

BARRE GAZETTE

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Board hears town administrator update

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
edowner@turley.com

BARRE – The Select Board meeting on Monday, March 2 lasted just over 18 minutes.

Town Administrator Melanie Jackson gave a Fiscal Year 2024 audit update. She said she was working with the Treasurer/

Collector Shelby LaMothe to make adjustments for FY 24 to reconcile the books before the auditors look over the books.

She said they should be done with all the adjustments the end of this month. She said some data was not recorded correctly by previous Treasurer/Collectors. She also said she had a meeting with Central Massachusetts

Regional Planning Commission about possible grants from the town.

Water fees

She had a meeting with the Water Commission last Friday, Feb. 27 to discuss uncollected water fees. According to the town website, water bills are billed quarterly. Bills for October, November and December usage were billed in January.

The next bill for January, February and March usage will be billed in April. Water bills are due and payable within 30 days of issue.

Late payments are subject to a \$30 demand charge. Interest will be charged at 14% per annum on any payment not received by the Collector's Office by the due date. Continued failure to pay will result in water ser-

vice being shut off. There is a \$100.00 fee charged for water on/off. A lien will be placed on unpaid water and sewer charges on the following year's real estate tax bill.

Drug Awareness Week

The Select Board approved a request from Quabbin Drug Response Unifying Group to decorate town buildings and property with purple ribbons for Drug

Awareness Week in March. This is a yearly request by the group.

Department of Public Works

Select Board Chairman Maureen Marshall complimented the highway department on all their work keeping roadways clear during these winter storms.

See BARRE, page 6

Select Board and FinCom held budget meeting

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Correspondent

HARDWICK – The Select Board met with the Finance Committee last Wednesday to begin discussions on the fiscal year 2027 budget.

Finance Committee member Mark Korzec gave an outline of the structure of the town's budget, and said there are 150 line items, each one representing various town departments and their needs. He said that the structure was confusing, and he sorted the line items into broader categories, reading them off from highest to lowest budgets.

The categories in order are schools, administration, police, highway, insurance, general government, debt, and fire.

Korzec said schools account for about half of the town's overall budget, and the water pollution treatment plant, which is not included in the line items, accounts for about \$900,000. Korzec said that amount is equal to or slightly more than the police department.

Korzec also outlined the top sources of revenue for the town, which include property taxes, receipts, excise taxes, New Braintree Police Department reimbursements, and payment in lieu of taxes. He said property taxes amount to about 75% of all revenue.

Korzec said investments are generating little revenue.

See HARDWICK, page 6



Submitted photos

Shea Baker, Rhianna Burke and Gracie Burke paint Cinderella's pumpkin patch.

HCT presents 'Cinderella,' enchanted edition

HUBBARDSTON – The Hubbardston Community Theatre presents Roger and Hammerstein's "Cinderella," enchanted edition on March 20, 21 and 22 at the Hubbardston Center School, 8 Elm St., in the gymnasium.

Performances are Friday, March 20 at 7 p.m.; Saturday, March 21 at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Sunday, March 22 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 adults age 12 and up, \$12 for senior citizens and children age 3 to 11 and free for children age 2 and under. People may pay by cash, check to HCT or Venmo. Tickets are avail-

able at the door or may be reserved in advance by emailing hubtheatre123@gmail.com.

Director and choreographer is Amanda Hakala Schuster, assistant director Erin Blackstone and choral director Bethany Stefano.

The timeless enchantment of a magical fairy tale is reborn with the Rodgers and Hammerstein hallmarks of originality, charm and elegance. As adapted for the stage, with great warmth and more than a touch of hilarity, this romantic fairy

See CINDERELLA, page 6



Lyra Pelletier and Tessa Burke try on their costumes for the Prince's ball.

Select Board reviewed FY 27 sewer budget

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Select Board met on March 9 and had the fiscal year 2027 sewer budget on their agenda.

Water Pollution Control Facilities Superintendent Scott Potter answered questions from the board members and explained which items in the budget are fixed costs and which ones are considered discretionary.

According to Potter, he says the plant expenses could be considered discretionary.

The superintendent said there has been a lot of in-house work being done and without having to budget for outside contract work.

Potter said the "majority of our budget is costs we don't control." These costs relate to fuel and electricity.

The Select Board asked Potter how the department handled sludge. A tanker comes in to handle the sludge, according to Potter.

The board will have Potter back for another meeting with the Select Board when they meet with the Finance Committee.

Potter said the plant is running well. This is the first year that the Sewer Department budget features retirement, and the budget also notes that they have one vacant position. The board

See SEWER BUDGET, page 8

Marine animals visited Haston library

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Haston Free Public Library, 161 North Main St., had some underwater friends visiting from the Mystic Aquarium recently.

This program is known as the Traveling Touch Tank and is a popular program designed for large groups to learn about the marine life that lives at the Mystic Aquarium in Connecticut. Educators from the Mystic Aquarium bring an assortment of live invertebrates such as lobsters, horseshoe

crabs and shellfish and are the usual features of the touch tank.

Youth Services Librarian, Brianna Lamb, said the traveling touch tank had an excellent turnout with over 100 people cycling through.

"We're really happy with the turnout," Lamb said.

The Mystic Aquarium presenters were fantastic, and kids got to learn a lot about the aquatic life that can be seen at the aquarium. With a big turnout, the presenters brought a small group of children into the room at a time for miniature presentations on their traveling touch tank guests.

While other families waited to see the tanks, the

See TOUCH TANK, page 8



Submitted Photos

Kids got to work on a crab craft at the library before exploring the touch tank.

School Committee OK'd FY 27 budget proposal

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Superintendent Tim McCormick presented a revised version of the school district's direct-cost operating budget for fiscal year 2027 to the School Committee.

"We were able to, between January and now... based on some needs of certain students that have either come into the district or are leaving the district, we were able to identify some additional costs but also some savings," he said at the Feb. 26 meeting.

McCormick said they identified an additional \$135,724 for support staff costs, but a \$474,352 reduction in out-of-dis-

trict tuition costs, for a net reduction of \$387,417. He said there are still costs that are fluid, and that he will share those with the School Committee once they are set.

He said the revised proposed budget for FY 27 is 5.32% less than the approved FY 26 budget.

McCormick said the benefits of a responsible budget include stable class sizes, keeping special education services closer to home, fewer out-of-district transports and tuition costs and staff retention. He said the school district has invested in high-quality instructional materials and professional development

See SCHOOL COMMITTEE, page 10



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News of the Towns



ROUND TOWN

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

NHS to hold blood drive

A blood drive hosted by the Quabbin National Honor Society will be held on Monday, March 16 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the gym at the Quabbin Regional Middle High School, 800 South St., Barre. The Rhode Island Blood Center will holding the blood drive. People may sign up ahead of time by visiting ribc.org/drives with the sponsor code M102. The blood drive is the society's annual community service project. Sixteen year old donors require parent/guardian permission. Permission slips are available at ribc.org/permission.

Corned beef dinner

The Barre Post 2, American Legion, 450 South Barre Road, Barre, will host their annual corned beef dinner on Saturday, March 14 from 5-7 p.m. People may eat in or take out: cost is \$18 per person. Ham will also be available. For tickets, people may call the Post at 978-355-2730, Tony Musnicki at 978-337-2351 or Scott Tourtellot at 508-320-9899.

Food pantry

The next two Barre Food Pantry distributions will occur on Thursday, March 19 from 5:30-7 p.m. Clients are invited to pick up groceries from the food pantry either in the morning on Wednesday, March 11 or in the evening on Thursday, March 19, whichever is more convenient for them. In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients March 19 will again be "drive-through" style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church. They will remain in their cars. They'll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their groceries will be put into the trunk or wayback of their vehicle by volunteers at multiple stations. Volunteer should not arrive on March 19 without first contacting Sonja Blaney at 978-355-6921 or Chuck Radlo at 978-355-6463.

Lions Club scholarship

The Barre Lions Club offers a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating senior, who lives in Barre, Oakham, Hubbardston, New Braintree or Hardwick. To be eligible, the student must be accepted by an accredited college or technical school and must be entering the school in the fall semester of the current year. In addition to Quabbin seniors, this year the club expanded the scholarship applications to local students, who attend Monty Tech, Pathfinder or BayPath. For the students' convenience, the application has been sent to the guidance counselor of each school. People may email barremalionsclub@aol.com with any questions.

Auxiliary holds veterans coffee hour

BARRE – The Barre American Legion Auxiliary is welcoming veterans of all ages to join the seniors at the Barre/ Hardwick Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road, on Wednesday, March 18 from 1030-1130 a.m. for a coffee hour.

If the Auxiliary members could bring something yummy to go with the coffee that would be appreciated.

Corrections policy

The Barre Gazette will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2. To request a correction, send information to Editor Ellenor Downer at edowner@turley.com or call 413-283-8393. Corrections may also be requested in writing at Barre Gazette, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

Birds braved winter weather



This hawk was spotted in New Braintree at the Gildert's bird feeding station last week



Submitted Photos
Donna Major of West Brookfield took this photo of a flock of cedar waxwings outside the Barre Family Health Center on March 6.



OAKHAM

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Sheriff's Department holds fraud and scam program

Kevin Donahue of the Worcester County Sheriff's Department will hold a fraud and scam presentation on Thursday, April 9 at noon in the Oakham Senior Center, lower level of Town Hall. All are welcome to attend.

March COA events

Friday March 13 the Council on Aging meets at COA noon. Podiatry Clinic meets on Monday March 16 from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. appointment required. People should call Senior Center at 508-882-4073 to request an appointment. The lunch bunch meets Friday, March 20, the third Friday of the month, at 12:30 p.m. in the Draught House Bar & Grill, 44 West Boylston St., West Boylston, formerly The Manor. Blood Pressure/Glucose screening clinic takes place on Tuesday March 31 11a.m.-1 p.m. in Senior Center multipurpose room. Walk ins are welcome. Ongoing activities include Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. -puzzling, Monday through Thursday at 9 a.m. walking group (meet at Senior Center); Tuesday through Thursdays at 11 a.m. walking group.(meet at Senior Center), Tuesday yoga at 1 p.m., through March 10 \$40 for eight classes senior center multipurpose room (registration required); Wednesdays at 8:45 a.m. Zumba Gold in New Braintree Town Hall \$3 donation/class; Thursdays at noon: Weigh in at the Senior Center support weight loss group and

Fridays at 10.30 a.m. Functional Fitness at the New Braintree Town Hall \$3 donation/class. Walking group members may request being added to the text MSG group by calling the Senior Center at 508-882-4073 and leaving their name and cell phone number. If seniors can't get to the Senior Center to make reservations or sign up or for more information on offerings, they may call the Senior Center 508-882-4073 and leave a message or email COA@Oakham-MA.gov.

Senior Center hot lunches

Hot Lunches are offered at the Senior Center dining area Monday through Thursday at 11.15 a.m. Reservations are needed at least two days in advance and can be made through the Congregate Meal Coordinator from 9 a.m.-12.15p.m. at 508-882-4072.



Submitted photograph
This map shows the route the Silver Sneakers used on a virtual walking trek to Los Angeles, California. They recently began the trip back to Barre, Massachusetts.

Seniors complete 2,916 mile virtual walk, now heading home

BARRE – The Silver Sneakers "On the Move" walking group at the Barre/ Hardwick Senior Center has reached an exciting milestone.

Participants successfully completed their 2,916-mile virtual walking journey from Barre, Massachusetts to Los Angeles, California on Friday, Feb. 27, an entire month ahead of schedule. The program challenged participants to collectively log miles through walking and other physical activity, symbolically traveling across the country together. What began as a fitness goal

quickly grew into a powerful demonstration of teamwork, determination and community spirit.

The group's enthusiasm didn't stop at the California finish line. Inspired by their success and momentum, participants have set a new goal: to "walk" the miles back to Barre by the end of March, which was originally their target date to arrive in Los Angeles.

"We are incredibly proud of everyone's contribution and enthusiasm," said Betty-Jo O'Brien, Senior Center Director. "The dedication, encouragement, and camaraderie among participants

made this journey possible. It has been inspiring to watch everyone stay active and support one another along the way."

The Barre Senior Center invites the community to follow the group's progress as they continue their return journey across the country.

People may track their return by visiting the Barre MA Senior Center Facebook page. Supporters and community members are encouraged to cheer them on as they work toward completing the round-trip challenge.

Barre Food Pantry distribution March 19

BARRE – The next Barre Food Pantry distribution will occur on Thursday, March 19 from 5:30-7 p.m.

In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients March 19 will again be "drive-through" style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand

(east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church. They will remain in their cars. They'll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their groceries will be put into the trunk or wayback of their vehicle by volunteers at multiple stations.

Volunteer should not arrive on March 19 without

first contacting Sonja Blaney at 978-355-6921 or Chuck Radlo at 978-355-6463.

Because conditions have been changing rapidly, people should visit the Barre Food Pantry website at <http://www.barrefoodbank.org/index.htm> for updates and the Barre Food Pantry Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Barre-Food-Pantry-100156068300314/>.

