welcome the Tide a lot. I would watch them play and just soak it all in. Then I would do what I could to make my own cooler version of what they were doing. The metal scene was booming, and, like, onstage—the way they moved, the way they played, it was flawless."

A more recent set of lessons came when Buteau and Pretty Killer bandmates traveled to Texas to promote their band at So What Music Fest. They were given backstage access to the sets of significant bands like The Devil Wears Prada, Polyphia, and others.

This surreal moment came with confirmation for Buteau: When looking at the equipment used by these touring musicians, Cody noticed the equipment and tools used by the noteworthy bands at So What Music Fest were, in many cases, the same as those Pretty Killer utilized.

As a musician who's contributed to the creation of countless songs and a performer who has presented these musical creations to audiences, Buteau's insights both in songwriting and onstage performance could be valuable to aspiring musicians and performers. One piece of advice?

"Kill your darlings. That's a big philosophy that this band [Pretty Killer] runs off of. We've dropped, probably, four songs that we're not putting on the album that we've pretty much fully finished. For whatever reason, we just couldn't finish them or got stuck on parts. We put it [the song] away. Maybe we'll come back to it, maybe we won't, but let's start new. Every time we do that, we come up with something that is a lot easier to work with—something that just vibes with all of us."

If you've seen Buteau perform, you're sure to have seen the energy and enthusiasm he brings to the stage. How did he cultivate his performance ability?

"I do it whenever I go to concerts or shows: I just soak it all in [the performance]. I watch how they're moving and doing things. From a young age, I would take that in and see how people are doing it so I can turn that into my own performance and my own movements on stage. I want to look cool. It's rock'n'roll; it's metal: You've got to look cool."

Interested in learning more about Cody Buteau and his current project, Pretty Killer? Check out his Instagram @buteaucody or Pretty Killer @prettykillermusic.

With so much at stake, it is imperative that the community continue to lift up our brothers and sisters in arms, year-round.

Though it is a proper tradition to honor this population on and around Veterans Day, as we will at HomeFront Strong, (a local veteran and military family support organization formerly known as the Brookfield Institute), through our Military Appreciation Breakfast from 9-11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 19 at the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road in Ware, where we will honor the specific sacrifices of our National Guard; a deeper connection to service is warranted.

One way to ensure that the sacrifices of service are not forgotten is to tell the stories of those who serve. Storytelling is a vehicle for healing, growth, connection and understanding, among other benefits. This is why one of the seminal programs at HomeFront Strong is the HomeFront Strong Storytelling Project, through which service members, "Welcome Home" will be running for one weekend only this year, on Jan. 28 and 29, at Workshop13 on Church St. in Ware.

This is a great opportunity, as we all reflect on what it means to serve in the military, to immerse oneself in a world that may be unfamiliar, while truly gaining a better understanding and appreciation for that world.

As you enjoy the crisp fall weather and break from the daily grind on Nov. 11, please remember that those who serve walk among you, and each one of them has a story to tell.

If you have a connection to the military and are interested in listening to those stories, please reach out to jennifer@brookfieldinstitute.org or visit www.brookfieldinstitute.org to complete the volunteer application.

### **GARDEN I FROM PAGE 4**

To remedy this situation, soak the container in a basin that contains a few inches of water. With any luck the root ball will sponge up water and fill out the pot once again.

Also, without regular watering, soluble salts (left over from fertilizer applications) can build up around the roots and burn leaf tips. When watering, allow the water to drip from the drainage holes, that way you will be sure to leach out salts.

A decade or so ago there was a lot of research done on sick building syndrome. People were becoming ill from breathing "recycled" air in their office buildings.

Some houseplants, among them the peace lily, were proven to do a good job

of filtering out toxins, making the air healthier to breathe.

This Veterans Day, be sure to fly the flag, offer thanks and appreciation to all veterans (thanks Dad!), and hope for enduring peace, perhaps by a new addition to your family of houseplants.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 30 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.



# **Panthers suffer playoff-opening loss**



Kylie Casey makes a play and tries to move play on offense. STAFF PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Annabelle Magill tries to steal the ball.



