

BARRE GAZETTE

USPS 044560

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

May 14, 2026 | Vol. 191, No. 6 | \$1.00

www.barregazette.turley.com

Planning Board continues gas station hearing

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
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BARRE – The Planning Board continued the public hearing for the proposed gas station, convenience store and car wash submitted by Pine Hill Leasing and Bruce McDonald.

The original proposal was started in early April and the engineering firm reviewing the plan, Graves Engineering, has not begun their review yet.

At the May 5 meeting, the Planning Board signed the contract allowing Graves Engineering to review the site, which will be paid for by the applicant. After the contract was signed, the board opened up the room for public comment.

Richard Power, a resident who lives near-by the proposed site of the gas station, asked if the Planning Board does site reviews in order to get an idea for where proposed projects are placed.

Planning Board Chair Floyd Kelley said site walks are the job of the Conservation Commission. Power said he welcomes the board to his property to see how much light comes through from the Barre Health Center.

“I just want people to understand why we’re actually here,” Power said.

Resident Jessica Power, who lives on the same property, asked why it is necessary for there to be a liquor store, convenience store and drive-thru take-out food windows.

Kelley said it is only the job of the Planning Board to ensure the property meets town bylaws, not decide whether a property is needed. He said the board cannot disenfranchise or endorse a

See BARRE, page 5

Petersham Art Show features two artists



Courtesy photo

Artist Jude Kallock works in her studio. See story and more photos page 2.

Proposition 2.5 fails at polls

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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RUTLAND – Following the passing of the proposition 2.5 override at the annual town meeting on May 9, the second step in its passing was for voters to approve it on a ballot question.

There were three questions on the May 11 ballot, 1A approving the \$3 million override for fiscal year 2027, which was approved at town meeting. 1B was to approve an additional \$1.1 million for FY 28. Question 1C was to approve an additional \$1 million in assessments for FY 29.

Unofficial results posted to the town website show that all three questions failed, with question 1A receiving 833 yes votes and 1,040 no votes, question 1B receiving

761 yes votes and 1,095 no votes, and question 1C receiving 731 yes votes and 1,128 no votes.

According to email correspondence from Executive Assistant Tomeca Murphy, the failure on the ballot is a failure of the override altogether, regardless of its passing at town meeting.

Murphy said the Town Administrator Heather Butler, “will work with the Select Board and staff to prepare for the cuts that will be effective on July 1.”

Murphy wrote that some of the effects of this will be reduced town hall hours, to two days a week, reduced Council on Aging hours to three days a week, loss of library hours to 32 hours a week, the loss of five full-

See OVERRIDE, page 7

Pathfinder receives record-breaking grant

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
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PALMER – Pathfinder Regional School District has been awarded a monumental \$3.5 million grant from the state.

Earlier this month, Superintendent Eric Duda attended the official announcement event and press conference in Marlborough that was hosted by Governor Maura Healey to announce the funds being awarded to Pathfinder. The funding will support the expansion of 150 Career Technical Education seats, and the repurposing of the former Cold Spring School in Belchertown as an expanded campus.

Duda described the award as a transformational moment for the district.

“This \$3.5 million award is truly game changing for Pathfinder Tech,” Duda said. “We are about to embark

on the largest expansion in the history of our school district, and we are honored to receive the largest grant award ever awarded to Pathfinder Tech.”

“You don’t need to try to duplicate with an introductory version of what we offer. Instead, remember that Pathfinder Tech is already the town’s school, and students are now guaranteed to have a seat available for them to attend.”

– Superintendent Eric Duda

The new campus in Belchertown is scheduled to open in September of this year. The school promised additional updates and announcements regarding the project in the coming

months, as the district prepares the campus for students.

“This is a tremendous opportunity not only for Pathfinder Tech but for the entire region,” said Duda. “We are ensuring that a former school building remains an active, thriving educational space while giving more students the chance to pursue rewarding career pathways. This expansion is a milestone for career technical education in Western Massachusetts, building on decades of success at Pathfinder Tech and opening new doors for students.”

To ensure that the new campus preserves its local roots and maintains a strong connection to the community, Pathfinder will invite Belchertown residents to help select a name for the new campus through a community survey.

In addition to creating new educational opportunities, the Cold Spring



Submitted photo

Superintendent Eric Duda (left) met with Governor Maura Healey to accept the grant of \$3.5 million.

location is expected to create new educational opportunities, generate local job growth, and strengthen community partnerships by pre-

serving a valuable community asset and addressing the increased need for skilled

See PATHFINDER, page 8

Board interviews TA candidates

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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Alex Magee

HUBBARDSTON – The Select Board interviewed three candidates for the town administrator position at their Monday meeting.

The board is looking to appoint a new administrator, as the interim, Sean Fitzgerald, has a term ending no later than June 30.

The three candidates interviewed were Alex Magee, Allyson Mitchell, and Elizabeth Kazinskas. Each candidate was asked four scripted questions by each member of the Select Board, then each board member had the opportunity for one follow up.

Magee was the first candidate interviewed, and was asked how he would work on the school’s budget increasing at a higher percentage than revenue in Hubbardston.

Magee said many communities face this issue, with schools growing too fast, and the revenue growth of towns are limited by proposition 2.5. He said the budget for Quabbin increased 7.5%, and it can sacrifice the town’s budget, and can be disproportionate.

Magee said he would get on the same page with the superintendent, boards, and committees to gain understanding of the situation. He said the school is the biggest asset, and there should be col-

See HUBBARDSTON, page 7

Override, school budget pass at ATM

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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RUTLAND – The annual town meeting was held last Saturday, where voters gathered to decide on the town budget, the school budget and capital purchases, among other articles.

One of the articles at the May 9 meeting had to do with a proposed \$3 million override for fiscal year 2027 to provide level services to the town.

The total budget proposed in article 4 was about \$11.675 million dollars, with the aforementioned \$3 million to be funded by the passage of the proposition 2.5 override at the town meeting and town elections.

According to the explanation in the warrant, if the override passed at both events, the town would have been able to raise taxes above the 2.5% limit, and

if it did not pass, the town would operate on the balanced budget in the warrant.

An alternate motion was made on the town meeting floor by Finance Committee member Darren Ross, which requested the town raise and appropriate \$10.047 million for the upcoming fiscal year, excluding the line items community television and education 300-399. The second part of the motion was to raise and appropriate an additional \$1.778 million to fund the budget, if the override were to pass at the election, also excluding education and community television.

The third part of the motion was to use about \$660,000 in free cash to fund the budget if the override were not to pass, and if it did, the town could not spend it without approval at another town meeting.

After the motion, the floor was open to discus-

sion. One resident said the school takes up 62% of the budget, and the costs stay the same even though the enrollment decreased. The resident also said the town would not be the same if services were lost.

Ruthann Rovezzi, chair of the Library Board of Trustees said without an override, the library will reduce hours of operations and staffing, and they will not meet the state standards for certification of libraries.

One resident said she did not want to see her taxes go up, but said it is possible to give up purchases to pay off the taxes, but she did not want to give up services like police, fire, and EMS. She said home insurances could go up due to risk assessments as a result of limited public safety.

After discussion, voters approved the amended motion made by Ross, passing the override 243-135.

School budget

As printed in the warrant, article 7 looked to raise and appropriate \$18.808 million for the Wachusett Regional School District Assessment, with \$10.102 million being the minimum contribution, about \$140,500 being for debt service, \$1.883 million being for transportation, and \$6.681 million being for the discretionary assessment.

An alternative motion was made by Ross to raise and appropriate \$18.283 million dollars, and to raise an additional \$100,000 for the discretionary assessment if the override passed.

A resident asked why the school could not amend their budget. Superintendent of the WRSD Jim Riley said the school budget is actually below average in many aspects.

Another resident said that if the town chooses not to

See RUTLAND, page 7



News of the Towns



ROUND TOWN
by Ellenor Downer
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Auxiliary hosts Veterans coffee hour
The Barre American Legion Auxiliary invites veterans of all ages to join the seniors at the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center, 557 S. Barre Road, on Wednesday, May 20 at 9 a.m. for a coffee hour. Auxiliary members should bring something yummy to share. The time of this get together changed from previous coffee hours.

Memorial Day ceremonies
Barre Post 2, American Legion hosts the Memorial Day ceremonies on Monday, May 25. The first will be at the monument in South Barre at 9:15 a.m. The second will be at St Joesph's Cemetery at 10 a.m.. The third will be at Glen Valley Cemetery at 10:30 a.m. At noon a parade will begin in Barre Center. All Veterans are welcome and encouraged to participate. At 1:15p.m. the annual chicken barbecue will be held at the Post Quarters at 450 South Barre Road.

Circle of Song concert
Circle of Song completes the vocal groups 25th anniversary season with a concert on Saturday, May 16 at 7 p.m. in the Barre Town Hall, 2 Exchange St., Barre at 7 p.m. On the docket this concert are the following songs: "Down By the Riverside," a traditional African-American spiritual; "No One is Alone" from "Into the Woods;" "The Promise of Living" from The "Tender Land;" "Les Miserables" medley from the musical of the same name; "Make Our Garden Grow" from "Candide;" "Brightly Dawns Our Wedding Day" from the Mikado; "Solitude" by Duke Ellington; "Waltzing Matilda," traditional Australian; "Total Praise" by Richard Smallwood and "Till There Was You" from "The Music Man." This is a free concert and refreshments will be served. For more information, people may email Julie Rawson at julie@mhof.net or call 978-257-1192.

Food Pantry distributions
The next Barre Food Pantry distribution will occur on Thursday, May 21 from 5:30-7 p.m. In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients May 13 and 21 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.

Listening Wellness offers tea on the porch

BARRE – The Listening Wellness Center, 35 South St., offers tea on the porch on the Second Saturday of the month during now through October.
The next tea on the porch will be Saturday, June 13 from 10 a.m.-noon. This is an opportunity to learn about the programs they offer.
A 12 week program of music lessons with Bill Roy begins Fridays from 2-6 p.m. in the Creative Arts Studio for either 30 or 60 minute time slots. People may email musicmanforj@yahoo.com to schedule lessons.
Summer strength training classes begin on Wednesday, May 27 with Rhonda. To register, people may email hello@wellness365.fit.
Yoga with Kassia begins Monday, June 1. People may register by visiting listeningwellness.org/events/.
People may also visit the Barre Farmers Market, on the Common, every Saturday until the end of October.

Petersham Art Show features two artists

PETERSHAM – The Petersham Art Center, 8 North St., presents "All Paths in the Labyrinth" Sunday, May 17 to Sunday, June 14 during hours Thursdays through Sundays from noon-4 p.m.
An opening reception for Jude Kallock and Julie Pepper takes place Sunday, May 17 from 4-6 p.m. at the art center. People will meet the artists and refreshments served.
If life is a journey, not a destination, then the labyrinth is a true visual representation of that journey.



Courtesy photos
Artist Julie Pepper smiles at the opening of a gallery show.



This is art work by Julie Pepper.
This is an example of art work by Jude Kallock

Barre Dining Center

BARRE — Elder Services of Worcester Area Nutrition Program welcomes guests to dine at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road. The following meals will be served for the week of May 18. Lunches are back at the senior center, but require a pre-sign up. Volunteers are needed at the Barre dining site. Volunteers are needed for Meals on Wheels (mileage reimbursement) and in the kitchen. People should contact 978-355-5027.
MONDAY – Ranch chicken, vegetable couscous, spinach, fresh fruit, pumpkin bread
TUESDAY – Chicken cranberry salad, pasta salad, tomato and onion salad, Lorna Doone cookies, sandwich roll
WEDNESDAY – Burgundy pork, mashed potatoes, Brussels sprouts, pear crisp, diet = applesauce, Italian bread
THURSDAY – Holiday Meal – Hot dog, baked beans, Coleslaw, baked apples, mustard, hot dog bun
FRIDAY – American chop suey, roasted cauliflower, carrots, chocolate brownie, diet = half piece whole wheat bread
*Higher sodium entree Meal includes milk and margarine. Menus are subject to change. All meals are served at about 11:45 a.m. each weekday. Reservations should be made the day before by calling 978-355-5027 before 10:30 a.m. The donation of \$3.00 per meal helps keep the program running.

Food Pantry holds May 21 distribution

BARRE – The next Barre Food Pantry distribution will occur on Thursday, May 21 from 5:30-7 p.m.
The Barre Food Pantry volunteers strive to continue to fulfill their mission to get food to hungry and food insecure clients. The pantry must also continue to protect clients, volunteers and the larger community from the spread of disease viruses.
Many clients and volunteers are classified as high-risk due to their age and/or underlying health conditions. The Barre Food Pantry Board of Directors has considered changing how the pantry currently operates, but has decided that the most responsible path forward is to continue to operate as we have since March of 2020.
In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients May 21 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.



OAKHAM
by Ellenor Downer
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OHA open house happens May 24
The first open house by the Oakham Historical Association takes place at the Oakham Historical Museum, 1221 Old Turnpike Road, on Sunday, May 24 from 1-4 p.m. At 1 p.m. Andrew Boone, local author of the book "Bathsheba Spooner," presents a reading and shows slides of the book.
Known as "a most horrid piece of villainy" one observer wrote upon hearing of what is now recognized as the most sensational crime of the American 18th century. It is the Revolutionary counterpart to the Lizzie Borden case from the next century. Open houses are the last Sunday of the month. Other dates are June 28, July 26, Aug. 23, Sept. 27 and Oct. 25. There is a virtual tour of the Quabbin Cemetery on June 28 at 1 p.m.

Summer band concerts
The summer band concert series begins on Thursday, June 25 from 6:30-8 p.m. on the Oakham. The Friends of the Oakham Bandstand sell popcorn, drinks and ice cream. Other Thursday concert dates include: July 9 The Traveling Homebodies, July 23 The Long Run: Songs of the Eagles, Aug. 13 The Cropdusters and Aug. 20 The Otters.

Ordination of Carissa M. Rodriguez
The Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, will hold an ordination service for Carissa M. Rodriguez, lay pastor, on Saturday, May 16 from 1-2 p.m. A reception follows in Fellowship Hall.

COA events

The monthly Council on Aging meeting will be held Friday, May 8 at noon in the voting room at the Oakham Town Hall. Lunch Bunch will meet Friday May 15 at Scruffy Murphy's in Tatnuck Square in Worcester at 12:30 p.m. Note: the location was incorrect in last week's edition. Podiatry Clinic will be held Monday, May 18 from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; an appointment is required. Blood pressure and glucose screening will be held Tuesday, May 26 from 11a.m.-1 p.m.; no appointment is needed. Ongoing activities include puzzling Monday through Thursday at 9 a.m., regularly scheduled yoga Tuesdays at 1 p.m., Zumba Gold in New Braintree Town Hall Wednesdays at 8:45 a.m. \$3 per class and Functional fitness class Fridays in New Braintree Town Hall at 10:30 a.m., \$3 per class Walking groups and weigh in on Thursdays at noon.

Congregate hot meals

Congregate hot meals are held 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.-12.15 p.m. by calling 508-882-4072.