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Sunday 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE

Master Plan Steering Committee – March 12 and April 16 at 5:30 p.m.
 Select Board – March 16 at 5 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – March 17 at 6 p.m.
 Finance Committee – March 17, March 31, April 7 and April 14 at 6:30 p.m.
 Planning Board – March 17, April 1 and April 7 at 7 p.m.
 Barre Common Oversight Committee – March 18 at 5 p.m.
 Zoning Board of Appeals – March 19 at 7 p.m.
 Cemetery Commission – March 26 at 11 a.m.
 Council on Aging – April 1 at 12:30 p.m.
 Town Election Day – April 6 from 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
 Felton Field Commission – April 7 at 6:30 p.m.
 Board of Health – April 13 at 5 p.m.
 Water Commission – April 13 at 5:30 p.m.
 DPW Commission – April 13 at 6 p.m.
 Cable Advisory Committee – April 14 at 7 p.m.

HARDWICK

Board of Health – March 12 at 6:45 p.m.
 Capital Planning Committee – March 16 at 3 p.m.
 Select Board – March 16 at 6 p.m.
 Gilbertville Water District – March 17 at 5:30 p.m.
 Recycling Commission – March 17 at 6:30 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – March 18 at 6:30 p.m.
 Wheelwright Water District – March 18 at 7 p.m.
 Council on Aging – April 1 at 12:30 p.m.
 Paige Library Trustees – March 26 and April 2 at 7 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Community Preservation Committee – March 12 at 7 p.m.
 Memorial Day Committee – March 16 at 12:30 p.m.
 Quabbin Regional Agreement 'Listening Session' – March 16 at 6:30 p.m.
 Council on Aging – March 18 at 4 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – March 18 and April 15 at 6 p.m.
 Planning Board – March 19, April 1 and April 16 at 6:30 p.m.
 Zoning Board of Appeals – March 31 at 6:30 p.m.
 Library Trustees – April 2 at 7 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – April 7 at 7 p.m.
 Board of Health – April 14 at 7 p.m.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Fire Highway Building Committee with Board of Selectmen – March 12 at 4 p.m.
 Planning Board – March 18 and April 15 at 6 p.m.
 Planning Board – March 18 at 6 p.m.
 Zoning Board of Appeals – March 23 at 6 p.m.

OAKHAM

Board of Health – March 14 at 6 p.m.
 Council on Aging – March 13 at noon
 Library Trustees – March 19 at 4:30 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Select Board – March 12 at 5:30 p.m., March 19 at 5:20 p.m., March 24 at 3 p.m., March 26 at 5:30 p.m., March 31 at 3 p.m. and April 2 at 5:30 p.m. and April 7 at 3 p.m.
 Advisory Finance Committee – March 12 and March 19 at 6 p.m.
 Petersham Historic District – March 19 at 6 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – March 20 at 9 a.m.
 Open Space and Recreation Committee – April 7 at 6 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – April 7 at 7 p.m.
 Council on Aging – April 13 at 10:30 a.m.

RUTLAND

Finance Committee and Select Board – March 12 and March 19 at 6 p.m.
 Library Board of Trustees – March 19 at 7 p.m.
 Planning Board Hearing – March 24 at 6:30 p.m.
 Planning Board Bylaw Sub Committee – April 15 at 6 p.m.

Ice storms cause delays and cancellations



This photo of a black-capped chickadee was taken in Oakham on Wednesday, March 4 after a mix of snow and freezing rain which started on Tuesday, March 3 and continued into the early morning of March 4.



An Oakham resident took this photo of a black-capped chickadee on Friday, March 6 near the same location she took the photo of a chickadee on March 4.



The sun shines on ice covered trees on Wednesday, March 4 in Oakham. This storm caused a two hour delay in the start of school for the Quabbin School District and other area schools.

HUBBARDSTON

by Ellenor Downer
 edowner@turley.com

Listening Session rescheduled to March 16

The Quabbin Regional Agreement Working Group is holding a listening session in Hubbardston on Monday, March 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the town offices meeting room at 48 Gardner Road. The approved revisions to the Regional Agreement will be voted on at an upcoming town meetings in the five member towns.

Country Hen scholarships

The Country Hen Scholarship Fund awards a total of \$1,000 in scholarships to one or more graduating high school students from Hubbardston. Applicants must be a Hubbardston resident for at least three years, be a graduating high school senior planning to attend an accredited college or university and have demonstrated community involvement during their high school years. Applications are available online by visiting the town website at www.hubbardstonma.gov and are due by Sunday, April 26. For questions, they should email admin@hubbardstonma.gov.

Excise tax bills

The 2026 Motor Vehicle Excise tax bills were mailed on Feb. 11 and are due March 16. Bills are sent to addresses on file, at the Registry of Motor Vehicles, for vehicles that are registered or garaged in Hubbardston as of Dec. 31, 2025. According to MGL Chapter 60A, Section 2 "Failure to receive notice shall not affect the validity of the excise." This means that even if people don't receive the bill, they are still liable for paying the excise plus any accrued interest and penalties. Anyone not receiving a bill should contact the Collector's office at 978-928-1400, extension 205.

Lions Club Scholarship

The Barre Lions Club offers a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating senior, who lives in Barre, Oakham, Hubbardston, New Braintree or Hardwick. To be eligible, the student must be accepted by an accredited college or technical school and must be entering the school in the fall semester of the current year. In addition to Quabbin seniors, this year the club expanded the scholarship applications to local students, who attend Monty Tech, Pathfinder or BayPath. For the students' convenience, the application has been sent to the guidance counselor of each school. People may email barremalionsclub@aol.com with any questions.

Senior Center events

All artists are welcome to attend the art group at the Hubbardston Senior Center every Friday from 9-11 a.m. A new activity at the Senior Center is the Creative Needle and Thread activity every Friday from 9 a.m.-noon. All are invited to bring projects, such as embroidery, cross stitch, sewing and quilting. Questions may be directed to Michelle at 508-450-4476. Yarn-It-All group meets from 10 a.m.-noon. Knitting and crocheting projects will be worked on, and those who have questions will get help from others who attend. Games of Pitch are held the second and fourth Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. and the first and third Fridays at 6:30 p.m. Cribbage is played every Thursday at 12:30 p.m., Bingo is every Monday at 12:30 p.m. and Wii Bowling is every Monday and Thursday at 9 a.m. Functional Exercise Classes are held at the Senior Center Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Commission alleges former DPW Supt violated Conflict of Interest Law

BOSTON – On Wednesday, Feb. 25, The State Ethics Commission's Enforcement Division issued an Order to Show Cause "alleging that former Barre Department of Public Works Superintendent Jason Pimental violated the conflict of interest law by working hundreds of paid hours for the state Department of Fire Services (DFS) during his paid town of Barre work hours, by submitting timesheets that falsely claimed he was working for the town during these hours, and through other actions."

By filing the Order, the Enforcement Division has initiated an adjudicatory proceeding against Pimental. The Order to Show Cause "alleges that while Pimental was Barre's DPW Superintendent, he began working part-time for the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services in 2018. From December 2020 through June 2024, Pimental worked several hundred hours for the DFS during hours for which he was paid by Barre and that Pimental falsely reported he worked those hours as Superintendent to Barre," the Order states.

"Through these actions,

Pimental violated the conflict of interest law's prohibitions against public employees presenting false claims for pay to their employers and using their official position to secure an unwarranted privilege of substantial value for themselves or others, the Order alleges."

The Order "also alleges that from 2021 through 2024, Pimental, as DPW Superintendent, approved reimbursement payments from the town to himself for DPW-related expenses. This violated the conflict of interest law's prohibition against municipal employees participating officially in matters in which they have a financial interest."

In addition, the conflict of interest law, with some exceptions, prohibits municipal employees from having more than one paid position for the same city or town. "The Order alleges that Pimental, who was a paid call firefighter for Barre while serving as DPW Superintendent, was advised in a 2021 letter from the State Ethics Commission's Enforcement Division that he would need to qualify for an exemption in order to hold both positions and that

he should seek advice from the Commission's Legal Division." "Pimental, who did not secure an exemption and did not seek legal advice from the Commission, violated this prohibition," the Order alleges.

"Pursuant to the Commission's Enforcement Procedures, the Enforcement Division files an Order to Show Cause against a subject following the Commission's finding of reasonable cause to believe the subject violated the conflict of interest law. Before filing the Order to Show Cause, the Enforcement Division gives the subject the opportunity to resolve the matter through a disposition agreement. The Commission will schedule a public hearing on the allegations against Pimental within 90 days."

The Commission is authorized to impose a civil penalty of up to \$10,000 for each violation of the conflict of interest law.

The Commission encourages public employees to contact the Commission's Legal Division at 617-371-9500 for free advice if they have any questions regarding how the conflict of interest law may apply to them.

Historical Society presents Rutland's Influential Women

RUTLAND – The Rutland Historical Society will present Rutland's Influential Women on Sunday, March 15 from 3-5 p.m.

The program will be held at the Historical Society's Wood House, 232 Main St. Nine of these outstanding women will be portrayed by members of the society. Light refreshments will follow the program.

Editorial deadline reminder

Deadline for e-mailed press releases is noon on Monday. Deadline for hard copy is noon on Friday.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.



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Opinion

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

Is there income tax on Social Security benefits?

Dear Rusty:
The Trump Administration is saying that now there will be no taxes on Social Security benefits. Since we're getting ready to start our 2025 income tax return, can you explain how this all works?
Signed: Confused Taxpayer

will be taxed (how much SS income to be taxed depends on your combined income in 2025).

By now, you should have received form 1099-SSA which advised of your 2025 Social Security income, including any income tax you had withheld from your SS benefits.

Dear Confused Taxpayer:
You are obviously referring to the so-called "one big, beautiful bill" and how that bill affects income tax on your Social Security benefits. And this is because of the publicity surrounding the so-called "one big, beautiful bill" enacted last year, which claims to "eliminate income tax on Social Security benefits." Well, that bill did, yet technically didn't, fully eliminate income tax on benefits. Allow me to explain.

This income should be reported when submitting your 2025 income tax return. If your "provisional income" is over \$32,000 as a married couple filing jointly (or over \$25,000 as an individual filer), then your 2025 SS benefits will still be taxed by the IRS. But when completing your 2025 Income Tax Return, you will also be able to claim an additional \$6,000 per person (\$12,000 if you file jointly), which will likely offset any income tax you must pay due to the SS benefits you received in 2025.

The OBBB does eliminate income tax on most SS benefits, but it does so in a somewhat unique way – by providing an additional \$6,000 (per person) deduction to your federal taxable income as reported to the IRS. Thus, you will pay less total income tax when you file your taxes with the IRS because of that additional deduction to your taxable income. The extra deduction is available to those over age 65 and is meant to offset the income tax which will still be levied by the IRS on the SS benefits you received in 2025.

If you use a tax preparer (or tax preparation software), they will guide you through this calculation. Note, too, that the \$6,000 per person deduction amount will be less if your combined taxable income is more than \$150,000 as a married couple (or more than \$75,000 as a single filer).

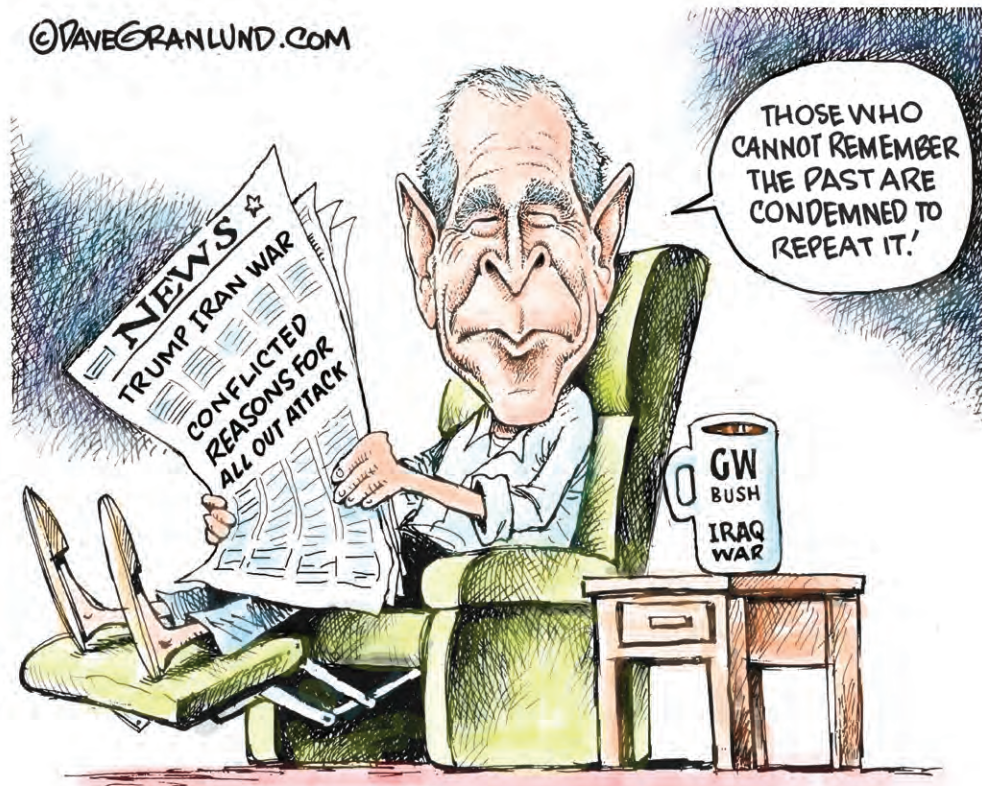
Essentially, the rules governing income tax on Social Security benefits have not changed. The IRS will still levy income tax on your SS benefits if your combined income from all sources (known as your "provisional income") is over \$32,000 as a married couple filing jointly, or more than \$25,000 if you file as an individual. If your provisional income is below the threshold for your IRS filing status, you will pay no income tax on your received 2025 SS benefits. But if your provisional income exceeds the threshold for your IRS filing status, then somewhere between 50% and 85% of your received SS benefits

Be aware, though, that the OBBB is temporary tax accommodation which expires after tax year 2028. And that's because the process used to pass the bill in Congress (a "budget reconciliation" process) didn't actually change SS law; rather it provided a way around it to offset income tax paid on SS benefits.

