

BARRE GAZETTE

USPS 044560

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

July 16, 2026 | Vol. 191, No. 16 | \$1.00

www.barregazette.turley.com

Board hears dispatch update

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

HUBBARDSTON – The Select Board met Monday, where Town Administrator Sean Fitzgerald gave an update on the Central Massachusetts Regional Emergency Communications Center.

Fitzgerald said he worked with state agencies including State 911 and Undersecretary for Forensic Science and Technology Kerry Collins to try to get more funding for the center. He said the town underfunded the assessment line because they were trying to find something more reasonable.

Fitzgerald said there are some other local districts that could possibly take up

See HUBBARDSTON
page 7



Touch-a-Truck

Library and DPW host Summer Reading event

BARRE – The Woods Memorial Library and Department of Public Works hosted a Touch-a-Truck event on North Common this past Saturday.

During the event, participants enjoyed exploring the various vehicles displayed by the DPW and local businesses.

There was also self-guided outdoor read-

ing featuring the book “Trucker Kid” by Carol Gordon Ekster.

This event was part of the library’s ongoing Summer Reading program.

Turley Photoby
Camren Robertson

Jacoby Anderson enjoyed the view from one of the vehicles at the Woods Memorial Library’s Touch-a-Truck event held this past Saturday. This event was co-sponsored by the Department of Public Works. More photos on page 14.

Residents raise concerns to Board

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Select Board met Monday where several residents brought up concerns about parking and town practices.

At the July 13 meeting, one resident brought up concerns about parking near the Rose 32 Bakery, located at 412 Main St. in Gilbertville. The resident said that the road is a no parking zone, and when cars are parked there it creates safety issues such as an inability to see pedestrians, people having to walk into the road and difficulty making room for emergency response vehicles.

According to the resident, this has been an ongoing problem for the past three years, and she alleges

See HARDWICK,
page 8

Select Board discusses FY 27 override vote

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

RUTLAND – The Select Board continued their discussion on potentially asking for an override in the fall at their July 6 meeting.

This discussion stems from a favorable vote at a June 16 special town meeting, where residents voted favorably on a citizens’ petition for an emergency services override, including the police, fire and public works departments.

According to Select Board Chair Sheila Dibb, one of the options was to have the ballot question on the Sept. 1 primary, but the town clerk’s office did not think it was a

good idea.

Select Board member Leah Whiteman said she did not support a fall vote, as at the May 9 town meeting, the overrides passed overwhelmingly before being rejected just two days later at the May 11 annual town election. Whiteman also said the override costs voted at the STM did not include ancillary costs.

Whiteman said if there was an override vote in the fall, it would only be funding one year, and if the town hired employees with that money, they wouldn’t be guaranteed a job next July.

She said it would be better to start engaging the community on a FY 28 override by September.

Select Board member Harry Sechman said the town tried its best to educate residents this year, with Town Administrator Heather Butler holding several informational sessions. Sechman said a majority of the town spoke at the ballot, and people would likely come out in larger numbers to reject an override if the town tried again in the fall.

Select Board Vice-Chair Alex Mowatt said it would be up to the citizen’s to decide again if the board called for a revote.

The board did not take a formal vote, but they were not in favor of calling another election. Dibb said the town could focus on listening sessions and creating

partnerships with community members, and potentially put multiple options on which departments to fund on a future ballot.

Public comment

During public comment, resident Louis Cornacchioli gave the board updates on some projects he had been working on, including lighting the flag poles.

Cornacchioli said he donated two lights, and is in the process of getting more so all five poles can be lit. He also said bandstand lighting may be done in the near future without help from the vocational school, as a local electrician has given him a

See RUTLAND,
page 7

Communications tower approved by Planning Board

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

BARRE – The Planning Board held a public hearing last Tuesday, as requested by the Central Massachusetts Regional Emergency Communication Center to install an emergency communications tower at 50 Main St. in South Barre, the site of the fire station.

According to the public hearing notice, this is a municipally owned property.

A representative from

the CMRECC said there is currently a tower in the back of the property, but it is on a truck. He said the current tower is 80 feet tall, and the new tower will be a maximum of 100 feet tall.

The representative said the tower will be a free-standing aluminum tower, and it will require a 5 foot by 5 foot pad.

The CMRECC representative also said there is a tower on Pleasant Street, and this tower will be smaller. The engineer with

See BARRE,
page 3

BOS holds gravel pit licensing hearing

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Board of Selectmen held a hearing regarding new regulations on gravel pit operations in the town at their meeting Tuesday, June 21.

Chair Jamie Gilman said this bylaw was recommended by the Planning Board to ensure activities on gravel pits were consistent with the regulations. He said the original bylaw was approved unanimously at the annual town meeting of 2023, but it had not been enforced until 2026.

Building Inspector John Couture and Police Chief Ryan Daley each inspected the properties with gravel pits, and recommended all of them be re-licensed, so the board voted to approve the licenses of several residents in attendance who operate gravel pits.

