

BARRE GAZETTE

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Finance Committee public hearing set for May 23

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
edowner@turley.com

BARRE – The Finance Committee will hold their annual budget public hearing on Tuesday, May 23 at 6:30 p.m. in the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road.

The Finance Committee will present their proposed Fiscal Year 2024 budget to the public at this time before the Annual Town Meeting set for Tuesday, June 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Interim Town Administrator

Interim Town Administrator Greg Balukonis said there was a slight change in new growth from \$90,000 to \$100,000 and a gain in state revenue of \$12,502 in the House budget compared to the Governor's budget. He also updated the Town Administrator's salary to \$103,000 to bring the amount consistent with Town Administrator salaries in surrounding towns.

He said the previous Town Administrator Jessica Sizer budgeted a 5% increase for the Quabbin Regional School District. He did receive an estimate from the Quabbin School District of 7.67% or \$6,632,996. He said he kept the 5% increase as the school number most likely would change when the state Senate budget comes out.

The difference between the percentages was over \$123,000. Health insurance increased from 5% to 7%. He said employees agreed to a greater out of pocket contribution to help lower the cost.

Police Department budget

The committee reviewed the Police Department budget at their Tuesday, May 9 meeting with Police Chief James Sabourin. He said his initial budget included the hiring of one more full-time officer to bring the number to 11 officers.

He said the hiring of one more full-time officer would keep the overtime line item at a responsible amount. He also included the purchase of a new police cruiser in the operating budget because it is a yearly purchase. He said the union contract was still in negotiation.

The Police Chief said his department currently has 10 full-time officers and two part-time officers. The state wants all full-time and part-time officers to meet full-time qualifications. Three years ago the Police Department had eight full-time and five part-time officers. The Police Chief said he would stay with the ten full-time officers for this year's budget.

The Finance Committee voted to keep the cruiser cost within the operating budget. Interim Town Administrator Balukonis said free cash was \$545,950. The figure was for two years. He also recommended placing some of the free cash in the Capital Stabilization Fund to help cover the cost for a new fire truck. Both the new fire truck and ambulance would not be purchases for FY 24, but in the next fiscal year. He also recommended keep-

See FIN COM, page 5



Town Hall has new clock



Submitted photo

The Barre Historical Society and the First Parish Church have replaced the old clock-works located in the Town Hall Cupola with a generous grant from the Barre Savings Bank Foundation.

Reparations long overdue for Quabbin Reservoir

Legislators pitch five bills to the state

By Christal Whelan
cwhelan@turley.com

The Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources convened at the Massachusetts State House last month to consider the testimonies in regard to 34 bills related to waterways, wetlands, water resources and oceans in Massachusetts.

Justice for the towns around the Quabbin Reservoir was high on the agenda with five bills, more than four legislators, and several citizens all testifying in support of some kind of compensation to the communities in western Massachusetts who have lost rather than gained by sharing one of their greatest natural resources – water – with the commonwealth. Collectively, the tone of the legislators was one of moral outrage for the annexation of land, the human cost of flooding a vast and populated plain to build the Quabbin Reservoir, and the continued one-way gain for eastern Massachusetts.

In a swift three-minute pitch, the time allotted to all the speakers, state Rep. Aaron Saunders addressed the uncomfortable issue of regional equity, and recommended a closer examination of how the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority has

been operating for decades since the towns of Enfield, Prescott, Greenwich and Dana were first disincorporated and then completely submerged to make this enormous, life-sustaining Quabbin Reservoir.

The bills aim to offer some kind of consideration to the communities that continue to steward the Quabbin watershed. At present, a section of the bill prohibits any consideration of the water.

Said Saunders, "The communities that steward this land, that owned this incredibly valuable resource receive absolutely nothing for the water that has fundamentally built Boston and the surrounding area."

Although the resounding word of the meeting was equity, the actual proposal was quite modest. The bill would see that the municipal government be charged 5 cents in excise per 1,000 gallons of the water.

"This would create an estimated \$3.5 million for the communities, living in the Quabbin watershed area," said Saunders, who described how desperately in need they are of support. He elaborated on how such funding might be used for non-profits to provide transit services that do not currently exist.

The bill would also set term limits on the MWRA advisory board and provide representation for western Massachusetts in the

See QUABBIN, page 10

Select Board reaffirm decision of Feb. 6, 2023

Dog owner fails to show up on Monday hearing

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
edowner@turley.com

BARRE – After the Select Board declared a dog at 160 Valley Road a nuisance due to excessive barking, the owner has not complied with the conditions.

The Board ordered the dog be vaccinated for rabies and licensed at a previous hearing and as of Monday, May 15 was unlicensed and unvaccinated for rabies. They also recommended the dog wear a no bark collar when tied outside.

At the Feb. 6 hearing, the Board ordered the dog be removed from the location by the Animal Control Officer.

Animal Control Officer Jennifer Ford said the owner did use the collar for a period of time and the barking stopped. However, ACO said the owner stopped using the collar as she felt it changed the demeanor of her dog. The dog's excessive barking returned.

ACO Ford said the dog barked in frustration as the owner tethered the dog outside longer than it should be. She also said the dog was not getting adequate exercise.

A neighbor attended the hearing and he said he called the ACO to report the dog's barking twice within the last two or so weeks. The owner of the property on 160 Valley Road also attended. He said the dog owner asked him to attend on her behalf, but the dog's owner did not provide documentation designating him to speak on her behalf.

See BARRE, page 5

Oakham election had no contests

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
edowner@turley.com

OAKHAM – Sixty of the 1,495 registered voters or 24.9% went to the poll this Monday for the Annual Town Election.

There were no contests on the ballot. Matthew Brunelle received 14 write-in votes for a three-year term on the Cemetery Commission and Susan Meyer

got five write-in votes for Library Trustee. Both positions were blank on the ballot.

Donald A. Haapakoski, a candidate for re-election, won a three-year term to the Board of Selectman with 50 votes and Amanda L. Carroll, a candidate for re-election, won a three-year term to Board of Assessor with 53 votes.

Ariana R. O'Neill, a candidate

See OAKHAM, page 9

Orthodox Congregational Church kicks off 200th celebration



Live music, food and activities for children were part of the bonfire kick off of the Orthodox Congregation Church's Bicentennial celebration. Several dozen local residents of all ages attended the event.

Submitted photos

A community bonfire held at the lot where the Nichewaung once stood marked the start of Petersham Orthodox Congregational Church's bicentennial celebrations.



BARRE GAZETTE

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News of the Towns

Round Town
Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Six Shooters come to Felton Field

Northeast Six Shooters will be at Felton Field, Old Coldbrook Road Saturday, May 20 from 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Shad Smith Memorial Shoot will be the second match of 2024 with a four stage match.

There will be a safety meeting at 10:30 a.m., a moment of silence for Shad and first shots at 11 a.m. This is an event to celebrate the life of a true cowboy. The Six Shooters are looking for youths to help out with balloon running. People may email Margo Petracone at westwindfm@aol.com if interested in helping. Compensation is offered. Scouts, 4-H, individuals or groups are welcome.

Food pantry distribution

The next Barre Food Pantry distribution will occur on Thursday, May 18 from 5:30-7 p.m. In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients May 18 will again be "drive-through" style distribution. 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.

Barre Farmers Market

The Barre Farmers Market is held every Saturday from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on the Barre Common. The next market will be Saturday, May 20. The market runs through October and includes farmers, crafters, artisans and more.

Circle of Song Concert

Circle of Song will hold a concert on Saturday, May 20 at 7 p.m. in the Barre Town Hall, Exchange Street. Circle of Song is collaborating with members of the Quabbin Community Band for two numbers, "A West Side Story suite" and "Pilgrim's Chorus" from Tannhauser.

Listening offers moving with osteoporosis

BARRE – The Listening Wellness Center will hold a four-week in person course Mondays, June 5 through June 26 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. for anyone with osteoporosis or osteopenia entitled "Moving with Osteoporosis."

Rhonda Hamer, an osteoporosis fitness specialist and certified nutrition coach. Cost is \$115 per person. Studies have shown lifestyle changes in activity and nutrition can improve bone density, balance and mobility as well as reduce falls and the risk of fracture.

Classes are held in the Yoga Studios, located at 28 James St. To register or for more information, people may email osteoporosisrhonda@gmail.com. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Hardwick/New Braintree Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

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Lions Club presents award to Shirley Lewis



Submitted photos
Shown from left are Barre Lions First Vice President Jean Alman; Lion Ron Jacobs; Shirley Lewis, holding the William T. Murphy Sight Award; Lewis' great-granddaughter, Julia Varney; Lions President Joe Petracone and Lion Sal Imperato in front of a quilt donated by Shirley Lewis.

Shirley Lewis of Barre holds the William T. Murphy Sight Award, which she received in "recognition of outstanding service and dedication to the Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund, Inc."



Barre Lions Club serves the community

BARRE – The Barre Lions Club (BLC) lives by the motto: "We Serve." The Club's largest annual fundraiser is their annual Car Show which will be held on the Barre Common on Saturday, Sept. 9 this year. The BLC depends on support from local businesses and the Barre community.

In order to fulfill their mission to serve this community, the BLC is looking for three types of support for their Car Show. 1. The purchase of plaques that will be awarded to "entry vehicles." Donation of items and gift certificates to raffle off. The donation of promotional items, pens, advertising literature, etc., for the goodie bags given to drivers, who enter their cars.

This past year the BLC supported The Quabbin Community Band, The Barre Food Pantry, Q-Drug, The American Legion Post 2, The 250th Anniversary Committee and the South Barre Common Committee and their Nornay Park Concert Series. Beyond the Barre community, the BLC made donations to

Lions Club International, The Braille Press, The Audio Journal, The District 33A Sight mobile, Mass. Lions Eye Research Fund (MLERF), The Barton Diabetes Center, etc. None of this could happen without the support of our local community.