So, to recap, the IRS can still levy income tax on your received Social Security benefits but, because of the OBBB, you will likely also (depending on your provisional income level) receive an extra deduction which offsets any taxes calculated on your Social Security benefits.

Finally, be aware that if your first husband also predeceases you, you will then become eligible for a surviving ex-spouse benefit from him, even if he has remarried.

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In Past Pages

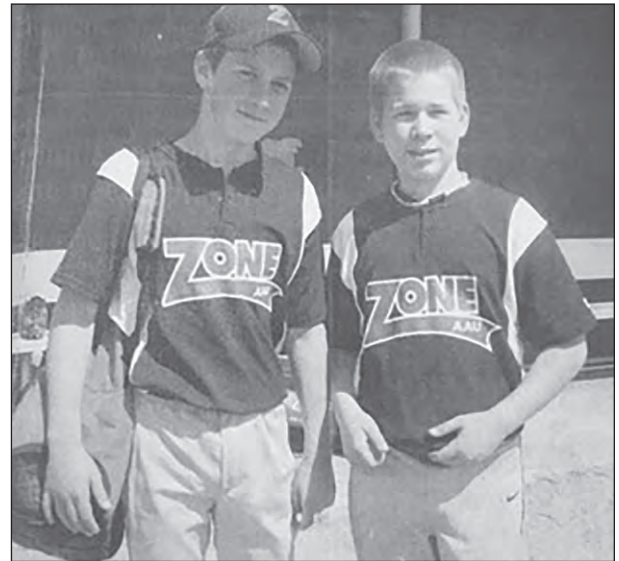
5 years (March 18, 2021)

Students at Eagle Hill School recently returned to the stage of the Abby Theatre for the first time post-COVID-19 and performed the first act of the rock musical "next to normal," a 2008 production with book and lyrics by Brian Yorkey and music by Tom Kitt. The talented cast of seven led the audience through the lives of the Goodman family and their struggles with mental health and grief. Director William C. Gelinus guided the cast and crew successfully through this nearly 5-month long production.

The Barre Democratic Town Committee will host a candidate night Thursday, March 25 at 7 p.m. People are invited to this virtual event to learn about the candidates running for contested races for selectman and two positions on the planning board. The town election is Monday, April 5. Maureen Marshall and Troy Lee Valardi are running for a three-year term to the board of selectmen. Frank W. LaRange and Anthony F. Mobilio are running for a one-year position as planning board associate member. Anthony F. Mobilio and Matthew D. Urban are running for a five-year term on planning board. This event is an opportunity to see the candidates in action answering questions that are important to voters.

Town administrator Ryan McLane presented his budget to the finance committee at its March 2 meeting.

Look Back Look Back – Baseball Victory – 2010



Barre resident Ryan Walsh allowed just one unearned run in seven innings pitched to beat the Plymouth Mizuno Cardinals 3-1. Walsh's pitch count was 86 when the final pitch was thrown. Ryan plays for the Worcester Strike Zone central team out of Worcester. The team is a 13-year-old AAU team that consists of players from several towns in Worcester County. Walsh's catcher for the game was Brendan Roach of Hardwick. Ryan and Brendan have been playing baseball together for four years in the Quabbin Area Little League and are now both members of the Quabbin Middle School baseball team.

The finance committee will hold a public hearing April 26. McLane said his National Guard Unit has been called up for overseas duty for a year and the select board hired David Nixon as acting town administrator. Nixon was the former town administrator for Hadley. McLane said he would be taking

over the budget process. Susan Rayne, finance committee chair, said she would reach out to David Nixon on Monday. McLane said this year he did not recommend supplementing the budget with free cash and it was not included in this budget. Last year the town supple-

See PAST PAGES, page 5

An herb catalog and a favorite herb

One of my favorite seed and plant catalogs of all time is Richters Herbs (richters.com). I look forward to the paper copy arriving in the mail by early December.

The company is out of Ontario, Canada, and offers over 1,200 unique varieties, mostly herbs of all kinds with a few vegetables thrown in for good measure. I've ordered from them for well over two decades and think their products are just great, everything from common culinary herbs to unique medicinal plants and everything in between, even dye plants and ornamentals.

I love how the seeds are packaged in foil lined envelopes and quantities are liberal, often giving you enough seed for two or three years of sowing, depending on the variety. On occasion I have had to order plants that I couldn't find locally and despite the distance, they arrive in good shape.

Basil (Ocimum spp) is one plant in particular that we typically order seed of, and we will soon be starting it indoors. The Richters cat-

alog boasts 29 varieties, and we grow nine of them in the Paul Rogers Herb Garden at Old Sturbridge Village.

A trip to our



herb garden in season is really worthwhile. Who doesn't like Italian or Genovese basil? Picture the pesto!

But in addition to our old favorites, there is lemon, anise, cinnamon and spice, each with fragrant leaves. Looking for unique foliage? Try dark opal, whose leaves are tinted dark purple or bush basil, whose tiny leaves altogether make a round globe of a plant, and who could leave out lettuce leaf, with its crinkled pale green leaves.

Over the years I have found that there are just a few obstacles to growing great basil. Seeds should be planted indoors – rarely will

they do well from an outdoor sowing.

Start basil about the same time that tomatoes are sown, in mid to late March. Make shallow furrows and space the seed one-eighth of an inch apart in rows within a small pot or seed pack.

When true leaves form pluck out the tiny seedling and transplant it into a cell of a four or six pack, or an individual tiny pot.

Grow on indoors until the weather improves. Basil is particularly cold sensitive, so be sure that all danger of frost has passed before transplanting it into the garden.

Downy mildew disease was discovered to be prevalent some years back. While I don't take any particular precautions, and my basil shows little sign of the familiar leaf blotching, Richters does offer seeds of resistant varieties for you to try if this disease has been troublesome in your garden.

Basil foliage has also been known to burn if planted outdoors without a period

See GARDEN, page 5

TEAM



EDITOR
Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES
Dan Flynn
dfflynn@turley.com



SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

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www.barregazette.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President



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THE BLANKET

Danced with the best of them.
Threw my hat in the ring.
Dealt with my choices.
Rode on a wing.

Winked at an angel.
Wind took my cares.
Tears.... they taste salty.
Said a few prayers.

Nurtured my conscience.
Weathered the storm.
Tailoring a blanket,
now keeping me warm.

– Patricia Masten

PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a "people news" form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for the Barre Gazette, please email edowner@turley.com.

Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

With the clocks turned back Sunday I hope that means spring is coming shortly.

I am so tired of this snow and cold weather. It is hard to function and have people come to help. We have to cancel often and cannot get things delivered.

I had this pineapple dish this week and halved the recipe as it was too large. I think the readers may enjoy it.

PINEAPPLE CASSEROLE

4 tablespoons of butter, melted

1 can 20 oz. pineapple chunks or tidbits

1/3 cup sugar

1/4 cup flour

1 cup of grated sharp cheddar cheese

1 sleeve of Ritz crackers crusted

Directions:

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Butter a casserole dish. Combine all but the crackers and some melted butter. Put in casserole and sprinkle the crackers over top and drizzle

with butter. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes. May serve hot or cold. I served it with stuffed peppers. It would be good with ham dishes also.

This and That

I ran out of watercolor or paper and card stock so I have not been watercoloring this week.

I did pot up some seedlings that I rooted and repotted some of the Amaryllis that were in the cellar and are sprouting. One has a bud on it and it is difficult to get them to re-sprout so I am pleased.

I took out some artificial spring flowers like daffodils and apple blossoms to force spring to come.

The plow man has come often and I had him clear a turnaround half way up the driveway so my guests won't be afraid to meet someone on this one way driveway. The privacy is nice here at Serenity Hill, but the winters are not.

I received the schedule of programs for the Hubbardston Historical

Society and hopefully I can attend some.

I received the sad news of the passing of my former watercolor teacher of East Templeton, Millie Williams, who turned 100 this past year. She was also a member of the Nonesuch Garden Club of Hubbardston when it existed so she was known by many. She loved to garden and made watercolor cards for sale at the Petersham Craft Center. She will be missed by many. She had a lovely home.

Once the snow leaves Serenity Hill I wonder how many things will start leafing out and growing. It is a challenge to keep things alive. Most of the shrubs I have give a show from spring to fall.

I hope you all have a pleasant St. Patrick's day and enjoy some corn beef and cabbage. I hope I can get some. I love to have a meal of it at least once a year. I enjoyed stuffed peppers this week.

Have a good week.

PAST PAGES from page 4

mented its budget with free cash. Certified free cash was \$312,052. On the revenue side, the town administrator said he estimated real estate tax revenue at \$7,715,203. This included an increase in the Payment In Lieu of Taxes agreement with solar providers.

10 years (March 17, 2016)

Fire destroyed a home at 860 West Brookfield Road on March 12. Firefighters received the call about a blaze at the Grass Roots Farm at 10:30 a.m. Firefighters from New Braintree along with mutual aid from Warren, North Brookfield, East Brookfield, Paxton, Oakham, Rutland, Barre, Spencer and Hubbardston were all on scene to provide a greater water supply. New Braintree Fire Chief Dennis Letendre was at the fire and said that because the home was an old structure, the blaze went quickly throughout the building. "We didn't have a chance," he said. As a result, the firefighters focused their efforts on saving the attached barn. There were no injuries reported. One New Braintree fire truck did sustain substantial damage when falling power lines struck it when it first arrived on scene.

The Quabbin Regional School District presented a needs budget of over \$36.5 million. This preliminary amount will get whittled down during the budget process. Cheryl Duval, director of administrative services, gave a power point presentation at the public budget hearing last Thursday. The amount presented \$36,588,641 was 10.4 percent higher than the adopted \$33,132,360 budget for FY16.

Duval said there was a large increase in special education costs. The district was above the state average for out of district placements. Just over \$3 million was for out of district placements that included a day student at Crotched Mountain in New Hampshire and six residential placements, five for Barre and one for Oakham. It included 18 private day students, 18 in collaborative placements and three in public day program. The district received about 73% reimbursement for special education from the state

through circuit breaker.

A local citizen has purchased approximately 40 gift certificates for free ice cream from two local Barre establishments, the Barre Mill Restaurant and the new Becki's Bistro. These certificates were given to the Barre Police Department with the directive that they would give "ice cream cone citations" to children and teens that were caught wearing a helmet while riding their bike, skateboard, scooter, etc. This anonymous donor thought it would be a fun way to get children to think about keeping their heads safe while enjoying the activities that they love.

25 years (March 15, 2001)

State Rep. David Tuttle (R-Barre) spent much of his last day on Beacon Hill pacing nervously and exchanging handshakes and a few hugs with colleagues. Tuttle resigned March 12 to become the state director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Program for Southern New England. But before he left, he met with friends, said good bye to his colleagues and had to dodge a few staffers as they removed item from his now vacant office. Tuttle's office was actually cleaned out last Friday with the exception of a few personal items, some cleaning supplies and the office equipment, which comes with the office on the fifth floor of the Statehouse.

When Mother Nature rudely interrupted the annual Barre town election last week, it was left up to judge to decide when and how to complete the process. Late last week, in a pro forma decision, Suffolk Superior Court Judge Catherine A. White granted a request from Secretary of State William Galvin to allow Barre and six other towns whose elections were affected by the nor'easter, to complete these elections on March 19. When the nor'easter swept into New England March 5, several towns had scheduled elections and many were able to open the polls for part of the day. The storm never fully hit the area until well after noon in most locations.

Selectmen held a hearing regarding fuel storage tank license for Central Plains Associates, Peach Street that was postponed from March 5. There are two above ground tanks on the site, one for 1,000 gallons and

the other for 500 gallons that store diesel fuel. The larger tank has been in place for about 17 years and the smaller tank for about five years. The tanks are on a concrete pad and contained. The owner of the property is Peter Trifilo and Dave Robinson is the person doing the business at the site.

38 years (March 17, 1988)

Barre Common may have a one-way rotary around it soon, according to the latest proposal brought before the Board of Selectmen to improve traffic flow. Selectmen James E. Sullivan present this proposal on Monday, March 14. Barre is applying for a grant under the Massachusetts Cities and Towns Commons Program where over \$10 million is available in grant monies throughout the Commonwealth. Sullivan's proposal will be part of the preliminary application to be sent to the state early this week.