Abbey Ramsey and Gracie Talbot attempt to make a play on the ball.



Madylan Alves goes after a loose ball.



MaKenzie Casey advances up the field in traffic.

# Pathfinder prevails in PK's

PALMER - Last Friday afternoon, Pathfinder boys soccer opened the Division 5 State Tournament with a 3-2 win over Cape Cod Tech in penalty kicks. Austin Degnan scored two goals for the Pioneers, including an early tally to put the Pioneers up 1-0 in the first half. The two teams battled to a 2-2 draw before overtime and penalty kicks. The Pioneers prevailed in the penalty kick phase to advance to the next round in the state tournament.







Justin Davis looks to move play forward after taking over on offense. STAFF PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Tyler Bolaske plays the ball off his knee.



Vincent LaMadeleine crosses the field after stealing the ball.



Goalie Colin Holt picks up the bouncing ball.



Tucker Sikes socks away a free kick

# - sports - Pioneers reach .500 with win

PALMER – Last Friday night, Pathfinder football drew a nonplayoff matchup with Mahar Regional in Week 9. The Pioneers were able to score three times en route to a 21-0 shutout of the Senators. Pathfinder, which went 2-2 in the Tri-County League, improved to 4-4 overall heading into the final week of the season. The Pioneers opted to take a bye for Week 10's nonplayoff games and now look forward to their Thanksgiving morning matchup with Belchertown, scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 24 at 10 a.m. at St. Joe's Park in Palmer.



Matthew Grossi makes a tackle.



Coby Hill heads on a run. STAFF PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Miguel Velasquez attempts to run past a tackler.



Quarterback Hunter Griswold winds back to pass.



Coby Hill takes a handoff from Hunter Griswold.

# **Bruins hand T-Birds one-goal loss**

SPRINGFIELD - The Springfield Thunderbirds (5-4-0-1) stumbled in the middle period following a 2-1 lead at the first intermission, and the Providence Bruins (7-1-1-1) came away with a 3-2 victory on Saturday night at the MassMutual Center.

For the first time since Oct. 19, the Thunderbirds

beat Bussi to the spot, chipping it up over the goalie to tie the score, 1-1.

The Laferriere line came right back on the ice for the ensuing face-off, and the trio inflicted more damage just 59 seconds later. Josh Leivo, fresh off a hat trick in his T-Birds debut on Friday, found a puck at the left-wing goal line. With a hawkeye's vision, he spotted Matthew Highmore off the post on the opposite side of the ice and found him with a perfect tape-to-tape pass. Unguarded, Highmore patiently outwaited Bussi before slipping it through the netminder's legs to give Springfield the 2-1 lead with 1:01 left in the period. The middle period would undo the T-Birds' great efforts in the first. Luke Toporowski extended his point streak to nine games as he took a feed from Kai Wissmann in the left circle and snapped it upstairs through Zherenko to tie the game, 2-2, just three minutes into the second. On a night when the power plays went a combined 0-for-9, the Bruins got an unlikely hero late in the second when Joey Abate plucked the loose change off the right-wing wall before snapping a shot over the blocker of Zherenko at the 16:00 mark of the frame, sending the Bruins into the third with a 3-2 lead. That lead would hold up through the final 20 minutes, as Bussi's great night in relief concluded with 25 saves on 27 shots, including a perfect 19for-19 in the final two periods. Springfield's power play continued to scuffle, going 0-for-5 on Saturday and 0-for-10 over the two games on the weekend.

## HoopHall coming to Springfield in January

SPRINGFIELD — The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame announced today the field of teams and game schedule for the 2023 Spalding Hoophall Classic, an annual basketball showcase now in its 21st year at Springfield College. Games will be played at Blake Arena on the campus of Springfield College, the Birthplace of Basketball, from Jan. 12-16. The nation's premier basketball event will once again showcase the country's elite high school basketball teams. In addition to local participants, the tournament will feature teams from 17 states (Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia) and Washington D.C. "The Basketball Hall of Fame is thrilled to host the nation's top programs in the Birthplace of Basketball for the 21st vear," said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. "This year, we have one of the most talented fields this showcase has ever seen. We greatly appreciate the support of the fans and our partner Spalding, along with our tremendous hosts at Springfield College and other participating sponsors, for continuing to make this event possible.' Marquee boys matchups include IMG Academy (FL) vs. Arizona Compass Prep (AZ) and Newton High School (GA), Sierra Canyon School (CA) vs. Christopher Columbus High School (FL), Sunrise Christian School (KS) vs. Montverde Academy (FL) and Notre Dame - West Haven (CT) vs. Gulliver Prep (FL), coached by Hall of Famer Ray Allen.