Due to its donations to MLERF, the BLC had the opportunity to honor one of our senior citizens, who has donated dozens of quilts, blankets, and throws to the BLC over the years. A delegation of Barre Lions visited Shirley Lewis last week and presented her with a beautiful walnut plaque to commemorate her gifts to the club and to the citizens of Barre over the years.

Also of note was a "Certificate of Appreciation" awarded to Lion Barry Alman of the Barre Lions Club by Lions International President Brian E. Sheehan. It is the fourth highest award given by LCI. It was given in recognition of Distinguished Achievements in Fulfilling the Mission of Lions Club International. District 33A Governor Marianna Riemer presented the award to him.

Government Riemer stated that since he joined the BLC, he has served as Barre club secretary for 8 years and has taken on regional responsibilities by accepting the role of Zone chair, where he oversees, visits, and advises Lions clubs in this region. Lion Barry also accepted a four-year term as a Director for MLERF. Since 1952, MLERF has donated over \$40 million to research with the goal of eradicating preventable blindness. He is also Chairman of the Public Relations Committee and strives to keep the public aware of Lions activities in this area.

Lions throughout the world, still collect and recycle used eyeglasses and hearing aids. There is a yellow collection mailbox located in the Barre Plaza near the package store. The Barre Lions meet on the third Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, people may call Jean Alman at 978-355-2720.

Northeast Six Shooters return to Felton Field

BARRE – Northeast Six Shooters will be at Felton Field, Old Coldbrook Road Saturday, May 20 from 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Shad Smith Memorial Shoot will be the second match of 2024 with a four stage match.

There will be a safety meeting at 10:30 a.m., a moment of silence for Shad and first shots at 11 a.m. This is an event to celebrate the life of a true cowboy.

The Six Shooters are looking for youths to help out with bal-

loon running.

People may email Margo Petracone at westwindfm@aol.com if interested in helping. Compensation is offered. Scouts, 4-H, individuals or groups are welcome.

Music At Trinity
A Mission of Trinity Episcopal Church
Corner of Park and Pleasant Streets, Ware, MA
~ Presents ~
Amherst Area Gospel Choir
Sunday, May 21 @ 4pm

A FREE concert to benefit
The Springfield Rescue Mission

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 barrenews@turley.com or call 978-355-4000. Corrections may also be requested in writing at Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

Editorial deadline reminder

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

Hubbardston
Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Town Election set for June 13

The Annual Town Election will be held Tuesday, June 13 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Polling location is the gym at the Hubbardston Center School, 8 Elm St. Deadline to request mail in ballots is Tuesday, June 6 at 5 p.m. Mail in ballots must be received by the close of polls 8 p.m. on election day in order to be counted. There is no in-person early voting for Hubbardston's municipal elections. The last day to register to vote for the Annual Town Meeting is Saturday, May 27 at 5 p.m. The last day to register to vote for the Annual Town Election is Saturday, June 3 at 5 p.m.

Pastel workshop

Greg Maichack returns to the Hubbardston Public Library, 7 Main St., for a new program pastel workshop on Tuesday, May 23 from 6-8 p.m. People should register for this workshop entitled

Participants will create a rose on either a square or 12" x 18," their choice. Maichack has been asked over the years to offer a rose workshop, the most popular of flowers, and a symbol of love. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Hubbardston cultural council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

West African Drum Workshop

A West African Drum Workshop will be held on Thursday, May 18 from 7-8 p.m. at the Hubbardston Public Library, 7 Main St. Jafar Manselle with his performance group, The Wendell Warriors, will teach the workshop. People will learn to play a traditional rhythm on West African hand drums and all drums and percussion instruments will be provided.

Story Times

Hubbardston Public Library, 7 Main St., holds story time with Miss Tricia on Mondays at 1 p.m. and are not held on Monday holidays. Children will listen to a story and make a craft. No registration is necessary. Miss Tricia holds a story time on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. as well.

Senior center events

The Hubbardston Senior Center, 7A Main St., events include: Coffee with Friends Monday through Thursday at 9:45 a.m.; Bingo from 12:30-3 p.m. on Mondays; Knitting Group at 10 a.m. every Tuesday at 10 a.m. and WiiBowling beginning at 8:30 a.m. every Monday and Wednesday beginning at 8:30 a.m.

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 22. 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 – Shepherd's pie, carrots, peas, chocolate pudding, diet = sugar free chocolate pudding, marble rye bread

TUESDAY – White bean chicken chili, brown rice, roasted California blend vegetables, fresh fruit, pita bread

WEDNESDAY – Turkey with supreme sauce, mashed sweet potatoes, green beans, apple crisp, diet = applesauce, Italian bread

THURSDAY – Baked ham with maple glaze, mashed potatoes, Italian blend vegetables, birthday cake, diet = small piece, whole wheat bread

FRIDAY – Chicken cranberry salad, pasta salad, three bean salad, fruited ambrosia, diet = pineapple, hot dog roll

*Diabetic friendly dessert **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 \$2.50 per meal helps keep the program running.

Library 5K fundraiser happens Sept. 9

HUBBARDSTON – The 26th Annual Hubbardston Library 5K Run/Walk is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 9.

This event will mark more than a quarter century of support for the Hubbardston Library and raised close to \$80,000 for the library's ongoing operations. The race is an out and back course starting and finishing at the Hubbardston Center School.

Applications for the event will be available online at the Hubbardston Library website. The registration fee for the fundraising event is \$25 and \$30 for those who register after Wednesday, Aug. 2. Long sleeve cotton race shirts will be provided to the first 100 registered runners.

Awards to overall first place male/female runners and walkers as well as age group winners will be provided. Prizes provided are possible due to the generous donations of local businesses and individuals.

For additional information on this event, interested runners/walkers or donors can call Mark Wigler, race director at 978-928-5120 or email MTWigler@gmail.com. The 2022 race/walk raised over \$3,500 for support of the library's activities and Scholarship Fund.

News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE

Finance Committee – May 23 R 6:30 p.m.
 Conservation Committee – May 23 at 7 p.m.
 Select Board – May 23 at 6:30 p.m., May 24 and June 5 at 6 p.m.
 Cemetery Commission – May 25 at 11 a.m.
 Felton Field Commission – June 6 at 6:30 p.m.
 Planning Board – June 6 and June 20 at 7 p.m.
 Council on Aging – June 7 at 1 p.m.
 Barre Housing Authority – June 8 at 3 p.m.
 Board of Health – June 12 at 5 p.m.
 Water Commission – June 12 at 7 p.m.
 DPW Commission – June 12 at 7 p.m.
 Cable Advisory Committee – June 13 at 7 p.m.
 Library Trustees – June 14 at 6:30 p.m.
 250th Anniversary Committee – June 14 at 6:30 p.m.
 Insurance Advisory Committee – Nov. 2 at 1 p.m.

HARDWICK

Finance Committee – May 22 at 5:30 p.m.
 Planning Board – May 23 at 6:30 p.m.
 Board of Health – June 1 at 6:30 p.m.
 Paige Library Trustees – June 1 at 7 p.m.
 Recycling Commission – June 6 at 6:30 p.m.
 Council on Aging – June 14 at 9 a.m.
 Gilbertville Public Library – June 14 at 4 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Planning Board – May 18, June 7 and June 15 at 6:30 p.m.
 Economic Development Committee – May 19 at 5 p.m.
 Memorial Day Committee – May 22 at 5 p.m.
 Board of Health – May 23, June 13 and June 27 at 7 p.m.
 Council on Aging – May 24 at 6:30 p.m.
 Historic Commission – June 3 at 10 a.m.
 Conservation Commission – June 7 at 7 p.m.
 Town Center Committee – June 15 at 7 p.m.

NEW BRAINTREE

Board of Assessors – May 18 at 7 p.m.
 Select Board – May 22 at 7 p.m.
 Finance Committee – May 23 at 6 p.m.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Select Board – May 23, June 6 and June 20 at 6 p.m.
 Planning Board – May 24 and June 21 at 6 p.m.
 Downtown Development Committee – June 5 at 6:30 p.m.

OAKHAM

Board of Health – June 21 and July 19 at 5 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Select Board – May 18 at 5:30 p.m.
 Board of Health – May 18 at 6 p.m.
 Advisory Finance Committee – May 18 at 6 p.m.
 Planning Board – May 25 at 7 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – June 1 at 9 a.m.
 Conservation Committee – June 6 at 6 p.m.
 Open Space and Recreation Committee – June 6 at 7 p.m.
 Cemetery Commission – June 13 at 10 a.m.
 Council on Aging – Aug. 14 at 10 a.m.

RUTLAND

Finance Committee – May 18 at 6:15 p.m.
 Earthworks Board – May 18 at 6:30 p.m.
 Planning Board Hearings – May 23 at 6:45 p.m. and 7 p.m.
 Select Board Hearing – May 30 at 6 p.m.

Historical Society to hold plant, yard sale and open house

RUTLAND – The Rutland Historical Society is having a Plant & Yard Sale and Open House on Saturday, May 20th from 10am – 2pm. The event will take place at the Wood House, 232 Main St. RHS looks forward to showcasing their “Spring Exhibit” as part of their Open House. Exhibits will include a tea party theme displaying tea serving pieces from the Bartlett Hotel and spring fashions from the 1800’s and 1900’s.

Tickets available for Strawberry Festival

NEW BRAINTREE – Anyone wishing to purchase tickets to the New Braintree Congregational Church’s Strawberry Festival should call either 508-410-7424 or 508-867-9910.

This year’s dinner will be take-out only and will be held on Saturday, June 10. Tickets are \$15 each.

