

BARRE GAZETTE

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Turley Photo by Camren Robertson

Sgt. at Arms Robert Bentley escorted Cub Scouts to the war memorials to lay wreaths.

Barre holds Memorial Day ceremony

By Ellenor Downer
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BARRE – Memorial Day, May 25 started off raining, but the skies cleared just in time for the Barre parade and ceremony at noon.

Oakham's Memorial Day ceremony moved into the Fire Station as the rain was coming down for the 10 a.m. start of the parade.

Every year Margo Petracone saddles up her horse, decorates his lower legs with red, white and blue

leg wraps, adds a flag themed saddle pad and carries an American Flag.

Leading the parade was a police officer driving one of their vehicles. Joining the parade were the Quabbin Community Band, the American Legion Color

Guard, military vehicles, Cub Scouts, Little League members, Select Board members, Barre Police Chief James Sabourin, Pastor Foley, American Legion and

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Planning Board holds public hearing on bylaws

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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HARDWICK – The Planning Board held a public hearing last Tuesday at the Town House to present five new bylaws that are being proposed to be voted on at a special town meeting in the summer.

The bylaws include accessory dwelling units, associate planning board member, gender-neutral terminology, earth removal and importation and farm animals.

Accessory dwelling units

According to Planning Board Chair Bill Cole, and the bylaw packet which can be found at the town's website (www.hardwick-ma.gov), an ADU is a separate building on a property that has its own utilities like water and septic. They are required to be allowed by state law, so long as they are 900 square feet or less.

These are called protected use ADUs, according to the packet.

This proposed bylaw is a local option that allows

the construction of an ADU on a property, and it can be between 400 square feet and 1,200 square feet. They cannot exceed the higher number.

According to Cole, the gross area excludes garages, porches and unfinished basements.

There are several additional differences between a protected use ADU and the proposed local use ADU, according to the packet, including protected use ADUs require no special permit, but the local use ADUs do.

For protected use ADUs, the setback rules are no more restrictive than another structure like a shed, but for the proposed local use, the setback is the same as any dwelling in the zoning district, according to the packet.

Additionally, for a local use ADU, there can be up to two local use ADUs along with the protected use ADU. There is also an option to build a protected ADU size building on a lot, and then build the regular

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North Brookfield observes Memorial Day

By Paula Ouimette
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NORTH BROOKFIELD – The rain didn't stop North Brookfield from honoring those who gave their lives to defend our freedom this past Memorial Day.

Master of Ceremonies Bill Cass of the Sawyer-Mathieu-Kearns American Legion Post 41 welcomed veterans and community members to the service, which was held inside the sanctuary of the First Congregational Church.

Before the service, fallen service members were honored at Walnut Grove and St. Joseph's cemeteries. Cass said this ritual of remembrance was important to observe every year.

"Today is a sacred day in our nation's history," Cass said. "We are gathered here today to pause and reflect... and honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice."

VFW Post 3439 Chaplain Frank Potter gave the opening prayer and said, "Let us be mindful of each sacrifice made on behalf of

the American people."

Reading President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address was North Brookfield High School Class of 2027 President Whitney Reno.

The church bells were then rang seven times with seven seconds between each ring. Each toll represented a different stage in a veteran's

life, including a willingness to serve, camaraderie, patriotism, community respect, dignity, honor and remembrance.

Representing the Board of Selectmen was Chair Jamie Gilman, who said it was an honor to speak

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Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

Carleen McQuaid sang the National Anthem during the Memorial Day services held on Monday.



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

Students placed about 200 American flags in front of their school.

Students recognize sacrifice on Memorial Day

By Paula Ouimette
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HARDWICK – Just prior to Memorial Day, students at Hardwick Elementary School participated in a tradition that is now in its third year, under the direction of retired Principal Sue Musnicki.

Musnicki brought this tradition to the Quabbin

Regional School District a few years ago when she was Co-Principal of Ruggles Lane Elementary School in Barre. Like the one in Barre, Musnicki hopes that Hardwick's field of flags will continue to serve as a reminder of the solemnity of Memorial Day.