Concerts on the Common schedule

NORTH BROOKFIELD – North Brookfield Parks and Recreation, in conjunction with North Brookfield Cultural Council, will be hosting Concerts on the Common this summer season.
A Mass Cultural Council grant is making these concerts possible for all residents to enjoy.
Dates and bands include May 30 –North Brookfield High School band, followed by DJ Tabby Leblanc; June 20 – Ravenwood, an easy listening blue grass band; July 25 – Sue Lyons, an acoustical guitar player and vocalist; Aug. 15 – Stan Matthews, country music with some exceptional Johnny Cash tunes; and Sept. 12 – the Superchargers, a fun rock and roll band.
All concerts are free, they are held on Saturdays and start at 6 p.m. and end around 8 p.m. Food will be available for purchase but folks are welcome to bring their own. Feel free to bring chairs, blankets, bug spray and sunscreen – whatever makes you comfortable.
The playground is right on the common, located on Grove Street in town.
There will also be games for families to enjoy and some surprise craft tables during some concerts.

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.



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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE

Zoning Board of Appeals – May 14 at 7 p.m. and June 18 at 6 p.m.
 Select Board – May 18 at 5 p.m.
 Water Commission – May 18 and June 8 at 5:30 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – May 18 at 6 p.m.
 Town Meeting – May 19 at 6:30 p.m.
 Planning Board – May 19 and June 2 at 7 p.m.
 Historical Commission – May 28 at 11 a.m.
 Cemetery Commission – May 28 at 11 a.m.
 Felton Field Commission – June 2 at 6:30 p.m.
 Council on Aging – June 3 at 12:30 p.m.
 Board of Health – June 8 at 5 p.m.
 DPW Commission – June 8 at 6 p.m.
 Cable Advisory Committee – June 9 at 7 p.m.

HARDWICK

Board of Health – May 14 at 6:30 p.m.
 Master Plan Steering Committee – May 14 at 6:30 p.m.
 Paige Library Trustees – May 14 and June 4 at 7 p.m.
 Capital Planning Committee – May 18 at 3 p.m.
 Gilbertville Water District – May 19 at 5:30 p.m.
 Planning Board – May 19 at 6:30 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – May 20 at 6:30 p.m.
 Wheelwright Water District – May 20 at 7 p.m.
 Council on Aging – June 3 at 12:30 p.m.
 Town Meeting – June 6 at 9 a.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Board of Park Commissioners – May 14 at 6 p.m.
 Finance Committee – May 14 at 6 p.m.
 Select Board – May 15 at 6:30 p.m.
 Council on Aging – May 20 at 4 p.m.
 Planning Board – May 21 at 6:30 p.m.
 Board of Health – May 26 at 7 p.m.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Planning Board – May 20 all day

OAKHAM

Board of Health – May 14 at 6 p.m.
 Town Election – May 18 from 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – May 19 at 6 p.m.
 Planning Board – May 19 at 7 p.m.
 Rep. Berthiaume and Sen. Durant Staff Office Hour – May 20 from 12:15-1 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Select Board – May 14 at 5:30 p.m., May 19 at 10 a.m., May 21 at 5:30 p.m., May 26 at 8:30 a.m., May 28 at 5:30 p.m. and June 11, June 18 and June 25 at 5:30 p.m.
 Advisory Finance Committee – May 14, May 21, May 28 and June 1, all at 6 p.m.
 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Committee – May 16 at 11:30 a.m.
 Petersham Historic District – May 21 at 6 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – May 22 at 9 a.m.
 Open Space and Recreation Committee – June 2 at 6 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – June 2 at 7 p.m.
 Zoning Board of Appeals – June 2 at 7 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Aug. 10 at 10:30 a.m.

Editorial deadline reminder

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

Remembering Eric Goodhart

By Ellenor Downer
 Editor
 edowner@turley.com

HUBBARDSTON – Eric Goodhart was a freelance writer for the Barre Gazette for several years.

He loved to write and was a good writer. He knew English grammar well as people of his generation did.

He died of cancer on April 20, 2026 at the age of 83. His obituary and photo appears in this week's paper. He leaves his wife, Carol; daughter, Susan and brother, Bill.

He covered the Ware River Watershed meetings held in Rutland and special events at the Rutland Historical Society for the Barre Gazette. He quickly made friends with both groups.

He also covered events in Hubbardston, where he lived, such as the annual Memorial Day ceremony. He wrote several business stories for the Meet the Merchants supplements. He also took photos of many events.

He was the Director of Programs for Education and a Certified Reiki Master Teacher. He taught Reiki at several local senior centers. He wrote a series of columns about community colleges in Massachusetts for this paper.

He continued learning throughout his life and continued work into his senior years.

Here are some samples of his writing.

He wrote on Thursday, Feb. 23, 2020 of a meeting with representatives from the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Conservation and Recreation at the Ware

River Watershed Advisory Committee at the Rutland Free Public Library. About 80 people attended and in his words "the public was there to listen attentively."

He stated in this article, "The state last updated the watershed's public access management plan in 2010, with the goal to update it every ten years. Planning for this decade began in 2019 but at the February 2020 meeting, there was not enough room for the many residents that came. The meeting was postponed to March. But the Covid-19 pandemic put the entire effort to seek public feedback on hold. It began again in November 2022 in Barre. The Rutland meeting was the second meeting seeking feedback. And they got it."

In September 2020, he covered a Ware River Watershed Advisory Council meeting at Quabbin Region High School in Barre.

Goodhart stated, "The people have not only spoken; they have been heard."

The Ware River Watershed Advisory Council had a public meeting at the Quabbin Regional High School on Wednesday, Sept. 13. Chair of the WRWAC, Jeffrey Schaaf along with the Council members efforts to continue to allow public access to the watershed paid off."

He stated, "It has been a long time since the Commonwealth began the process. The Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Conservation and Recreation presented their final plan that night by the Director of Natural Resources, Dan Clark."

"It had been almost

three years since the Commonwealth began the process in 2019, but the pandemic and lockdowns delayed the proceedings to review the DEP policies every ten years. But by the time the DEP met via Zoom on Feb. 23, thousands of concerned citizens had heard that some restrictive changes to the Ware River Watershed Public use policies were planned and they were alarmed."

"Many were apprehensive at the Rutland Library that night. Many citizens came to hear firsthand from several representatives from the DEP. The proposals reducing or eliminating some recreational uses of the Ware River Watershed to ensure that the quality of the water was never contaminated and safe to drink into the future appeared not to have been scientifically based on sound research over time. The question and answer part became heated."

In the final paragraph of this article, Goodhart stated, "At the end of the Quabbin meeting Dan Clark stated that the final plan included a statement that the 'Division of Water Supply Protection DWSP will reserve the right to become more restrictive if access issues arise and cannot be resolved.' Therefore, the members of the WRWAC urge all citizens using the beautiful natural resources of the Commonwealth, public and private to continue to be careful stewards of the land."

Eric Goodhart's written words as a Barre Gazette correspondent will continue in the archives of this paper long after he stopped writing.

Circle of Song holds spring concert

BARRE – The Circle of Song holds its spring concert on Saturday, May 16 at 7 p.m. in the Barre Town Hall, 2 Exchange St.

Circle of Song will complete its 25th Anniversary season with this inspirational concert.

Since January, the 27 members of the Circle of Song Chorus, now celebrating 25 years in existence, have been practicing assiduously to prepare for this end of season concert.

The concert will feature 13 soloists in Les Misérables, a unique four hands piano accompaniment for The Promise of Living, a spiritual – Down by the Riverside, a gospel piece – Total Praise,

selections from 5 musicals – Les Misérables, Into the Woods, Candide, Music Man, the Mikado, a traditional Australian song – Waltzing Matilda, and a jazz standard – Solitude. Four Circles of Song originals, Jack Kittredge, Joan Bevers, Anne Kneeland, and Julie Rawson will sing a special 25th anniversary quartet – Till There Was You.

Professional musician Doc Hollister and Jeff Williams, retired music educator, will share the podium with music director, Julie Rawson. Ethel Howard, known throughout central Mass as pianist and choral educator is the piano accompanist for the

concert.

Circle of Song will take a 3 ½ month break and reconvene on Thursday, Sept. 10 at 7 p.m. at the Barre Town Hall with the holiday concert planned for Dec. 19. New singers are always welcome, and singers of all ages. The chorus presently bridges a 76-year age span. The group sings in 4 and sometimes 8-part harmony an array of music that intrigues the members of the ensemble.

This is a free concert and refreshments will be served. Donations are always gratefully accepted. For more information, people may email Julie Rawson at julie@mhof.net or call 978-257-1192.

Senior Center lists upcoming events

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The North Brookfield Senior Center, located at 29 Forest St., will offer the following events and activities during the month of May.

Activities include: Music Bingo on Monday, May 18 at 10 a.m.; Free Hearing Clinic on Tuesday,

May 19, from 10 a.m.-noon by appointment; Free Drawing Class, Thursday, May 21 at 11 a.m.; Free Art Class, Thursday, May 28 at 11 a.m. and Medicare Help with

Ed Spater, Thursday, May 28 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. by appointment.

HUBBARDSTON

by Ellenor Downer
 edowner@turley.com

Historical Society presents program

The Hubbardston Historical Society presents Having Fun with History on Wednesday, May 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the Williamsville Chapel, 4 Burnshirt Road. Linda Hietala will discuss early Hubbardston dairy farms and early milk bottles.

Brigham Street truck exclusion

The Hubbardston Select Board and Massachusetts Department of Transportation approved a heavy commercial vehicle exclusion for Brigham Street from Main Street/Worcester Road Road, Route 68 to Evergreen Road. Signs are posted and the town will begin to enforce this exclusion 24 hours a day, seven days per week. Alternate routes are Worcester Road (Rte. 68,, Old Princeton Road and Evergreen Road.

Town Meeting and election

Hubbardston's Annual Town Meeting is Monday, June 7 at 7 p.m. in the Hubbardston Center School, 8 Elm St., gymnasium. Hubbardston's Annual Town Election is Tuesday, June 9 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. in the Hubbardston Center School gymnasium. The last day to register to vote at the Annual Town Meeting is Friday, May 22 by 5 p.m. People may register in the Town Clerk's office, 48 Gardner Road from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The last day to register in the Annual Town Election is Saturday, May 30 by 5 p.m. in the Town Clerk's office from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. People may also register online by visiting <https://www.sec.stat.ma.us/ovr/>.

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.

Author presents lecture on King Philip's War

WEST BROOKFIELD –New York Times Bestselling Author Michael J. Tougias will present a free slide lecture about King Philip's War at the West Brookfield Senior Center, 73 Central St., on Sunday, May 24 at 1 p.m. This lecture is sponsored by the Quaboag Historical Society.

Named after "King Philip," who was also known as Metacomb, a Wampanoag chief, the war was fought between the colonies and many of the Native American tribes from 1675-1676.

During the lecture on May 24, Tougias will share maps and show where the battles happened, and what they look like today. He said his lecture will be like watching a documentary and will captivate audience members of any age; even children.

Tougias has authored a total of 38 books over the course of his career, including "The Finest Hours", which was made into a Disney movie starring Chris Pine and Casey Affleck. His latest book, "In Deep Water: A Story of Sharks, Survival, and Courage" tells the story of three recreation fishermen whose boat sinks off New Orleans in the Gulf of Mexico.

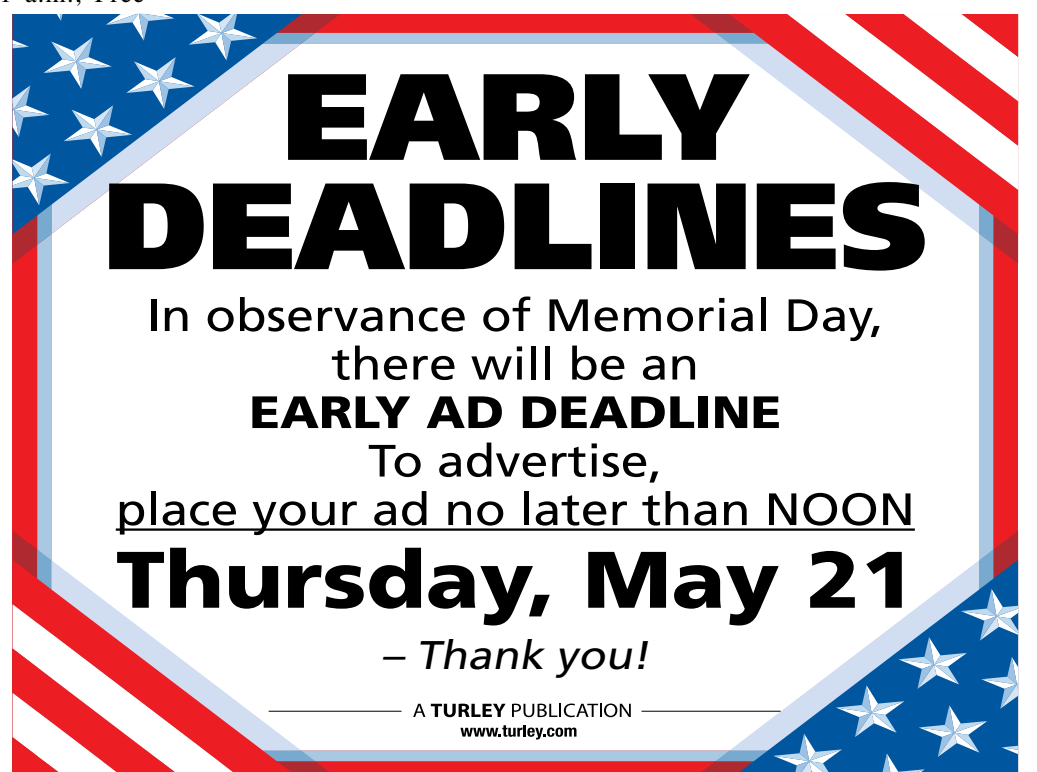
For more information about Tougias and his books, visit www.michaeltougias.com.



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Opinion

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

I'm still working; why didn't I get a higher Social Security benefit?

Dear Rusty:

I began collecting benefits at age 72 and am now 78.

Since that time, I have continued to work and have contributed over \$40,000 to Social Security over the last six years. At the time of my retirement, I was informed that the Social Security Administration would review my contributions annually and replace lower-earning years from my 35-year record with my current higher-earning years.

Despite my current annual income exceeding \$100,000, I have not seen an increase in my benefit amount over the past six years. I recently met with an SSA representative, who confirmed that my benefits are being reviewed annually but did not provide specific details or evidence of these adjustments. Could you please advise me on how to formally verify that my benefits are being accurately reviewed and updated to reflect my continued contributions?

Signed: Collecting and Still Working

Dear Collecting:

For information, your contributions from Federal Insurance Contributions Act payroll taxes to Social Security over the last six years are not what determines if you get an increase to your monthly SS benefit.

Although you contributed to SS since you started receiving SS benefits, those contributions do not affect your monthly SS benefit. Your monthly SS benefit is based only the highest inflation-adjusted 35 years of earnings over your lifetime. And for your monthly benefit to change, your current earnings each year would need to replace at least one of those 35 historical, inflation-adjusted year earnings.

We regularly hear from those who do benefit from SSA's regular review of work earnings after they start receiving monthly SS benefits, and our Advisory staff includes two individuals with a combined 70 years of service with the Social Security Administration. Thus, we are comfortable saying that SSA does, in fact, review your earnings annually to see if your monthly SS payment should be higher.