Haston Library starts movie discussion group

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Haston Free Public Library, 161 North Main St., is starting a movie discussion group on Monday, May 22 at 6 p.m.

The featured movie is “Dead Poet’s Society” (1989, rated PG) and is available to check out with your library card two weeks before the discussion. Watch it from the comfort of your home anytime before the group meets.

To register, people call the library at 508-867-0208 or email hastonfreepubliclibrary@gmail.com.

TO ADVERTISE IN THE BARRE GAZETTE,
 CALL TIM MARA AT 978-355-2254

Historical society holds ‘cellar hole’ tour



Submitted photo

A tour of “Lost Petersham Cellar Holes” with Larry Buell on Sunday, May 21 starting at 2 p.m. on the Petersham Common will include sites like the Webb Mill in Nichewaug, the first European homesite and a home demolished by the 1953 Tornado.

PETERSHAM – The Quabbin/Nichewaug Region has many homes, barns, mills and structures that have long disappeared, yet hold secrets to the history of the area.

Local historian, Larry Buell will guide a tour of “Lost Petersham: A Tour of Selected Cellar Holes” on Sunday, May 21 meeting at 2 p.m. at the Petersham Common for a carpool to selected sites. Buell, using historic pictures, researched information, local stories and physical evidence of the sites will piece together the story of the places.

Sites on the tour include the first European fortified home of 1733, a home destroyed by the 1953 Tornado, the Webb Mill on the East Branch of the Swift

River, which manufactured wooden powder kegs for the Civil War and other mill and home sites. The tour will finish with some “field research” to find the home site of Peter Gore, a 19th Native American who lived near Brown’s Pond in Petersham.

According to Buell, “Understanding what happened at selected locations, even when little physical evidence is available can give a deeper insight to a town’s history and its present culture.” One interesting site on the tour will be at the Webb Mill in the Nichewaug Section of Petersham where evidence of powder keys staves and the mill dam that was washed out in the 1936 flood is very evident. The financially successful mill

allowed the Webb family to build the large Webb Block on the south side of Athol’s Main Street that exists today.

Participants will carpool to the selected sites where there will be little walking to be done. The free and open program is offered by the Petersham Historical Society. Other upcoming Historical Society programs include the monthly “Taking History Corner” at the Petersham Library starting on Wednesday, May 17 and the 200th Anniversary of the Orthodox Congregation Church on Saturday, June 24 with living history re-enactors. People may email Larry Buell at LarryBuell2143@gmail.com or call 978-724-0412 for more information.

Food policy council wants to hear all voices

By Paula Ouimette
 Staff Writer
 pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Members of the Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council discussed ways they could make sure that each voice is heard when it comes to decision making.

“This Council is extremely new,” Council Coordinator Caitlin Geaghan said, and members are still organizing and planning.

She said the hope is that once they have finished the planning process and determined the needs of the region, the Council can expand beyond the 12 towns it currently covers.

Geaghan said there are a few options available to the Council when it comes to making decisions, including single person decides, group decides by consensus and group decides by voting.

Single person decides would allow for one member of the group to have decision-making responsibilities, either with or without input from the rest of the members.

With group decides by consensus, decisions would either be hard, where all would agree; or soft, where most would agree, but those that don’t wouldn’t be upset by the decision.

Group decides by voting

would have members use either a ballot, hand or voice vote.

Members could decide on a minimum vote, a simple majority or a two-thirds vote or plurality.

Council members agreed that most decisions should be made by the group, possibly leaving minor, day-to-day decisions up to Geaghan and Project Coordinator for Community Health, Emily Coderre.

Linda Fuchs, an organic farmer from Brimfield, said having a single person decides method would negate people’s time spent being in a group.

“The advantage of this group is the diversity of organizations present,” she said.

Gail Gramarossa of the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance suggested using consensus when they can, even if informally.

“In a lot of ways, I see a food policy council driven by collecting thinking and very participatory,” she said.

Kirsten Krieger, public health nurse of the Quabbin Health District said she thinks it would be beneficial if there was a core membership determining options for decisions and then taking them to a vote.

She said different people have different perspectives and this could pose a challenge with voting.

“You may get so many ideas that it’s difficult to get them to a vote. A core group could bring the options to a general body,” Krieger said.

Michelle Holmgren, Public and Community Relations at Baystate Wing Hospital, said day to day decisions handled by the leadership team would be good, and the team could bring these decisions back to the members.

Krieger said Council members should also think about intentionally growing the group to represent more diversity

The first hybrid training opportunity of the QVFFC will be held on Wednesday, May 31 from 4-5:15 p.m. at E2E, 79 Main St., with Zoom access available.

About QVFFC

The Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council is funded through a grant received by the Town of Ware in partnership with Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation, covering the towns of Ware, Belchertown, Palmer, Monson, Wales, Holland, Brimfield, Warren, Brookfield, West Brookfield, North Brookfield and East Brookfield.

For more information, people may email Geaghan at cgeaghan@townofware.com or Coderre at ecoderre@townofware.com.

Oakham
 Ellenor Downer
 edowner@turley.com



Breakfast to benefit local food pantries

The Oakham Congregational church, 4 Coldbrook Road, will hold on Saturday, May 20 from 8-9:30 a.m. a benefit breakfast for the Barre Food Pantry and the Rutland Food Pantry. People may also bring non-perishable food items for the food pantries. The menu includes scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausages, strawberries, orange juice, coffee, tea and hot chocolate.

Clean up and recycling day

The Oakham Board of Health sponsors a clean up and recycling day on Saturday, June 3 from 9 a.m.-noon behind the Fire and Highway Building, Barre Road. It will be held rain or shine.

Volunteers are needed to help accept items for recycling and/or disposal.

Scout units, community groups and residents may help by cleaning up the roads around town by selecting a road and collecting a bag of trash. Trash bags will be provided.

Get rid of specific allowable unwanted junk around the house? Allowable items to be provided, which include televisions, air conditioners, computers, and more.

They may donate redeemable bottles and cans to the Oakham Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. There will be free disposal of medical sharps in a safe way as well as free disposal of unwanted medications. It is illegal and unsafe to dispose of sharps in the trash.

Accepted items and fees for disposal are: tires \$8-\$25; TVs, monitors, computers, laptops and gaming systems \$15; AC’s/dehumidifiers \$10; VCR/micro-wave \$5 and propane tank \$8. Checks should be made payable to the Town of Oakham. For questions, people may email boh@oakham-ma.gov or call 508-882-4069.

Dismas Farm wish list

The Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, during the month of May will be collecting items for clients at Dismas Farm, located on Lincoln Road. Items include: new twin-sized sheets and blankets, new pillows and bath towels, new men’s sweatshirts, sweatpants and t-shirts, sized large to XXXL. Other items include laundry detergent, toilet paper and other cleaning supplies and fuel gift cards to help with transportation costs. People may drop off items on Sunday mornings from 8:30 a.m.-noon or leave in the hallway at the side entrance to the church, marked for Dismas Farm, anytime as the outside door is always open.

Church news

Sunday worship at the Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, is at 10 a.m. Sunday school is held downstairs. Donations for the Barre and Rutland Food Pantries may be dropped off either Sunday morning or left in the side hall during the week.

Gilbertville Public Library lists events

GILBERTVILLE – On Friday, June 16 from 1-2 p.m. folktales with Mary Jo Maichack will be held at the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road, in Barre k Senior Center, Barre.

On Friday, June 30 at 5:30 p.m. the Gilbertville Public Library will host songs and stories with Davis Bates.

Summer Reading sign up is Tuesday, July 11 at 3:30 p.m. at the Gilbertville Public Library. There will be a story time as well as sign up. On Tuesday, July 18 at 3:30 p.m. there will be discovery drawing at the Gilbertville Library. Other summer activities include Tuesday, July 23 at 3:30 p.m. lets write a song together, on Tuesday, Aug. 1 at 3:30 p.m. discovery activities and Tuesday, Aug. 8 at 3:30 p.m. the end of summer reading ice cream party and prizes.

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Opinion

Guest Column

Why are college costs so high?

By Eric Goodhart

The cost of private four-year colleges and universities have steadily increased to a level far beyond the means of the all but a small % of American households. There are two major reasons for that.

Breaking the Bretton Woods Agreement of 1944, President Nixon took the dollar off the gold standard in 1971. The Federal Reserve was printing dollars like there was no tomorrow during what is known as the "Guns and Butter" decade of the sixties. Nixon's move was the catalyst bringing about inflation as the dollar lost value.

A year later, Title IX of the Civil Rights Act was signed into law by Nixon. Many of the most expensive private colleges were beginning to admit women. Title IX prohibits gender-based discrimination in any college or any other education program that receives funding from the federal government.

The full cost of attendance for a four-year private college before 1972 averaged \$3,500 to \$4,500 per year. In 2023 those same colleges cost \$67,000 to \$82,300 per year. State Universities are \$39,000 per year.

Financial aid has not made the colleges affordable, in fact, in the majority of cases it has made them more expensive and put more students and their parents into more debt. The formulas used to determine "need" penalize families that save for college. The Asset Protection Allowance in 1990 has been steadily reduced to zero now Congress does not even believe a family of four with the oldest parent age 48 does not need even an emergency fund of \$50,000 anymore.

Plus, Congress continues to bend under the pressure of the paid college lobbyists to NOT even increase the financial need when a family has more than one student in college at the same time! In other words, if the Expected Family Contribution was \$40,000 with one in college, it would be the same if two were in college, not \$20,000 per student.

The Department of Education's Federal Student Aid Office, changes will affect seniors, rising 11th graders and younger. Therefore, for planning purpose families of divorce, families with more than one student in college at the same time small business owners and family farm owners.