The Barre Cable Advisory Committee gave their report to the Selectmen at their regular meeting last Monday, March 14. The committee has studied the six proposals from various cable companies and held a series of public meetings on them. This recommendation brings Barre one step closer to having cable television service. Richard Paula, chairman of the Cable Committee said the group evaluated the companies on several issues. The most important he said were 1. providing service to at least 90% of the homes in town; 2. offer a diverse range of programming along with a clear fee structure; 3. providing production equipment, studio facilities and training for the production of local programming and 4. establishing the "head-end."

About 32% of the 1170 Hubbardston registered voters or 356 went to the polls for the Super Tuesday state Primary March 8. Gov. Michael Dukakis claimed 125 of the 218 Democratic votes case Jesse L. Jackson and Richard E. Gephardt were second and third with 37 and 25 respectively. Paul Simon was fourth with 11. Albert Gore Jr., Gary Hart, Bruce Babbitt and Florenzo DeDonato trailed the field with 8, 4, 2 and 1 vote, respectively. Vice President George Bush was the choice of 72 voters with Robert Dole second with 34, Pat Robertson with 17,

Guest Column

Sugar Weather

By Herbert Holmes

There is a lot of snow out there.

The nights are cold, but the days are warming up. It feels like sugar weather to me. I am reminded of my teen years in Langdon, New Hampshire when my dad would give me time off and lend me the farm team of horses so I could work for our neighbor, Bill Lamb, on his sugar bush.

We started the season by drilling a hole using a brace with #7 bit to drill into maple trees and fitting a metal spout with a hook onto the trees. We then hung a 12 quart sap bucket with a lid off each spout. Bill had what we considered a big bush over 3,000 buckets hung.

Later my job was gathering the sap from these buckets and getting it to the sugar house. When the sap was running into those buckets, I would hitch the team to a scoot that held a 5 barrel tank and we would go from tree to tree gathering the sap using two 20 quart pails.

I transferred the sap from my gathering tank into the sugar house through a hollowed out log. The job went easier when Bill made a concoction using raw eggs, hard cider and hot sap to share.

That sugar house was a low, one story gray unpainted building, which leaned into Bill's side hill pasture. On one end there was a 60 barrel storage tank, on the other end was the wood shed and in the middle a four foot by sixteen foot wood fired King evaporator. It was topped off with a huge smoke stack.

That King evaporator could produce a lot of maple syrup in a day. We sometimes had to boil all night to keep up with the sap flow.

Maple sugaring has gone modern now. Trees are tapped with plastic spouts that are connected to plastic tubing. Plastic tub lines are arranged to make a vacuum that improves sap flow and helps make the season last longer.

Sap is preheated and much of the water is removed before boiling by using machines doing reverse-osmosis. Sugar houses are now sugar shacks. The fuel used for boiling has gone for wood to gas and oil.

The end product has not changed. Maple syrup still requires removing the water from maple sap until the syrup is 66% sugar (sucrose), the sap temperature is about 219 degrees F and weighs 11 lbs. per gallon. It takes about 40 to 50 gallons of maple sap to make one gallon of maple syrup. That pleasant brown color of maple syrup comes from the caramelization of sugar in the boiling process. The best thing about

maple syrup is its taste, but it doesn't stop there. Maple syrup has a lower glycemic index than many common sweeteners. Slower is better when it comes to blood sugar content spikes. Maple syrup contains minerals, vitamins, amino acids and more than 67 bioactive natural plant compounds with potential health benefits. It is lower calorie than other sweeteners. It is good for you.

Sunday morning back on the farm always included pancakes with real maple syrup that we made ourselves. We cooked with it too. When cooking with maple syrup a good rule is ¾ cup syrup = 1 cup sugar.

I have good luck with maple oatmeal bread and maple pecan and maple walnut pies. I am still working on the best way to make maple candy.

One snack I like is a smoothie made with milk, an egg and maple syrup. You can make a wicked good Old Fashion with bourbon and maple syrup.

If you want a real special old New England fun dessert try making "sugar on snow." Boil maple syrup to about 235-240 degrees F and spread on snow. Eat with a fork and traditionally have a sour pickle.

Why don't you visit a sugar shack? They are all around us. You will like seeing how maple syrup is produced. You can get a directory from Massachusetts Maple Syrup Producers Association.

GARDEN from page 4

of hardening off. For this reason, gradually get seedlings used to bright sun and wind over the course of a week before planting in the ground.

Provide your transplants with fertile, well-drained soil in a sunny spot. If, over the course of the summer you notice that the leaves are no longer grass-green, but instead are pale or even turning brown, your plants may have a nitrogen deficiency.

I usually have had to "top dress" my basil twice after planting, each time with a sprinkling of balanced organic fertilizer and some aged compost. Usually they green up in a matter of days.

Basil has the insatiable

desire to flower. We must "deadhead" or the plant will fulfill its earthly desire to reproduce by making and dropping seed, all at the expense of foliage production.

Since we grow this plant for its leaves and not its seed, or its flowers for that matter, clip away the buds at the first sign of them. Another challenge to basil growing has been the Japanese beetle.

Basil leaves riddled with chew marks should best be removed. Japanese beetles are relatively easy to hand pick in the morning and at night.

A gentle tap on a leaf will easily knock beetles into a wide mouth jar of soapy water positioned underneath. Ideally, basil

leaves should be harvested after the dew has dried in the morning but before the sun shines too brightly; at that particular time its oils are the most pungent.

Enjoy the new catalog recommendation and be sure to get those basil seeds started by the end of the month.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 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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Paige Memorial Library lists upcoming events

HARDWICK – Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, Shenanigans with Friends, a local group will perform on Saturday, March 14 from 3-5 p.m. at the Hardwick Town House playing old faves and deep cuts of rock, country, folk and R&B with tight harmonies and danceable rhythms.

This program has funding from the Hardwick-New Braintree Cultural Council under the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

On Tuesday, March 17 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Elizabeth Buck host a drop in program on Celtic Knot Design. Participants will learn the basics of drawing Celtic knots and spirals including some tips and tricks. Materials will be provided. She will cover a different knot about every 20 minutes starting at 5:30 p.m.

Story time with an activity takes place Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m.-noon. This is a fun time for the youngest patrons to experience the library. Drop-in for stamp mania takes place Wednesday, March 18, an early release day for the

Quabbin Regional School District. The library will be open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.. They will explore printmaking with rubber stamps, ink, markers and more to make their own bookmarks and other creations. All ages will enjoy this.

On Thursday, March 19 at 6 p.m. a portal opens at the Paige Memorial Library. Patrons will become acquainted with David Payne and his debut novel "Out of the Dark," a portal horror about two siblings, one who is taken and one who spends their life searching. Payne has other short stories available, some to check out at the library.

On Saturday, March 21 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. a springtide celebration drop-in. They are celebrate the spring equinox and the awakening of the earth. The seed library will debut, we will have fun make-and-take crafts, and more. People may bring some goodies.

On Saturdays through March 28 Pam Hinckley's will hold an adult handcraft workshops from 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Tuesday, March 24 at 5:30 pm and March 25,

Wednesday, at 2:30 pm the library hosts Pysanky – Ukrainian egg decorating. They will learn the traditional process of egg decorating using wax and dye. Participants should bring a fresh white egg. The library provide the beeswax, dye and kistkas.

On Tuesday, March 31 from 6-7 p.m. there will be a drop in discussion on "Page to Screen: Hail Mary." People may read the book and/or watch the new movie, then come together to discuss their favorite parts and plot points that make them cringe.

Other ongoing library activities include the Paige Book Club, the Cookbook Club, Celebrate Hardwick, the Ongoing Book Sale, the Paige Writers and the Movie Festival Committee. People may visit Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/paigelibrary/> and/or visit the website at <http://www.paigelibrary.com/>.

The library is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2-7 p.m., Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.



Choral director Bethany Stefano teaches the cast a song for the show.

Submitted photos



CINDERELLA from page 1

tale still warms the hearts of children and adults alike.

Music is by Richard Rodgers and book and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II. It is adapted for the stage by Tom Briggs and from the teleplay by Robert L. Freedman. Roger and Hammerstein's "Cinderella," enchanted edition) is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals.

Mike Farrell and Steve Long securing the set panels.

BARRE from page 1

Both Select Board Vice Chairman Mark Regienus and Member Richard Stevens concurred.

Vice Chairman Regienus said they had a good crew. He was at a recent water main break. The crew was out fixing the break on a cold night.

Facebook post
Select Board Vice Chairman Regienus said a recent Facebook post by a resident said the highway department knocked over their

mailbox during a storm. He said it was on a state road and it was the state loader operator not the town's employee, who knocked over the resident's mailbox, during cleanup.

Other business

The Town Administrator Jackson received one public records request from Cory Bombredi. He requested a copy of the investigative report and Select Board discussion from March 2024. She emailed his requests. She said the investigative report was posted on the town

website.

The Town Administrator said Police Chief James Sabourin was concerned about the amount of fuel consumption.

The Select Board approved the minutes of Tuesday, Feb. 17. They also approved the Executive Session minutes of Feb. 17, but they were not for release.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Select Board will be on Monday, March 16 at 5 p.m.



Choral director Bethany Stefano works with the Prince (Colton Butterfield) and Cinderella (Anna Labrousse) on a song for the show.

HARDWICK from page 1

Town Administrator Justine Caggiano said the interest rates on their investments are starting to increase.

Police Department budget

Police Chief Kevin Landine said he is requesting \$675,000 for FY 27, compared to the actual budget of \$650,500 for FY 26. Landine said the current budget is about 63% used at this point in the fiscal year, which he said is standard.

The first expense for the police department presented was fuel. Landine said there is \$25,000 marked for fuel, and \$21,000 marked for repair. He said since 2020, the average cost of fuel per year is \$18,000.

The discussion then turned to staffing. Landine said the budget funds five full-time police officers, and that there is 24/7 coverage in town. Additionally, the budget covers two matrons and a part-time officer.

There is a line item in the budget for "pensionable income" which Landine said is simply his salary, which accounts for \$109,000.

Other line items discussed include police expense, which \$28,000 is being requested for FY 27, which covers in part software for reports, fingerprint machines, and body worn cameras. He

said those costs are split with the New Braintree Police Department.

Other line items that Landine said he did not expect to be an issue for this upcoming fiscal year include cruiser replacement, server replacement, and laptop replacement. Landine said cruisers are replaced every two-three years, the server is on a grant list, and the laptops are new, but in a few years will have one replaced a year.

Landine said the clerk salary is up 2% from last year, and they work 19 hour weeks.

School budget

The board and committee held a short discussion on the school budget, which has not been presented by the school district yet. They noted that the minimum funding per student from the town is \$10,500, and Hardwick has had a net increase of 17 students, while the district as a whole has had a net decrease of 7 students.

Korzec said he noticed in the last town report that there were 20 births in the town of Hardwick last year, and said they will need to start thinking about a five year budgeting plan should those 20 children go to school in the district.

The boards are scheduled to have another joint meeting on March 16.

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SUMMER CAMP

Check Out These Great Camps!

The benefits of attending summer camp

Summer camp is something akin to a rite of passage for millions of youngsters each year. Many adults look back fondly on their experiences at summer camp, often crediting such times as formative periods in their lives.

Summer camp benefits children in myriad ways. Recognition of the many advantages of attending summer camp can serve as a great reminder of just how fun it can be for children to spend their time away from school at a camp of their choosing.

• Campers continue to socialize throughout summer.

Socializing isn't just for the school year. While children in high school might be independent enough to come and go with their friends during summer break, kids who are still in elementary school or middle school might not be old enough to handle such freedom. That can make it hard to stay in touch with friends, which in turn can contribute to feelings of boredom and loneliness. Camp provides ample opportunities for young children to socialize during a time of year when they might not see their school friends as often as they're used to.

• Campers can expand their horizons. Though some summer camps are exclusive to residents of certain communities, many tend to feature children from numerous towns or municipalities. Such camps provide an opportunity for campers to expand their horizons by engaging with youngsters who come from different backgrounds. Indeed, the Graduate School of Education at Harvard University notes that summer camp may be the first time children spend substantial amounts of time with people whose backgrounds differ from their own.

• Camp can get kids off their devices. Modern children are growing up in a digital world, and parents know how hard it can be to get kids to put down their devices and get outdoors. But the key to making that pivot could be access to outdoor play spaces. A 2025 study from researchers at the University of Michigan published in the journal Health and Place found that efforts to reduce kids' screen time are more successful when children are given a chance to play outside. Many summer camps are structured around outdoor play, making them a

potentially invaluable ally as parents seek to help children cut back on the time they spend using their devices. Children who do not attend camp and live in households where both parents work or in single-parent households where Mom or Dad works may be forced to spend much of summer indoors, which could increase the frequency with which they turn to devices to occupy their time.

• Camp adds structure to summer days. Once a school year ends, the structure a school day provides vanishes into thin air. Couple that with extracurricular

activities that go on hiatus during summer vacation, and kids accustomed to structure are left with little to do and no need to schedule their time. That can add an aimlessness to summer days. Camp can provide the structure kids are accustomed to but still offer a break from responsibilities like homework or the commitments required of extracurricular activities.

There's no shortage of benefits to enrolling youngsters in summer camp, where kids can socialize, grow and get off their devices while engaged in structured but stress-free activities.

summer@HCC

Holyoke Community College Summer Youth Programs for Ages 8-16

Save your spot and register today for summer fun!




