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Turley Photo by
Ryan Drago
**Five-year-old
Beauden
testing his
coaster with a
Ping-Pong
ball.**

Children build chain reactions and creative contraptions

By Ryan Drago
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BARRE – The Woods Memorial Library welcomed guests for a workshop known as Chain Reactions and Creative Contraptions.

This program is made possible thanks to Playful Engineers, an arts-in-education business which creates and facilitates programs promoting play-based, curiosity-driven learning for children. This business was founded by Jay Mankita, a

Teaching Artist, who offers virtual and in-person programs to schools, libraries and camps.

Arriving at the Woods Memorial Library is Teaching Artist and Workshop Facilitator of Playful Engineers Merlin

Katz. This program allows children to build interesting chain reactions and creative contraptions, which Katz describes chain reactions as

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Town officials discuss historic burial ground

By Ellenor Downer
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BARRE – Elizabeth Martin of the Cemetery Commission and Lucy Allen of the Historical Commission attended a recent Select Board meeting to discuss the Prince Walker Burial Ground.

This small town owned cemetery sits on a small piece of land and is the resting place of Prince Walker, his first wife and four children.

The plot sits within acres of Department of Conservation and Recreation land. Allen said the location made the grounds difficult to reach. She said it was one of only a few burial grounds started by Afro-Americans for Afro-Americans.

She said there was a large, old tree that presented a risk to the burial site if the tree came down. The DCR forester and their cutter looked at the tree in question and since they don't own the cemetery, they did not want to remove it for fear of damaging the burial site.

Allen said the burial

ground was on the State Register of Historic Places and was going for national designation as well. She said she was "looking for the best way to keep it maintained and to keep it safe."

She suggested turning the burial ground over to the DCR with a historic preservation agreement. She said in the past when several groups like the American Legion, Boy Scouts, etc. sought a small amount, \$200, to help maintain the site at town meeting, the town voted against the articles.

Select Board Chairman Maureen Marshall said "[The town] should do their best to preserve it and [I] hate to turn over to the state." She suggested the Historical Commission apply for funds from the Barre Savings Charitable Foundation.

Select Board member Richard Stevens said, if [town] gives it to the state would be undoing [Prince Walkers] wishes." Stevens also mentioned the "Prison Camp" issue in Rutland with the DCR, who now

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Board discusses regional dispatch contract

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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HUBBARDSTON – The Select Board discussed a contract with Central Mass Regional 911 District at their Monday meeting.

Select Board member Peter Walker, who also sits on the board of directors for the dispatch center, said there was a majority vote by the board to amend the payment structure to each of the five member towns to pay the entire assessment up front on July 1, the beginning of the fiscal year.

At the June 29 meeting, Walker said the board called a meeting last Wednesday to be held on June 26, to change the structure. He said the previous contract that was agreed upon with the Rutland Regional Dispatch (which is now the Central Mass 911 district) stipulated the towns pay their assessments quarterly.

Walker said the board, made up of five people of which he is the only elected member, voted favorably with himself being the only no vote. The other towns include Rutland, Barre, Oakham and Warren.

Walker questioned how the appointed members of the board of directors could change the structure of a previously agreed upon contract without notifying the select boards of each town.

Walker said when he voted no, certain members of the board asked why

Hubbardston did not plan for the up front payment in their budget.

Town Administrator Sean Fitzgerald said it may not be permissible to pay the entire cost up front because of the previously signed contract, and said it is "completely unacceptable" to change the structure so close to the beginning of the next fiscal year. Fitzgerald said towns are closing their books on the last fiscal year at this time.

The Select Board voted unanimously to only pay the 25% cost on July 1. The board has reached out to legal counsel about this matter.

The board also voted to reappoint Walker as a member of the board of directors.

Finance update

Fitzgerald said Marcia Bohinc, the temporary accountant, has provided an expenditure summary and is continuing to make reconciliations to past fiscal years. He said there will be some end of year shuffling over the next couple of weeks, and there was \$111,695 left in the fiscal year 2026 budget as of the meeting date, or a little less than 1% of the budget, before the next fiscal year starts.

He said the new budget has been put into VADAR, and there will be a focus on budget discipline, with only department heads in charge of specific line items to expand the budget.

Walker asked why the veterans' budget was slightly overspent, and Fitzgerald

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Turley Publications photos by Ellenor Downer

Julia and Lyra enjoyed time at the drawing table inside the Fobes Memorial Library during Kid's Fest held Saturday, June 27.

Kid's Fest kicks off summer reading program

By Ellenor Downer
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OAKHAM – The Fobes Memorial Library, 4 Maple St., kicked off their summer reading program with Kid's Fest held last Saturday, June 27.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Fobes Library, Kid's Fest offered many activities for people of all ages not just for the children. The Bounce House was a child favorite as was the chance to climb into one of Oakham Fire Department's trucks, Engine 1.

There was a bubble station. Children and adults enjoyed this. It was a challenge to see, who could make the largest bubbles. One woman briefly encased her upper torso within a large bubble. Another used a wand to make a bubble over a yard long.

The Family Farm Education Center, located in Oakham, brought several animals including a rabbit some ducks. Ray, a friendly sheep, walked around the library grounds meeting people.

The center, run by Jen Keaney and Beth Cogoli,

is a nonprofit farm serving children, teens and adults with intellectual and developmental differences, mental health challenges and those on the autism spectrum.