Here is a summary of current, or soon-to-be-implemented changes:

EFC, which has always been a shock to parents as the amount the government expects a family to pay. The DOE now cleverly calls it Student Aid Index. They say the difference in nomenclature is substantially that alone. Experience warns us that is probably not accurate in effect. With the replacement of the Data Retrieval Tool with the Direct Data Transfer tax returns become more determinative of basic, financial qualification.

Families of divorce will be asked which parent provides the most financial support for the student rather than, with whom is the student living one-half of a year plus one day, or longer. As of the date of this article, no time parameters are determined. What does that mean? Having observed the decisions of colleges for decades, it means college financial aid offices are going to dig deeper into the financial arrangements of families of divorce.

Child Support will no longer be counted as "untaxed income," but rather as a parent asset.

The current asset exclusion of family-owned businesses and family-owned farms is gone. The asset value of each shall be included in the SAI calculation.

Simplified Needs Test (which removes assets from an SAI calculation) is based on AGI under \$60,000. But if the parent operates a small business, buyer beware. The financial aid officers are trained to watch out for business owners because they are told that the AGI on the tax return can be reduced at will.

The number of family members in college at the same time, as a consideration, will be phased out; although "professional judgement may allow for that to be considered. Therefore, it should be noted in "Other Information" provided to the colleges.

Two other considerations represent the proverbial double-edged sword. One is that the end of PELL Grant eligibility after 12 semesters is removed. The other side is that Direct Student Loan time limit of 150% of satisfactory academic progress is also removed. Students will be able to drag out their college education beyond six years. Over the last 30 years, the statistics show that only 38% of students graduate in four years. The 50 or so, most competitive colleges have over 90% graduation rate in four years. That is because they have many applicants each year to fill seats. Getting through college in those colleges is much easier than getting in.

Presently, this reporter is researching each of the Community Colleges that largely served the western part of Massachusetts beginning with Mount Wachusett and Greenfield Community Colleges. So far, some nice surprises, but some are facing challenges. Each week there will be a profile of the colleges.

With college costs being so high, does it make financial sense to go to a Community College for two years and then transfer to as a junior to a four-year college? As is the case to many scenarios...it depends. Those will be explored and explained.

If the reader has personal experience with a Community College, as a student or parent in Massachusetts or elsewhere, they may email Eric Goodhart at barrenews@turley.com.



Guest Column

Adventures of Gertrude the Cat

By Ruth Robinson

Dear Folks,

This morning has been busy and very interesting with the great-grandchildren here.

I have been lying on the newspapers under the desk watching them. The little one has been very busy with all the farm animals and farm vehicles.

Suddenly, she sees me and comes over to pat my body and spies my long tail. Patting my body, I could take, but not pulling my tail, so I jumped up on the magazine rack beside Missy, who was watching the children.

I would have gone up on the back of the couch to continue watching, but the older girl was using the couch to play with her dolls.

After they were gone, I thought I would mess with the newspapers, but I didn't get a chance. As I went into the kitchen, I spied Missy's ball of yarn on the dining room floor. She is making some mittens for the kids she said yesterday.

I played with that ball quite awhile and ended up wrapping it around server chair legs long before Missy caught me. Wow, was she mad. I dusted quickly into the spare room.

I know I was wrong hitting that ball of yarn, but it was great fun just the same. Then, I decided to have my morning nap on the lower closet shelf, but there was something on the whole shelf. What to do? I reached up my paw and pulled hard on whatever it was.

Over it came off the shelf on top of me. It was light so I was fine. Next, I went up onto the space I had created and pushed the other things off. Hooray, now maybe I can have my nap.

I know Missy put a new bag of stuff near the other side of the spare room bed yesterday, so after a nice rest I will see what is in there. Tune in next week folks for the results.

Try to stay healthy in these bad times.

Love,
Gertrude



In Past Pages

5 years (May 24, 2018)

The Petersham Select Board and Advisory Finance Committee hosted the annual review of the budget and annual town meeting warrant. The requested FY 2019 budget of \$3,769,259 reflected a 6.5% change over the previous year with 4.3% percent of that increase for the three school budgets, Petersham Center School, Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District and Montachusett Technical School District. The Finance Committee recommended budget for FY19 was \$3,763,458 and was a 6.3% percent increase in the general budget with the school budget staying at 4.3%.

Barre Police Chief John Carbone said the department planned its first ever awards ceremony to coincide with police week, which was started in the 1960s by President John Kennedy. Police officers and two civilians received awards at the police department award ceremony held last Wednesday in the auditorium at Quabbin Regional High School. Selectman Charles Chase commented it was "an honor and a privilege to recognize our police department and said he was "grateful to their service."

Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent elect Dr. Sheila Muir proposed reorganization for central office. She recommended not replacing the assistant superintendent position and hiring two curriculum directors, one at elementary level and the other at secondary level. She said the graduation coach was retiring this year and that position would not be replaced. The \$27,000 for the graduation coach and the assistant superintendent salary should be enough to fund the two positions.

10 years (May 23, 2013)

Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent Maureen Marshall recommended to the full school committee the district go with a self-operating food service rather than privatizing. Participation in the school lunch program dropped to around 50% and needed subsidizing to continue. The superintendent said with the new federal food regulations for school lunches the food is "not appealing" to the students.

A little over 18% of the 1,323 registered voters in Oakham cast ballots at the annual town elect on Monday, Matthew A. Broderick won a three-year term to the Oakham Board of Selectmen He received 164 votes and his opponent, Laura Pease got 74. Dennis Bergin did not seek re-election after serving two terms as selectmen.

The Oakham Finance Committee met Tuesday to discuss the town meeting warrant articles. Matthew Broderick, who was elected to the Board of Selectmen the day before, was not sworn in so he continued in his capacity as chair of the Finance Committee for the meeting. Selectman Eliot Starbard was also present.

LOOK BACK Memorial Day Service - May 1995



Rep. Stephen M. Brewer, at the podium, paid special tribute to former police chief Michael Ryder, who died last July, during Barre's exercises. He presented American Legion Post 404 with a framed picture of Ryder with his Purple Heart license plate and a plaque with his name and years of Marine Corps service, 1966-1969. Pictured from him, from left, are Sen. Robert D. Wetmore, Post 404 Commander Andrew Chilleri, Past Commander Reginald Franciose and Ryder's son, Michael.

25 years (May 21, 1988)

When Christine Giarusso started having labor pains last Wednesday morning, she wasn't sure if they were the real thing. She had been to the hospital on Sunday and was sent home. Her doctor said she had "false labor." But when she called her doctor stating her contractions were about five minutes apart, she was told she'd better come to the hospital since it's about an hour's ride from her home in Barre to Memorial Hospital in Worcester. She and her husband, William, hadn't even reached Barre center when Christine said, "I think the baby's coming. We're not going to make it to the hospital." William drove to the police station to call for an ambulance. The dispatcher called for a physician at the Barre Health Center. They called at 5:45 a.m. and the baby arrived at 6:01 a.m.

Quabbin Regional School District will begin the 1988/89 year on Aug. 31 this year due to a late Labor Day. Aside from an early starting date, the calendar remains, as Superintendent Maureen Marshall put it, "very traditional." The calendar has typical vacations, which include the days prior to Thanksgiving and Christmas as "traveling holidays."

At the May 18 selectmen's meeting, David Ratte, Neil Hampson and Department of Public Works Superintendent Earl Sample met before the Board of Selectmen to discuss water drainage problems at the corner of Union and Broad streets. Sample was concerned with the effect Ratte's construction has had on the corner catch basin, which he says was clogged on Mothers Day. He

compared the drainage issue with a past problem on Broad Street and Ruggles Lane.

38 years (May 23, 1985)

With 116 Barre voters present, an approximate 2.5 million dollar budget was passed with little discussion in just over an hour and a half Saturday afternoon and for the first time since proposition 2 1/2 was passed, the voters stayed within these limits at an Annual Town Meeting. At the beginning of the meeting Finance Committee Chair Arlene Betteridge explained some changes in the figures of the recommended amounts due to the recent passage of K-12 regionalization of schools.

Eighty-nine voters in Hubbardston approved 15 articles of the town warrant and passed over six to be acted upon at a later date. A budget of \$1416,565 was approved with an increase in the police wage account so police officers would receive \$5 per hour. They were receiving \$4. A school budget of \$735,666 was approved. An amount of \$791,775 had been requested.

Thanks for giving us the leadership that will make us the best "school in Massachusetts," was the thank you given to the Quabbin School Committee by David Melanson, an English teacher at Quabbin High School, after they decided to hire Maureen Marshall, former associate principal at Quabbin, as the Quabbin High principal. Marshall of Barre will be replacing John McDonough, who recently gave his resignation. She is currently associate principal in West Boylston, but has approximately 10 years experience in the Quabbin system.

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BARRE GAZETTE TEAM

EDITOR
Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Tim Mara
tmara@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

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www.barregazette.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

DEANNA SLOAT
Graphics Manager

Turley Publications, Inc.

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Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

Mother's Day has come and gone and it was fun being with my two daughters and my granddaughter eating at the King Phillip Restaurant.

I got to have the fried clams I have been longing for and of course there were lots of presents, for sewing projects and for the garden. Also, I got a new rug for the front deck. One daughter gives me a different design for each season.

My granddaughter is a TikTok makeup artist and everywhere we go they want her autograph or a picture taking with her as they did at the restaurant.

When we got home we took pictures of the group plus a three generation picture.

The gardens are really growing with the hot weather we had this past week. The crab apple tree is at its peak. I did pot up some hostas and some other plants in case my company wants any.

Here is a recipe for ice cream topping. It is fun to make different kinds for the warmer months.