From a process standpoint, SSA receives your annual earnings information from the IRS (i.e., directly from your annual tax return) by mid-year annually, after which SSA evaluates your recent earnings to see if an increase in your monthly SS benefit is warranted. If so, that increase is automatically applied, usually around October each year and you are paid the extra amount retroactively to the beginning of the year.

What you may not realize is that your lifetime earnings (your historical earnings) are adjusted for

inflation. This is a good thing, because that means your current monthly SS benefit is calculated using today's dollar values for your past earnings, rather than the actual money amounts you originally earned and received.

For example, \$50,000 of 1990 earnings would be worth about \$125,000 today. Which also means that those 1990 earnings would only yield a higher current Social Security benefit if your recent earnings were more than \$125,000. And this is true for all 35 years of lifetime earnings used to calculate your current monthly Social Security benefit.

The best way for you to ensure that you are getting the right monthly benefit amount is to first obtain your lifetime earnings history from Social Security. This is most easily obtained through your online "my Social Security" account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. If you don't have an online account set up, you can also request an "Earnings Statement" by calling Social Security at 1.800.772.1213 (or call your local SS field office to request it). Next, I suggest you use Social Security's "Online Benefits Calculator" explained and available at this link: <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/AnypiaApplet.html>

If, after this, you believe you should be getting a higher monthly SS benefit because of your recent earnings, you can again contact SSA and tell them you believe they did not properly adjust your current SS benefit for your most recent earnings. Following that, you can submit a "Request for Reconsideration" (form SSA-561) which will result in a full separate review of your case by an independent SSA person, followed (some months later) by a formal written determination on your assertion. If you received a letter from SSA because of your previous meeting with them, include a copy of that letter with your "Request for Reconsideration."

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

This summer...



In Past Pages

5 years (May 20, 2021)

Finance committee vice-chair, Ted Twarog, said at last Thursday's finance committee meeting "we need to present the best budget at town meeting." Twarog said he would like to see each debt service municipal override listed individually instead of just a total number of \$177,657. The municipal overrides included the Ruggles Lane Elementary School and two overrides for the Barre Common project. Revenue projections were greater than expenses. The town was in the process of collecting motor vehicle excise taxes. On the expense side, it was in the midst of negotiating a police union contract and contracts for four non-union salaried employees: police chief, fire chief, Department of Public Works superintendent and town administrator. The finance committee voted a 2% Cost of Living Adjustment to all non-union town employees. Finance committee member Brian Inman said with inflation on the rise, the town had to step up as it was hard to get good people.

Bradford Taylor won re-election for a three-year term to the Oakham Board of Selectmen. Taylor defeated challenger Susan Collette with 184 votes to 70 for her. Almost 18% or 255 voters of those 1,440 registered cast ballots in the annual town election held May 17. The board of selectmen was the only contest on the ballot. Christine Mardirosian with 217 votes won re-election as town clerk. Constable Edna Holloway ran the election as the town clerk was on the ballot for re-election. Sherry

Look Back Memorial Day – May 1986



Members of the American Legion place flags on veterans' graves in Barre May 18, 1986.

Bergin, Norma Mann and Ward Holloway were election workers.

At the North Brookfield Board of Selectmen meeting held May 12, School Committee Chair Maria Tucker and Superintendent Richard Lind offered some "brainstorming" ideas to address the current budget gap, which saw a \$1 million difference between the district's proposed budget and what selectmen and Finance Committee members were willing to recommend. Tucker acknowledged the additional \$500,000 added to their budget by selectmen, saying they appreciated the additional funding. Tucker said even with the additional money, they school is still facing a half a million-dollar cut to their budget. School Superintendent Richard Lind said their proposed budget from the BOS and Finance Committee has a reduc-

tion of 8.1%. Lind said he knows a lot of people feel that schools are a "drain," on town finances. "Schools are in general the largest department in every city and town," Lind said. He said an 8% cut would impact the students negatively, by increasing class sizes, reducing services, programs and staffing. Lind said the long-term impact of cutting programs could lead to more families opting to school choice out.

10 years (May 19, 2016)

Barre Selectmen granted Spartan Race a special event for June 4 and 5 at Carter Stevens Farms, West Street. A spokesman for the Spartan Race explained that race promoters anticipated about 12,500 people at the race with the numbers split about 50 percent each day. This year all parking will be

See PAST PAGES, page 5



By Ellenor Downer



Photo by Connie Schwaiger
Brown thrasher

A Western Massachusetts resident spotted this brown thrasher in the Berkshire foothills.

Sometimes they visit feeders like the one in the attached photo. Brown thrashers blend in with their surrounding and are tricky to spot.

They are fairly large, slender songbirds with long proportions: the legs are long and sturdy, the bill is long and slightly down curved and the tail is long.

They often cock the tail upward in the manner of wrens. A bright yellow eye, gray brown face and black and white wings bars are other identifying features.

Thrashers are reddish brown on the head, back, tail and wings. They have a white

breast and belly with darker speckling.

They are 9.1 to 11.8 inches long or slightly smaller than a blue jay. The brown thrasher is the only thrasher species found east of Texas.

Thrashers have one of the largest repertoires of any North American songbird over 1,000 different songs. Since they rarely venture far from thick undergrowth, there singing give their location away especially when perched in a treetop or shrubs.

Their songs are a complex string of many musical phrases, many copied from other birds' songs with each phrase typically sung twice. They also make a distinctive, harsh "tsuck" note.

They imitate other birds including Chuck-will's-widows, wood thrushes and northern flickers.

Both males and females incubate the eggs and feed the young. Nestlings sometimes leave the nest fully feathered within nine days of

See BACKYARD, page 6

BARRE GAZETTE

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The Barre Gazette (USPS 044560) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 283-1977. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069.



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Subscription rate: \$33 for one year, \$44 for two years
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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

I had a lot of rain this week, but I did go out and do some gardening in between rain.

The tick population is getting bad so be aware and check your body each day. I had to go to Urgent Care to have one removed.

We never used to have ticks in this area, but I guess because the weather is changing. They used to have them at the Cape Cod area. It is another thing to worry about.

The gardens are doing well. The Handyman picked me a bouquet of lilacs that are in bud and I will try to force them. He needed to trim one of the bushes that was hanging over the driveway.

I was treated to a nice meal by my two daughters for Mother's Day on Wednesday due to the fact one daughter was coming to visit. My son in law took care of Ken so we could get together for the meal.

When we got home, I found a huge planter with legs in the den. He and Ken had put it together for the back deck.

I will plant some vegetables in it. They even gave me potting soil and fertilizer. I was treated like a queen for the day.

My oldest daughter tried

to hitch up my new printer and she did have it working, but now it is giving me trouble. I guess I will have to get a computer person in to help.

It is a wireless system and wonder if that is the problem. It keeps telling me to go to default.

We had two batches of fiddlehead ferns from the front yard. I will now let the rest grow to ferns as they cover the foundation well. The hostas are all coming up and we saw a deer in the backyard just waiting for them. I hope they leave them alone this year. They seem to like to eat the large leaf ones.

The purple leaf weeping cherry and PJM are in full bloom. The crab apple tree is in full bud. I understand the hummingbirds are arriving so I need to make some sugar water for them and put the feeders out.

I have a beautiful hanging petunia, but I bring it in at night as we still get some frost nights. I will be glad when I can take the house plants outside.

This week I made this desert

CRESCENT ROLL GOODIES

Take crescent rolls and unwrap them and place them

on a cookie sheet. Cut up peeled apples fine and place them on the rolls with raisins and nuts and a little brown sugar. Roll them up tight and seal them good. Bake them in a 350 degree oven for about 12 minutes. Watch them after 10 minutes to see if they are brown. You can baste them with milk and sugar if you wish. They are a good treat for a snack.

This and That

I had a man call me from Halifax this week. He bought a house that my great-grandparents Holmes owned and wanted to know if I had additional photographs of it. I had given the previous owners some and they gave them to him. I was happy to hear that a new owner was interested in the house.

In 2020, I visited the house and the old owners and had a tour of it. My grandmother often visited there and spoke of it. Another house near that one was owned by the Standish family, which was also my relative and he said that house was still standing also.

Have a good week and notice how the trees are leaving out. Spring is here.

BARRE from page 1

proposal based on beliefs.

Jessica Power said that there is no vote, since as long as the property meets the bylaws, it will be approved.

"How is there even a yes or a no?" she said.

Kelley said the vote is the bylaw, which is the will

of the people, as bylaws are passed at town meeting.

"Why were we informed when we can't even give an argument?" she said.

Kelley said there is a way to make suggestions by contacting the applicant with concerns. Kelley also said they could come back with a concise list of concerns.

Power said they would be some of the few people in town affected by this and wants their voices heard and considered.

"Look at it from our perspective, imagine if this was being built next to your house," Power said.

The hearing will continue on Tuesday, May 19.

PAST PAGES from page 4

on Sunrise Avenue and shuttles will take people back and forth. At the race site, there would be about 50 handicapped parking spots, the only parking permitted there. Brenda Rich commented that last year the police would not let her neighbor down their road. She wanted to make sure that the road, Washburn Road, though closed, would be open to residents all day. She said it was graduation weekend and her family would be having a party and guests. The promoter assured her that she would have sufficient passes to get through the road. Selectmen unanimously granted the special permit as well as a live entertainment license and a one-day liquor license.

The Annual Hubbardston Town Election is Tuesday, June 14. There are two contests on the ballot – a one-year selectman position and one-year planning board position. Richard J. Haddad, 88 Lombard Road and Randy J. Mizereck, 102 New Templeton Road, both seek a one-year term to the board of selectmen. Kendall B. Daly, 7 Ed Clark Road and Scott Joseph LeBlanc, 92 Williamsville Road, are on the ballot for one position for a one-year term to the planning board. Daniel S. Galante, 28 New Westminster Road and Michael S. Stauder, 22 Natty Pond Road, are both candidates for re-election for two three-year terms to board of selectmen. John K. Prentiss, 11 Prentiss Hill Road, is a candidate for re-election to a three-year term on the board of assessors and Thomas W. Bratko, 28 High St., is a candidate for a four-year term to the planning board. Randy J. Mizereck, candidate for re-election, and Catherine A. Hansgate, 143 Williamsville Road, are on the ballot to fill two three-year positions to the board of health. Mark T. Wigler, 5 Kruse Road, seeks another three-year term to the Quabbin Regional School District Committee.

The Board of Assessors of

the town of New Braintree announces that Patrick J. Haring, MAA, a specialist in residential, commercial, industrial, and personal property will conduct a portion of property inspections throughout the town during the months of May, June and July. The purpose of the visits is to enable the New Braintree Assessors to maintain quality and current data regarding the condition of a portion of New Braintree properties. An exterior inspection includes the measurement of the building(s). An interior inspection is necessary to insure accurate and equitable assessment. It is hoped that residents will be aware that Mr. Haring may be visiting their properties.

25 years (May 17, 2001)

A surprise retirement party was held at Coldbrook Country Club for Winslow Sawyer, May 12. He worked in the music department at Quabbin Regional High School District for 34 years. Sawyer has been department head for the last 20 years. Two hundred twenty gathered to bid him a fond farewell.

Forty registered voters passed all six articles on the Special Town Meeting warrant Monday night at the New Braintree Town Hall. The quorum for a Special Town Meeting is 20 registered voters. Voters approved the transfer of \$10,000 from overlay surplus to the town hall account for various repairs to the town hall. The next three articles were storm related expenses.

In a Special Town Meeting held on Monday evening at the Oakham Center School, the town voted on four articles, all regarding transfers of funds. Before the Special Town Meeting, the voted to move the Annual Town Meeting to June 18 at 7:30 p.m. The meeting was moved because town officials are waiting for state reimbursement figures, which will be discussed then.

38 years (May 19, 1988)

J. Michael Stati of Broad

Street, Barre, has been selected as the new principal of David Prouty Junior High School in Spencer. Stati along with Richard B. Cater of Hopkinton, was interviewed in public sessions held Monday, May 16 at a special meeting of the Spencer East Brookfield Regional School Committee. He is presently associate principal at the Quabbin Regional Junior Senior High School in Barre. He has been teaching in the Barre area for 20 years, starting in 1985 at the Gilbertville Grammar School. He has been at Quabbin Regional since in opened in 1967. His appointment at David Prouty is contingent on completion of salary negotiations, which were discussed at a meeting Wednesday, May 18 with School Superintendent Philip E. Devaux.

Rev. Eugene F. Berthiaume, "Father Gene," as he is affectionately known to his parishioners at Barre's St. Joseph's catholic church is leaving June 1. For the past six years, he has been pastor at both St. Joseph's and St. Augustine's Mission in Wheelwright. He will become pastor of St. Peter Parish in Northbridge and his departure will coincide with his attaining 30 years in the priesthood. Rev. Ronald D. Provost, associate pastor of Holy Angels Parish in Upton, will succeed Fr. Berthiaume.

A fast moving blaze in Barre destroyed Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Pickens' barn on Mechanic Street on Sunday, May 15. Firefighters from Barre, Hardwick, Petersham and Hubbardson, 43 in all, came out to battle the blaze. In the end, the fire leveled the barn, destroyed Dr. Pickens' car, scorched the house and consumed state props owned by the Barre Players, which were stored in the barn. According to Barre Fire Chief Raymond Howard, the cause of the fire has not been determined, however it does not appear to be suspicious.



Farming in Zambia

By Felicia Smith

My partner Floyd Kelley and I spent most of January 2026 in Zambia, a country about the size of Texas in South-Central Africa.

Since my Peace Corps service there from 2015-2017, we try to return every two years to visit with my host family (the family chosen to host me during the two years in my assigned village), and other people we've met over the years.

Zambia is a relatively new country as compared to the U.S., only gaining independence in 1964.

Most things in Zambia

feel like traveling back in time. Locks are opened with skeleton keys. People swath their babies in cloth diapers. Most soda is still made with cane sugar and comes in refillable glass bottles.

Despite this, sometimes going there feels like taking a leap into the future, and not in a good way.

The soil has already been vastly over-farmed, leading to desertification in most places. There are rivers of trash flowing through the city, despite plastic packaging from China being relatively new to Zambians.

Traditionally, it used to be fine to drop food wrappings on the ground, because they were made of natural biodegradable fibers. Now, they're made of plastic that doesn't break down quickly, if at all.

When it rains it pours, and washes all the trash from the streets into the rivers.

Trash is one problem that Floyd and I are still brainstorming solutions for. However, we try to focus on areas where we can have a more immediate positive impact in our quest to help Zambians.

Fortunately for us, another thing that Zambia has a surplus of during the rainy season (in addition to plastic) is grass. But how to utilize this plentiful green resource, besides waiting for it to dry and "slashing" it to make thatching for roofs?

Since we raise animals at Burnshirt Valley Farm here in Barre, we thought: why not encourage this in Zambia? We decided to offer my host family a dairy cow.

A week into our trip, we went to a nearby farm to buy a dairy calf, in hopes that the calf can turn their plentiful grass into milk for consumption as well as income. The man who took us to the farm to purchase the calf spoke to me and my

See **COMMUNITY**, page 6



Submitted Photo

This is a photo of the Kelly the dairy cow in Zambia.

