

BARRE GAZETTE

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Turley Photos by Camren Robertson

Garrett Erickson performed on the bass during a performance at the Senior Night Concert.

Concert highlights senior soloists

By Paula Ouimette
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BARRE – Quabbin Regional High School hosted its annual Senior Night Concert to highlight its graduating class and the music department.

Senior soloists included Aidan Mahoney, who opened the concert with a Jimi Hendrix-inspired rendition of

the National Anthem on electric guitar. This performance was followed by an arrangement of “In My Life” featuring all of the seniors from chorus, band and orchestra.

Garrett Erickson on piano and Aiden Fuller on drums performed “Imagine”, followed by Gabriel Miller singing “Bloodsport”, which he dedicated to his mother.

Elizabeth Lambert sang

“So Anyway”, followed by “I’m Moving On” by Rose Lyden and “Amor Eterno” by Juliana Lindsten. Lindsten sang her song in Spanish, and a capella, after a technical glitch stopped her music.

Maxwell Ure performed an excerpt from “Money” on the tenor saxophone and Finnegan Leander performed an excerpt from “Swan Lake” on bass clarinet.



Elizabeth Lambert sang “So Anyway” during the Quabbin Regional High School’s Senior Night Concert held on May 14.

Bailey Burke performed a duet with Symphonic Winds Director Toni Brown for the song “Samba-lele”. Abigail Falconi also performed on clarinet with Brown for “Op. 62/3 No. 18”.

Seniors Emma Harrington on trumpet, Annie Howe on saxophone and Lia Sherblom on clarinet performed

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Select Board accept MGL Chapter 90 70C

Police Chief recommends some roads for 25 mph limit

By Ellenor Downer
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BARRE – The Select Board on the recommendation of Police Chief James Sabourin reduced speed limits on several roads in town.

He said by adopting Massachusetts General Law Chapter 90, Section 17C, this allowed the Select Board to establish 25-miles-per-hour speed limit in thickly settled or business districts. He said West Street to Washburn Avenue, Pleasant Street from Lovers Lane and Hawes Hill Road and a stretch of South Street to Root Road met the thickly settled or business district. The Select Board office will notify Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

TA report

Town Administrator Melanie Jackson presented the Fiscal Year 2027 budget review at the May 4 meeting. She said the accountant submitted the town’s free cash balance sheet to the Department of Revenue last Monday.

She estimated free cash could be as high as \$800,000. This was in part due to \$424,000 in receipts, which were not transferred in the process of switching software.

She said it was “tough” to come up with a budget. She said the Board of Assessors need a clerk in that office. She said she was not sure the \$45,000 for the town audit would be sufficient.

Some cuts in the budget included \$3,000 in the recreation budget, \$6,000 cut for Felton Field, \$1,000 from Conservation Committee and a reduction of \$500 for Wachusett Greenways.

The Town Administrator said she received permis-

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SB reviews budget, ATM warrant

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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HUBBARDSTON – The Select Board discussed the warrant for the upcoming annual town meeting, scheduled for June 1, including article 11, which considers the municipal budget for fiscal year 2027.

Some impactful line items discussed included the police, school and regional dispatch.

At the May 15 meeting, Town Administrator Sean Fitzgerald gave a detailed outline of various line items in the FY 27 budget. He said the departments switched to a line item budget, which added hundreds of lines to the budget.

He said there are more than 530 items on this budget, compared to about 120 last year. Fitzgerald said there were about \$310,000 worth of one time impacts added to last year’s budget.

Fitzgerald said the Police Department budget is up 9.1%, but the increase is still a cut to the department.

Police Chief Ryan Couture said there is a sergeant retiring this year, and they do not have the money to fill an open patrol spot. Couture said the department has two sergeants at the moment.

Fitzgerald said the Quabbin Regional School District budget came in at about a 4% increase to the town budget, compared to the

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Select Board hears concerns of citizens

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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RUTLAND – The Select Board held their first meeting after the annual town election on May 12, where newly elected member Sheila Dibb joined the board.

The board heard concerns of citizens, re-organized, and handled some administrative work.

The first resident to speak was Lou Cornacchioli, who gave an update on electrifying the bandstand and cleaning the Civil War monument. He said he brought this up last year before leaving the state for the winter.

Cornacchioli said he talked with people at Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School, who said electrifying the bandstand would be a one

day project for a professional electrician, but a little bit longer with students.