found themselves on the wrong end of the game's first goal, as it took Fabian Lysell just 1:44 to get a breakaway at 4-on-4. Vadim Zherenko was unable to deny the 19-year-old rookie, who snapped it home on the blocker side to give Providence the 1-0 edge.

The game took a scary turn for Providence, though, at the 11:06 mark of the first when goaltender Kyle Keyser was injured in a collision with teammate Vinni Lettieri, favoring his leg and having to be helped off the ice. Rookie Brandon Bussi checked into the game to replace Keyser. The T-Birds greeted Bussi with eight shots over the final nine minutes of the period. Mathias Laferriere had a glorious chance to give Springfield the tying marker, but he missed the net from the right side with Bussi out of position and much of the net left vacant.

As the hockey gods would have it, though, Laferriere got redemption, and at the 18:00 mark of the period, a nearly identical situation presented itself. Tyler Tucker activated from the point to take a wrist shot from the top of the left circle. Bussi made the initial save, but the tantalizing rebound sat just outside the crease. Laferriere dove for it and

See HOOPHALL | PAGE 11

# - community -**Calendar of Events**

Friday, Nov. 11

COMMUNITY VETERANS SERVICE will be held at The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, United Church of Christ, on the Common, West Brookfield at 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend the service for an opportunity to honor military veterans of the United States Armed Forces. Jennie Simmons, will be organist for the evening, playing patriotic hymns and special speakers from each branch of the military will share what Veterans Day means to them. The offering for this service will be given to help veterans with special needs in the local area. No reservations are necessary, and this service is free. People from all faiths are encouraged to come together to show appreciation for veterans and to honor them. Rev. Dr. Ann Rogers Brigham, minister, and the congregation extend a warm welcome to all. Please call the church for more information or questions at 508-867-7078 and/or email, FCCWBWorship@gmail.com.

### Saturday, Nov. 12

SCOUTING FOR FOOD 'FILL A TENT' DRIVE will be hosted by North Brookfield Boy Scout Troop 257 from 8:30 a.m.-noon. Drop off locations will be at Hannaford Supermarket and St. Joseph's Church parking lot. There will also be a drop off box at Country Auto during the week. All nonperishable food items are appreciated.

### **HOOPHALL** | FROM PAGE 10

The tournament will feature five women's games this year, which has expanded from two in 2022, and will showcase nine teams. Five of the Class of 2023's WESPN Top 100 recruits will be featured, as well as four from the Class of 2024's Super 60.

Complete broadcast information will be released at a later date.

Over the previous 20 editions of the event, Hoophall Classic spectators have been treated to more than 100 future NBA players and an abundance of rising talent, including NBA superstars Kevin Durant (2006), Kyrie Irving (2010), Anthony Davis (2011), Karl-Anthony Towns (2014), Jayson Tatum (2016), Deandre Ayton (2017), Zion Williamson (2018) and Cade Cunningham (2021).

Ten of the last 11 No. 1 overall picks in the NBA Draft have played at the Hoophall Classic. This year, Hoophall Classic will feature 34 players in ESPN's Top 100 from the Class of 2023, 20 from the Class of 2024 Top 60 and 6 from the Class of 2025 Top 25.