THE YOU I DID NOT KNOW

Where to, my heart so longing stirs,
In search of what, I cannot say,
To find that home where love can grow,
And shed my sorrows as they lay.

To know you in your heart of hearts,
Is such a daunting task,
And yet this feeling in my soul,
Wonders if I have the right to ask.

We are these complex mysteries,
Our life's work for to solve,
But now and then one enters here,
To test our heart's resolve.

I saw you first when life was low,
You gave my spirit a lift,
With each new revelation shared,
It seems as if a gift.

But time and patience are required,
To find the comfort sought,
And peel away the layers here,
To find what your life has wrought.

I wish I knew you when a child,
And when your rose did bloom,
And as you loved and lost so much,
Somehow your life resumes.

To know you now is all I have,
And very gladly so,
A privilege and a passion strong,
Which, I know, will surely grow.

So, this I offer in true content,
Your soul you freely showed,
Can have this heart to shelter in,
The You I Did Not Know.

– B. Splaine

Highway Dept. Skilled Laborer / Truck Driver

The Town of New Braintree Highway Dept. is seeking qualified applicants for the immediate full-time position of Skilled Laborer / Truck Driver. Applicants must have a valid Massachusetts Driver's License, Class B (CDL) with DOT Medical Examination Certification and a Hoisting Engineer License Class 2B with DOT Medical Examination Certification. Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and an employment application to: Highway Department, 110 West Brookfield Road, New Braintree MA 01531.

Highway Dept. Seasonal Laborer

The Town of New Braintree is seeking a qualified candidate to perform seasonal work in the maintenance of town commons, roadways, grounds and cemeteries. Applicants must have a valid Massachusetts Driver's License (Class D). This is a seasonal position for 20 hours per week with a flexible schedule, May through October. Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and employment application to: Highway Department, 110 West Brookfield Road, New Braintree MA 01531.

For further information, please contact
Richard Ayer, Highway Superintendent, at 508-867-2451,
or via email at Highway@newbraintree.gov.

A.A./E.O.E.

Frequently asked QRSD budget questions

From the desk of
Quabbin Regional School
District Superintendent
Colleen Mucha

BARRE – In this week's article, the Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent addresses some of the questions that have had sent or heard previously from the stakeholders in regards to the Quabbin Regional School Budget.

If enrollment is declining, how come we can not reduce the number of teachers?

It is important for the reader to know that the resident enrollment Oct. 1, 2025, is the official enrollment of the district that is used in the Commonwealth's Chapter 70 Aid funding formula for the FY27 budget.

The district's resident enrollment for this school year was 1,858 as compared to the previous year of 1,865, a decline of 7 students. Resident enrollment declined by 51 students from the 2023/2024 school year.

It is understandable that the number of teachers could not be reduced for a loss of 7 students, but what about 51 students?

Quabbin operates four elementary schools for grades K to 5 (let's exclude Pre-K). So, at minimum, there are 24 elementary grade classrooms

for those four elementary schools.

Grades 6, 7 and 8 are at the middle school and grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 are at the high school. That means there are 31 different grade classes across the district.

If the student decline of 51 students were all from the same school and at minimum two grades, then perhaps classroom teachers could be reduced. However, it is highly unlikely that declines in enrollment occur in just one school or only a couple grade levels.

Continued resident enrollment decline over time, however, may lead to reduction of classroom teachers and support staff. District administration always reviews class size to determine if the staffing patterns need to change.

For this upcoming year, we have reduced 6 academic/classroom teachers and 2 support staff from across the district. xq

What is Net School Spending, why can we not just pay that amount?

Required Net School Spending is the minimum amount that Massachusetts school districts must expend, in a fiscal year, on education from the general operating budget.

This amount is determined as part of the Chapter 70 Aid formula by adding Chapter

70 Aid and, in regional school districts, the member communities total Required Local Contribution.

For the FY27 budget year, Quabbin's Chapter 70 Aid amount (in the Governor's budget proposal) is \$17,563,637. RLC is \$14,057,407. RNSS equals 31,621,044. (Note: Although the House and Senate both raised the Chapter 70 Aid to \$17,724,542, the final Chapter 70 Aid and RNSS amounts will not be issued by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education until the Commonwealth's budget process concludes.)

It is important to understand that the costs of transporting students to and from school and debt service do not count towards the Required Net School Spending requirement.

Quabbin's budget proposal #3 represents an FY27 budget of \$42,545,128. The amount of this budget that represents RNSS expenditures is \$39,090,766 (\$42,545,128 - \$2,056,023 for regular day transportation - \$1,219,655 for special education transportation, - \$178,684 for debt service.)

Projected Required Net School Spending expenditures, based on Quabbin's budget proposal #3, is \$7,469,722 greater than the

FY27 RNSS. Meaning, if the district were to base its FY27 budget on the Required Net School Spending, the district would need to cut \$7,469,722 from its budget proposal #3.

Stakeholders should understand that, based on FY25 data submitted to DESE, only 17 of the 297 reporting districts spent at or below the RNSS amount. Seven of these 17 were vocational districts. The districts not meeting the RNSS requirements in FY25 were: Holyoke, Revere, Athol-Royalston, Malden, Northbridge, Dracut, Worcester, Fitchburg, and Lawrence. Springfield Spent at RNSS.

What would happen if towns just paid their Required Minimum Local Contribution?

If member towns just paid their Required Local Contribution the district would be spending at the Required Net School Spending amount and the district would need to cut \$7,469,722 from its budget proposal #3.

The buses do not look full, have you looked into reducing the number of buses?

To qualify for Regional School Transportation reimbursement, buses are required to operate at an average of

75% capacity. However, individual bus occupancy may vary depending on the geographic areas they serve within the district.

Our district operates a two-tier transportation system, meaning the same buses provide service for both the Middle/High School and the Elementary Schools. Due to the one-hour difference in start and dismissal times between the schools, combined with the extensive mileage covered throughout the district, some buses cannot operate at full capacity in order to ensure timely arrival at the Elementary Schools.

That said, other buses do operate at or slightly above capacity to help maintain the required overall average. Each year the QRSD reviews ridership and adjusts the number of buses as needed.

Each year, QRSD says they are eliminating positions but it seems like staff do not lose their jobs.

Why is that?

For FY 27, we are reducing 20 positions from FY 26. Some of those positions are not full time equivalent or FTE, meaning they may not work full days but there are 20 positions that are being eliminated.

One of the reasons that it may feel like not ALL staff lose their jobs is because

when possible we may transfer employees to a different position if they have the correct qualifications. For example, this year two of our elementary schools will be reduced by one classroom each.

Additionally, two elementary schools each have a classroom teacher retirement. We will be transferring the two elementary teachers to fill those retirements and the classroom number will be reduced from the schools that they are leaving.

Our first Annual Town Meeting is happening for Barre residents on Tuesday May 19 at 6:30 p.m. It is my hope that the information that has been provided in these articles has been helpful to assist residents in understanding how schools are funded and the challenges throughout the budget process as we await state and federal funding levels.

Should you have any further questions, please contact cmucha@qrsd.org and we will reach out directly to you or possibly have another article here in the newspaper. It is our hope that we will see you at your town's Annual Town Meeting supporting our students.

COMMUNITY from page 5

host father about the dangers of using pesticides and herbicides when growing crops.

He said that it strips the soil of nutrients and biodiversity, and that there were some types of grass that used to grow here that don't anymore. Because the soil has

been plowed and stripped of nutrients over and over again since adopting the ways of "conventional" farming, it's now necessary to apply fertilizer to the soil to make any crops grow.

My host family traditionally farms tobacco for a living, but this year the heavy rains washed the fertilizer from the soil. So now the tobacco is pale and strugg-

ling, while the grasses growing beside it are healthy and taller than I am.

Seeing all this perfectly good but wasted grass, Floyd thought it was a no-brainer for Zambians to convert the freely available resource into nutrition and money for the household via cattle.

How else can you get something from nothing, he says? And Zambians could

really use something.

Poverty grows each year, as prices continue to soar. Gasoline is regularly around \$5.44/gallon, if you can believe it. Here, where many people can barely afford food or fertilizer, most certainly can't afford to drive.

And since there are only two (albeit long) paved roads throughout the country, people still travel by oxcart, sim-

ilar to how we used to travel by horse.

Our faith in bringing back the fertility of the soil currently lies in livestock which, in addition to providing transport, can live off the grass that grows so effortlessly, and then deposit manure back onto the soil, recharging it with the vital nutrients it so badly needs to be able to retain moisture.

The cow we named Kelly continues to grow big and strong, eating all the grass on my host family's compound. We continue to remain hopeful about the future of farming in Zambia, and look forward to visiting again in 2028 to see what changes, if any, Kelly Cow has made to the Chule Farm.

BACKYARD from page 4

hatching, earlier than either of their smaller relatives, the northern mockingbird and gray catbird.

An aggressive defender of its nest, the Brown Thrasher is known to strike people and dogs hard enough to draw blood.

Shrubby habitats are popular hideouts for nest predators, which may explain why the thrashers fledge so quickly for birds of their size. Brown Thrashers are the largest common host of parasitic brown-headed cowbirds.

The oldest Brown Thrasher on record was at least 10 years, 11 months old. It was found in Florida in 1978 where it was banded in 1967.

Rose-breasted grosbeak

A Worthington resident saw a rose-breasted grosbeak showed up at his feeder earlier than usual on May 1. He said they always arrive the first week of May. Last year it was not until May 7.

Belchertown birds

A Belchertown resident sent an email reporting birds

seen and heard on his property. They included Baltimore oriole, grey catbirds, a Blackburnian warbler in the maple tree, and he heard, but not seen, a northern parula. He also has a pair of eastern phoebes nesting under an eave of the house.

At nearby Lake Wallace, he took photos of yellow warblers and a green heron catching fish.

Red-shouldered hawk

A Montgomery resident saw a red-shouldered hawk recently.

Nesting sparrows

A Belchertown resident said she had sparrows using a nest box in her yard. She found a few of their babies on the ground. At first, I thought something got into the nest, but today a found another one. I think the nestling had died and the parents got them out. She said she may remove the nest box and replace it with a new one in case the sparrows succumbed to disease.

Brimfield birds.

A Brimfield resident said he put up the humming bird feeders in late April when

he learned of a ruby-throated hummingbird in Ware. A couple days later he had an adult male ruby-throated hummingbird and a few days later he saw a female.

He said, "One each gray catbirds, male Baltimore oriole and males rose-breasted grosbeak showed up last week. This week a second male oriole and two more grosbeaks show up, another male and a female. He also has a male eastern towhee in his yard. He said, "A couple of years ago we had two male towhees in the yard and one spent the summer attacking

its reflection in the many windows despite best efforts to dissuade it."

He said elsewhere, in Warren on South Street there are three occupied great blue heron nest and two others he was not sure if they were being used. The osprey pair has been around for awhile. The nest has gotten deeper over the years and on a recent visit he could only see the tail or maybe wing feathers barely showing above the nest. I think incubation has started, but can't be sure.

He also has a male common yellowthroat and house wren in his yard.

He said, "House wrens have nested in nesting boxes in the yard several times and I saw feathers near the entrance hole on a box they have used before. The wrens have a habit of building false nests in a couple of boxes that they never use."

He also said, "A male yellow-bellied sapsucker spent some time on a native dogwood and today a sapsucker, probably the same one, spent several hours tapping away at the same tree."

Geese in a pavilion

On May 12, I drove by Camp Putnam in New Braintree and saw four geese under their pavilion near the pond. I see many Canada geese in fields or ponds, but I have never seen them in a pavilion.

Other birds

On May 8 I received an email reporting a scarlet tanager, grosbeaks and hummingbirds.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005. The Palmer office has a new phone system and I will be getting an extension where messages may be left. I will publish the number as soon as it is set up.



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HUBBARDSTON from page 1

laboration between the town and the school, as well as understanding about growth limits.

Magee said in his experience in Arlington, the school and town did agree on these numbers, and it made planning and relationships easier.

The second question was about the municipal complex project, and the steps for success. Magee said it is a huge project, and will define what the town can do, and can reinvent how people view the town.

He said that he would get an understanding of where things stand, and talk with the architect about design, planning and cost estimates. Magee said he would want to make sure the estimates are still accurate, and have conversations about whether they should re-design or increase the budget for the project.

Magee said there needs to be community outreach, telling citizens about the benefits and necessity of the project. He said the project will win approval months in advance, not on the floor of town meeting.

Magee said there is momentum to build on.

The third question had to do with the MBTA communities act, and how he would handle it if it became necessary in Hubbardston. Magee said there is an "interesting set of challenges" that comes with the act, which requires

changes in zoning and housing growth.

Magee said that in Arlington, there was an intense discussion about the act, and has experience with it. He said they have to think of what the residents want, and create a plan that makes sense. He said there are certain grant opportunities a town can get if they are compliant.

The fourth question asked what his targeted economic strategy is in Hubbardston, and how it would adhere to the rural character of the town.

"Rural character is something you cherish," Magee said.

He said the town has to grow in a way that makes sense. He said there needs to be smart capital planning, and an understanding of the impacts of development.

He said there would be a "holistic look" at the community, to help decide the dos and don'ts, and the select board would have to be at the forefront of discussion.

Magee was asked by Select Board member Kris Pareago to describe how he dealt with the school budget in Arlington. Magee said there was a long range planning committee, and strict forecasting.

He was asked where he sees the town in three years, and said that it is hard to measure success, but would want to see consistent performance, happy employees, and a culture of hard work.

Allyson Mitchell

Mitchell was asked about the school budget first, and said there could be collaboration with other towns towards solutions. She said the five towns in this district are quite similar, but have different priorities that need to be heard.

Mitchell said she is aware of this district, coming from Rutland.

She said collaboration with school administration can help everybody know where each other stands. Mitchell said she appreciates what the school does, but the town has to be able to afford to keep them.

When asked about the municipal complex, she said they have to sell the building to the residents, and that the committee has done a good job at that, and the community understands the need for it. She said they have to sell the scale and price of it to residents now, who will be paying for something that will last 50-75 years. She said there could be information sessions, social media posts and community involvement.

When asked about the MBTA communities act, Mitchell said it is not a good idea to not plan for events that could be coming soon. She said the town should make a plan for it, even if they are opposed to it.

She said the town could look at where they can and can't support the extra housing and infrastructure that comes with being compliant as an MBTA community.

When asked about her economic strategy in

Hubbardston, Mitchell said it is all about what the community wants economically, be it shopping opportunities or a grocery store. She said it is not likely that Hubbardston would want stuff like that because it affects their rural character.

Mitchell said Hubbardston is a good place for agrotourism, with all of the forestry and farms. She said the town is "primed to become a community that really promotes its farm character."

Mitchell was asked what she would do about the taxable property that is not generating revenue in town as of now. She said that she would set up the Finance Committee with a tax title lawyer, and decide what should be done internally or externally.

Mitchell was also asked about getting compensation for one of the town's natural resources, water. She said that she would develop relationships with the legislature, by "knocking on doors that matter."

Mitchell said it is a job to get the state to understand a position, and would research to see what other communities have done well, or mistakes they have made.

Mitchell was also asked about budgeting.

"I love budgeting," she said.

She said there is transparency that comes with it when line items are broken down. She said that there would be meetings with department heads to understand what is

in the budgets, and where the spending is coming from.