Cornacchioli said a representative from the school committee told him they voted to move forward with allowing the project, but there was no time to do it before the school year ends this year in June, so it will have to wait until the fall. Cornacchioli said he would raise money to electrify the bandstand as well.

Town Administrator Heather Butler said they would need to get an electrical permit.

Moving on to the Civil War monument, Cornacchioli said he got a price from a vendor that does steam cleaning, and it came out to between \$400-\$600, and that he would pay the price to give back to the town if the board was okay with it.

Select Board member

Harry Sechman said the monument is close to him since he is a veteran, and was not opposed to it.

Cornacchioli also talked about town meeting. He said it was difficult to follow, and there were no handouts given for attendees to follow along with. He requested that in the future, handouts be made.

Cornacchioli also raised concerns that nobody on the floor acknowledged the outgoing Select board Chair, Jen Leger.

Finance Committee Chair Darren Ross also spoke during public comment, asking the board about what will happen with the \$660,000 for the school budget, and asked if the board would go on record recommending the usage of that amount in free cash to fund the budget.

Select Board member Leah Whiteman said if

the school budget assessment comes in below that amount, they have a passed budget since it was contingent on the override, but if the assessment is above that, it will have to be voted on.

He said using that free cash puts them in a tough place for next year, but Whiteman said this has been a conversation for a long time.

Select Board member Alex Mowatt said they use \$300,000 each year in free cash. Ross said they just lost 19 people because of cuts, and Whiteman said without that free cash they would lose even more.

Butler said that \$660,000 is already appropriated from the town meeting motion, and is not available for any other usage.

See RUTLAND, page 6

Gehring wins Select Board seat

OAKHAM – Frederick J. Gehring Jr. won a three-year term to the Select Board against incumbent Donald A. Haapakoski.

Gehring received 308 votes and Haapakoski got 78 in the Monday, May 18 Annual Town Election.

Lucille DiLeo won a two-year term to the Board of Health on a write-in campaign with 190 votes against Susan Collette, the candidate on the ballot, who had 147 votes.

Barbara A. Pucci won a three-year term to the Board of Health. Lucille DiLeo received 54 write in votes for the three year term to BOH.

All other candidates ran unopposed on the ballot.

See OAKHAM, page 6

Tri-Parish Community Church holds annual sale

By Ryan Drago
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HARDWICK – The Hardwick Common was busy this past weekend with the Tri-Parish Community Church’s annual Plant, Bake, Craft & Tag Sale taking place.

This was the 20th year the Tri-Parish Community Church has held this annual sale which is all made possible by a volunteer effort. This event benefits the Tri-Parish Community Church’s operating expenses.

Members of Tri-Parish Community Church were hosting a plant sale and a bake sale on the Hardwick Common, and the weather

was perfect for the occasion. Jennifer Pollard, who grew up in Hardwick, had moved back to the area around 2018 was keeping busy with both the plant sale and bake sale taking place.

The plant sale featured pots of annual flowers, herbs, perennials and vegetables. The bake sale featured a variety of home baked cookies, pies and other pastries.

There were also three plant vendors who attended this year’s plant sale. There was Inishowen Farms of North Brookfield, Howe’s Farm & Garden of New Braintree and Stillman’s

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Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

Doug Swanson of Dragonfly Wood Arts of Hardwick was one of the craft vendors during the 20th Annual Tri-Parish Community Church Plant, Bake, Craft and Tag Sale.



SPORTS

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Boys track hosts Lunenburg

BARRE – Last Wednesday afternoon, Quabbin Regional High School boys track had a home meet, hosting Lunenburg High School. The boys had won two of their first three meets so far this season. The final score of the meet was not reported as of press time.



Jaymeson Pina builds up momentum for an airborne launch in the triple jump.



William O'Neill coils up as he gets ready to send the discus flying.



Owen Twarog bends over backwards as he sails over the high jump. Turley photos by Jeffrey Haynes



Matthew Labrousse gets the leverage he needs to clear the bar in the pole vault.



Sadiki Francis bolts for the finish line in the 100-meter hurdles race.



Audrey Niles easily clears the bar in the high jump.

Quabbin girls track takes on Lunenburg

BARRE – Last Wednesday afternoon, Quabbin Regional High School girls track had a home meet, hosting Lunenburg High School. The girls had won two of their first three meets so far this season, beating Hudson and Groton-Dunstable. The final score of the meet was not reported as of press time.



Robyn Waltz propels herself upwards in the pole vault.