July 27-31, Minecraft Designers (ages 8-10, 11-14)
 August 3-7, Python Programmers (ages 8-10, 11-14)
 July 20-24, Make Your First Video Game (ages 8-10, 11-14)
 July 13-17, ROBLOX Coders (ages 8-10, 11-14)
 July 6-10 and 13-17, Fun Bites with Chef Swanigan (ages 9-16)
 July 20-24 and 27-31, Around the world with Chef Swanigan (ages 9-16)
 July 6-10 and 13-17, Cooking without Borders with Chez Vargas-Gonzalez (ages 9-16)
 July 20-24 and 27-31, Passport to Flavors with Chef Vargas-Gonzalez (ages 9-16)

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PATHFINDER TECH 2026 SUMMER YOUTH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

REGISTRATION OPENS 8AM APRIL 1ST



CHOOSE YOUR FAVORITE PROGRAM!

WEEK #1: July 6 - 10
 WEEK #2: July 13 - 17
 WEEK #3: July 20 - 24

Hands-on fun for students entering grades 4 to 8!

Visit our website for program descriptions and availability!
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DAY & OVERNIGHT

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WEEK 4: JULY 13-17	WEEK 5: JULY 20-24	WEEK 6: JULY 27-31		Mission Monadnock History Hunters
WEEK 7: AUGUST 3-7				Flag Football & More PE Games & Sports

The Bement School
 94 Old Main Street
 Deerfield, MA 01342

Registration Link
bement.org/summer

Calendar of Events

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

CIRCLE OF SONG REHEARSALS are today from 7-8:30 p.m. at Barre Town Hall, 2 Exchange St. Rehearsal are every Thursday between now and Thursday, May 14 with the concert on Saturday, May 16 at 7 p.m. at the Barre Town Hall. Circle of song is particularly in need of altos this session. Singers of all ages and experience are welcome. The chorus sings in four-part harmony and there is a modest sliding scale membership fee with deep discounts for students. People may email director Julie Rawson at julie@mhof.net or call 978-257-1192.

FREE PHOTO WORKSHOP will take place today from 12:30-1:30 p.m. at the Pelham Public Library, 2 South Valley Road. Whether people are using a smartphone, DSLR, or mirrorless camera, a free one-hour nature photography workshop at the Pelham Library will help them get more out of their camera and improve their photos. Nature photographer Ed Comeau will lead a presentation covering core photography concepts that include composition, lighting, framing, depth of field, and more. The workshop is designed for beginners and casual photographers and focuses on techniques that apply across all types of cameras and devices. Ed's photography centers on landscapes and wildlife of the Quabbin Reservoir region, as well as images from Maine, Alaska, and other locations. The workshop is free and open to the public. No registration is required.

BARRE LIONS CLUB SCHOLARSHIP for \$1,000 scholarship is accepting applications from a graduating senior, who lives in Barre, Oakham, Hubbardston, New Braintree or Hardwick. To be eligible, the student must be accepted by an accredited college or technical school and must be entering the school in the fall semester of the current year. In addition to Quabbin seniors, this year the club expanded the scholarship applications to local students, who attend Monty Tech, Pathfinder or BayPath. For the students' convenience, the application has been sent to the guidance counselor of each school. People may email barremalionsclub@aol.com with any questions.

PAXTON COA TRIP through the Canadian Rockies and Pacific Northwest will take place on Thursday, Sept. 3 through Thursday, Sept. 17. Cost is \$7,625 per person (double) includes 14 days with 20 meals, hotels and all transfers within tour; but does not include airfare and transportation to airport. Pricing for airfare and ground transportation to airport will be finalized soon, but plan for under \$1,000 per person. For more information, people may email Bill Murwin @ whmurwin@gmail.com or by phone at 508-756-3193.

OSCAR CELEBRATION will take place today at 1 p.m. at the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road. The spotlight is shining and the red carpet is ready as guests



Turley Publications photo by Ellenor Downer

This week's mystery photo is from Hubbardston. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email edowner@turley.com with their answer by noon on Monday, March 16. Bill Bowles, Peggy Civilik and Jessica Geary correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was of the Hardwick Historical Society, on the Common, Hardwick.

55 plus are invited to attend the celebration. This is where Hollywood glamour meets laughter, music and friendly competition. This lively event promises something for everyone whether they arrive dressed for the awards stage or just as they are. The goal is simple: celebrate, have fun and enjoy the magic of movie night together.

Highlights of the celebration include an Oscar ballot prediction game with big prizes for the most correct guesses, their own fun and creative "Oscar" awards, live movie-themed music, popcorn, light snacks and a festive red-carpet atmosphere. This is truly about community and joy and a chance for everyone to be a star for the day. Seniors should grab some friends, bring their best predictions and get ready for the party of the year.

SUNDAY, MARCH 14

SHENANIGANS WITH FRIENDS will entertain today from 3-5 p.m. at the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, Hardwick. They are an exciting cover band of western Massachusetts and southern Vermont and perform a wide range of songs.

CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER sponsored by the Barre Post 2, American Legion will host their annual corned beef dinner today from 5-7 p.m. at Barre Post

2, 450 South Barre Road, Barre.

People may eat in or take out: cost is \$18 per person. Ham will also be available. For tickets, people may call the Post at 978-355-2730, Tony Musnicki at 978-337-2351 or Scott Tourtellot at 508-320-9899.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

RUTLAND'S INFLUENTIAL WOMEN, who have helped shape the town through the years, takes place today from 3-5 p.m. The program is presented by the Rutland Historical Society at the Wood House, 232 Main St., Rutland. Nine of these outstanding women will be portrayed by members of the society. Light refreshments will follow the program.

MONDAY, MARCH 16

BLOOD DRIVE hosted by the Quabbin National Honor Society today from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the gym at the Quabbin Regional Middle High School, 800 South St., Barre. The Rhode Island Blood Center will hold the blood drive. People may sign up ahead of time by visiting ribc.org/drives with the sponsor code M102. The blood drive is the society's annual community service project. Sixteen year old donors require parent/guardian permission. Permission slips are available at ribc.org/permission.

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

FREE SNAP/HIP INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP will be held today at 11 a.m. in the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road, Barre. This workshop is focused on helping residents learn about food assistance programs and how to access healthy, affordable food. Representatives from Stillman's Farm will present information about Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Healthy Incentives Program benefits, including how participants can stretch their food budgets while purchasing fresh, locally grown produce. Members of the Leicester Regional Public Health Coalition will also be on-site to provide confidential SNAP pre-screenings and answer questions about eligibility and enrollment. The event will be especially helpful for seniors, families and anyone interested in reducing grocery costs and improving nutrition. To register, people may call 978-355-5031.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

EQLT WELLNESS WALKS will be held today at 2:30 p.m. at Patril Hollow Preserve, 10155 Hardwick Road, Hardwick. To register, people may email atrevvett@eqlt.org. Other dates are: on Sunday, March 29 at 9:30 a.m. Deer Park Preserve and Coxhall Kitchen Garden 481 Barre Road, Hardwick; on Sunday, April 12 at 3 p.m. Mass. Central Rail Trail New Braintree south to Creamery Road in Hardwick (meet at 1740 Hardwick Road, New Braintree) and Wednesday, April 29 at 11:45 a.m. Mass. Central Trail New Braintree north to Wheelwright and River's Edge Preserve (meet at 1740 Hardwick Road, New Braintree).

Calendar Policy

POLICY: Our calendar section is intended to promote "free" events or ones that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization that benefits the community. Paid events that are not deemed fund-raisers or benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public to enter are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items in the mail, by fax, or emailed in Word document format is Monday at noon or sooner. We usually print one week in advance of an event, and the listings should be brief, with only time, date, location, brief activity explanation and contact information.

SEWER BUDGET from page 1

does want the superintendent to consider that rates and retained earning could be impacted.

Pole hearing

The Select Board held

a public hearing to consider a request to give permission to Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc, to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting

fixtures along and across Collins Road.

Town Administrator Justine Caggiano stated that the abutters were notified about this project and a notice was published. Representatives from National Grid said the poles

that are to be installed along Collins Road are to increase the infrastructure.

After a brief presentation, the board moved to approve the poles as presented.

Visitor's comments

During visitor's comments, Elizabeth Cyran presented a letter to the Select Board that involves a request to put an item on their agenda for their next Select Board meeting on March 23.

Select Board Chair Eric Vollheim read the letter out loud, and the purpose is to recognize and reserve the rights of the Mixer family and the property of 58 Ruggles Hill Road, also known as the Ruggles Hill School.

Meeting minutes

During a review of their meeting minutes, Vice-Chair William Tinker had questions regarding the meeting minutes for Dec. 16, 2025.

According to Tinker, what is described in the meeting minutes looks a lot like the meeting on Oct. 1, 2025. This meeting involved Police Chief Kevin Landine and the New Braintree Select Board. Tinker also wanted to address some of the language in the meeting minutes.

Without a clear understanding of what meeting

these minutes are highlighting, the board decided to table the meeting minutes for Dec. 16, 2025.

Discussion on 179 Main St., Gilbertville

Caggiano shared that the town received a request via email regarding the property of 179 Main St. in Gilbertville. The person who reached out wasn't in attendance, but the board wanted to know what they want to do with the building. The board believes they're trying to turn it into apartments.

According to Vollheim, the building still needs a lot of work done before it could possibly be put out to bid. The building has been sitting vacant for a while.

"It has to be cleaned out first," said Vollheim.

Select Board Clerk Jeffrey Schaaf said this property should be considered rather than be a delayed topic.

Caggiano says she could draft a request for proposal that could be looked at. Any applicants interested in the property should email the Town Administrator or Select Board.

Appointment of Wastewater Plant Operator

The Board discussed possibly appointing Mr. Nathan LaCroix as a Wastewater

Treatment Plant Operator. The applicant has provided certification and has been interviewed. Scott Potter shared that the applicant is licensed and feels this is a good decision. The Board approved and appointed Mr. LaCroix to the position.

Town Administrator's report


As part of her report, Caggiano included that two cameras inside the Select Board meeting room have been repaired. A meeting was held to talk about the school boiler issue and the town has successfully paid off a 2014 loan to fix the bricks in the municipal office building.

During her report, Caggiano was granted permission to read a letter by an anonymous resident, which expressed appreciation for the Police Department during their assistance of a medical situation during a recent snowstorm.

The Annual Town Election is May 2, and an information fair at the Barre-Hardwick Senior Center will be on Wednesday, April 15, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Tinker also added for the public to be aware that the Annual Town Meeting will be on June 6.

JOIN THE TEAM!



JP McCarthy & Sons is now hiring great van drivers to help transport the students of the Quabbin Regional School District.

Beginning July 1, 2026, McCarthy will be adding van service to serve the District. All current drivers are encouraged to apply.

Email your interest to: jobs@mccarthybus.com

J.P. McCarthy & Sons
www.MCCARTHYBUS.COM

TOUCH TANK from page 1

library offered various crafts. The library had a crab craft where kids got to design their own paper crab. There were also coloring sheets, ocean themed books, and a virtual Mystic Aquarium tour playing in the library.

It was a fun learning experience for the kids and their families as they got to dip

their hands into the world of aquarium life. The Traveling Touch Tank at the Mystic Aquarium is a fun educational program for all ages.

The Haston Free Public Library has a lot happening in the month of March.

On Wednesdays, March 18 and 25 there will be Community Connections at 10 a.m. Also happening on Wednesdays at 3 p.m.

is Tabletop Gaming. On Thursdays at 4 p.m., the library will be hosting Lego Club. On Tuesdays, there will be Storytime and a craft at 10:30 a.m.

On Saturday, March 28 at 10 a.m., the library will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt. On Tuesday, March 31, after Storytime and a craft, another Easter Egg Hunt will be held at 10:30 a.m.

SPORTS

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Indians fall in state playoffs



NORTH BROOKFIELD – After a successful girls basketball campaign, North Brookfield landed a spot in the Division 5 State Tournament, drawing a familiar opponent as the Indians faced off with Bethany Christian Academy.

The Indians offense was not able to get enough scoring and was defeated 45-29, ending their playoff run quickly.

The Indians usually play Bethany Christian twice a season, and North Brookfield split the games this season. Their season finishes 11-7.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Kalyn Roy rushes down the court after making a rebound.



Milcalia Ayala takes a free throw.



Sophia Giangrande eyes a teammate across the court.



Whitney Reno corrals the ball.



Sophia Dufresne heads down the court

Local high school seniors headed to All-Star Games

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced the team rosters for the 2026 Western Massachusetts Senior High School All-Star Games. On Friday, Mar. 20, the Hall of Fame will host the 2026 All-Star event on the Jerry Colangelo Court of Dreams at the Hall of Fame. Sixty of the region's top seniors were selected from different divisions to participate in the final high school contests of their prep career.

"We are honored to welcome Western Massachusetts' top high school basketball players to the 15th annual All-Star celebration at the Basketball Hall of Fame," said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. "This event is a special opportunity to recognize the hard work and achievements of these outstanding seniors, and we invite the community to join us as they take the court one final time in their high school careers."