Executive assistant Mary-

Beth Kularski said the annual license fee is \$100, but she sent out a letter charging \$50 since the regulations were acted on halfway through the year.

John Kaminski, a resident who has a gravel pit, said his property has been grandfathered in, and the property has had a pit for 70 years without issue. Kaminski said he did not want to sign a new contract because the board could change the regulations in the following year.

Gilman said that is not true, because once a property is grandfathered in, it is permanent.

Gilman said the reason this bylaw was recommended was there were some gravel pits whose operations did not align with the specifications, and this bylaw allows the town to keep an eye on changes of use. He said the bylaw is the only way to have control over the pits, because without a regulation, there are no violations.

Kaminski said this is a “99%” rule, where most people are following the regulations, but have to make up

for one person disobeying them.

Gilman said the intent was not to interrupt any businesses, but this bylaw allows for consistency and fairness.

Gilman said Kaminski would have to pay the \$100 fee, but a resident who was with him said that would not happen because they pay property taxes.

The resident asked if the people who voted on the bylaw had gravel pits. Gilman said it was an annual town meeting of less than 100 people who voted on it.

Spending requests

The board approved several spending requests from the Highway Department. The department requested to spend \$291.84 for a piston for a leaking plow, \$4,385.49 for shop supplies, \$650 for a trimmer, \$5,358.24 for 12 tires, including for a Mack and a sander, along with \$1,423.01 for ball joint replacements for a Ford F450.

See N BROOKFIELD,
page 7



Turley Photos by Camren Robertson

Ed Erickson offered a colorful variety of plants. See more photos on page 6.

Barre Farmers Market in full swing

BARRE – The Barre Farmers Market is in full swing this summer, with a steady flow of shoppers visiting the common this past

Saturday. The market featuring over 20 vendors is held every Saturday through October from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., rain or shine. Barre

Famers Market vendors and information can be found on Facebook, or by visiting www.barrefarmersmarketma.com.



SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com

Monson Post 241 baseball comes away with win

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WESTFIELD—Despite wobbling defensively in the third and fourth innings, Monson Post 241 regrouped and fought its way to a gritty victory at Bullens Field in Westfield.

With the Senior Legion contest knotted at 6-6 with two outs in the sixth inning, Monson catcher Kyle Kaczuwka delivered an RBI single. He also scored a run

during that frame, as Post 241 celebrated an 8-6 win over Westfield Post 124 last Thursday night.

“Most of the games haven’t gone our way this season,” said Kaczuwka, who’s the only player from Ware High School listed on the Monson Legion baseball roster. “We’re a big family and it feels very good to get back into the win column again.”

Monson had a 4-8 overall record following last

Thursday’s road contest.

“We did struggle defensively early in the game, but we were able to score a few runs” said Monson manager Steve Tripp. “This is a very big win for us heading into the playoffs.”

Monson was sitting in fourth place in the Zone 3A standings. They were scheduled to close out the regular season with another road game against Belchertown on Monday night.

Brayden Mega was

Monson’s starting pitcher against Westfield (6-6-1). He threw 30 pitches in a loss at Greenfield Post 81 the previous night.

“Brayden has a rubber arm, and he loves being in the spotlight,” Tripp said. “He only threw 30 pitches last night, which kept him eligible to start tonight’s game.”

The righthander allowed six runs (one earned) on five hits with three walks and two strikeouts during the first

four innings.

Righthander Sebastian Mayberry, who began the game in left field, wound up as the winning pitcher. He took over the mound with no outs in the fifth and tossed 1 1/3 innings without allowing any runs.

Matt Santos earned the save. The righty hurled the final 1 2/3 inning allowing just two base hits.

Monson took a 4-0 lead in the second inning.

After loading the bases

against lefty Noah Amaral, Monson centerfielder Jarett Skowrya drew a walk forcing home the game’s first run. A couple of batters later, Santos (2-for-5), who started the game at shortstop, hit a double into center field driving home another run. Following a Kaczuwka walk, Mayberry, who started in left field, capped off the inning by hitting a two-run double to left.