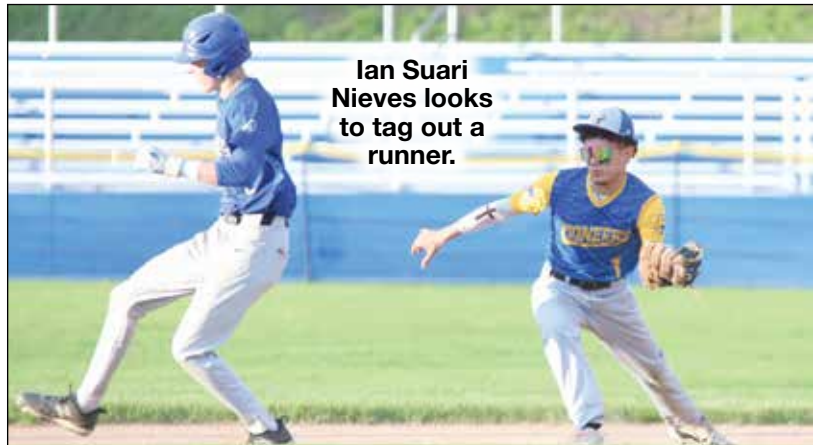


Katy Twarog goes flying for distance in the triple jump. Turley photos by Jeffrey Haynes

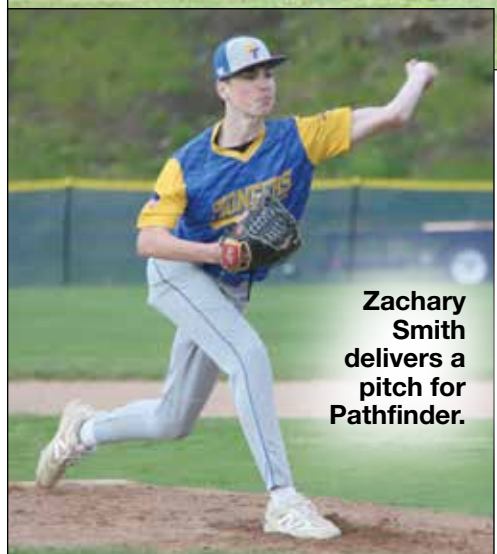
Pathfinder suffers home loss to Granby



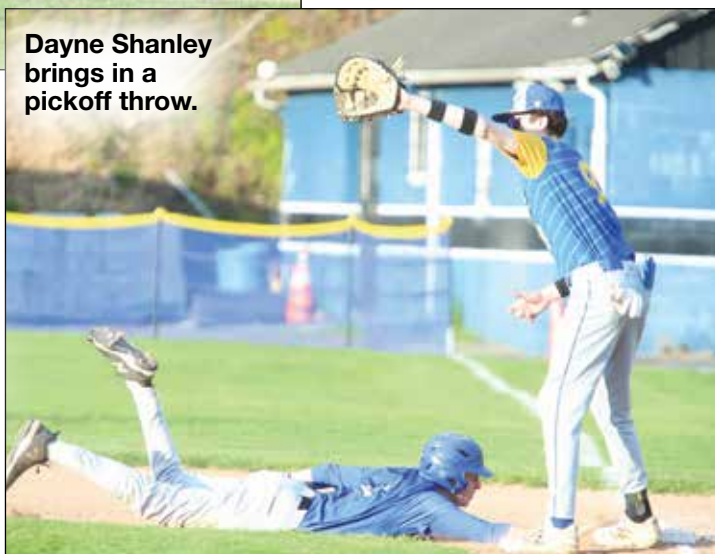
Brody Wetnicka sends a throw across the diamond for the Pioneers.



Ian Suari Nieves looks to tag out a runner.



Zachary Smith delivers a pitch for Pathfinder.



Dayne Shanley brings in a pickoff throw.

PALMER – Last Monday under the lights of Legion Field, the Granby High School baseball team had a 10-run third inning and it powered the Rams to a 17-4 win over Pathfinder that ended after five innings because of the mercy rule. Brandon Carillon and Anthony Santiago had three hits each. Carillon had five RBI. The Rams are just 4-12 on the season while Pathfinder fell to 1-13.



Aiden Girard slings a throw to first. Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Sarah Jean-Francois spins into her throw as she hurls the discus.



Olivia Abbas-Peck flies over a jump in the 100-meter race.

Monson boys lacrosse falls to South Hadley



Brennan Peterson runs for the goal. See story and more photos on page 10. Turley photo by Gregory A. Scibelli