A committee of local coaches and media members, representing each division on both the boys' and girls' sides, selected the teams. Using the designated classes for the PVIAC Tournament, the players will be divided into six teams: two girls' teams, two boys' teams of Class A and B players, and two boys' teams of Class C and D players. Only graduating

seniors are eligible for the All-Star Games. Rosters are on the next page.

For the 15th year, the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame will recognize one boy and one girl as the Western Massachusetts Players of the Year. A special presentation will be made for the recipients during halftime of one of the participating games. A panel of local media members selects the award winners, who are recognized for their achievements on the court as well as their sportsmanship and character off the court.

Participants in the Boys Class C and D game include: Ware's Jack Gaudreau and Brady Guimond, Palmer's Dylan Doherty, Gavin Smola, and Stephen Fredette, Mahar's Jayden Delgado, Granby's Zavien Fernandez, and Monson's Austin Meacham.

In the girls game, participants include: Minnechaug's Cailin O'Brien, Kelly Cronin, and Elizabeth Woytowicz, Mahar's Hayden Comeau, and Agawam's Isabella Laprise.

And in the Boys A and B game, participants include: Holyoke's Jordan King-Perilli, Chicopee's Dominic Garcia, Belchertown's Jake Pacunas, Minnechaug's Miles Fergus, Chicopee Comprehensive's Brody Fay, and South Hadley's Isiah James.

Senators outstanding season ends in Round of 16

ORANGE – The Mahar Regional High School girls basketball team, which won 16 regular season games, was defeated in the Round of 16 by Minuteman Regional High School. Mahar had an outstanding 16-2 record in the regular season, then entered the Class C Tournament and defeated Lenox High School in the quarterfinals. They would lose to Drury in the semifinals, and then entered the state tournament.

Mahar drew a local opponent in the Round of 32, taking on Palmer High School and playing an outstanding game, defeating the Panthers 64-35. But their offense came up just a bit short last Monday evening at Minuteman, losing 46-43. In the loss, Hayden Comeau had 25 points while Taylor Paluk added 13.

Mahar's season ends with an overall record of 18-4.

T-Birds upset by Wild

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (22-27-5-2) put forth a big push down the stretch but succumbed to a late goal in falling 2-1 against the Iowa Wild (19-30-4-1) on Saturday night before the ninth consecutive Pink in the Rink sellout crowd of 6,793 inside the MassMutual Center.

The two clubs, who combined for 23 goals in two games in Des Moines in February, continued a week-end of tight checking in the opening period, with young netminders Will Cranley of Springfield (eight saves) and William Rousseau of the Wild (nine saves) turning away every shot that reached the target in period one. Dillon Dube came the

closest to breaking the tie for Springfield, ringing the post behind Rousseau with one offering.

The Thunderbirds were frequent penalty killers in the opening half of the game, and the Wild finally connected as their fourth power play began at 9:01 of the third, as Dylan Gambrell stole a clearing attempt, firing a shot on net to force a rebound off Cranley's pads. Tyler Pitlick drove to the rebound and backhanded it under Cranley to make it a 1-0 game as the veteran potted his ninth goal in 14 AHL games this season.

Cranley had to atone for his own gaffe late in the period when he turned a

See T-BIRDS, page 10



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

The participants are off in the 48th running of the Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race last March.

Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Road Race set to kick off big weekend

Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – Last March, for the first time in several years, it was gorgeous weather for the Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race.

More than 6,000 people participated in this year's event, with nearly 5,000 participants finishing the 10K, or 6.2-mile course.

It was Samuel Whittaker of Salem, CT, who finished the race in 31:24. Alex Corbett, who placed second in last year's race, came in 23 seconds later at 31:47.

The top female finisher was Angelia Rafter at 34:13 and she placed 12th overall. Rafter is from Glastonbury, CT.

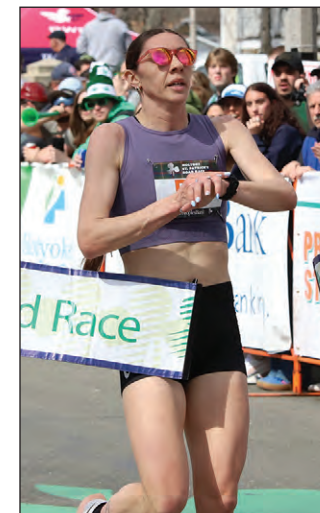
Among local finishers, Matt Provost of Monson was 19th overall at 35:09. Ryan Davis of South Hadley was a close 20th at 35:10. Lindsay



Samuel Whittaker crosses the first line first overall.

Smith of South Hadley finished 22nd at 35:12.

While the race course, commonly known as a "hilly" course throughout downtown Holyoke ending with a turn off Beech St.



Female winner Angelia Rafter crosses the finish line at 34:13.

and up the hill on Hampden St. toward the finish line remained largely the same, there was one noticeable change in this year's event.

Presidential Timing took over the official timing

duties after 4RUN3 went out of business last year. Those looking for more results from the events can go to www.presidentialtiming.com to look at more specific results from the race. Like previous timers, you can look up people by name and bib number to get more specific results.

This year, the road race is set to take place on Saturday, Mar. 21 with the main race beginning at 1 p.m.

This year's race would feature runners from all over the region, the state, and surrounding states as many are preparing for the Boston Marathon, set to take place in just under a month. Many runners over the years have enjoyed using the St. Patrick's Day Road Race as practice for the marathon because of the challenging

See ROAD RACE, page 10

Sports

More players wanted for Pioneer Valley Baseball league

SOUTH HADLEY – The Pioneer Valley Baseball League, an adult baseball league for players who are age 18 and over, is now fully open for registration for the 2026 season.

The adult league will be administered by the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, and a registration link is on the home page of the league's website www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. Thought it will be under the Quabbin umbrella, there will be no major changes in how the league is operated.

This year, the PVBL will have a 22-game regular season schedule followed by a double-elimination playoffs. The league, which had five teams last year and had to utilize multiple byes throughout the season, will be fielding a sixth team this season.

There are several spots open for that sixth team, so players interested in joining the league should get signed up as soon as possible to claim a spot.

The league is a wood-bat only league utilizing playing under regular baseball rules though all players do bat. The league operates on a Saturday-Tuesday schedule. Games are played on Saturday mornings with 10 a.m. starts typical and on Tuesday evenings with start times in the 5:30 to 6 p.m. range. The league will start play in late April and run through the end of August. There are slots open for both full-time players and part-time players. The fee for full-time players will be \$260 with part-time players getting up to 11 games for \$130. Fees paid go toward the operation of the league,

paying for insurance, umpires, fields, and baseballs. No one profits in any way.

In addition to the new sixth team, there are limited open roster spots on the other teams in the league, so get your registration in as soon as possible to participate in this season.

Games are played at ballfields throughout the region from as far south as Southwick's Whalley Field, through South Hadley's Beachgrounds and up north at Frontier Regional High School in South Deerfield.

For any questions, please go to the league website for more information. The league hopes interested players will come out and join the fun this spring and summer.

Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples of

photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our

sports sections, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

In the Classroom

Quabbin students having 'Snow' much fun

From the desk of Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent Colleen Mucha

This winter challenged all in ways that they have not experienced in awhile.

That is true for the Quabbin Regional School District students as well. There have been increased disruptions to learning including delayed starts and no school days. At the moment, students are thrilled when they think of sleeping in and playing in the snow.

However, with the recent storm Quabbin staff offered their students a Snow Day Challenge. They asked them to be sure to help out their families, neighbors and community with snow removal or whatever tasks were needed.

Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent Colleen Mucha reports Quabbin students rose to the challenge. Some students put in a full day's work and had very appreciative neighbors. All students, who participated, will get a Certificate of Community Service.



Amelia and Scofield Gaudette shovel under the lights.



Brayden Hurley plows snow on a 4 wheeler.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE from page 1

through grant funding.

"This work continues," he said.

The School Committee voted in favor of submitting the proposed budget to the town for review.

Superintendent's report
McCormick said he attended the annual legislative breakfast with other school superintendents to talk about challenges facing rural schools.

"To kind of talk about, or advocate for, what are the most pressing issues that we see in central Mass.," he said.

This includes Chapter 70 funding, Circuit Breaker reimbursement rates, trans-

portation reimbursement, and rural school aid. He said this past year, rural school aid was reduced significantly.

"That rural school aid, which only effects 63 districts in the state, would greatly impact North Brookfield if we had an increase with that," McCormick said.

McCormick was joined by High School Principal Brian Beck, Elementary School Principal Arthur Murphy, and teacher Micheal Tift had interviews with the One8 Foundation for the Investigative History application process.

"We're hoping to procure those grants for our social studies and history curriculum for grade three through

five and also grades six through seven," he said.

McCormick said the two grants would total about \$30,000 to cover training and supplies for teachers. The grant awards will be announced sometime in mid-March.

"We're hopeful that we receive these grants," he said. "We've done a lot of work with the One8 Foundation and they've supported what we've been doing here in North Brookfield."

McCormick said the IT Director and himself have been meeting with Joe Granda of SchoolInsights about updating the school district's student information system. He said the current system is "pretty easy to nav-

igate" for parents and teachers, but it has not been so for state reporting.

"We decided to make a move to SchoolInsights... they cater to smaller districts," he said.

McCormick said this new information system will also save the school district about \$6,000.

He said the second annual district-wide STEAM Night will be held on March 5. This event will showcase what students are learning in STEM, as well as the arts and music programs.

"It was very well-attended last year, we had over 250 people in attendance," McCormick said.

Recognitions
McCormick thanked the school district's custodial staff for making sure the buildings were ready and safe to open school following the second major snow storm of the year.

"I just want to applaud the entire team again," he said.

McCormick talked about the Quaboag Hills Choice Awards, and how preschool teacher Jackie Fernandez was nominated as teacher of the year.

"She is one of five teachers from the area who's been nominated for teacher of the year," McCormick said. "Jackie's done a fantastic job with our pre-K/Bridges program."

He encouraged people to go online and vote for Fernandez.

Administrators' reports
Beck said math teacher Stanley Cijka reached out to community organizations and North Brookfield Savings Bank will provide a financial education series for juniors and seniors at the high school. The students will learn about paying rent, securing loans, how credit works, purchasing a car and more.

On March 6, the Class of 2026 will compete with high school faculty in the gymnasium during a basketball fundraiser. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students, children and senior citizens.

A career day will be held on March 9.

Murphy said the elementary school students will create 200 cards to be distributed to veterans during WooSox games. He said a special guest from the WooSox will visit the school to collect the cards.

"We're very excited about that," he said.

The students celebrated reading with Camp Read-A-Lot Day at the end of the PTO's spirit week. He said the PTO members made pancakes, the Fire Department visited, and students visited various reading stations.

Director of Student

Services Dr. Michael Baldassarre said the state allocated \$3 million for districts across the state, and the school district received a grant award.

"I think it's a badge of honor for a district to have a program that the Department of Education believes in and that they'll back up with their funding," he said. "And that's happening right here in North Brookfield."

Baldassarre spoke about having a successful crisis intervention program, which requires involvement and modeling by school leadership.

He said the special education department is currently undergoing an audit for Title I, II and IV grants.

Baldassarre said, "Things are going really well and I'm really proud of the work we're doing."

Student update
McCormick said Unity Week was held prior to February break to celebrate inclusivity. He said the Student Council is preparing to head to Hyannis for the annual Massachusetts Association of Student Councils conference March 3-6.

He said there are about half a dozen students from the Student Council attending the conference and he is excited to see the recognized for their hard work.

ROAD RACE from page 9

hills throughout the streets of Holyoke that runners must navigate through.

While there has been a considerable amount of snowfall this past winter, the Holyoke DPW will have the streets utilized in the race ready to go for both runners and spectators. Helping

matters has been the recent warmer weather that has helped accelerate the melting a lot of the snow.

For participants in this year's race, Runner numbers and bib-tags can be picked up on Friday, Mar. 20 from 3 to 6 p.m. They can also be picked upon Saturday morning between 9 a.m. and 12 noon.

T-BIRDS from page 9

puck over right in front of an open goal, but he recovered to sprawl back into his crease and make a stop to hold the score at 1-0 into the third.