MICROWAVE CARMEL SAUCE

1 cup sugar
2 tablespoons corn syrup
2 tablespoons water
1/8 teaspoon lemon juice
1/2 cup hot heavy cream
1 tablespoon unsalted butter

Stir sugar, corn syrup, water and lemon juice together in a 2 cup microwave safe measuring cup or glass bowl. Microwave on full power until mixture is just beginning to brown, 5 to 8 minutes (depending on strength of your microwave).

Remove caramel from microwave and let it sit on dry surface for five minutes or until it darkens to rich honey brown. Add hot cream a few tablespoon at a time (so caramel won't seize up), followed by butter. Makes one cup.

This and That

I went to the Senior Citizens plant sale and got some pansies, which I planted in various pots and in the window box.

I had my hair cut on Saturday and went to Rural Glen Cemetery and trimmed the boxwood shrubs. They are really growing each year. I took some of the trimmings home to see if I could get them rooted. I love boxwood for Christmas decorations.

My leg was hurting in the upper muscles as I fell in the wooded area looking for Lady Slippers. I used a cane to walk with for a couple of days. The problem with falling is trying to get up.

Because of that I did not go to the Rietta Ranch Flea Market on Sunday. I'm sure I missed a few bargains, but being with my family was precious.

I still do not dare put out the house plants as Saturday night was close to freezing. One of the items I got for Mother's Day were four herb plants so I put them on the windowsill of the kitchen until I can plant them outside in the strawberry jars.

I noticed there are a lot of blossoms on the apple trees and the pear trees. I hope we get some fruit this year. The bees have to pollinate the blossoms in order to get fruit.

Have a good week. The mosquitoes are out.

where drainage is good.

If your soil is lean, compost can be added to richen it up. While you're at it, add a sprinkling of lime as well; irises prefer a soil near neutral.

Dig a shallow hole wide enough to fit the rhizome. Make a ridge of soil in the hole for it to sit on so that its fibrous roots can hang down.

The top of the rhizome should be level with the soil surface and exposed, not buried. This goes for bark mulch as well; keep it clear or blooms may be sacrificed.

If your irises hardly flower but aren't overcrowded and are planted where they receive enough sun, assess your planting depth and adjust if necessary.

Many gardeners remarked that their Forsythia didn't usher in spring last month as usual. Very few blossoms but lots of green foliage.

Presently, my Japanese Rose (Kerria japonica), usually a showstopper, looks just about the same and I hear so do some types of Azaleas.

Why? I am guessing that the buds were killed by the one really cold, minus 17 night. Sometimes, if we have a few inches of snow when temperatures dip, you will see blossoms on the forsythia down low, where the snow insulated the buds on those low branches.

Lots of folks are sad when a tulip patch that bloomed prolifically the year before, doesn't do so well the year after. Why is that?

Tulips are bred more for their flowers and less for longevity in the garden. Some species are more apt to return than others, namely Darwin Hybrids, Emperor, and the more diminutive wildflower tulips, Greigii and Kaufmanniana among other, less known species.

Planting at the proper depth (for tulips usually 3 times the height of the bulb) in a sunny location with good drainage will get you off to a good start, and then we leave it up to Mother Nature to ensure adequate moisture in late winter/early spring, followed by a dry summer.

Fingers crossed for repeat blooming in year two and beyond. Hoping early flower woes will give way to a summer's worth of flowers.

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



Flowering problems you may encounter this spring

My mom called up last night, disappointed that there is only one bud in her entire clump of Bearded Iris.

I am always one to turn a question into a column, so why don't we get to the bottom of my mother's sparse irises and also delve into why some flowers haven't given us the wow factor this spring.

If once upon a time your irises bloomed strong and now there is barely a blossom to be seen, chances are they are overcrowded. It's time to divide them and replenish their soil.

In our climate, this should be accomplished every three or four years.

Surprisingly, and unlike most other perennials, division of irises should take place in July or August. This will give them ample time to take hold in their new location prior to the ground freezing.

If you have no blooms, feel free to get the job done now!

At first glance the act of dividing irises may appear to be difficult. An overgrown iris patch does look like a maze of thick roots, but take heart, the rhizomes are shallow rooted and come out of the ground with relative ease.

Start digging at the outer edge of the clump, lifting as you go. Once the entire clump is removed, rhizomes can be pried apart by hand.

The healthiest "fans" of foliage are those the furthest from the center. Leave about 2 inches of rhizome attached to each fan for replanting.

If you are changing your site altogether, keep in mind that irises need at least six hours of full sun a day for optimal flowering. They despise "wet feet," so plant

BARRE, continued from page 1

The Select Board after hearing from the ACO unanimously reaffirmed the decision to order the dog be removed or re-homed. The owner has the opportunity to place the dog in another home within ten days of receipt of the order by a constable.

The owner also has the right to appeal the Select Board's decision in District Court.

The ACO said she did not place dogs, but she would instead work with a local animal shelter such as Second Chance.

Hearing on Town Administrator bylaw

Interim Town Administrator Greg Balukonis presented a draft of a proposed bylaw regarding Town Administrator's duties and responsibilities at a public hearing held on Monday. He said town counsel looked over the bylaw and made some changes, which he received earlier in the day.

Town Counsel said the Department of Public Works Commission had juris-

diction of the DPW Superintendent under the Act of 1988, which established the DPW Commission. The act would need to be amended to make any changes and not through a town bylaw.

Interim Town Administrator Balukonis said the voters would have to amend the special act at a town meeting, then it would go to the state legislature for their approval and finally, signed by the governor.

He said an amendment might be something for the Select Board and DPW Commission to look at.

Kathlyn Inman, who attended the hearing, said Town Counsel at the time James Baird, drafted the DPW Commission proposal. She said it was the intention at review and make changes to the original over time.

The bylaw established the Town Administrator as Chief Administrative Officer and in various sections established the Town Administrator duties, responsibilities and length of contract for three years. Voters at Annual Town Meeting would get to vote on the new bylaw.

FIN COM, continued from page 1

ing \$20,000 in the Reserve Fund.

Sewer and Water

He said water and sewer were part of the overall funding. Both are Enterprise Accounts and have high retained earnings. Money from those accounts could be used to cover some of the costs.

Union contracts

If the union contracts are negotiat-

ed prior to the June 13 Annual Town Meeting, the salary budget numbers would be undated. Otherwise, it would be necessary to hold a Special Town Meeting. All departments are level funded pending union contract ratification.

Interim Town Administrator Balukonis said if revenue sources came in higher than estimated, the town could still raise and appropriate more funds at a fall STM before the assessors set the tax rate.

Dancing the night away

Pathfinder seniors enjoy star-studded prom

Students at Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School celebrated their senior prom in true Hollywood fashion at Zukas Hilltop Barn in Spencer, Friday, May 12.

While the event's theme was "Starry Night," many students brought sparkle with them - some wearing floor length sequined gowns with others opted for classic silk attire.

The event was hosted outside under an elegant banquet tent, draped with string lights to give the evening the "starry night" effect.



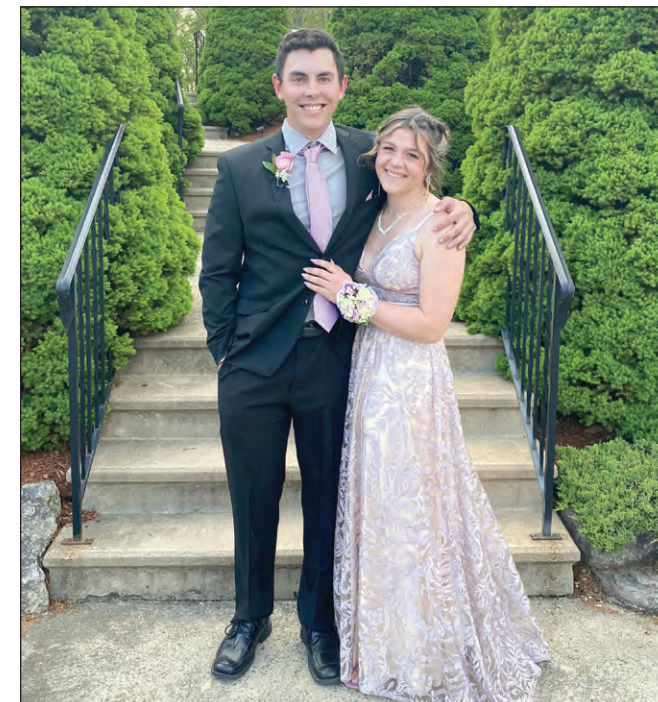
Shown is friend group Lauren Chaples, Jacquelyn Aldrich, Anthony Peck and Nathan Patrick.



Friends Sean Moon, Alec Thompson and Cody Ostiguy are shown gathered together before prom.



Hunter Skowrya and Catalina Mudgett wear matching teal attire for the event.



Morgan Austin and Jake Luukko are shown smiling and in color coordinated attire.



Miranda Pratt and Nathan Bigda pose in red formalwear for the night's event.

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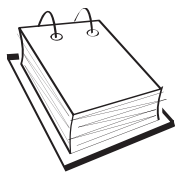
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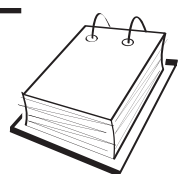
Congratulations Carrie Smith We are so very proud of you and your accomplishments. Good luck at Springfield College.

Love Dad, Mom & John

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Calendar of Events



Where is this?



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

This week's mystery photo is from Rutland. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email edowner@turley.com or call the Barre Gazette at 413-967-3505, extension 100 with their answer by noon on Monday, May 22. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in next week's edition. Stephen Craven, James Laramee and Evelyn Luukko correctly identified the photo. Last week's photo was the WWI Memorial on the Common, Petersham.

THURSDAY, MAY 18

WEST AFRICAN DRUM WORKSHOP will be held on Thursday, May 18 from 7-8 p.m. at the Hubbardston Public Library, 7 Main St. Jafar Manselle with his performance group, The Wendell Warriors, will teach the workshop. People will learn to play a traditional rhythm on West African hand drums and all drums and percussion instruments will be provided.