Mitchell said she likes working and promoting a workplace that is a safe space mentally and physically, having worked as an HR coordinator in Rutland.

Elizabeth Kazinskas

When asked about the school budget, Kazinskas said it is common for the school to take up over 50% of a town's budget. She said there would be regular meetings with the finance teams about it, and she would develop a relationship with the superintendent.

She said there would be constant communication, and informed departments.

When asked about the complex, Kazinskas said there needs to be communication, and transparency about the process with the stakeholders, including town residents. She said that she would meet with the building committee to talk about what to implement, and bring information to citizens about what they will pay for it, and what the benefits of the building would be.

When asked about the MBTA communities act, Kazinskas said everybody involved has to be informed, and understand what the act is, and the grants that come with it. She said there are different zoning requirements that come with it.

"It can be scary for people," she said about the act, especially in rural communities.

When asked about her

economic strategy, Kazinskas said she would have conversations with the economic development team in Hubbardston to talk about ideas. She said there would be public input from residents about what they want, and what should be avoided, so they do not build things the town does not want.

She said that she would take the temperature of residents, and said there is a lot of protected land, and limitations that come with it.

When asked about water compensation, Kazinskas said she does not have an issue with bringing something reasonable to someone in a higher position, and has learned advocacy as a staffer for Rep. Kimberly Ferguson.

When asked about budgeting, she said she has not built a budget, but has oversight experience on the Gardner City Council. She said that she has also chaired a Finance Committee and served as acting mayor in Gardner.

She talked about a grant program in Gardner that paid itself off year after year.

In three to five years, Kazinskas said she sees the town being financially stable, with no turnover. She said there would be an economic development plan implemented, and informed citizens in town.

Next meeting

The board will meet on May 15 to deliberate the candidates, as well as go over the fiscal year 2027 budget.

RUTLAND from page 1

pass this budget, it could send a message to the state that the residents cannot afford it.

A resident said if the town does not pass this budget, they are only hurting the kids, saying they only have one chance to go through school. Resident Alex Morrisson said the residents are being apathetic to the future of the towns if they do not fund the school.

The budget passed by a vote of 242-113.

Capital purchases

The 18th article on the warrant looked to approve \$575,000 for various capital purchases, including a front end loader for the Department of Public Works, bi-directional amplifiers for the school district and public safety, and the resurfacing and retiling of the town pool, along with repairs to the concrete deck for the recreation department.

According to the warrant, the front end loader costs \$300,000 and is replacing a

1995 model, which makes finding parts difficult. The amplifiers cost \$100,000 and aid in communication within Glenwood Elementary School.

The pool repairs cost \$175,000, and are needed due to an increase in usage, causing cracking and tiles to be lifted. The deck is also sinking, which is causing "drainage issues and trip hazards."

A motion was made on the floor by Alex Maus to vote on each of these purchases separately rather than one motion.

Maus said he was in favor of the pool, but not the front end loader. He said the truck is easy to fix, and they have loaders from 1995, 2005 and 2015 already.

A resident said the DPW is always frugal, and he supports what the department says they need.

For the amplifiers, a representative from the school said they were the most important project on their list.

The motion to vote on

each separately failed, and the original warrant article passed 209-31.

Article 17 was also a capital project article, requesting the raising and appropriating or transfer from funds of \$309,000 for various capital purchases, including two five ton dump bodies, a brush chipper, a utility tractor, a plow replacement, two salt and sand spreaders all for the DPW, and a carpet replacement for the library.

The dump trucks cost \$120,000, the chipper costs \$60,000, the tractor costs \$40,000, the plow costs \$18,000, the two salt and sand spreaders cost \$13,200, and the carpet replacement costs \$57,000. The article passed.

Town official salaries

Article 3 looked to approve the salaries of elected town officials at \$96,168. A motion was made on the floor to lower this amount to \$88,343, to only pay the salary of the town clerk, and set

the salaries of all other elected officials at zero.

A resident said there were no stipends for elected officials last year, and doing this could bring \$7,185 back into the budget, and that the budget has not been cut enough.

One resident said he was opposed to this, because officials put in more hours than what they make, and it would send a poor message.

The amended motion failed, and the original article as printed passed 241-120.

All other articles

The first article was a simple informational article to approve the hearing of town reports.

Article 2 approved the transfer of \$38,250 to fund repairs on two sewer pump stations. Article 5 approved the transfer of \$360,142 to fund unemployment or other personnel benefits.

Article 6 raised and appropriated the amount of \$1.044 million to fund the

Southern Worcester County Regional Vocational School Assessment. Article 8 approved the raising and appropriating, or transfers from receipts or revenues the amount of \$3.301 million to fund the Water and Sewer departments.

Article 9 approved the transfer of \$175,000 for water meters. Article 10 approved raising and appropriating or transferring from receipts or revenues \$437,602 for the stormwater utility fund.

Article 11 approved the transfer of \$129,220 to fund the PEG Access and Cable.

Article 12 authorized the Select Board to enter into contracts for longer than three years. Article 13 authorized the Select Board to apply for, accept, or extend grants from the state or federal government.

Article 14 authorized the DPW to use all funds or grants for maintaining the roads.

Article 15 set the revol-

ving funds for boards in town, as well as the animal control. Article 16 approved the transfer of \$49,360 for snow and ice.

Article 19 approved the transfer of remaining balances of funds previously appropriated to capital stabilization, in the amount of \$94,766.

Article 20 authorized the Select Board to enter into a lease-purchase financing agreement for a command vehicle for the Fire Department, the agreement not to exceed six years. The payment for the first year is \$18,000.

There was no action on article 21, which would have approved the transfer of \$11,975 for site improvements at Rutland Heights.

Article 22 approved the creation of a Council on Aging. Article 23 approved a floodplain bylaw.

There was no action on article 24, which would have adopted a town charter.

OVERRIDE from page 1

time firefighters and paramedics, four full-time police officers, three part-time officers, and 2.5 DPW staff.

Murphy said the Wachusett Regional School District budget also failed as a result of the failed override, and the School Committee has to reconsider.

Elected offices

Results show that Paul Mattson and Sheila Dibb were each elected to the Select Board, receiving 872 and 892 votes respectively. Other candidates for Select Board included Michael Dvareckas, who received 603 votes, and Sean McLoughlin, who received 524 votes.

Brian Green was elected to the Assessors, running unopposed, and receiving 1,348 votes. Elliott Nadeau was elected to the Board of Health, running unopposed and receiving 1,398 votes.

Timothy Nahrwold was elected to the Planning Board three-year term, running unopposed, and receiving 1,281 votes. Lauren Williams was elected to the Planning Board five-year term, running unopposed, and receiving 1,334 votes.

Alicia Laurenzi and Jordan Michael were each elected to the Library Board of Trustees, receiving 1,394 and 1,230 votes respectively.

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Calendar of Events

SATURDAY, MAY 16

20TH ANNUAL PLANT, BAKE, CRAFT AND TAG SALE sponsored by the Tri-Parish Community Church takes place today and Sunday, May 17 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Hardwick Common. The sale features traditional, favorite, and connoisseur perennials, plus selected annuals, heirloom vegetable plants, and herbs. There is a wonderful variety in plants offered through Inishowen Farms of North Brookfield, Stillman's Farm and Howe's Farm & Garden both of New Braintree, and "homegrown lovelies" from private gardens. A delicious assortment of home-baked desserts and breads will also be sold. The church will be holding a drawing featuring the "best" of the plant sale. No purchase is necessary to win. Several outdoor activities and games will be available for children. A number of craft vendors rented space on the common for the event. The Friends of the Stone Church will also be on hand, highlighting their preservation of the Stone Church Cultural Center in Gilbertville, as well as the upcoming programs that are offered at the center. Tri-Parish Community Church's Pastor, Duncan Washburn, will lead a brief prayer service Sunday morning on the common in lieu of the Sunday 10 a.m. worship service. The proceeds from the plant and bake sale support the operational expenses of the church. This is a rain or shine event.

REVOLUTIONARY LIVING HISTORY DAY takes place today from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Stone House Museum, 20 Maple St., Belchertown. Reenactors will demonstrate animal husbandry, trades, herbal and traditional medicine, games and entertainment, textile arts, handcrafts and food preparation. More information is available by visiting www.stonehousemuseum.org.

SUNDAY, MAY 17

WELLNESS WALK with the East Quabbin Land Trust in collaboration with Hubbardston Open Space Committee takes place today at 7:30 a.m. in Henry's Grove, Lombard Road, Hubbardston. The walk includes birding with Steve Lofgren, a grandson of the Henry in Henry's Grove and spring ephemerals with Mike Stoll, steward of Henry's Grove and Hidden Meadow Preserves. The walk will last one to one and a half hours. There is parking along one side of Lombard Road. People should RSVP by emailing atrevvett@eqtl.org.

WINGS OF SONG CONCERT will be held today at 3 p.m. in Elm Street Congregations Church, 61 Elm St., Southbridge. Admission is free with a free-will offering taken at intermission. As always socializing and yummy refreshments will follow each concert. This concert will take a deep dive into rural England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales in the 13th to 20th centuries as it sings of "Spring and Summer in the British Isles. All are invited.

Where is this?



Turley Publications photo by Ellenor Downer

This week's mystery photo is from New Braintree. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email edowner@turley.com with their answer by noon on Monday, May 18. Bill Bowles, Jane McCauley, Peggy Civilik and James Laramie correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was the bandstand at Curtis Recreation Field, Gardner Road, Route 68, Hubbardston.

MONDAY, MAY 18

QUABBIN PHOTO GROUP host a presentation by Western Massachusetts landscape photographer Jamie Malcolm-Brown today 7 p.m. in the Belchertown Recreation Department, 66 State St., Belchertown, located behind the Belchertown Police Station. His presentation, "Weather, Light, and Luck: The Reality Behind the Shot," offers an in-depth look at the decision-making process behind his images. Attendees will gain insight into how he scouts locations, uses tools such as PhotoPills, tracks weather patterns and adapts when conditions change unexpectedly. Malcolm-Brown, a self-taught photographer with more than two decades of experience, works primarily throughout the Pioneer Valley, focusing on capturing wild places shaped by fog, storms, night skies, and other fleeting natural conditions. The event is open to photographers of all skill levels, as well as anyone interested in landscape photography and the natural beauty of the Quabbin region.

VETERANS COFFEE HOUR sponsored by the Barre American Legion Auxiliary invites veterans of all ages to join the seniors today at 9 a.m. for a coffee hour at the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road, Barre. If the auxiliary members could bring something yummy that would be appreciated. This time of this get together has changed from previous time.

HAVING FUN WITH HISTORY sponsored by the Hubbardston Historical Society presents "Early Hubbardston Dairy Farms and Early Milk Bottles" by Linda Hietala today at 6:30 p.m. in the Williamsville Chapel, 4 Burnshirt Road, Hubbardston.

THURSDAY, MAY 21

BARRE FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION take place today from 5:30-7 p.m. In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients May 21 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.

MONDAY, MAY 25

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONIES Barre Post 2, American Legion hosts the Memorial Day ceremonies on today. The first ceremony will be at the monument in South Barre at 9:15 a.m. The second will be at St Joseph's Cemetery at 10 a.m.. The third will be at Glen Valley Cemetery at 10:30 a.m.

At noon a parade will begin in Barre Center. All Veterans are welcome and encouraged to participate. At 1:15p.m. the annual chicken barbecue will be held at the Post Quarters at 450 South Barre Road.

TUESDAY, MAY 26

RADIO OPERATOR CLUB MEETING takes place today at 6:30 p.m. in the West Brookfield Senior Center, 73 Central St., West Brookfield. This month's program the club will be discussing their plans for Field Day on June 27-28. ARRL Field Day is the most popular annual on-the-air amateur radio event in the U.S. and Canada, held on the fourth weekend of June. It acts as a combined emergency communication exercise, community open house and technical competition. Operators set up temporary, often off-grid stations to simulate disaster response while making as many radio contacts as possible. It is primarily an emergency preparedness exercise designed to teach operators how to set up stations in less-than-optimal conditions (e.g., tents, parks) when using standard infrastructure. Operators use generators, batteries, or solar power. It is open to the public. All are welcome to attend.

SUNDAY, MAY 31

PIONEER VALLEY BRASS CONCERT takes place today at 1 p.m. in St. Paul's Episcopal Parish on Cross Street in Gardner. This is a free public concert of music sponsored by the First Universalist Parish of North Dana. This 820th program is made possible through a trust fund administered by the First Universalist Parish of North Dana, created by sisters Catherine Mason and Mary Hale before north Dana was among the towns taken for the creation of the Quabbin Reservoir. People may call music coordinator Maureen Riendeau at 978-413-6867 for information about First Universalist Parish of North Dana or to schedule a vespers program.

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.

PATHFINDER from page 1

career training.

"This is truly a win-win," added Duda. "We're expanding opportunities for students, creating jobs, and keeping an important school building in Belchertown alive with purpose. The excitement will only continue to build as we move closer to opening our doors in 2026."

Duda emphasized that the expansion is intended to significantly increase access to career technical education opportunities for students throughout the district's nine member communities.

"If a student from Palmer, Monson, Belchertown, Granby, Ware, Warren, Oakham, Hardwick, or New Braintree wants a Career Technical Education, now is the time to apply," Duda said. "Pathfinder Tech will have a seat and space available for you next school year beginning in September. We are ready to prepare students for direct entry into a high-wage career, college, military service, or any other aspirations they may have."

This 150-seat expansion is possible thanks to the Cold Spring expanded campus in Belchertown, and represents the single largest student

expansion in the district's history. Duda reported that this initiative is being completed without incurring debt to the nine member towns, as well as without major capital requests, and without immediate impacts to local taxpayers assessments.

This strategic initiative is being accomplished solely through strategic financial planning, along with grant funding secured from the commonwealth.

"Support for this planned expansion has been comprehensive and widespread," Duda said. "Senators, state representatives, and elected officials from all nine mem-

ber communities have signed on in support of this creative, forward-thinking, and affordable approach to increasing access to career and technical education opportunities for students throughout the region."

Now in his fifth year as superintendent and his 20th year serving the district, Duda has made strategic long-term planning into a strength of his leadership. In recent years, the district has received record levels of grant funding. These include over \$5 million in competitive grant funding to increase student access, purchase equipment, renovate facilities, and add square footage to support expansion efforts, and an additional \$1.5 million to support new adult and continue education programming, and to help keep the campus active and vibrant during the evenings and weekends when it's used by adult learners.

Compared to other school districts in the region that are struggling with budget cuts, declining enrollment, and closures, Pathfinder is a notable exception, with its record levels of enrollment, carrying no debt, and requesting no major capital funding from its nine member towns.

Duda described Pathfinder as a model for what's possible in education throughout the region. As a graduate from Pathfinder himself, Duda said he understands

firsthand the life-changing opportunities this model of education can provide students. While some districts in the region are attempting to replicate aspects of Pathfinder Tech's programming, Duda emphasized that Pathfinder already belongs to the nine member communities and exists to serve their students.

"Pathfinder Tech is already your school," Duda noted. "It belongs to the students and families of our nine member towns."