Steve Ott's team emptied the tank in the final period, to the tune of an 18-5 shot advantage. After failing to connect on two more power plays, the T-Birds used a great effort on the rush to finally crack into the score-sheet as Matthew Peca made a perfect drop pass onto

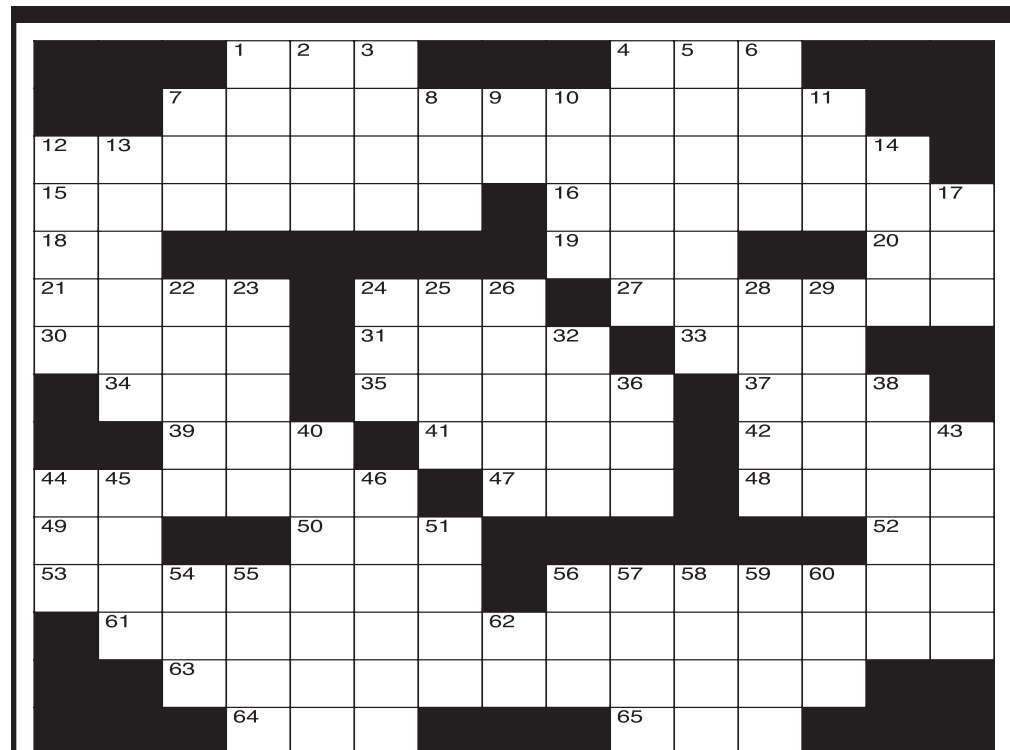
the tape of Hugh McGing, who one-timed it through Rousseau to even the score at 13:49.

The Thunderbirds had thoughts of jumping to the lead down the stretch, but Rousseau and Iowa kept Springfield from a tie-breaking goal. Instead, it would be the visitors who tasted victory late in the third. After a misplay at the offensive blue line from the T-Birds, Jean-Luc Foudy raced up the ice to set up a 2-on-1 with Gambrell, who one-timed a shot past a stretching Cranley

There will be free shuttle service going from Holyoke Community College to the race area. The shuttle will drop runners off at the Mater Dolorosa School parking lot outside of the clothing drop. Race officials advise using a shuttle by 12 noon in order to make the start of the race.

with exactly 2:00 remaining in regulation. Springfield's last-ditch efforts with Cranley on the bench for a sixth attacker came up empty, and Iowa completed the two-game sweep of the weekend. The visiting team won each of the four matchups in the season series between the teams.

The T-Birds returned to a sold-out Thunderdome on Wednesday, Mar. 11 as they host the Providence Bruins for the first of two games wearing St. Patty's Day specialty jerseys.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Blockchain-based entity
4. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
7. Painted with glue
12. Legendary crooner
15. Structure made with strips of wood
16. Tropical fruits
18. Commercial
19. Comedienne Gasteyer
20. The Ocean State
21. Ancient Scot
24. Basics
27. Stated propositions
30. Scottish island group
31. Expression of annoyance
33. Large tree
34. Engine additive
35. Conspiracy
37. Drunkard

39. Someone who is morally reprehensible
41. Ancient Syrian city
42. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
44. Carry (slang)
47. Sweet potato
48. European river
49. The Golden State
50. Windy City ballplayer
52. New Testament
53. Possess spiritually
56. A treeless grassy plain
61. Popular historical novel
63. In a law-abiding way
64. A place to sleep
65. Criticize

CLUES DOWN

1. Impression in a surface
2. Computer language
3. Relating to the ear

4. Occupant
5. Member of Great Plains people
6. Social media firm
7. Digital audiotape
8. Midway between east and southeast
9. Chronic, progressive disease
10. Chinese lute
11. Not wet
12. Moves wings up and down
13. Communication devices
14. Swiss river
17. Female sibling
22. Receive
23. Relating to a type
24. General's assistant (abbr.)
25. Steep bank
26. Taxi driver
28. Moves into without difficulty
29. Bicycle manufacturer
32. Traditional rhythmic pattern
36. Fugitives are on it
38. Bitter-tasting organic substance
40. Die
43. Matched
44. Literary genre ___-fi
45. Cannot
46. Pounded
51. British rock group
54. Debt relief order
55. 2006 NL Cy Young winner
56. Green vegetable
57. Tough outer skin of fruit
58. ___ Spumante (Italian wine)
59. Ailments
60. Famed singer Charles
62. Camper

ANSWERS ON PAGE 12

Church News

Local pastors offer sermons

A Good Man Part 1

Scripture abounds with impacting figures who have captivated the hearts of readers for millennia.

If I were to ask you to list significant figures who appear in the biblical record you might posit primary characters like Adam, Abraham, Moses, David, Joseph and Mary, Peter or Paul. Yet the Bible is also full of notable secondary characters who, in their own way(s), can be just as affecting. In this series let us consider one man who may not be widely known, but who remains critical: Barnabas.

How does Scripture characterize this man?

Acts 11:24a (NIV)

24 He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith . . .

There is much that this text begins to reveal about Barnabas. For instance, it indicates that he was a deeply spiritual man, who was reliant upon the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit. Moreover, he was clearly a man of deep, enduring faith-faith that had been cultivated by both the passing of time and hardship (as we shall note). Yet I want to hone in on one aspect of his life noted by the inspired writer of the Book of Acts, being St. Luke (24a): "He was a good man."

Upon first consideration this might sound contradictory when compared with other selections from the New Testament. After all, had not Christ Himself declared (Mark 10:18): "No one is good-except God alone." Thus, how do we reconcile Acts 11 with such a text? Quite simply, Acts 11:24 is not claiming that Barnabas's personal goodness was sufficient to save. Rather, as one who was saved by the grace of God, the Lord had cultivated goodness with the man via the Holy Spirit. Ultimately, is not goodness one aspect of the fruit of the Spirit? Consider what Paul proclaimed to the Christians of Galatia (Gal. 5:22b-23a): 22 . . . "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control."

Ultimately, we come at last to a key question: in what way(s) was Barnabas good? What does it mean to be good in kind?

In reply to this query, we do well to explore the meaning of the underlying term in the original language of the passage. The Greek word herein is "agathos," meaning virtuous and beneficial. It, thusly, speaks to one who is excellent and distinguished as to character, constitution and nature (i.e., upright or honorable). Moreover, the word speaks to one who is disposed to helpfulness and charity. As we shall note in publications to come, Barnabas was genuinely a good man in that he displayed each of these qualities in abundance! For homework, read through the Book of Acts and take note of those segments in which he is present. You will see a fitting model of Christian goodness as you do-a model that is inspirational and, more importantly, aspirational. We will continue with an examination of Barnabas in the weeks to come.

Thank you for taking the time to read this publication. Should you have any comments or questions, feel free to contact me at your leisure using the information below.

Also, feel free to check us out online at www.NewLifeBarre.org or visit us each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. We hope to see you soon.

Pastor James Foley

New Life Assembly of God
60 Main St. South Barre
jamesfoley
@newlifebarre.org
978-355-6407

Second Sunday of Lent

"Jesus, Our Teacher, the Son of God."

Scripture Reading: John 3 v 1-17

I. Introduction

Our busy lives often make it hard to discuss life's meaning and its connection to God in depth.

Addressing current issues related to God, religion and spirituality often involves particular efforts like formal meetings and conferences where these topics can be discussed. Arranging prayer gatherings that address crises such as health problems or social challenges takes careful planning and thoughtful conversation.

It is my view that incorporating greater discussion of faith and increasing opportunities for prayer meetings may foster a more positive environment and help address some of the challenges facing our world. Let's have a look at this conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus in John Chapter 3 and what it meant for this religious leader.

II. Jesus, Our Teacher, the Son of God

Nicodemus, as we know, was a member of the Pharisees and a member of the Jewish ruling Council. The Pharisees were known for their strict adherence to the Mosaic law and oral traditions. They were deeply devout and knowledgeable in religious affairs. While the Pharisees were not associated with the ruling elite, a few among them were, including Nicodemus. He was powerful, influential and played an important role in the Sanhedrin.

This conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus took place right after Jesus had cleared the temple and insisted that the House of God be respected. After being challenged by the Jews by what authority He was doing all this, He told them that if the temple were to be destroyed, He could raise it up in three days. He was talking about His body which would be killed and raised on the third day. The Jewish people were unable to grasp what He meant and now, this powerful leader visited Jesus during the night to challenge Him, seeking answers about the authority behind His actions. He stated that Jesus, the Rabbi, could only do these things if God is with Him. Jesus may have suspected that he came to secretly observe Him. Jesus responded with a spiritual explanation, stating that only those who are born again can see the kingdom of God. When Nicodemus didn't understand this answer, and wanted to know how this

could happen, Jesus told him that no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless they were born of water and Spirit.

Again, when Nicodemus did not understand what He meant, Jesus began to reveal more of Himself to him, that He was sent by God to save this world that it was through God's love for this world that God's Son had to come, be crucified, died and would rise again. Jesus next describes Himself as the light of the world, explaining that people who do evil are opposed to the light.

This encounter with Jesus seems to have influenced Nicodemus immensely, as he is later seen defending Jesus when the Chief Priests and Pharisees questioned the guards about why they had not brought Him in. Nicodemus asked whether the law does not require hearing someone out before condemning the person.

We then later see how Nicodemus joined Joseph of Arimathea taking Jesus' body away to be buried. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes and they wrapped Jesus' body and laid it in a new tomb in the garden, close to the place where Jesus was crucified. According to the Britannica encyclopedia, while it is not certain if he became a follower of Jesus, he was regarded as having sympathies toward Christianity.

During his conversation with Nicodemus, Jesus took the opportunity to patiently explain the purpose of his presence, preaching and performing miracles, thereby providing insight into his mission. Jesus, the Teacher and Son of God influenced the thoughts and behaviors of a prominent leader of the Pharisees.

III. Conclusion

As I stated at the beginning, it is sometimes difficult to bring into our conversations with others the message of God as it relates to certain issues, or questions we discuss. We see that Jesus, our Teacher, chose to interact with Nicodemus even though He was aware that the Pharisees and others were observing Him. He guided him into spiritual matters, revealing the contrast between light and darkness in the world, and that God sent Him to bring light where there was darkness.

Through this direct, but delicate conversation, Nicodemus heard the message of Jesus and saw something in Him that was worth respecting. While he did not save His life, one can only imagine that he was conflicted by the influence Jesus had on him. In the same way, as Christians, we are encouraged to openly share our faith, values, and beliefs with others. May Jesus's conversation with Nicodemus encourage us to be disciples even as the world grows dimmer.

Amen

Pastor Margaret Keyser
Barre Congregational Church
30 Park St., Barre

Joshua Charles Holden, 51

Joshua Charles Holden 51, born Aug. 18, 1974, passed away in Portland Maine on Jan. 24, 2026. Josh grew up in Hardwick, Massachusetts along with his three siblings, Glen, Jason, and Amber Holden.



a 100-mile hike with friends along South Downs Way.

After graduation, he worked for Viacom in New York City as a graphic designer and animator for television channels including MTV and Nick at Nite. He later worked as a sought-after freelancer in the industry, which allowed him time to continue his personal painting projects. The love of art came at a young age fostered by his paternal Grandmother Shirley (Randlett) Holden.

Josh, who never lost his love of the outdoors, moved to Maine in the early 2000s, working remotely in television production while living in the Mid Coast area. When he wasn't working, he enjoyed hiking, spending time at the beaches on Bailey Island and painting landscapes. He had an art studio in Bath, which he shared with the public during monthly art walks.

He was the proud father of Hudson, Bryce and Gemma. Josh was predeceased by his parents, Charles G. Holden

DEATH NOTICE

Holden, Joshua Charles
Died Jan. 24, 2026
Private burial to be held at the family's convenience at a later date.

and Lillian (Champagne) Holden, as well as his brother Glen. He is survived by his three children Hudson, Bryce and Gemma. He leaves his brother, Jason and his wife, Donna and their son, Ty Josh's godson; his sister, Amber and her daughter Jade and his sister-in-law, Renee and his niece and nephew, Rachel and Ben. He also leaves his lifelong friends, Josh Sinkoski, Kenny Ruggles and David Fleming.

In lieu of flowers the family asks for donations to be made in Josh's memory to The Art Walk Via: Visitbath.com or The Hardwick Community Fair P.O. Box 1 Hardwick MA 01037. A private burial will be held at the family's convenience at a later date.

To share memories of Joshua or to leave the family an online condolence, please visit www.athutchins.com.

Public Notices

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Paul Muise, Sr. to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mortgage Research Center, LLC dba Veterans United Home Loans, dated April 15, 2016 and registered at the Hampshire County Registry District of the Land Court as document number 19333, and noted on certificate of title number 2395, as modified by a certain modification agreement registered on November 8, 2021, and registered with the Hampshire County Registry District of the Land Court as Document No. 21243 as noted on Certificate of Title No. 2395, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Mortgage Research Center, LLC dba Veterans United Home Loans, its successors and assigns to PennyMac Loan Services, LLC, registered on May 5, 2021, Document No. 21027, as noted on Certificate of Title No. 2395 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at **Public Auction at 2:00 PM on April 14, 2026**, on the mortgaged premises located at 79 Pleasant Street, Ware, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage.