FRIDAY, MAY 19

PRINCETON ARTS SOCIETY'S ANNUAL SPRING SHOW AND SALE will be held today from 6-8 p.m. with an opening reception and Saturday, May 20 and Sunday, May 21 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Princeton Community Center, 206 Worcester Road, (Post Office Place), Princeton. The show is free and open to the public. All work is by the Society's members, many of whom are award winning artists widely recognized in their fields. The show includes works in oils, acrylics, watercolors, pastels, photography, and more, including three-dimensional works, with subject matter as varied as our artists.

For more information on the Princeton Arts Society, people may visit www.princetonarts.org or Facebook under Princeton Arts Society.

'WILLIE WONKA' presented by the Theatre Guild of North Brookfield will take place today and Saturday, May 20 at 7:30 p.m and Sunday, May 21 at 2 p.m. The performances will be held in the auditorium at the North Brookfield Elementary School, Oakham Road (Route 148), North Brookfield. Tickets are \$16 for adults and \$11 for seniors and students under the age of twelve. One dollar for each ticket sold will

benefit The Friends of the North Brookfield Town House for the restoration of the Town House. Tickets are available by calling 508- 331-9031 or at the door. The performance is supported in part by a grant from the North Brookfield Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

SATURDAY, MAY 20

BARRE FARMERS MARKET is held every Saturday from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on the Barre Common, Barre. The market runs through October and includes farmers, crafters, artisans and more.

TRI-PARISH CHURCH PLANT AND BAKE SALE will be held today and tomorrow, Sunday, May 21 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., both days, on the Hardwick Common, Hardwick. This popular East Quabbin area event will feature traditional, favorite and connoisseur perennials, plus selected annuals, heirloom vegetable plants and herbs in time for spring planting. There is a wonderful variety in plants offered through Inishowen Farms of North Brookfield, Stillman's Farm of New Braintree, Chicken Feather Farm of New Braintree, as well as Howe's Farm of New Braintree, Tracie's Greenhouse of Ware, the Hardwick Farmers Co-op of Hardwick and private gardens. The popular baked potato buffet is returning and a delicious assortment of home-baked desserts and breads will also be sold. The event is held rain or shine.

CIRCLE OF SONG CONCERT will be held tonight at 7 p.m. in the Barre Town Hall, Exchange Street, Barre. Circle of Song is collaborating with members of the Quabbin Community Band for two numbers, "A West Side Story suite" and "Pilgrim's Chorus" from Tannhauser.

PLANT, YARD SALE AND OPEN HOUSE will be sponsored by the Rutland Historical Society today from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Wood House, 232 Main St., Rutland. Exhibits will include a tea party theme displaying tea serving pieces from the Bartlett Hotel and spring fashions from the 1800s and 1900s.

ASPARAGUS AND FLOWER FESTIVAL will be held today from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on the West Brookfield Common, West Brookfield.

NORTHEAST SIX SHOOTERS will be at Felton Field, Old Coldbrook Road, Barre today from 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Shad Smith Memorial Shoot will be the second match of 2024 with a four stage match.

There will be a safety meeting at 10:30 a.m., a moment of silence for Shad and first shots at 11 a.m. This is an event to celebrate the life of a true cowboy. The Six Shooters are looking for youths to help out with balloon running. People may email Margo Petracone @ westwindfm@aol.com if interested in helping. Compensation is offered. Scouts, 4-H, individuals or groups are welcome.

SUNDAY, MAY 21

23RD ANNUAL WALKATHON CELEBRATION by the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Western Massachusetts will be held today at 11 a.m. in the Stanley Park's Beveridge Pavilion Annex in Agawam. Registration begins at 10 a.m. The event is suitable for all ages and abilities and will directly benefit NAMI Western Massachusetts' continuing efforts to help improve the lives of those individuals living with mental health conditions and their families. For further information, people may call their office at 413-786-9139 or visit us at www.namiwm.org/events for pledge and sponsorship forms. Volunteers are needed.

WILDFLOWER WALK AT EVA'S WOODS will take place today hosted by East Quabbin Land Trust from 10-11:30 a.m., 221 Ware Corner Road, Oakham. People are encouraged to bring their plant and wildflower books to help build the preserves plant list.

PIONEER VALLEY BRASS sponsored by the First Universalist Parish of North Dana will perform today at 2 p.m. in the First Universalist Church of Orange. Maureen Riendeau is the Music Coordinator for the First Universalist Parish of North Dana.

MONDAY, MAY 22

VETERANS RECOGNITION PROGRAM sponsored by the Holden Grange will be held today at 7 p.m. in the Holden Senior Center, 1130 Main St., Holden. All veterans and those presently in the service are cordially invited to attend. Veterans in attendance will be recognized, along with the branch in which they served. Three of the veterans will be awarded Quilts of Valor. Lynette Gabrila, Director of Veterans Services of Wachusett District, will speak on state and federal benefits, eligibility and resources. Gabrila serves the communities of Ashburnham, Ashby, Gardner, Princeton, and Westminster. All are welcome to attend this free event. For more information on the evening's program or the Grange in general, people may email holdengrange78@gmail.com or call 508-886-2341.

STORY TIME will be held at 9:30 a.m. at the New Braintree Public Library, 45 Memorial Drive, New Braintree. Today's program will feature "Piglet Comes Home" by Melissa Shapiro, DMV. This reading and crafts program for preschool children is held twice a month on Mondays at the library. Parental supervision is required. People may call the library at 508-867-7650 during regular hours for more information.

QUABBIN COMMUNITY BAND REHEARSALS are held tonight from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Barre Town Hall, Exchange Street, Barre and will be held every Monday night. People may email Julie at julie@mhof.net or call 978-257-1192 or just show up at rehearsals. Margaret Reidy is the director.

TUESDAY, MAY 23

PASTEL WORKSHOP with Greg Maichack will take place today from 6-8 p.m. at the Hubbardston Public Library, 7 Main St., Hubbardston for a new program pastel workshop. Participants will create a rose on either a square or 12" x 18," their choice. Maichack has been asked over the years to offer a rose workshop, the most popular of flowers, and a symbol of love. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Hubbardston cultural council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

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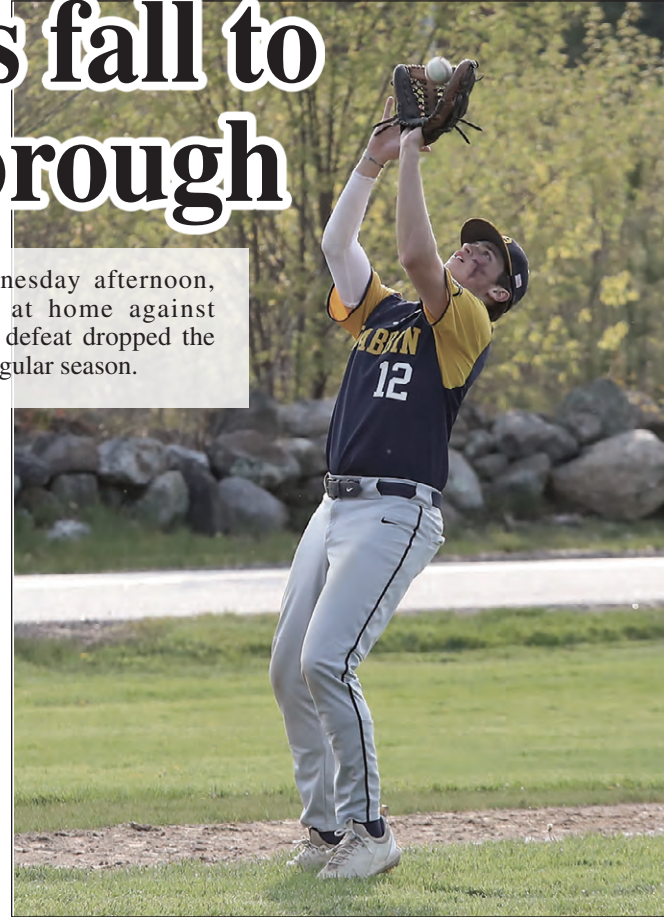
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Panthers fall to Tyngsborough

BARRE – Last Wednesday afternoon, Quabbin baseball fell at home against Tyngsborough 10-3. The defeat dropped the Panthers to 0-14 for the regular season.



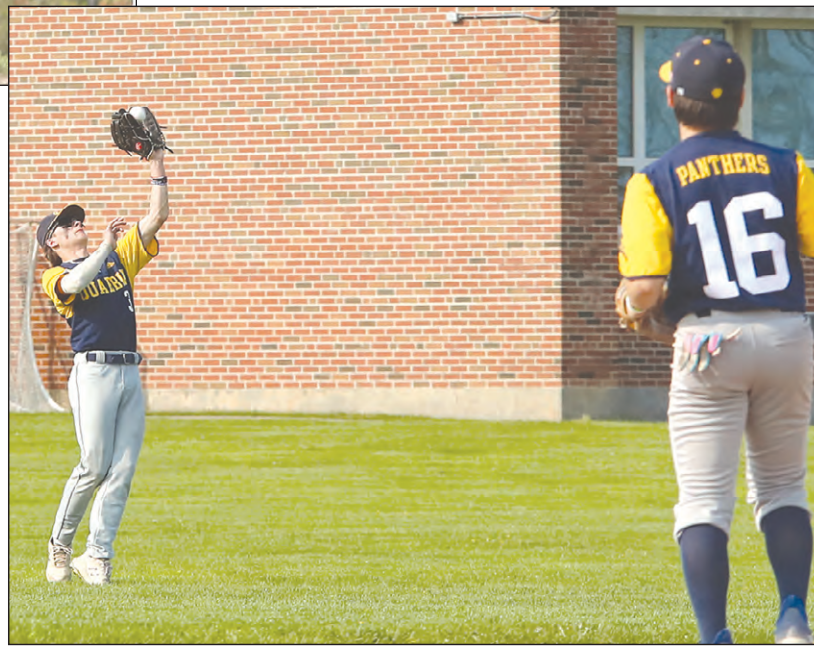
Connor Breeds catches a pop fly.