"There's no need for member school districts to waste money, time, and resources on introductory elective type career courses like the ones occurring in the towns of Palmer and Monson," Duda said. "You don't need to try to duplicate with an introductory version of what we offer. Instead, remember that Pathfinder Tech is already the town's school, and students are now guaranteed to have a seat

available for them to attend."

Duda recommended that the towns "encourage students to apply and take advantage of the career and technical education already available to them, should that be the desired educational model they want to pursue."

In addition to Governor Healey, the event was attended by Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, Secretary of Education Stephen Zrike, and Commissioner of Education Pedro Martinez, as well as several additional cabinet members, mayors, and state and local officials.

Pathfinder Tech plans to continue pursuing funding sources to support the expansion, including the recently announced \$100 million CTE Capacity Expansion Grant Initiative from the Healey-Driscoll Administration.

Pathfinder Tech is currently accepting applications for the 2026-2027 school year. Prospective students can apply at PathfinderTech.org.



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Submitted photo

Pathfinder Superintendent Eric Duda (left) shakes hands with Governor Maura Healey at the press conference in Marlborough.



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Panthers fall in close matchup with Leicester

BARRE – It was a busy home work for the Quabbin Regional High School baseball team, thought the Panthers did lose one game to a rainout last Wednesday. Last Monday, the Panthers

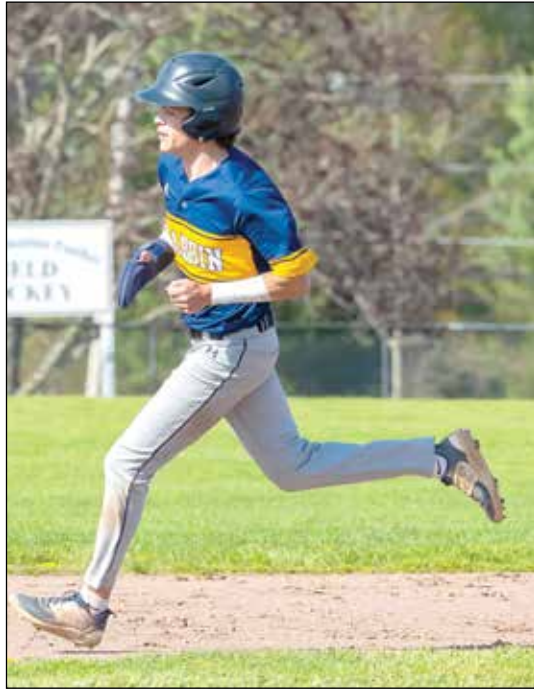
defeated Narragansett 3-1, but suffered a 10-8 loss to Leicester. With the defeat, Quabbin stands at 5-7.

They have more games on the schedule, but are looking for that .500 record needed

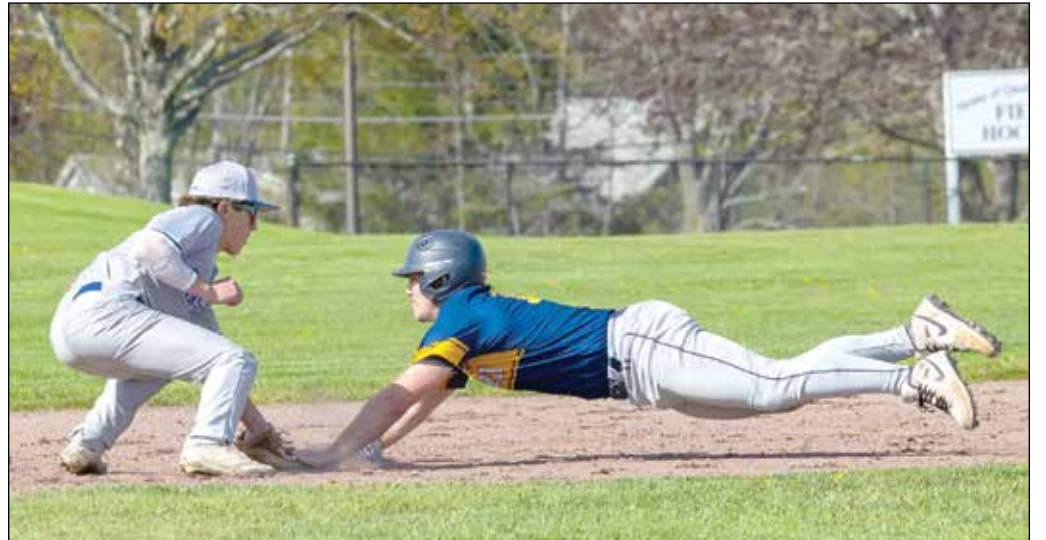
to qualify for the Division 4 state tournament. Coming up, the Panthers will host Murdock High School at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 14. They host Bromfield on Monday, May 18 at 4 p.m.



Andy Warfield winces as he is struck by a pitch.



Aiden Lapointe dashes for second base.

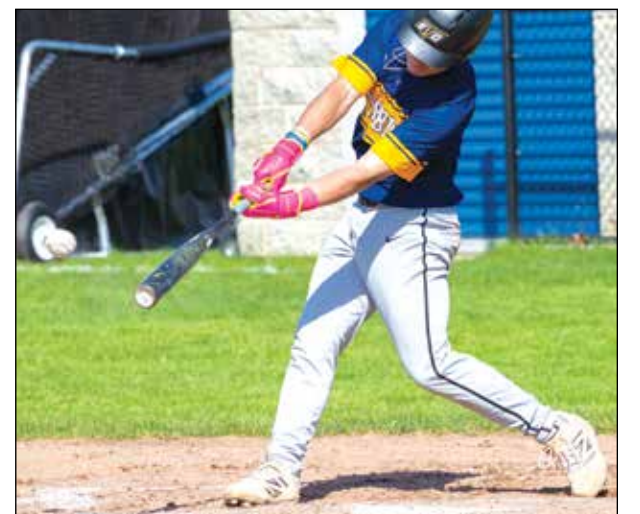


Adam Adams dives safely into second base.

Turley photos by Jeffrey Haynes



Ian Haupt stretches out to make the catch as the runner sprints to first base



J.R. Falconi connects on the pitch for a hit.



Izzy Doty makes the catch on a deep shot to center field.



Raegyn Wnek, right, scrambles to make the catch on a foul ball.

Turley photos by Jeffrey Haynes

Quabbin girls tennis suffers first defeat

BARRE – In its 13th match-up of the regular season, the Quabbin Regional High School girls tennis team took its first loss of the year, falling 3-2 to Groton-Dunstable. It was two of the singles players from Groton-Dunstable that clinched

it for the opposition. Farrah Wojcik had the only singles win for Quabbin, winning in three sets. Wojcik lost the first set, but came back to win the last two to take her match.

The two doubles teams split, with Quabbin's second doubles

team of Addison Suprenant and Maria Hamm scoring Quabbin's other win in the match.

While Quabbin is 12-1 for the season, they are still undefeated in league play as the regular season winds down.

Indians in action

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Last week, North Brookfield softball was in action, the Indians are looking to make the state tournament season and currently sit at 3-5 on the season with games against Parker Charter and North High School coming up in the next couple of days. Both games will be played at home.



Hope McCoy leads off first.



Sophia Dufresne fires a throw.



Whitney Reno fields a ground ball and heads to tag first base.

Quabbin softball rebounds with win over Leicester

BARRE – Until last Thursday, Quabbin Regional High School softball was on a three-game losing skid. The Panthers changed their fortunes with an 8-4 win over Leicester on May 7. The Panthers are now 4-7 on the season, with plenty of time to get back to .500. The Panthers are in action on Thursday, May 14 against Murdock at 3:30 p.m. and then face Bromfield on Monday, May 18 at 3:30 p.m.



Josie Castell fields a ground ball.



Maggie Leander delivers a late-game pitch.



Maci Roseberry watches the play as she runs for third base.



Lindsay Fors reaches for the catch to make the tag at second base.



Olivia Holmes squares up a hit.



Abby Lindberg sends a pitch away.

Sports

Thunderbirds complete upset of Bruins to advance in playoffs

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds outlasted the Providence Bruins, 1-0, in a goaltending duel for the ages on Thursday night inside the MassMutual Center, defeating Providence in four games to advance to the Atlantic Division Finals against the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins.

By completing the upset of the Macgreor Kilpatrick Trophy winners, Springfield, which finished 38 points behind Providence during the regular season, completed the largest upset by point differential in Calder Cup Playoff history.

Georgi Romanov's dream postseason continued rolling along in the first period for the T-Birds, as the goaltender made a highlight-reel stop for the second straight game in the series, stretching post-to-post to make a tremendous left pad save on Riley Tufto on a 3-on-1 Bruins rush.

Not to be outdone at the other end, AHL regular sea-

son MVP Michael DiPietro had answers for each of Springfield's eight shots on net in the first period. The Providence backstop would not be very busy at all in the second period, needing to make just five saves, but one was notable when he flashed out the glove hand to deny a broken play attempt from the left slot by Akil Thomas.

Providence had a tremendous chance presented to them with a power play in the closing minutes of period two, but the Springfield penalty kill continued to shine, improving to 13 out of 15 for the series and 22-for-24 in the postseason.

Neither Romanov nor DiPietro showed any signs of blinking in a busy third period for both netminders, which featured a combined 23 stops between the backstops.

For a second straight game, overtime was required, and for a third straight extra session in the postseason, the T-Birds had a hero rise to the

occasion. Romanov was the first hero, as he kicked out the right leg to deny a Navrin Mutter breakaway early in the session.

Then, at 4:01 of the extra session, Otto Stenberg carried the puck over the blue line, slipped a cross-ice pass to Chris Wagner, and from there, Wagner spotted Dillon Dube crashing the left side of the crease. The veteran winger did the honors from there, beating DiPietro and completing the upset with his second goal and fourth point in the four-game series.

With the win, the T-Birds will now take on the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins in the Atlantic Division Finals, beginning on Tuesday, May 12 at Mohegan Arena at Casey Plaza for a 7:05 p.m. puck drop. Tickets for Game 3 (Tuesday, May 19) and Game 4 if necessary (Thursday, May 21) at the MassMutual Center are available now at www.SpringfieldThunderbirds.com.

Newest inductees to Western Mass Baseball Hall announced

HOLYOKE – The Western Massachusetts Baseball Hall of Fame Committee proudly announces members of its 2026 induction class.

This year's inductees include:

- **Chad Paronto** – Former UMass Amherst, and Major League pitcher with 177 MLB appearances.
- **Bill L'Heureux** – Honored for his legendary umpiring career spanning decades in Western Massachusetts and across America.
- **Bob Bohl** – A longtime figure in the baseball community in Ludlow and across the region, recognized for his influence and service to the sport.
- **2010 Amherst High School State Championship Team** – Celebrated for their remarkable Di-

vision I State Championship season.

- **Steve McKelvey** – MLB agent and UMass Amherst Professor, honored for his longtime service to the baseball community and contribution to the sports management profession.
- **Howard Herman** (Gary Brown Award for Sports Media) – A respected voice in sports journalism in Western Massachusetts, whose coverage has elevated local baseball for decades.

Follow Valley Blue Sox on social media for more class of 2026 announcements and more information on each of the 2026 inductees in the coming weeks.

The induction banquet will take place on Friday, June 5 at Wyckoff Country Club in Holyoke, beginning

at 6 p.m. The evening will feature dinner, recognition ceremonies, and reflections on the careers and accomplishments of this year's honorees.

The evening is presented by the Valley Blue Sox and its presenting sponsor Westfield Bank.

Tickets for the event are available now and can be purchased online at www.valleybluesox.com.

The Western Massachusetts Baseball Hall of Fame continues its mission to preserve and celebrate the rich baseball heritage of the region by honoring those who have made significant contributions both on and off the field.

For additional information, please visit the ticket website or contact info@valleybluesox.com.

Legals

BARRE PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to the provision M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 6, the Barre Planning Board has rescheduled the public hearing to **Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at 7:20 p.m.** (due to conflict with the Town's Annual Town Meeting on May 19th) in the Henry Woods Municipal Building, 40 West Street, Boards' Office, 3rd Floor, requested by Jonathan and Chelsea Abram for a special permit for a noncommercial kennel for property located at 176 Station Road, Assessors Map G, Lot 104 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds Book 73195, Page 266.

All interested parties who wish to comment on this matter should attend the hearing, or submit comments in writing prior to the hearing to the Planning Board.

Floyd Kelley, Chairman
05/14, 05/21/2026

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS TOWN OF BARRE ENGINEERING SERVICES FIR STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Town of Barre is seeking professional engineering services for proposed infrastructure improvements on Fir Street in Barre, MA. Funding for this project is provided by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the FY 2025 Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, Community Development Block Grant Program.

A more detailed Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is available at the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, 1 Mercantile Street, Suite 520, Worcester, MA 01608, (508) 459-3331, from 9 AM to 5 PM. The RFQ will be available beginning on Thursday, May 14, 2026, until the due date specified below in digital format by request from John O'Leary, joleary@cmrpc.org. The Town of Barre, the awarding and contracting authority, reserves the right to reject any and all proposals if it is deemed in the best interests of the Town to do so.

Completed proposals are to be submitted in accordance with the RFQ's submission procedures no later than 3:00 PM, Thursday, June 4, 2026, at

the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, 1 Mercantile Street, Suite 520, Worcester, MA 01608. 05/14/2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Frank W. LaRange to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Northpoint Mortgage, Inc., dated November 16, 2016 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 56343, Page 90, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Northpoint Mortgage, Inc., its successors and assigns to PennyMac Loan Services, LLC, recorded on June 28, 2022, in Book No. 67821, at Page 147 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at **10:00 AM on June 5, 2026**, on the mortgaged premises located at 711 South Barre Road, Barre, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage.

TO WIT: The following described parcel of land, and the improvements and appurtenances thereto in the County of Worcester (Worcester District), Commonwealth of Massachusetts to wit: Commonly known as: 711 South Barre Road, Barre, MA 01005 Parcel No.: Map H, Lot 451

Legal Description: Land with the buildings thereon in that part of Barre, Worcester County, Massachusetts, known as South Barre, on the easterly side of South Barre Road, known as Route 32, being shown as Lot 1 on a Plan entitled "Plan of Land in Barre, MA owned by D.A. Robinson Contracting, Inc., Scale 1"=50'," dated February 23, 1999, drawn by Donald A. Para, Land Surveyor, Inc., New Braintree, MA and recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 739, Plan 18, to which plan reference is hereby made for a more particular description. Lot 1 contains 0.619 Acres. For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester

County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 52145, Page 219.

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 Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) 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., Newton, 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
22145
05/07, 05/14, 05/21/2026

OAKHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

There will be an RDA hearing on **Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 6:00p.m.** in the Oakham Town Hall. The RDA was submitted by the Oakham Conservation Commission to consider the status of wetland areas located at 358 Coldbrook Rd.
Submitted by
Lucy Tessnau, Clerk
05/14/2026

In the Classroom

Quabbin Middle School lists honor roll

BARRE – The Quabbin Regional Middle School, 800 South St., announced the third quarter honor roll

Sixth grade High Honors

Sixth grade students making High Honors were: Lia Aiesi, Leona Barre, Clayton Cranston, Nolan Cronk, Kayla Despres, Ralph DiBenedetto, Elise Flores de Oliveira, Andrew Gingras, Annabelle Ickler, Kylee Lomastro, Dylan Mace, Thendara Magario, Richard May, Scarlett McDonald, Jonah Melad, Avery Phelps, Deklan Sampson, Sophia Serrano, Jorja Thorpe, Andrei Timofeev and Richard Valcourt.