## SEEKING STAFF WRITER

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

Experience in covering town government is a huge plus, and any experience in community journalism is as well. Staff writers cover all aspects of communities from features to municipal meetings to crimes and fires. Successful candidates must have people skills,

RED DOOR FAYRE will be held at Christ Memorial Episcopal Church, 133 North Main St., North Brookfield from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. There will be raffles, Exquisite table, Christmas table, bake table, pies, and craft table. A luncheon featuring clam chowder, cabbage soup, sandwiches and apple crisp will be available

ANNUAL HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR sponsored by SS Peter and Paul Rosary Sodality of Divine Mercy Parish, will be held from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Parish Center, Main Street, There Rivers. Free parking and free admission. Beautiful craft items by talented local artists. Refreshments and lunch available.

### Saturday, Nov. 19

HARVEST THYME CRAFT FAIR will be hosted by St. John the Baptist Parish from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the parish hall, 131 Blaine Ave., East Brookfield. There will be raffles, gift baskets, a lottery tree, silent auction, gift certificates, attic treasures, and craft tables. A café will also be available with delicious food: meat pies, soups, baked goods, chili, cider and more. Craft tables are available to rent by calling or emailing Lou Meyerdierks at 508-885-5456 or LouLouxxMike@gmail. com.

SPAGHETTI DINNER sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 11080 will be held in Dugan Hall, Sacred Heart Church, 10 Milk St., West Brookfield. Proceeds from this event will help provide critically needed winter clothing and blankets to orphaned children in western Ukraine coordinated by Supporting Orphans Nationally & Globally (S.O.N.G.) of Brookfield. Dinner includes pasta fagioli, garden salad, meatballs and sausage, spaghetti and sauce, garlic bread, dessert, water, soda, and coffee. Cost is a \$15 donation and \$10 for children under 12 years old. Take-out is available at 5:30 p.m. and sit-down dinner is served at 6 p.m. Admission tickets are also good for entry for special door prizes. Tickets for a 50/50 raffle and more will be available. Advance ticket purchase is encouraged and appreciated. Tickets are available from any Knight or by calling 413-813-8100, 508-867-7878 or by emailing wallyconnor122@gmail.com. Tickets will only be available at the door while they last.

**OUABOAG CURRENT** Statement of Ownership Management and Circulation (Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685) Date of Filing: November 4, 2022 Title of Publication: Quaboag Current Publication Number: 10860 Frequency of Issue: Weekly Complete mailing address of known office of publication: Quaboag Current 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 Hampden County Complete mailing address of headquarters or general business office of publisher: Turley Publications, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 Editor: Paula Ouimette Quaboag Current 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069

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24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
Publisher and Owner: Patrick H. Turley, Turley Publications 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
Issue date for circulation data 11/4/2022. Total number of copies (net press run): 3,300, outside county paid/requested mail subscriptions stated on PS Form 3541 (include direct written request from recipient, telemarketing and internet requests from recipient, paid subscriptions including nominal rate subscriptions, employer requests, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies.): 188, in-county paid/requested mail subscriptions stated on PS Form 3541 (include direct written request from recipient, telemarketing and internet requests from recipient, paid subscriptions stated on PS Form 3541 (include direct written request from recipient, telemarketing and internet requests from recipient, paid subscriptions including nominal rate subscriptions, employer requests, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies.): 1,448, sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, counter sales and other paid or requested distribution outside USPS: 20, requested copies distributed by other mail classes through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail): 0, total paid and/or requested circulation: 1,656, outside county nonrequested copies stated on PS Form 3541 (include sample copies, requests over 3 years old, requests induced by a premium, bulk sales and requests including association request, names obtained from business directories, lists, and other sources.): 0, in-county nonrequested copies distributed by a premium, bulk sales and requests including association requests, names obtained from business directories, lists, and other sources.) 0, nonrequested copies distributed through the USPS by other classes of mail (e.g. First-Class Mail, nonrequestor copies mailed in excess 0 in 10% limit mailed at standard mail or package services rates: 0, nonrequested copies distributed outside the mail (include pickup stands, trade shows, showrooms and other sources): 1,100, total nonrequested distribution: 1,100, total distribution: 60.09%.
Paula Ouimette Editor

QC11/04/22

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This flower-powered duo had the costume judges abuzz at Farmer Matt's.



This witch cast a spell on the costume contest judges.



All the cool cats and kittens attended Trunk or Treat.



Even though they're like night and day, these two enjoyed Halloween fun at Farmer Matt's.