Photos by Ray Duffy

Nick Warburton reaches up for a throw at first.



Quabbin takes on Tyngsborough last week.



Matt Sands gets an easy out.

Clinton defeats Quabbin softball

Last Thursday afternoon, Clinton put up eight runs in the first inning, and Quabbin softball could not overcome the early deficit in a 19-6 loss in six innings. Quabbin had a bit of a comeback in the third inning with four runs, but Clinton countered with five runs in the top of the fourth. Meaghan Doyle had two hits and drove in a run for the Panthers. Sydney Giorgi had a big game with a pair of home runs and three RBI.



Photos by Ray Duffy

Hannah Baxter gets a tag on a runner.



Sydney Giorgi keeps a runner close to first.

Girls track in action

BARRE – The Quabbin Regional girls track team hosted Groton-Dunstable last Wednesday afternoon at home. It was the fourth meet of the season for the Panthers. The score and event winners were not reported or available at press time.



Photos by Ray Duffy

Ruby Gatulis has room to spare during the pole vault.



Libby Osowsk rounds the final bend for the 800 meter.



Brooke Austin passes the baton to Marilyn Giese on the anchor leg of the 4 by 100 relay.

Pioneers likely to make tournament



Photos by David Henry www.sweetodgphotos.com

Brayden Mega tries to avoid a tag.

PALMER – With an 11-3 record entering the week, Pathfinder baseball is looking making tournament in Division 5 this season. The Pioneers are currently ranked No. 23 and have a few games this week to close out the regular season. The Pioneers could also qualify for the Western Mass. tournament as well, which gets underway next week.



Jesse Cygan pitches for the Pioneers.



Edward Szosyek makes the catch in left.



Meaghan Doyle races a throw home.

Mutiny offense shines in opener

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—The United Women's Soccer National semi-final and final matches were held at historic Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow last July. This year's U.W.S. championship weekend is scheduled to take place 3,000 miles west in Los Angeles, California.

The New England Mutiny players didn't get to compete for the championship trophy on their home turf last summer. They're hoping to make the six-hour plane ride to the west coast in July.

The Mutiny didn't have very much trouble dispatching Worcester Fuel FC, 7-1, in the season opening match before a large crowd at Lusitano Stadium, last Saturday night.

"All of the players worked very hard, and we got the result that we wanted," said Hope Santaniello, who graduated from Agawam High School in 2021. "Our hope for the future is to win the championship title this year. We really want to bring home the trophy for Joe (Ferrara)."

Ferrara, who's the Mutiny General Manager, has put together a roster full of talented soccer players. Santaniello is one of 13 players from Western Massachusetts.

Other players from the region include Julia Robak (Chicopee), Brianna Romaniak (Belchertown), Ela Kopec (Ludlow), Alexis Legowski (South Hadley), Avery Klingensmith (Belchertown), Brooke Samborski (Chicopee), Caleigh Foley (Ludlow), and Sophia Syocurka (Ludlow).

Foley and Syocurka will be juniors on the Ludlow girls varsity soccer team in the fall. The duo normally play for the academy team, but they were called up to the U.W.S. team for the season opener.

Laura Gouvin of Monson is also listed on the Mutiny roster. She did not play against Worcester.

Before the start of the regular season, Ferrara named Mauricio "Toto" Coimbra as the Mutiny head coach.

"Everyone is a little bit nervous before the first game of regular season, but we got off to a great start."

See MUTINY, page 8

Sports

Blewett scores the wins in modified event



Submitted photo

Jimmy Blewett wins the SK Modified event at Stafford Speedway last weekend.

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT – Stafford Speedway hosted the 51st Annual NAPA Spring Sizzler on Saturday, May 13 with feature events for the SK Modified, Late Model, and SK Light divisions along with two 15-lap last chance qualifiers for drivers to earn starting positions in the NAPA Spring Sizzler 100-lap main event. Jimmy Blewett scored the checkered flag in the 40-lap SK Modified feature his second career win at Stafford and first since the 2005 NAPA Fal Final. Tom Fearn was the winner of the 30-lap Late Model feature and the SK Light feature saw a photo finish with Brian Sullivan making a last lap pass on Tyler Chapman and winning the race by inches or .005 seconds. Matt Swanson won the 15-lap Last Chance Qualifier for the NAPA Spring Sizzler.

In the 40-lap SK Modified feature event, Jimmy Blewett led the field to the green and he began to set the early pace with Michael Christopher, Jr. going around Cory DiMatteo to take second behind Blewett. Chris Jones was fourth in line in the early going with Keith Rocco quickly moving from seventh at the start up to fifth. Christopher made a move to the inside of Blewett on lap-6 but wasn't able to make the pass. Christopher then came under attack from DiMatteo on lap-7 but he was able to hold off that challenge.

With 10 laps complete, the order was Blewett in the lead followed by Christopher, DiMatteo, Stephen Kopcik, and Rocco. Anthony Bello was sixth followed by Jon Puleo, Noah Korner, Mikey Flynn, and Todd Owen. Bello was black flagged on lap-15 and he had to report to pit road for dumping fluid. David Arute was shown the black flag on lap-20 for fluid also while Blewett and Christopher were still the tow lead cars with DiMatteo, Rocco,

and Kopcik giving chase. Marcello Ruffano was the car on the move in the first half of the race, taking 11th on lap-22 after starting shotgun on the field in 28th. The caution flew with 24 laps complete for a spin by Rich Gautreau that collected Ruffano, who pulled off the track and behind the wall, ending his great run.

Blewett took the lead back under green with Christophper in second. Kopcik and DiMatteo were wheel to wheel for third place with Rocco and Korner right behind them. Kopcik took third on lap-26 with Rocco taking fourth and Korner fifth as DiMatteo slid back to sixth. Christopher's car dropped off the pace on lap-29 and he pulled on to pit road just as the caution flew for spins in turn 4 by Dylan Kopec and Tom Bolles.

Blewett took the lead back under green with Rocco moving up to second, but before a lap could be completed the caution came out for Rich Gautreau, who hit the wall in turn 4.

Blewett took the elad back under green with Rocco in second. DiMatteo and Kopcik ran wheel to wheel for a lap before DiMatteo got clear into third place. Korner took fourth with Kopcik sliding back to fifth while up front, Rocco was applying heavy pressure to Blewett for the lead.

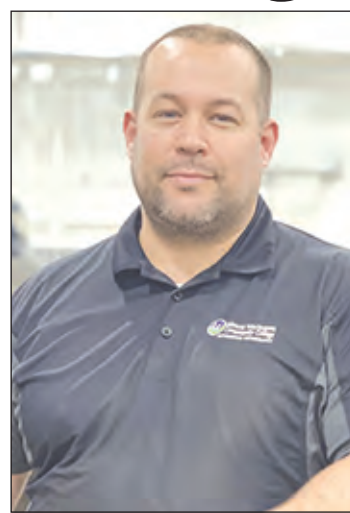
Korner's car dropped off the pace on lap-37 and he limped back to pit road after running in fourth place. This promoted Kopcik to fourth and Mikey Flynn to fifth as Blewett was still in command over Rocco and DiMatteo. Blewett slowly stretched out his advantage over Rocco in the closing laps and he picked up his second career SK Modified win at Stafford, his first since the 2005 NAPA Fall Final. Rocco came home second with DiMatteo, Kopcik, and Flynn rounding out the top-5.

MWCC automotive technician program receives grant

GARDNER – Mount Wachusett Community College received the Accelerating Massachusetts Automotive Future: Producing Electric Vehicle Technicians three-year grant award in the amount of \$350,000 focused on the education of technicians for advanced-technology fields that drive the nation's economy.

This project will address the emerging industry demand for technicians skilled in Electronic Vehicle technologies. The Mount will utilize funds to develop a new Hybrid and EV curriculum for an Advanced Automotive Technician Hybrid and EV certificate and degree program. The program will build upon existing curriculum focused on combustion engines with input from a team of management and service professionals from local automobile dealerships. This team will serve in a co-leadership role in the design of the academic program, assuring that outcomes meet the needs of employers.

"The rapid transition of the automotive industry from traditional combustion engine vehicles to those with hybrid and EV technologies cannot be disputed," noted MWCC President



Submitted photo

Eric Almeida is Professor and Director of Automotive Technology Programs at Mount Wachusett Community College.

James Vander Hooven. "This grant aligns perfectly with our mission to meet the education and workforce needs of our community."

Over the course of the three years of the project, MWCC will recruit 40 students into this advanced automotive degree and certificate program in the repair and maintenance of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles. The project will provide pro-

fessional development for faculty, equip the program with Hybrid and EV training equipment and develop a new state-of-the-art industry led curriculum. Additionally, tools will be developed to assess current industry workers life experience credits. Internship opportunities and employer partnerships will foster student engagement, increase engagement and facilitate student success.

The grant also extends opportunities to students in dual enrollment high school programs, providing them the opportunity to enroll in the entry level Introduction to Automotive Technician dual credit course.

Principal Investigator Eric Almeida and Co-Principal Investigator John Pignataro will be responsible for the technical direction of the project. Professor Almeida, Assistant Professor Pignataro, and Dean Veronica Guay spent the past year working through the deliberative grant development process in coordination with the MWCC Resource and Strategic Initiative Office and with the guidance of a mentor in Mentor Connect program to make this highly competitive grant a reality.