TO WIT: The land in said Ware, Hampshire County, Massachusetts bounded and described as follows:

A certain parcel of land situate in Ware together with the buildings thereon in the County of Hampshire and said Commonwealth bounded and described as follows:

SOUTHWESTERLY by the northeasterly line of Pleasant Street fifty and seventy-five one

hundredths (50.75) feet;

NORTHWESTERLY by land of Bridget Scheffer sixty-eight and seventy three one hundredths (68.73) feet;

NORTHEASTERLY by Lot C as shown on plan hereinafter mentioned fifty-seven and eighteen one hundredths (57.18) feet;

SOUTHEASTERLY by Lot A on plan above mentioned seventy-six and eighteen one hundredths (76.18) feet Being Lot B on sub-division plan numbered 609 B land in Ware, John T. Casey, Surveyor, January 1951. Sub-division plan filed in Registry District of Hampshire County November 2, 1951, Book 4, Page 13 1/2.

All of said boundaries are determined by the Court as shown on sub-division plan numbered 609 B as above referenced to. Subject to restrictions of record, if in force and effect.

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed registered with Hampshire County Registry District of the Land Court as Document No. 19332, as noted on Certificate of Title No. 2395. These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., New-

ton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC
Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500 28437
03/12, 03/19, 03/26/2026



Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Barre Gazette

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?

We invite you to join us Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm to explore these topics and more.

This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.

Please contact **Pat James 413-726-8661**.

Public Safety

Barre Police Log

Sunday, Feb. 8
 12:21 a.m. Fire – Fumes/Odor/Gas Leak, Williamsville Road, Investigated
 12:50 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle/Parking Issues, Summer Street, Information Taken
 10:41 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Hubbardston Road, Removed from Scene
 6:58 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Pleasant Street, Mutual aid Transport
 11:59 p.m. Fire – Motor Vesicle Collision, Williamsville Road, Vehicle Towed
Monday, Feb. 9
 1:02 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Ruggles Lane, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 3:30 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Wauwinet Road, No Transport Required
 3:36 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, South Street, Mutual Aid Assist

Tuesday, Feb. 10
 10:23 a.m. ACO Lost and Found/Wildlife, Summer Street, Officer/Chief Advised
 12:59 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Trauma, Cedar Street, Mutual Aid Assist
 4:48 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Exchange Street, Area Search Negative
 10:39 p.m. Serve Warrant, South Street, Prisoner Bailed
 Arrest Sargent, Kent R., 33, South Barre
 Charges Warrant

Wednesday, Feb. 11
 12:18 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Seizures, Pleasant Street, Transported to Hospital
 12:53 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Walnut Hill Road, Mutual Aid Assist
 5:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Vernon Avenue, Written Warning

Thursday, Feb. 12
 11:11a.m. Animal – ACO Call, School North Street, Information Taken
 12:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Butterworth Road, Information Taken
 4:08 p.m. Harassment, Lane Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 5:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Written Warning
 7:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
 8 p.m. Complaint, Summer Street, Officer Spoke to Party

Friday, Feb. 13
 3:57 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Stroke (CVA), Pleasant Street, Transported to Hospital
 6:27 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Sheldon Road, Report Filed

Saturday, Feb. 14
 8:20 a.m. Animal – Wildlife, South Street, Information Given

Rutland Police Log

Sunday, Feb. 8
 1:25 a.m. Fire – Power Lines/Wires, Main Street, Investigated
 1:59 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident – No Fire/EMS Response, Main Street, Report Filed
 3:25 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Barre Paxton Road, Report Filed
 8:21 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Thornapple Circle, Transported to Hospital
 10:21 a.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Hillside Road, Referred to Other Agency
 2:03 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Seizures, Miles Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 4:11 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Fir Street, Negative Contact
 6 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued
 6:20 p.m. Erratic Operator, Barre Paxton Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 6:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Glenwood Road, Citation Issued
 11:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning
 11:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning

Monday, Feb. 9
 1:13 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Barre Paxton Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 1:23 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Brintnal Drive, No Action Required
 4:07 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Wachusett Street, Report Filed
 8:14 a.m. Safety Concern, Wildbrook Drive, Referred to Other Agency
 8:44 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Brintnal Drive, No Action Required
 10:31 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Barre Paxton Road, Removed from Scene
 11:13 a.m. Lookout (Home or Vehicle, Davis Street, Entry Gained
 11:25 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Wellness Check, Barre Plains Road, No Transport Required

Tuesday, Feb. 10
 8:45 a.m. Safety Concern, Main Street, Officer/Chief Advised
 12:38 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Village Way, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 1:01 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Crawford Road, Transported to Hospital
 1:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 1:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
 1:40 p.m. Fire – Propane Incident, Pleasantdale Road, Investigated
 2:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Citation Issued

Wednesday, Feb. 11
 12:14 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Juniper Lane, Transported to Hospital
 4:52 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Glenwood Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 8:34 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Barrack Hill Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 10:11 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Vehicle Towed
 Summons Dipilato, Albert, 71, Rutland
 Charges Unregistered Motor Vehicle, Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With
 10:24 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Laurelwood Road, No Transport Required
 10:51 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Main Street, No Transport Required
 11:36 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Clealand Circle, No Transport Required
 3:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Citation Issued
 3:34 p.m. ACO Lost and Found/Wildlife, Maple Avenue, Officer/Chief Advised
 3:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
 4:20 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Watson Lane, Officer Spoke to Party
 4:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Pursuit, Main Street, Arrest(s) Made
 Arrest Olivio Adorono, Jose Luis, 25, Worcester
 Charges License Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With, Subsequent Offense, Stop/Yield, Fail To, Speeding Rate of Speed Exceeding Posted Limit, Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle, Marked Lanes Violation, Stop for Police, Fail
 11:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 11:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Thursday, Feb. 12
 2:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Country Road, Vehicle Towed
 3:55 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Main Street, Investigated
 4:17 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Bushy Lane, Officer Spoke to Party
 4:18 p.m. Harassment, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 4:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, East County Road, Negative Contact
 5:45 p.m. Landlord Tenant/Neighbor Dispute, Maple Avenue, Officer/Chief Advised
 7:49 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Allergic Reaction, Miles Road, Transported to Hospital

Friday, Feb. 13
 12:44 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Paddock Road, Transported to Hospital
 1:13 a.m. Childbirth, Maple Avenue, Mutual Aid Transport
 6:04 a.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Juniper Lane, Investigated
 8:14 a.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Michael Drive, Officer Spoke to Party
 9:38 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 10:52 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Kyle Hunter Circle, No Transport Required
 12 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Memorial Drive, Transported to Hospital
 3:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 3:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 3:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Forest Hill Drive, Written Warning
 3:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 4:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 4:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 5:36 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Pommogussett Road, Transported to Hospital
 10:34 p.m. Erratic Operator, Maple Avenue, No Action Required

Saturday, Feb. 14
 12:07 a.m. Prisoner – Watch or Meal, UMass University, Removed to Court/Lockup
 6:35 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Edson Avenue, Transported to Hospital
 10:38 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Lantern Lane, Transported to Hospital
 11:12 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Turkey Hill Drive, Officer/Chief Advised
 3:58 p.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Charnock Hill Road, Unfounded
 11:07 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, East County Road, Information Taken
 11:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
 11:17 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Michael Drive, Officer/Chief Advised

Oakham Police Log

Sunday, Feb. 8
 6:20 p.m. Erratic Operator, Barre Paxton Road, Officer Spoke to Party

Monday, Feb. 9
 10:12 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Skyline Drive, Officer Spoke to Party
 11:25 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Barre Plains Road, No Transport Required

Tuesday, Feb. 10
 12:38 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Skyline Drive, Investigated
 6:50 p.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, East Hill Road, Investigated

Wednesday, Feb. 11
 5:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
 7:13 p.m. Speak to the Chief/Officer, North Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital

Friday, Feb. 13
 4:04 a.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Juniper Lane, Investigated
 9:10 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Citation Issued
 5:43 p.m. Fire – Fuel Spill, North Brookfield Road, Removed from Scene

Saturday, Feb. 14
 10:49 Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, East Hill East Road, Unfounded

Hubbardston Police Log

Sunday, Feb. 8
 1:35 p.m. Property Damage, Gardner, Report Filed
 6:49 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Kruse Road, Mutual Aid Assist
 9:03 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Old Boston Turnpike, Vehicle Towed

Monday, Feb. 9
 8:03 a.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Barre Road, Removed from Scene
 4:19 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Streeter Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 4:26 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, Main Street, Mutual Aid Assist
 6:35 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Natty Pond Road, No Transport Required

Tuesday, Feb. 10
 6:26 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Gardner Road, Report Filed
 7:02 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Cross Road, Report Filed

Wednesday, Feb. 11
 5:19 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, New Westminster Road, Report Filed
 5:15 p.m. Safety Concern, Williamsville Road, Area Search Negative
 8:56 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Whole Town, Referred to Other Agency
 9:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Gardner Road, Vehicle Towed
 10:02 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Cross Road, Vehicle Towed
 11:09 p.m. Property Damage, New Templeton Road, Information Taken

Thursday, Feb. 12
 11:16 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Williamsville Road, Public Assist

Friday, Feb. 13
 6:04 a.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Juniper Lane, Investigated

Saturday, Feb. 14
 11:15 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Main Street, No Transport Required
 11:37 a.m. Fraud or Forgery, Gardner Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 3:58 p.m. Safety Concern, Gardner Road, Officer Spoke to Party

Hardwick Police Log

During the weeks of Feb. 23-March 9, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 120 building/property checks, 71 directed/area patrols, 25 radar assignments, nine traffic controls, 16 emergency 911 calls, eight citizen assists, two assist other agencies, three complaints, seven safety hazards, four scams, one threat, two fires, one motor vehicle investigation, one investigation, seven animal calls and 30 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, Feb. 23
 9:10 a.m. Safety Hazard, Thayer Road, Referred to Other Agency

Tuesday, Feb. 24
 3:27 a.m. Medical Alarm, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital
 9:59 a.m. Safety Hazard, Goddard Road, Referred to Other Agency
 1:23 p.m. Safety Hazard, New Braintree Road, Services Rendered
 1:30 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Prospect Street, Officer Handled
 1:42 p.m. Medical Alarm, Church Lane, Services Rendered
 8:33 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled

Wednesday, Feb. 25
 2:01 p.m. Scam, Sullivan Avenue, Officer Handled
 7:28 p.m. Threat, Petersham Road, Report Taken

Thursday, Feb. 26
 1:36 a.m. Suspicious Activity, Patrail Hollow Road, Officer Handled
 10:19 a.m. Serve Warrant, Petersham Road, Arrest(s) Made
 10:30 a.m. Complaint, Breen Road, Services Rendered
 12:48 p.m. Safety Hazard, Greenwich Road, Services Rendered
 6:13 p.m. Assist Citizen, Petersham Road, Officer Handled

Friday, Feb. 27
 10:39 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Written Warning

Saturday, Feb. 28
 11:24 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Written Warning
 2:23 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Old Petersham Road, Officer Handled
 3:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning
 3:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning
 4:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning
 5:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 5:47 p.m. Investigation, Petersham Road, Officer Handled
 6:26 p.m. Medical Alarm, Delargy Road, Transported to Hospital
 8:58 p.m. Assist Citizen, Police Station, Spoken To

Monday, March 2
 9:54 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Petersham Road, Citation Issued
 11:45 a.m. Assist Citizen, Petersham Road, Officer Handled
 1:24 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Officer Handled
 2 p.m. 911 Assist Citizen, Main Street, Referred to Other Agency
 5:27 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Prouty Road, Patient Refusal

Tuesday, March 3
 1:20 p.m. Medical Emergency, Barre Road, Officer Handled
 1:37 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Crash, Petersham Road, Vehicle Towed
 3:32 p.m. Safety Hazard, Main Street, Officer Handled

Wednesday, March 4
 1:52 a.m. Fire/Other, Maple Street, Services Rendered

Thursday, March 5
 9:19 a.m. 911 Animal Call, Petersham Road, Referred to Other Agency
 9:30 a.m. Complaint, Hardwick Center, Officer Handled
 10:38 a.m. Scam, Gaudet Road, Report Taken
 4:58 p.m. Safety Hazard, High Street, Services Rendered

Friday, March 6
 12:50 a.m. Safety Hazard, Town Wide, Services Rendered
 10:14 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Barre Road, Transported to Hospital
 4:22 p.m. Parking Complaint, Main Street, Spoken To
 5:17 p.m. 911 Scam, Hardwick Road, Report Taken
 6:37 p.m. Scam, Main Street, Report Taken

Saturday, March 7
 7:46 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Charity Hill Road, Transported to Hospital
 3:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning
 4:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 5:30 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Dispatch Handled
 5:46 p.m. Fire/Illegal Burn, Barre Road, Extinguished
 6:30 p.m. Assist Citizen, Church Street, Officer Handled
 11:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Church Lane, Negative Contact

Monday, March 9
 2:07 a.m. Medical Alarm, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital

9:40 p.m. 911 Disabled Motor Vehicle, Lucas Road, Officer Handled
11:48 p.m. Assist Citizen, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled



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