(Courtesy Photos) The winning trunk was ready for the high seas at New Braintree's Trunk or Treat this past Sunday.











www.quaboagcurrent.turley.com

North Brookfield Savings Bank was on hand with treats, spinning cotton candy.

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## East Brookfield Police Log

For the week of Oct. 24-31, the East of Town, Officer Handled Brookfield Police Department responded to 116 building/property checks, 11 directed/area patrols, 17 radar assignments, 14 emergency 911 calls, one animal call, one complaint, one property damage, three assist other agencies, one citizen assist, three animal calls, one motor vehicle accident and 26 motor vehicle stops in the town of East Brookfield.

### Tuesday, Oct. 25

7:10 a.m. Welfare Check, Hodgkins Drive, Transported to Hospital

11:02 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, East Main Street, Officer Handled

11:11 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, North Main Street, Transported to Hospital

6:33 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Oakham Road, Transported to Hospital

#### Wednesday, Oct. 26

12:16 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Chase Road, Transported to Hospital

#### Thursday, Oct. 27

8:05 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Main Street, Services Rendered

8:40 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency. Fullam Hill Road, Transported to Hospital

11:16 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Shore Road, Transported to Hospital

11:32 a.m. Property Damage, Cove Street, Officer Handled

12:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

5:49 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, East Main Street,

Negative Contact 11:44 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out

#### Friday, Oct. 28

12:15 a.m. 911 Mutual Aid Ambulance, Out of Town, Transported to Hospital

11:18 a.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, West Main Street, Report Taken

12:51 p.m. Medical Alarm, Blaine Avenue, Spoken To

2:48 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Officer Handled

4:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

6:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

### Saturday, Oct. 29

1:13 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Forest Street, Transported to Hospital

12:03 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Evergreen Street, Transported to Hospital

3:49 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled

11:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Out of Town, Arrest(s) Made

#### Sunday, Oct. 30

12:18 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, King Road, Transported to Hospital

1:17 p.m. Assist Other Agency, East Main Street, Officer Handled

3:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued

4:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued

4:43 p.m. Medical Emergency, Spring Street, Transported to Hospital

9:36 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Drake Lane, Transported to Hospital

# **Vinter** Event formation

**Turley Publications** will print your holiday calendar listings FREE OF CHARGE

## **New Braintree Police Log**

During the week of Oct. 31-Nov. 7, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 27 building/ property checks, 13 directed/area patrols, one traffic control, six radar assignments, one citizen assist, three animal calls, one safety hazard, one illegal dumping and two motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, Oct. 31 8:43 a.m. Assist Citizen, Worcester Road, Officer Handled

Tuesday, Nov. 1 11:33 a.m. Illegal Dumping, Mara Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agen-CV

Sunday, Nov. 6 4:48 p.m. Safety Hazard, Dennis Whitney Road, Removed Hazard 9:26 p.m. Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital



## Community **Holiday Events**

**Event Should Be Non-Profit** & Open to the Public

## **FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over** 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

Event Name	
Date/Time	
Location	

Description

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## in our **FERFEST** Supplement which publishes Dec. 21

## **Deadline for submissions is** November 16th

N. X197

ost	
ontact name & phone number for more information	

Please specify if you would like your name and number printed in the paper.

. . . . . . . . . .

CLIP OUT AND MAIL TO:

Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email\* them to: jamie@turley.com \*Be sure to indicate "Holiday" in the subject line of your email.

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items that is seeking energetic and

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Sales background and experience

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bright and airy. We strive to facilitate a

low stress, high energy workplace that

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employees to have a healthy work-life

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meal preparation apartment mainte-

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This innovative service model is driven

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and being able to be self creative. Also,

daily activity agency logs must be kept

to accommodate State requirements.