Bridgewater State University graduates announced

FOXBORO – Bachelor's degrees in the arts, sciences, business, and education were awarded to approximately 1,700 graduates during Bridgewater State University's 182nd Spring Commencement Convocation held at Gillette Stadium on Saturday, May 13.

Undergraduate majors from the Ricciardi College of Business, College of Education and Allied Studies and the Bartlett College of Science and Mathematics were awarded their degrees during a morning ceremony while students in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences received their diplomas in the afternoon.

The following local students were among the graduates: Rosangelina Fleming of Oakham, Trevor Nutt of Rutland, Jenna Root of Rutland and Brenna Washburn of Rutland.

Mahar 50+ Alumni Group plans gathering

ORANGE – Mahar 50+ Alumni Group plans a Saturday, Sept. 16 gathering for all Mahar graduates from 1957 to 1973.

Representatives are still needed from the classes of 1970, 71, 72 and 73. They may email Keri Kilhart at gramkeri@cloud.com, call Muriel Holden at 978-249-9313 or email Maureen Riendeau at mriendeau@mass.rr.com, if they are interested in being a class representative.

So far, plans for the next gathering include a catered meal at Athol Legion in the afternoon of Saturday, Sept. 16. More details will be coming later.

MWCC holds Excellence Award Ceremony

GARDNER – Mount Wachusett Community College recognized the achievements of its high performing students at its annual Evening of Excellence award ceremony on Thursday, May 11.

"We are here to celebrate the achievements that you have made both inside and outside of the classroom," President James Vander Hooven told students. "You have distinguished yourselves not only as students, but as survivors, overcoming the challenges of daily life and the complexities of the pandemic while delivering exemplary academic and extracurricular

performance. I commend and congratulate each of you and thank you for making MWCC the community of learners it is."

Curriculum Awards recipients were: Criminal Justice Transfer – Cole Carignan of Hubbardston; Interdisciplinary Studies and Allied Health – April Rose Pellegrino of West Brookfield and Theater Arts Track – Samuel J. Gagnon of New Braintree.

Judge M. Alan Moore Award for Excellence in Writing recipient was Maddison Paige Willigar of Gilbertville.

Outstanding Achievement Awards recipients were: John

Burton Award – Nichole M. Hazel of Hubbardston and Mount Observer Scholarship – Maddison Paige Willigar of Gilbertville.

Shannon Caponigro of Barre received the Commonwealth Honors Scholars which is a selective academic program.

Maddison Paige Willigar of Gilbertville received the President's Key, which is traditionally awarded to the graduating student or students who have demonstrated exemplary academic performance in their programs of study and completed all of their degree requirements here at MWCC.

MUTINY, continued from page 7

start tonight," said Coimbra, who's a former member of the Western Mass. Pioneers. "I've coached at the youth level, but it's very special to win my first game at this level. I think it's going to be a very exciting season."

Coimbra took over the coaching duties from Brian Linnehan, who was hired as an assistant women's soccer coach at Bryant University.

Coimbra is aided by assistant coaches Jill Kochanek, Ciro Viviano, and Federico Molinari, who's also the head coach of the Western Mass. Pioneers.

Santaniello, who's a forward, scored a pair of goals during the first half, which gave her team a 2-0 halftime lead.

During the 24th minute, Santaniello lined a shot over the head of Worcester Fuel goalie Lilliana Mantoni into the back of the net.

About 15 minutes later, Cat Berry sent a forward pass into the box and Santaniello finished off the play by shooting the ball into the left corner.

"I'm very happy for Hope," Coimbra said. "I think she's a great soccer player, and she has a very bright future. She shoots the ball mainly with her right foot, but she scored one of her goals in tonight's match with her left foot."

After playing soccer for two seasons at the University of Rhode Island, Santaniello has decided to enter the NCAA transfer portal. The portal allows Division 1 athletes the opportunity to transfer to another school without having to sit out a year.

"I decided to leave U.R.I. for personal reasons," Santaniello said. "I just want to keep growing as a soccer player. In order for me to do that, I felt like the best thing was transfer to another school. I just want to find the right school, which will help me get to the next level."

Berry, who's from Hingham, will be a senior on the University of South Carolina women's soc-



Agawam's Hope Santaniello controls the ball.



Jenna Kalwa sends a pass forward

Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

cer team in September. She'll be heading back to Columbia, South Carolina in the middle of June to train with her college soccer team.

"Cat is a great soccer player and she's going to have a successful career in the future," Coimbra said. "We're very lucky to have her on our team. We enjoyed watching her play in tonight's match."

Ferrara is hoping that Berry will be able to return to Ludlow if the Mutiny do make the playoffs.

"The atmosphere at the stadium is always great," Berry said. "I just love playing soccer with this group of girls. It was a great way to start our season."

Berry, who's the fifth all-time leading goal scorer at the University of South Carolina with 24 career goals, took over the spotlight at the second half. She finished last Saturday's match with a total of four

goals. A couple of her goals came on amazing shots that not very many goalies would be able to stop.

"We definitely could've scored a few more goals in the first half," Berry added. "We just wanted to come out at the start of the second half and put the game away. I took advantage of my opportunities. Hearing the roar of the crowd here at Lusitano is very special."

Berry, who has two more years of eligibility remaining at South Carolina, will most likely be drafted by a N.W.S.L. team after she graduates.

"Playing at that level is something that I've dreamed about my whole life," Berry said. "It would be awesome to play for a professional soccer team in the future."

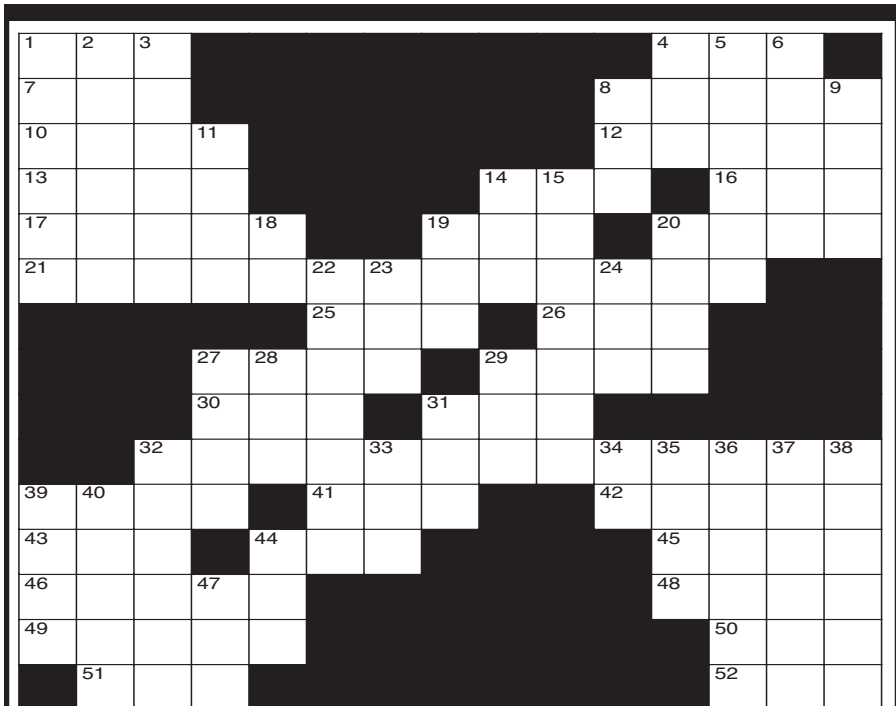
University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford, Connecticut, was credited with the assist.

Down at the other end of the field, Kopec, who was the Mutiny starting goalie, only had to make three saves. She was replaced in goal by Robak with ten minutes remaining in regulation.

The members of the Mutiny defensive unit are Sofia Weber, Laci Lewis, Megan Cunningham, and Kinsman.

"This is just an awesome environment to play a soccer match," said Cunningham, who's the Mutiny captain. "We also have a lot of returning players this year, which is a great thing."

The Mutiny will be playing a couple of road matches before returning home to face the Albany Rush on June 10. Their other two home matches during the regular season will be against Sporting CT (June 24) and CT Rush (July 8).



CLUES ACROSS

- Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- Chinese philosophical principle
- Branch
- Jewish spiritual leader
- Slang for requests
- "So Human An Animal" author
- Rocker Billy
- British Air Aces
- Type of tree
- "Tough Little Boys" singer
- State attorneys
- Goddess of fertility
- Localities
- Beloved singer
- Charles
- Clue

CLUES DOWN

- Ridge of jagged rock below sea surface
- Helsinki neighborhood
- Farm resident
- Ocean
- Where ballplayers work
- Unable to hear
- Coolest
- Cape Verde capital
- One point north of due east
- Kilo yard (abbr.)
- Middle Eastern nation
- It yields Manila hemp
- People operate it (abbr.)
- Regenerate
- Not healthy
- Chinese sword
- Mild expression of surprise

CLUES DOWN

- Unit of angle
- Headgear to control a horse
- Clots
- Follows sigma
- A woman who is the superior of a group of nuns
- Greek units of weight
- Radio direction finder (abbr.)
- Systems, doctrines, theories
- Stony waste matter
- Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- Hostile to others
- U.S. State
- Not wet
- Something one thinks up
- Where beer is made

CLUES DOWN

- Clumsy person
- Belonging to us
- Canadian flyers
- Greek goddess of the dawn
- Snake-like fish
- Unhappy
- Fruit
- Not good
- Zero degrees Celsius
- Goo Goo Dolls' hit
- Crawls into the head (folklore)
- Legally responsible
- Move in a playful way
- Regarded with deep affection
- Partner to flowed
- Native American tribe
- Head honcho

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