Sixth grade Honors

Sixth grade students making Honor Roll were: Caiden Ahearn, Bella Arriola, Moriah Baxter, Elias Bellemer, Danica Bjorklund, Makayla Boos, Ella Bourgeois, Audrey Breault, Casey Coates, Emily Conway, Troy Corbett, Charlotte Daniels, Milena DeSouza, Joshua Doherty, Isla Fagnoli, Derek Ferreira, Logan Grandmason, David Groner, Noah Harper, Michael Hicks, Aria Jackson, Abigail Kajjala, Mason Kazanovicz, Hunter Kukas, Alex Lindsay, Mia Longtin, Noah Longtin, Evelyn Lord, Liam McKenzie, Logan McManaman, Chase McQuestion, Aria Missildine, Valkyrie Moore, Sage Morin, Tyler Nadeau, Hunter Nagle, Owen Nally, Penny Ouimette, Harris Paakkonen, Bridgette Parker, Dylan Potter, Nathaniel Putelis, Jacob Rigney, Aubree Roseberry, Sadie Russell,

Vincent Stark, Jaide Stillman, Benjamin Toupin, Katara Tran, Emma Tyler, Jaylyn Vega, Irelyn Venne, Benjamin Wickstrom, Rhys Wynne and Luna Yules.

Seventh grade High Honors

Seventh grade students making High Honors were: Anna Coomey, Davin Goodwin, Maishao Lee, Brady Malin, Theodore Minton, Annaleigh Moncoeur, Nolan O'Connor, Ximena Palomera-Espinoza, Liam Shaw, Brayden Surprenant, Ty'v Vaughn, Alonzo White and Joseph Youngstrom.

Seventh grade Honor Roll

Seventh grade students making Honor Roll were: Nevaeh Andrews, Asher Baker, Julianna Bienvenu, Jacob Blanchard, Talasyn Boissonneau, Aleksander Bonenfant, Caleb Caban, Jaysen Cassano, Josie Castell, Cameron Charpentier, Charley Chauvin, Ayla Clark, Ryan Colgate, John Cook, Ella Critelli, Hannah Cutler, Joey DeMalia, Ethan Donaldson, Hannah Dube, Matthew Filamand, Maia Flint, Andrew Fuller, Addyson Garceau, Alexander Girouard, Lincoln Graves, Colby Hill, Madilyn Houle, Jack Johnson, Levi Kniskern, Elizabeth Laramee, Ryan LaRange, Walker Larson, Ilyanna Lynch, Carter Major, Adalyn McHugh, Kayla McHugh, Lucy Merrill, Sawyer Minton, Adelaide Moeller, Avidhda O'Neill, Bryce Pariseau, Catheryn Racine, Hazel Serra, Weston Stukuls Barrieau, Landon Swindlehurst, Zach-

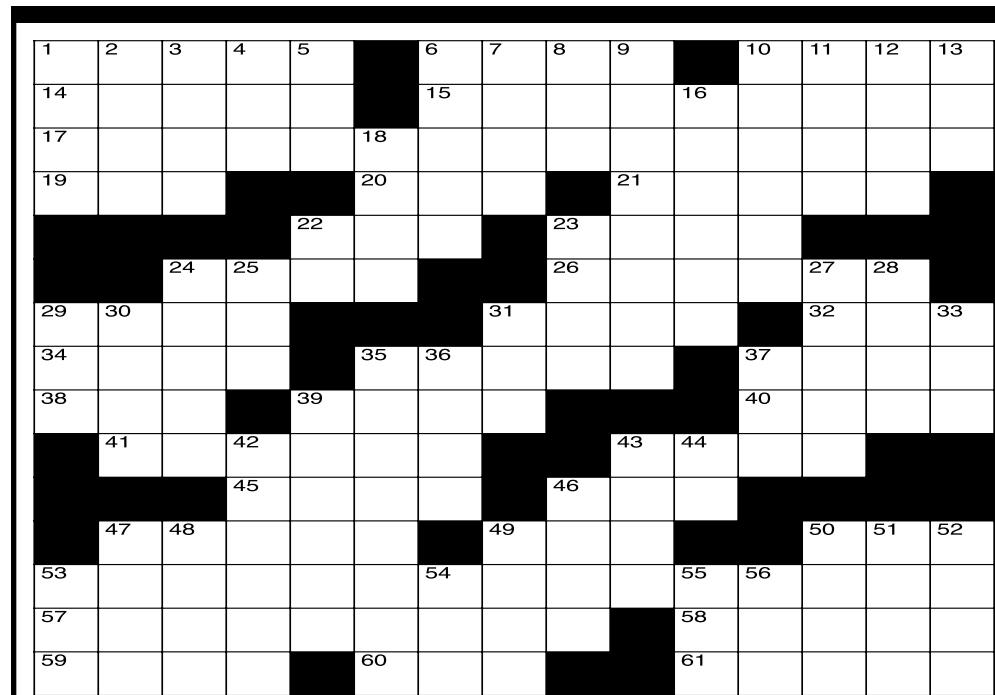
ary Thompson, Hana Mae Tousignant, Anthony Wade and Brady White.

Eighth grade High Honors

Eighth grade students making High Honors were: Saylor Bissonnette, Julia Blanchard, Winter Boyea, Eliza Brown, Emily DeMalia, Brody Despres, Maria Hamm, Nolan Herrick, Evelyn Johnson, Pele Johnson, Caiden Lance, Mathieu LeBlanc, Ava Maxim, Cameron McDonald, Madeline Omasta, Sebastian Palomera-Espinoza, Owen Pears, Evelyn Priestley, Madeleine Proulx, Lily Ryan, Baelin Sullivan, Maggie Ward, Elizabeth Welch, Lila Wilson and Raegyn Wnek.

Eighth grade Honor Roll

Eighth grade students making Honor Roll were: Nicholas Baldwin, Addyson Barrenger, Amelia Breault, Caleb Brouillet, Henry Corbett, Christopher Dallair, Enzo Fagnoli, Lane Fagnoli, Addison Ford, Lucas Gaspar, Brayden Hurley, Aimee Ickler, Theodore Langer, Grace Lantagne, Maggie Leander, Jack Leclair, Chiara Manana, Bree May, Valerie Metterville, Giella Montalvo, Brayden Nadeau, Jonathan Nunes, Caleb Oliveira, Coleton Pina, Autumn Rector, Kira Roden, Maci Roseberry, Fordyce Ruggles, Thomas Schoonmaker, Andrew Scott, Hannah Shotwell, Madalyn Simons, Bella Spring, Emma Stauder, Fiona Stevens, Arina Timofeev, Kailyn Traynham and Lola Zantouliadis.



CLUES ACROSS

- Notable casino destination
- Current units
- Roman military unit
- American lizard
- Fates
- The Yankees have lots of these
- Unhappy
- Mimic
- Remove from the record
- Where cargo ships dock (abbr.)
- A way to fight
- Turfs
- Contract
- Country along the Arabian peninsula
- Tree species
- Pituitary gland secretion (abbr.)
- Perfect
- "Partner" to groans
- Jewish calendar

CLUES DOWN

- Animal jaws
- Small water buffalo
- An appliance has
- Where wrestlers work
- Egotistical
- Potted plants
- Containers
- Large, flightless birds
- Part of a book
- American spies
- Pancakes made of buckwheat flour
- Swiss river
- Disfigure
- Have surgery
- Formal withdrawal
- Early English council
- Area units
- 2,000 lbs.
- Siskel and ___

CLUES ACROSS

- Every
- Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- Very skilled
- No more than what is specified
- Tire measurement
- Towers
- Forward
- Jacob ___, American journalist
- Vale
- Former CIA
- Middle Eastern nation
- Exhausts
- South Dakota
- The complete duration of something
- Kids love him
- Singular
- Cod genus
- Mild yellow Dutch cheese

CLUES DOWN

- Resistance unit
- Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- Cast out
- 60-minute periods
- Most worn
- European river
- Atomic mass unit
- Items of food
- Body parts
- Ireland
- Partner to Pa
- Sammy ___, songwriter
- Dutch settler
- Full-grown pike fish
- Sun or solar disk
- Minute arachnid
- From a distance
- A monthly expense
- Young women's association
- Brazilian state
- Air freight provider
- Pointed end of a pen

Church News

Local pastor offers sermon

Sixth Sunday of Easter, and Mother's Day

The Love of God Through Christ and the Holy Spirit!"

Scripture Reading:
John 14 v 15-21

I. Introduction

I think it is a wonderful thing to be loved for who we are, and to experience that love and care from others around us.

Love is often expressed in small acts of kindness, such as making someone a cup of coffee or tea, holding their hand when they need comfort, or doing chores even when we do not feel like it.

One of the most loving things we can do is listen with care when someone needs support. On this Mother's Day, let us reflect on what Jesus teaches us about true love.

II. The Love of God through the Holy Spirit

This passage is part of Jesus' farewell discourse to His disciples, during which He told them that there will come a time when He will not be with them in the flesh much longer.

He also told them not to be troubled, for He was going to prepare a place for them and would return to take them with Him. It is a passage that shows the disciples how much He cares for them.

Here, He reminds them

that to love Him is to obey His commandments and live according to the Beatitudes. To live this way, they will need help to do His will.

He will ask God to send the Holy Spirit to be with them, to guide them, and empower them to love Him, love God and love one another. He called the Holy Spirit the Spirit of Truth, because It will reveal to them who God truly is, the One who loves, cares and is alive there for them.

They will know the Holy Spirit intimately because they know Christ, and His Spirit already dwells within them. This message is both reassuring and instructive, preparing them as future apostles to call others to love Him, love God, and be filled with the Holy Spirit. Jesus is laying the groundwork for them, the Early Church and the Church of today, all of us, to love and obey Him.

In verse 21 He reiterates His message that they must love Him, because if they do, they will be loved by God, and He, Jesus Christ will reveal Himself to them, at the resurrection, but also at the end of time.

This part of the farewell discourse is offering His disciples a completely new life, a life that is transformed by the true love of God through Him, and by the in-dwelling of the Holy Spirit. They will come alive spiritually and everything about them will be different. They will be filled with

an inner joy and peace that only God can give them. Others will see that, like on the Day of Pentecost, many more will want to have this love that Jesus is talking about.

III. Conclusion

On this Sixth Sunday of Easter, we live in the promise of Jesus Christ that, through His resurrection, He has come into our lives with love for us and for the world. God gave God's only Son to show humanity how to love, and how to live.

Like the disciples, we are called to love Him with our whole hearts and to let the Holy Spirit fill us, so that God's love may shine through us to those around us. This is a message especially for all mothers, all women, on this Mother's Day to be open yet again for this invitation to love and be obedient to God's commandments.

All women on this Mothers' Day have an opportunity to commit, or recommit ourselves to God in a special way, to be renewed spiritually, and to be an instrument of love and peace in their homes, their communities and in the wider world.

To all men, this is for you, as well. May God bless us all with this wonderful gift of love and peace.

Amen

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

Obituaries

William S. Barkentin III, 78

HARDWICK – William S. Barkentin III of Hardwick, formerly of Greenwich, Connecticut, age 78, died on May 3, 2026 in Baystate Medical Center, Springfield of complications from cancer. We thank the kind people who cared for him and the ACS and other volunteers, who drove him to his treatments.



Bill is remembered by his friends as a gentle soul; as gentlemanly and gracious with kindness and charm.

With his friend Peter Deveikis, Bill assembled an esteemed collection of 19th Century Classical American Empire furniture.

Bill leaves behind a sister, Elizabeth B. Gardner (Betsy) (Raymond P. Poincelot Jr.) of Fairfield, Connecticut and a nephew, Joshua B. Gardner (Aileen E. Nowlan) of Washington, DC and two grand-nieces, Ashley and Clara as well as the congregation of Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, Ware, who loved him also.

A service for Bill will take place on Saturday, June 27 at 3 p.m. in Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 124 Gilbertville Road, Ware, MA.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the American Cancer Society.

DEATH NOTICES

Barkentin, III William S.
Died May 3, 2026
Service June 27 at 3 p.m.
Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witnesses, 124 Gilbertville Road, Ware

Goodhart, Eric
Died April 20, 2026

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.

Eric Goodhart, 83

HUBBARDSTON – Eric Goodhart, 83, of Hubbardston, passed away on April 20, 2026.

Born on May 21, 1942, in Brooklyn, New York and raised in Tenafly, New Jersey, Eric graduated from The George Washington University with a major in business and a minor in psychology.

As the Director of Programs for Education and a Certified Reiki Master Teacher, he combined his passions for helping students and their families with the stress and anxiety of navigating the college application process. He was deeply committed to guiding others with compassion, insight and care.



His sense of humor and calming voice were what drew people to him, offering comfort and connection to all who had the privilege of knowing him.

He is survived by his wife, Carol; his daughter, Susan and his brother, Bill.

He will be remembered for his dedication to the students he helped and his lifelong pursuit of optimal health and internal balance.



Submitted photo

On Sunday the Barre Congregational Church had a blessed worship service for mothers and all women. Some of the women gathered in fellowship hall.

Our advertisers make this publication possible.

Let them know you saw their ad in the Barre Gazette

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

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visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

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Class of 2026

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2x3 Black & White Grad Ad

Congratulations Karly Smith! We are so very proud of you and your accomplishments. Good luck at Springfield College!



Love, Mom & Dad

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of Memorial Day,
PUBLIC NOTICES EARLY AD DEADLINE
Place your public notice no later than **NOON**

Thursday, May 21

– Thank you!