Also, meetings will be held from time

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Guidelines. Position part time 21 hours

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## FOR SALE

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EVERYTHING MUST GO, **INCLUDING THE HOUSE!** Saturday 11/12, Sunday 11/13 9am - 3 pm

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or call: 413-283-8393

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\*NEW STATE LAW. Anvone advertising caring of children must list a license number to do so if they offer this service in their own home

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> LIC. #J27222 "New Season" "New Projects' Call LINC'S For Your Connection

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Classified Advertising DEADLINES QUABBIN & SUBURBAN FRIDAY AT NOON HILLTOWNS

MONDAY AT NOON

usmarine1834@gmail.com TOWN OF PALMER DEPARTMENT OF **PUBLIC WORKS** WASTEWATER

TREATMENT PLANT **GRADE FIVE OPERATOR** 

Applications for the full time position of a Massachusetts Grade Five (5) Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator (minimum requirement) at the Palmer Wastewater Treatment Plant are now being accepted.

A highly motivated individual with a thorough understanding of wastewater operations, maintenance, laboratory analysis / procedures, pumping stations, and record keeping is being sought. Individual must possess a fundamentally strong understanding of mechanical, plumbing, electrical, hydraulic, and pneumatic systems associated with a wastewater treatment facility.

Said position to become available immediately and will consist of a 40 hour week, Monday through Friday, 7:00AM to 3:30PM and scheduled overtime weekend hours on a rotational basis. Salary per Union Contract..

Applicants must meet job qualifications at the time of application for the position. Qualifications to include the examination of such factors as work performance evaluations, attendance records and the applicant's classification seniority Applications may be obtained from the Wastewater Plant, **1** Norbell Street, Three Rivers, Ma. 01080 or online on the Towns website.

ENVY YARD MAINTENANCE

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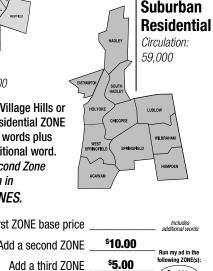
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Circulation:

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								ALL THREE ZONES.
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Number of We	eks:				X per wee	k rate = \$		Subtotal
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Quabbin

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Position is open until filled

#### TOWN OF PALMER DEPARTMENT OF **PUBLIC WORKS**

The Town of Palmer DPW is seeking contractors for snow removal for the uncoming winter season. If interested contracts are available on the town website or at the DPW office. Completed contracts with a copy of the necessary insurance can be delivered to the DPW office located at 1015 Bridge St. Palmer.Rates have been increased for fiscal year 2023 and will be effective on 11/01/22. Please call our office at (413) 283-2615 for our most recent rate schedule.



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The Town of Palmer is accepting ap-plications for Full Time Truck Driver Laborer in the Department of Public Works Operations Division. We are seeking an experienced, self-mo tivated individual with public works knowledge to become part of our operations division. A High School Diploma/G.E.D., Class B Massachusetts Driver's License with air-brakes endorsement is required. A Massachusetts Hoister's License is favorable. This is a union position with an attrac-tive starting salary, vacation, sick and personal time. Please forward resume to 1015 Bridge Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email mmorse@ townofpalmer.com



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# (Turley Publications Photos by Colette Lefebvre-Davis) Author and award-winning journalist Lynda Mapes talks about her experience with Harvard Forest.

# EQuAL hosts 'Witness Tree' talk with Lynda Mapes

### By Colette Lefebvre-Davis Correspondent

PETERSHAM - On Sunday afternoon in the Harvard Forest a group gathered to hear talk of a very special tree by the author and researcher who gave it fame.

Lynda Mapes, a 2015 Bullard Fellow and award-winning journalist with the Seattle Times, wrote "Witness Tree: Seasons of Change with a Century-Old Oak," which has been the featured reading in book clubs in the East Quabbin Association of Libraries.

In this first public event since COVID struck; the Harvard Forest was glad to welcome visitors of all ages to this EQuAL sponsored event.

The libraries making up EQuAL include Gilbertville, Hardwick, Hubbardston, New Braintree, Oakham and Petersham libraries. The event included a live discussion of the Witness Tree by Mapes, with questions to follow and then a walk to the tree itself.

There were many in attendance for this rescheduled event, so the walk had to be split into two groups. Originally the event had been scheduled for May but for many reasons was unable to go through thus, a perfect November day called for a hike to the tree.