Anyone – children, teens and adults – interested in the summer reading program may register at the library. They then track their reading over the summer.

As they read a book, they earn entries or chances to spin the prize wheel for various prizes such as

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FinCom finalizes year end transfers

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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RUTLAND – The Finance Committee met last Thursday to vote on various year-end transfer requests to finalize their acceptances following the Select Board voting favorably on them at their June 22 meeting.

Year end transfers are allowed to happen in the last month of the fiscal year, and must be approved by both boards.

The first transfer request was for \$90,000 to be transferred from Highway wages to the snow and ice account.

Members of the committee asked why there was that much money left in the account, and Fire Chief Seth Nipe said there was a transfer at a fall special town meeting to fund for a whole year of highway wages, and the \$90,000 is surplus.

Another request was for \$64,000 to be transferred from the Town Planner salary to legal costs for town counsel. Town Administrator Heather Butler said there is a \$37,000 debt to KP Law, and it is likely that the June bill will be between \$15,000-\$20,000 because of a special town meeting and labor counsel.

Butler said there were some discussions about charging the bills associated with labor counsel to a \$360,000 stabilization fund for unemployment and work-

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SPORTS

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Quabbin athletes make their decisions



Submitted photo

During the spring, several athletes at Quabbin Regional High School made some important decisions about their futures. The school hosted an NLI signing days where the students committed to playing sports at the college level. Pictured are: Wes Sanderson- Football at Curry, Collin Lindley - Track at Merrimack, Owura Ankoma-Mensah - Track at University of New Haven, Bianca Wilder - Soccer and Track at Mount Holyoke, Abi Falconi - Track at Franklin Pierce and Mia Ducos (not pictured) - Basketball at Skidmore.

Mutiny shut out by Vermont Green FC

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – Even though the New England Mutiny had already been eliminated from the USL W playoffs, they still had a chance to influence the race for first place in the Northeast Division entering the regular-season finale.

Had the Mutiny pulled off an upset victory against

Vermont Green FC, the Hudson Valley Crusaders would have finished at the top of the Northeast Division table.

However, it was Vermont Green FC players and their rowdy supporters doing all the celebrating following a 3-0 shutout win over the Mutiny at Lusitano Stadium last Saturday night.

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Turley photo by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Addyson Earl tries to outrun an opponent.

Monson Legion Post 241 falls at home to Aldenville

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER – The final American Legion baseball game of the regular season at historic Legion Field in Palmer was a vintage pitcher's duel.

Aldenville (Chicopee) Post 337, who only had nine players available for the road game, snapped its four-game losing streak by edging Monson Post 241, 1-0, last Wednesday night.

"We battled the entire game," said Matt Sutton, who was the winning pitcher for Aldenville. "I focused on staying calm on the mound, pitch to pitch, and this is a huge win for us."

Aldenville had a 2-4-1 record following the shutout victory, while Monson fell to 2-4.

The two squads were scheduled to face each other for the second time this summer at St. Joe's Park in Thorndike on Wednesday night.

Monson is also scheduled to face Longmeadow Post 175 in another home game at St. Joe's Park on Thursday night, and West Springfield



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Theo Haley takes a lead off first.

Post 207 at Veteran's Field in Monson on Monday night.

Last Wednesday's contest marked Sutton's first career victory as a member of the Aldenville Post 337 baseball team.

Sutton, who was a junior member of the Chicopee Comp's varsity baseball team this past spring, gave up only

three base hits while striking out eight in his performance against Monson. The righthander issued four walks and hit a pair of batters in six innings. He threw a total of 102 pitches.

"I thought Matt pitched a great game," said Aldenville manager Nate Carillon. "We've been mostly using him as a relief pitcher so far this season. He stepped up in tonight's game."

Sutton, who earned a save in Aldenville's season opening road victory against Westfield Post 124, made his second start of the Legion season. His first start came against Northampton Post 28, which was a home loss a couple of weeks ago.

Memphis Huertas, who's normally Aldenville's starting catcher, didn't attend last Wednesday's game at Legion Field. Noah Carillon, who's Nate's younger brother, strapped on the catcher's gear for just the second time during his Legion career.

"Noah used to be a catcher in little league. He also

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Kyle Kaczuwka tries to check a swing.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

William Fauth watches his pass move away.

Playoffs hopes still alive after Pioneers shutout

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – Had the Western Mass. Pioneers failed to secure a victory in last Friday night's match against AC Connecticut, their playoff hopes would have vanished for the first time since they entered USL League Two in 2019.

The Pioneers kept their postseason dreams alive a little bit longer thanks to a hard-earned 1-0 shutout win at Lusitano Stadium.

"We didn't get the result that we wanted in our last match on Tuesday night, and we had a tie here last week," said Pioneers assistant coach Tomas Duben. "It was very important for us to get the three points and the win in tonight's game. We're still battling for a postseason berth."

Duben took over the head coaching duties from longtime Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari, who spent last weekend coaching a Western United Pioneers U-16 girls' team at



Matiwos Rumley goes to meet the ball.

a tournament in Virginia.

Since 2024, Duben has a 3-0-1 record as the Pioneers interim head coach.

"My playing career ended a couple of years ago because of a knee injury," he said. "I really enjoyed

playing for this soccer team. I'm very grateful that Federico gave me this coaching opportunity and I'm still learning."

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