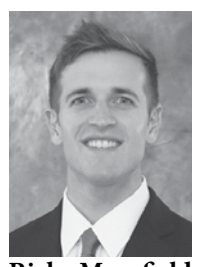


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Director



Ricky Mansfield
Director

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Public Safety

Rutland Police Log

Sunday, May 12
 7:34 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Welch Avenue, Transported to Hospital
 7:51 a.m. Safety Concern, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 11:57 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Glenwood Road, No Action Required
 12:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Prouty Lane, Written Warning
 12:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 1:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 1:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning
 1:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 1:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 1:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 2:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle –Pursuit, Pommogussett Road, Citation Issued
 2:02 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 2:21 p.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Nichols Road, Fire Extinguished
 4:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 4:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 5:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning
 5:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning
 7:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 7:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 9:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning
 9:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Criminal Complaint
 Summon Sunil Kumar, Anurag, 26, Worcester
 Charge Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle
 8:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
 11:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

Monday, April 13
 1:54 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Vehicle Towed
 10:26 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Animal Bite, Grizzly Drive,

Report Filed
 11:14 a.m. Illegal Dumping, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 11:41 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Berard, Carlee D., 37, Spencer
 Charges Inspection/Sticker, No * C90 S20, Uninsured Motor Vehicle C90 S34J, Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle with C90 S23
 11:49 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
 12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 12:07 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 12:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 12:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Report Filed
 12:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
 1 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Perkins, Hannah Margaret, 33, Rutland
 Charges Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With, Uninsured Motor Vehicle
 1:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Schmid, Peter A., 80, Hardwick
 Charges Uninsured Motor Vehicle C90 S34J, Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle with C90 S23
 1:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 1:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 2:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 2:07 p.m. Burglary/Breaking and Entering, Pleasantdale Road, Report Filed
 2:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning
 2:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 4:25 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Southbridge Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 5:03 p.m. Identity Theft, Main Street, Call Transferred
 5:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 5:37 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or

Found, Bigelow Road, Officer Chief Advised
 7:28 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Stroke (CVA), New Braintree Road, Transported to Hospital
 10:31 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Inwood Road, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, April 14
 4:16 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Stevens Way, Transported to Hospital
 11:04 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Vista Circle, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 11:20 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Wheeler Road, Investigated
 12:42 p.m. Lockout (Home or Vehicle), Main Street, Referred to Other Agency
 12:50 p.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Main Street, Officer/Chief Advised
 12:54 p.m. Serve Warrant, North Brookfield Road, Removed to Court/Lockup
 Arrest Brown, Jonathan A., 36, Oakham
 Charges Breaking and Entering Building Daytime for Felony, Larceny from Person +65, Vandalize Property c266 §126A
 3:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 5:11 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Wheeler Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 5:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 7:59 p.m. Escort/Transport, Worcester House of Correction, Removed to Court/Lockup
 Arrest Brown, Jonathan A., 36, Oakham
 Charges Breaking and Entering Building Daytime for Felony, Larceny from Person +65, Vandalize Property c266 §126A
 8:01 p.m. Fire – Power Lines/Wires, Turkey Hill Road, Investigated

Wednesday, April 15
 5:53 a.m. Public Assist, Old Turnpike Road, Public Assist
 12:26 p.m. Illegal Dumping, Maple Avenue, Officer Spoke to Party
 2 p.m. Erratic Operator, East County Road, Officer Spoke to Party

4:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 7:52 p.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Barre Paxton Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 11:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Written Warning

Thursday, April 16
 10:07 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Woodside Avenue, Area Search Negative
 10:49 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Worcester Road, No Action Required
 11:14 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Thurston Hill Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 11:16 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Adams Road, Transported to Hospital
 11:50 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Shore Drive, Transported to Hospital
 12:27 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, East County Road, Transported to Hospital
 11:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning

Friday, April 17
 5:41 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning
 8:43 a.m. Juvenile Runaway, Rutland Heights Way, Transported to Hospital
 10:23 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning
 10:35 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 10:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 10:49 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle, Walnut Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 11:09 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, North Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital
 11:12 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 11:27 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
 11:44 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
 11:54 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
 12:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 12:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning

12:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning
 12:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
 12:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning
 12:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Vehicle Towed
 12:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning
 1:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning
 1:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning
 4:38 p.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Main Street, Removed from Scene
 5:20 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Princeton, Report Filed
 5:54 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Princeton, Mutual Aid Assist
 7:49 p.m. Unwanted Party, Maple Avenue, Report Filed
 9:16 p.m. Harassment, Prospect Street, Report Filed
 9:51 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Sycamore Drive, Transported to Hospital

Saturday, April 18
 12:31 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 1:45 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Princeton, Mutual Aid Assist
 12:30 p.m. Fire – Illegal Burn, Pommogussett Road, Investigated
 3:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning
 3:33 p.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Prescott Street, Report filed
 3:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
 4:41 p.m. Safety Concern, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 4:45 p.m. Erratic Operator, Pleasantdale Road, Verbal Warning
 5 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Irish Lane, Vehicle Towed
 8:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Lagorce, Andrew David Jr., 23, Worcester
 Charges Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With
 10:28 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Forbes Road, Transported to Hospital

Oakham Police Log

Sunday, April 12
 8:35 a.m. Assault and Battery, Worcester Road, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Ashby, Robert S. Jr., 44, Barre
 Charges Assault and Battery
 Summons Mead, Zachary, 27, Barre
 Charges Assault and Battery
 2:21 p.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Nichols Road, Fire Extinguished

Monday, April 13
 1:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning
 1:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning
 1:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Scott, Tyrone Nathaniel, 29, Worcester
 Charges Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With
 4:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning
 7:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning
 7:28 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Stroke (CVA), New Braintree Road, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, April 14
 6:57 a.m. Erratic Operator, Worcester Road, Negative Contact
 12:54 p.m. Serve Warrant, North Brookfield Road, Removed to Court
 Summons Brown, Jonathan A., 36, Oakham
 Charges Rifle/Shotgun, Store Improper Near Minor
 Firearm Without FID Card, Possess
 Ammunition Without FID Card, Possess
 Firearm Without FID Card,

Possess
 Arrest Brown Jonathan A., 36, Oakham
 Charges Breaking and Entering Daytime for Felony, Larceny from Person =65, Vandalize property c266 §126A
 5:55 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Coldbrook Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 6:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning

Wednesday, April 15
 5:53 a.m. Public Assist, Old Turnpike Road, Public Assist
 7:48 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, North Brookfield Road, Officer/Chief advised
 11:28 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Dennis Whitney Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 2:01 Assist Other Agency/No Police, North Brookfield Road, Mutual Aid Assist

Thursday, April 16
 10:49 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Worcester Road, No Action Required
 11:16 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Adams Road, Transported to Hospital
 11:50 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Shore Drive, Transported to Hospital

Friday, April 17
 11:09 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, North Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital
 10:15 p.m. Harassment, Scott Road, Call Transferred

Saturday, April 18
 2:04 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Spencer Road, Officer/Chief Advised

Sunday, April 12
 1:27 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision Mt. Jefferson Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 Summons Welch, Andrew Joseph, 34, East Templeton
 Charges License Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With
 6:35 a.m. Landlord Tenant/Neighbor Dispute, Worcester Road, Call Transferred
 8:35 a.m. Assault and Battery, Worcester Road, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Ashby, Robert S. Jr., 44, Barre
 Charges Assault and Battery
 Summons Mead, Zachary, 27, Barre
 Charges Assault and Battery
 12:32 p.m. Erratic Operator, Wheelwright Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 1:26 p.m. Harassment, Exchange Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 2:04 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Barre Town Common, Report Filed
 2:21 p.m. Fire – Structure Fire, Nichols Road, Fire Extinguished
 4:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Monday, April 13
 2 a.m. Emergency Medical

Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, School South Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 9:22 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, South Street, Transported to Hospital
 9:36 a.m. Assault and Battery, Barre Police Headquarters, Officer Spoke to Party
 12:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Citation Issued
 12:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hubbardston Road, Citation Issued
 1:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hubbardston Road, Citation Issued
 1:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Barre Road, Citation Issued
 3:02 p.m. Safety Concern, High South Street, Negative Contact
 3:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 4:31 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Walnut Hill Road, Information Given
 5:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Sunrise Avenue, Citation Issued
 8:06 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Hancock Road, Call Transferred
 9:15 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, West Street, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, April 14
 12:41 p.m. Public Assist, South Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 6:57 a.m. Erratic Operator, Worcester Road, Negative Contact
 12:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hubbardston Road, Citation Issued
 7:53 p.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Walnut Hill Road, Referred to Other Agency

Wednesday, April 15
 9 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 9:13 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Mechanic Street, Citation Issued
 11:27 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hubbardston Road, Citation Issued
 11:41 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Sunrise Avenue, Citation Issued
 2:14 p.m. Assist Other Agency/Non-Police, Mechanic Street, Mutual Aid Assist
 5:23 p.m. Complaint, Peach Street, Negative Contact

Thursday, April 16
 3:39 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Leominster, Negative Contact

6:20 p.m. Juvenile Runaway, South Street, Returned
 9:15 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Written Warning

Friday, April 17
 2:50 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Williamsville Road, Transported to Hospital
 11:28 a.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Williamsville Road, Information Given
 12:47 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Old Coldbrook Road, Call Transferred

Saturday, April 18
 12:06 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Summer Street, Information Given
 8:29 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Choking, Valley Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 4:19 p.m. Fire – Illegal Burn, Worcester Road, Fire Extinguished
 5:10 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Valley Road, Area Search Negative
 8:10 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Vernon Avenue, Investigated
 8:35 p.m. Safety Concern, Ruggles Lane, Officer Spoke to Party

Barre Police Log

Sunday, April 12
 1:27 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision Mt. Jefferson Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 Summons Welch, Andrew Joseph, 34, East Templeton
 Charges License Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With
 6:35 a.m. Landlord Tenant/Neighbor Dispute, Worcester Road, Call Transferred
 8:35 a.m. Assault and Battery, Worcester Road, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Ashby, Robert S. Jr., 44, Barre
 Charges Assault and Battery
 Summons Mead, Zachary, 27, Barre
 Charges Assault and Battery
 12:32 p.m. Erratic Operator, Wheelwright Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 1:26 p.m. Harassment, Exchange Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 2:04 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Barre Town Common, Report Filed
 2:21 p.m. Fire – Structure Fire, Nichols Road, Fire Extinguished
 4:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Monday, April 13
 2 a.m. Emergency Medical

Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, School South Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 9:22 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, South Street, Transported to Hospital
 9:36 a.m. Assault and Battery, Barre Police Headquarters, Officer Spoke to Party
 12:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Citation Issued
 12:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hubbardston Road, Citation Issued
 1:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hubbardston Road, Citation Issued
 1:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Barre Road, Citation Issued
 3:02 p.m. Safety Concern, High South Street, Negative Contact
 3:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 4:31 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Walnut Hill Road, Information Given
 5:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Sunrise Avenue, Citation Issued
 8:06 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Hancock Road, Call Transferred
 9:15 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, West Street, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, April 14
 12:41 p.m. Public Assist, South Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 6:57 a.m. Erratic Operator, Worcester Road, Negative Contact
 12:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hubbardston Road, Citation Issued
 7:53 p.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Walnut Hill Road, Referred to Other Agency

Wednesday, April 15
 9 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 9:13 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Mechanic Street, Citation Issued
 11:27 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hubbardston Road, Citation Issued
 11:41 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Sunrise Avenue, Citation Issued
 2:14 p.m. Assist Other Agency/Non-Police, Mechanic Street, Mutual Aid Assist
 5:23 p.m. Complaint, Peach Street, Negative Contact

Thursday, April 16
 3:39 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Leominster, Negative Contact

6:20 p.m. Juvenile Runaway, South Street, Returned
 9:15 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Written Warning

Friday, April 17
 2:50 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Williamsville Road, Transported to Hospital
 11:28 a.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Williamsville Road, Information Given
 12:47 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Old Coldbrook Road, Call Transferred

Saturday, April 18
 12:06 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Summer Street, Information Given
 8:29 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Choking, Valley Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 4:19 p.m. Fire – Illegal Burn, Worcester Road, Fire Extinguished
 5:10 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Valley Road, Area Search Negative
 8:10 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Vernon Avenue, Investigated
 8:35 p.m. Safety Concern, Ruggles Lane, Officer Spoke to Party

Hubbardston Police Log

Hubbardston Police Log
Sunday, April 5
 3:18 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Healdville Road, Mutual Aid Transport
 4:42 p.m. Erratic Operator, Brigham Street, Verbal Warning

Monday, April 6
 9:03 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Morgan Road, No Transport Required

Tuesday, April 7
 10:56 a.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Old Westminster Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 12:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 1:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning
 4:42 p.m. Fraud or Forgery,

Main Street, Report Filed
 8:57 p.m. Juvenile Runaway, Main Street, Returned
 11:23 p.m. Erratic Operator, Burnshirt Road, Negative Contact

Wednesday, April 8
 9:40 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Written Warning
 10:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 2:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Written Warning
 2:55 p.m. Illegal Dumping, Old Princeton Road, Report Filed
 3:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brigham Road, Written Warning
 6:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Birgham Street, Public Assist
 7:07 p.m. Threats, Morgan Road, Report Filed

Thursday, April 9
 2:48 p.m. Suspicious Person/

Vehicle Activity, Elm Street, Negative Contact

Friday, April 10
 1:48 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Worcester Road, Transported to Hospital
 12:13 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Simond Hill Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 12:30 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Morgan Road, Mutual Aid Transported
 1:41 p.m. Fire – Brush and Wildland, River Road, Fire Extinguished
 2:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, New Templeton Road, Written Warning
 3:11 p.m. Fire – Water/Ice Rescues, Worcester Road, Investigated
 7:20 p.m. Emergency Medical

Service – Falls, Old Princeton Cutoff Road, No Transport Required
 7:23 p.m. Unwanted Party, Old Westminster Road, Report Filed
 7:29 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Root Road, Returned

Saturday, April 11
 12:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Cross Road, Removed from Scene
 3:24 p.m. Fire – Smoke Investigation, George Howard Road, Fire Extinguished
 7:03 p.m. Fire – Fumes/Odor/Gas Leak, Barre Road, Investigated
 8:56 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Pine Tree Lane, Transported to Hospital
 9:52 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Healdville Road, Officer Spoke to Party

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Spencer, Nash, win contested races

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

HARDWICK – Town Clerk Ryan J. Witkos announced the official results of the annual town election held last Saturday.

A total of 380 voters participated in the election, which is 17.3% of the town's 2,199 registered voters.

Newcomer Zachary E. Spencer secured a three-year term to the Select Board with 317 votes over Elizabeth V. Cyran, who received 57 votes.

Lisa J. Nash received 242 votes to win a three-year term on the Board of Health over Heidi Johnson, 106 votes.

Colin R. Brown was elected to represent the town on the Quabbin Regional School Committee for a three-year term, with 325 votes.

Barry P. Koch received 285 votes and was elected to fill one of two, three-year terms on the Paige Memorial Library Trustees. Incumbent Lisa M. Gaskill was re-elected to the other seat with 301 votes.

The following incumbents were re-elected to their positions: Ryan J. Witkos, Town Clerk for a three-year term, 364 votes; Jennifer S. Kolenda, Board of Assessors for a three-year term, 351 votes; Stanley D. White, Paige Agricultural Fund Trustee for a five-year term, 340 votes; Ryan J. Witkos, Moderator for a three-year term, 357 votes; Harry T. Comerford, Planning Board for a three-year term, 314 votes; and Jennifer E. Garvey, Planning Board for a three-year term, 292 votes.

Country Bank receives recognition

WARE – Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving Central and Western Massachusetts, announces the Boston Business Journal has once again named Country Bank an honoree in its annual 2024 Corporate Citizenship Awards, recognizing the region's top corporate charitable contributors.

The Business Journal annually publishes this list to highlight companies that promote and prioritize giving back to their communities. "It is with honor that we present our list of the

Top Charitable Contributors in Massachusetts, companies who gave \$100,000 or more to Massachusetts based in charities in 2024. Collectively, they gave more than \$416 million in cash contributions, a true example of the business community coming together to help those in need. We are proud to celebrate these organizations who give both money and time to make Boston a stronger and better place for all," said Boston Business Journal Market President and Publisher Carolyn Jones.

During this year's celebration, 99 companies qualified for the distinction by reporting at least \$100,000 in cash contributions to Massachusetts based charities last year, as noted above.

"We are honored to be recognized by the Boston Business Journal for Country Bank's philanthropic efforts. As a community bank, it is our mission to help make a difference in the lives of others," stated Mary McGovern, President and CEO at Country Bank.

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