The land that Harvard Forest resides on is Nipmuc land, and before the talk began it started with a thought-provoking question, "How have you been a good guest?" That is, how as individuals has the land that was walked upon that day been treated and was it treated as it should have been. Mapes cited libraries as her first experience with books and something that was an intimate connection between herself and her mother. She grew up in upstate New York where she had experienced the changed seasons, smelled the earth in the rain and witnessed the brooks and rivers that were very similar to Massachusetts flora and fauna.

on the Harvard Forest where she was situated in a community house, and set up with researchers like John O'Keefe. Mapes cites O'Keefe's consistent, onthe-ground work measuring and collecting over 25 years of data from the same 50 trees, as being wondrous and intimately connected with nature.

She worked with David Orwig, Senior Ecologist and Forest Ecologist at the Harvard Forest to find the right tree for her study, looking at core samples he took from various trees.

She was led to the uniqueness of the Witness Tree for several reasons. One being that it sprouted from a small acorn near a stonewall at the beginning of the 20th century.

Mapes went on to explain that the tree's lifespan shows modern climate change as the world began to become more industrialized.

Her work at the forest gave her time to reflect. She learned to "notice the light in each raindrop."

Mapes observed the tree from the ground and from the heights. She explained something known as "canopy shyness," that is each branch reaches out to the other tree's branches but doesn't overshadow and doesn't touch the other tree.

'The trees are a sky river of wind," Mapes said. "It was a privilege to be in nature."

But while she saw nature with a childlike eye and a keen writer's ability, she also saw the harsh reality of early farm life in New England.

## DRIVERS DRIVER FOR MEDICAL AP-

POINTMENTS Gilbertville MA area (518)226-1471 Find archives of this

local newspaper at www.newspapers.turley.com

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Your wedding or engagement announcement will be included in our Bridal Guide, out January 2,2023 for FREE!

#### Be sure to include the following with photograph:

Bride's Name: Bride's Town Residence: Groom's Name: Groom's Town Residence: Wedding Date:\_\_ Wedding Location: \_\_\_\_ EMAIL TO: JAMIE@TURLEY.COM Be sure to include a **BRIDAL GUIDE** high resolution, clear photograph 800.824.6548 | www.turley.com for printing.

As she began to weave her story, aspects of why she did it began to emerge.

Mapes began with the mission to show how climate change was affecting the seasons. Originally, she wanted to cover the daffodils that resided in England because they had a new bloom time that was a full five weeks earlier than it used to be.

Luckily, Mapes turned her sights

She read and learned that the journal of Sarah Mann was filled with words like "weary" and there were many children in the graveyard nearby that were Mann's. Mapes hopes to continue her research into this life and aspect of Harvard Forest.

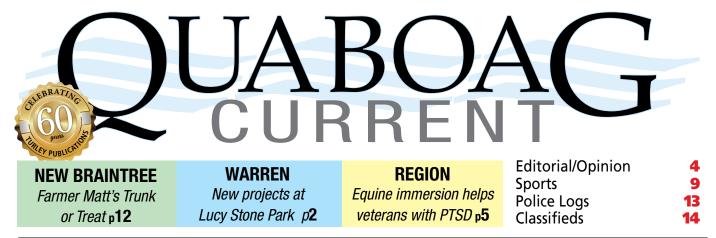
After a century, the seasons have shifted as well. "Spring is coming earlier," Mapes said. "It's because of fossil fuel emissions."

## About Witness Tree

In 2017, the book "Witness Tree: Seasons of Change with a Century-Old Oak" hit the shelves bringing light to this 100-year-old tree nestled in the groves of Harvard Forest.

The Witness Tree is a Red Oak that stands eight stories high at 87.27 feet. Interested viewers can see the tree live online at Phenocam.nau.edu/webcam/ sites/witnesstree/.

The ONLY local coverage in Sturbridge - Brookfield - West Brookfield - East Brookfield - North Brookfield & New Braintree



Volume 15, Number 52

Friday, November 11, 2022

# Your **BUYLINE CONNECTION**



Order ahead and pick up at the farm. FarmerMatt.com (508) 980-7085

860 West Brookfield Rd. New Braintree, MA 01531