Joining Musnicki at this year's field of flags ceremony

ny was 30-plus year U.S. Army veteran and Sons of the American Revolution member Christopher Tourtellot, along with Scott Tourtellot and George Podmore.

Tourtellot spoke to the students about the American

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Select Board and Finance Committee recommend differing budgets

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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HARDWICK – The Select Board held a joint meeting with the Finance Committee last Thursday to finalize their budget recommendations before the annual town meeting, which is

scheduled for June 6.

The Select Board voted to recommend the budget as presented, but the Finance Committee voted not to support it because they say it needs more cuts.

At the May 21 meeting, Town Administrator Justine Caggiano said the budget being presented contains a revised school number, an IT budget to reflect spending and other changes, which were discussed at previous meetings. She said the town

is under proposition 2.5 by about \$24,000.

Caggiano also said she reached out to Kearsarge Energy, and that they have made a payment of over \$700,000 to National Grid for the solar program, which the town is scheduled to receive a one-time payment of \$100,000 in December.

The boards also discussed the gravel sales, which Caggiano said the town is estimating over \$300,000 in revenue, but she only

built \$100,000 into the budget. Caggiano said there is no request for proposal for the gravel, rather it will be advertised on Auctions International.

Finance Committee member Mark Korzec asked questions about the gravel sales, including whether the Conservation Commission has signed off on the project and if there is a site plan.

Caggiano said the Conservation Commission has not had an official vote,

but conversations show they support it. She also said she does not think they need a site plan, but they are gathering specs and yardage.

Korzec asked how the town is going to receive their share of the gravel, which he said is estimated at 40,000 cubic yards. Korzec said without answers to these questions, it is risky to use the estimated funds to balance the budget.

Caggiano said it was not fair to pose those questions

to the administrator or Select Board, but they should have been posed to the "two people spearheading the project." Korzec said it is fair to have a conversation about using non-recurring funds to pay for salaries and IT.

Select Board Clerk Zack Spencer said the town is "late in the game" in the budget process, and said they will have to accept the budget as

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Middle school track action

BARRE – Last week, Quabbin Regional Middle School had outdoor track action, featuring contests in multiple events for the young Panthers. It was one of just a few meets scheduled for the middle school team this spring.



Caleb Brouillet leads the pack in the one-mile race.



Turley photos by Jeffrey Haynes
Penny Ouimette winds up to launch the discus. QuabbinMiddleTrackC:



Kayla Despres propels herself for distance in the long jump.



Landon Swindlehurst goes flying in the long jump.



Leona Barre stretches out as she easily clears the bar in the high jump.



Eden Fortier powers through her throw in the shot put.



Turley photos by Jeffrey Haynes
Josie Castell slides and adds another run as she slides into home.

Panthers score pair of wins

BARRE – Last week, Quabbin Regional High School softball scored a pair of wins, defeating Bromfield last Monday afternoon 15-3 followed by a win over Murdock High School 17-1 last Thursday afternoon in a matchup that ended in the fifth inning. Quabbin is on the borderline for qualification in the state tournament. The most recent rankings had Quabbin ranked at No. 35. With a sub-.500 record, Quabbin would need to finish in the top 32 in order to make the state tournament this year.



Anna Rogowski prepares to deliver her pitch.



Izzy Doty braces as she is struck by an errant pitch.

Anna Hautala secures the catch and the out at first on a throw from Anna Rogowski.



Kelsey Allen slides safely into second base.



Kai Schuster catches a strike from pitcher Abby Rogowski.

Mustangs close out regular season with win

CHICOPEE – Last Tuesday evening, the Chicopee Comprehensive High School boys lacrosse team, which co-ops with Chicopee High, was defeated in its regular season finale by Monson High School 8-3. Monson, which now co-ops with Pathfinder, is set to enter the state tournament this year. The Mustangs went 10-6 and are well above .500 for the season. Monson, which was set to learn its fate in the state tournament earlier this week, had a nonplayoff rematch scheduled against Comp on Memorial Day.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Brady Ronaldson looks for an opening to pass. MonLaxB



Landon Lacroix heads for the goal.



Noah Latulippe runs along the sideline.



Dom Menard receives a pass.



Landon Couture is pressured.