The Monson defense com-

See POST 241, page 10

Here for Beer shuts out Monson Mustangs



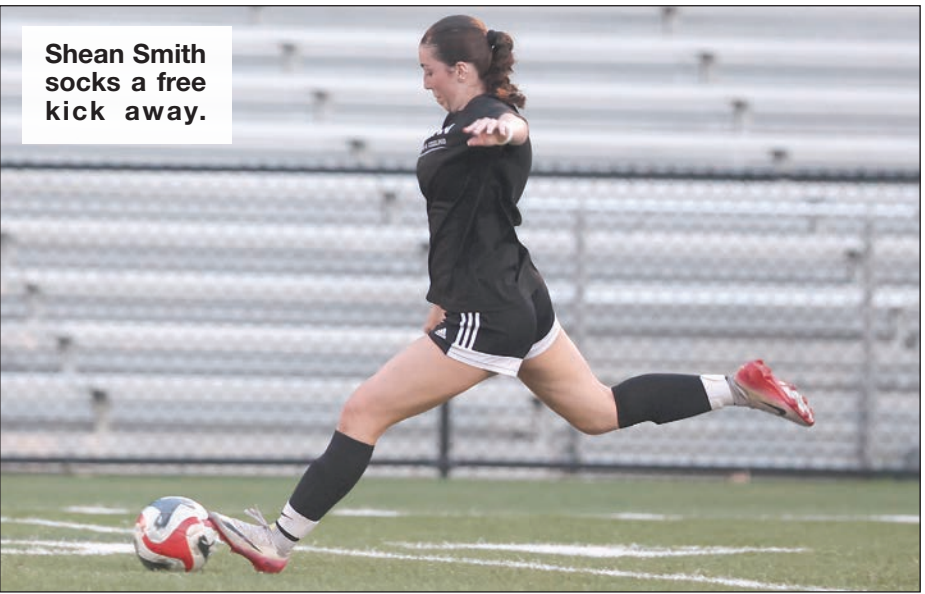
Rachel McKenna rushes for the ball.



Martine Worrall-Turgeon eyes a teammate up the field.



Cassie Ashwell sends a pass away.



Shean Smith socks a free kick away.

Vermont Green hands Pioneers defeat

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—The members of the Western Mass. Pioneers gathered for a team photo before kicking off their regular-season finale against rival Vermont Green FC last Friday night.

Having been eliminated from the USL League 2 playoffs for the first time

since 2018, the Pioneers were hoping to end Vermont Green’s long unbeaten streak.

The Pioneers overcame a 2-0 halftime deficit to tie the score early in the second half, but Vermont Green stretched their unbeaten streak to 37 matches following a 4-2 victory before a large crowd at Lusitano Stadium.



Shun Murasawa sends a free kick away.

“Our main goal was to make the playoffs, which we’ve been able to do every year since 2018,” said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. “We battled back in the second half, but it just wasn’t enough.”

Vermont Green (13-0-1), who are the defending USL League 2 champions, haven’t suffered a loss since a 3-0 setback against Seacoast United in the 2024 Eastern Conference semifinals.

Alfred Baafi, who completed his first season playing for the Pioneers, was a member of the Seacoast United squad, which wound up winning the National championship title, two years ago.



Ronan O'Brien heads past midfield.

“We really wanted to beat our rivals in tonight’s game,” said Baafi, who led the Pioneers with four assists. “It was a great feeling after my Seacoast team beat them in the playoffs two years ago. I really enjoyed playing for the Pioneers this summer. My dream is to play for a professional soccer team.”

One of the Pioneers veteran players is Santiago Blasco Gomez, who was the team captain.

“This is my third season playing for the Pioneers and

I love this place,” Gomez said. “We’ve made the playoffs the past two years, which was an amazing experience. It’s disappointing not making it this year. I’m hoping to play here again next year.”

Gomez, who’s from Alborache, Spain, was a graduate student on the Bryant University men’s soccer team a year ago.

The Pioneers, who fin-

See PIONEERS, page 10



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Johnny Gegestkas connects on a base hit.

St. Joseph’s Saints grabs win over PeoplesBank

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

HOLYOKE – Since 1995, the PeoplesBank baseball team has built a dynasty in the Tri-County League, capturing 21 championship titles, including each of the last 13 seasons.

The St. Joseph’s Saints, who are looking to win the TCL championship title for the first time in two decades, are determined to knock PeoplesBank from its perch this summer.

In a span of 48 hours last week, the Saints celebrated two victories in the rivalry series.

St. Joseph’s traveled to Mackenzie Stadium in Holyoke last Wednesday night and defeated PeoplesBank, 10-5, which kept them in first place in the league standings.

overall record, while Peoples had an 11-3-1 mark.

“We made a couple of mental errors in tonight’s game,” said Peoples player/manager Joe Ferry. “We out hit them, but we left too many runners on base. It’s a frustrating loss.”

Peoples, who fired a 6-0 shutout victory in the first meeting of the regular season between the teams, never held the lead in last Wednesday’s game.

The visitors took a 3-0 lead against lefty James Flahive in the top of the second inning.

After loading the bases with no outs, St. Joe’s second baseman Greg Vouras, who’s the Athletic Director at Westfield High School, grounded into a double play plating the game’s first run. First baseman Dillon

Slattery, who singled to center, and his older brother, Devin, (walk) both crossed the plate on an errant throw by the catcher that bounced into left field.

“I believe baseball games are won and loss on the bases,” said Devin Slattery, who played for Peoples for one season before moving to St. Joe’s. “We put some pressure on them in the second inning, and they made a championship title.”

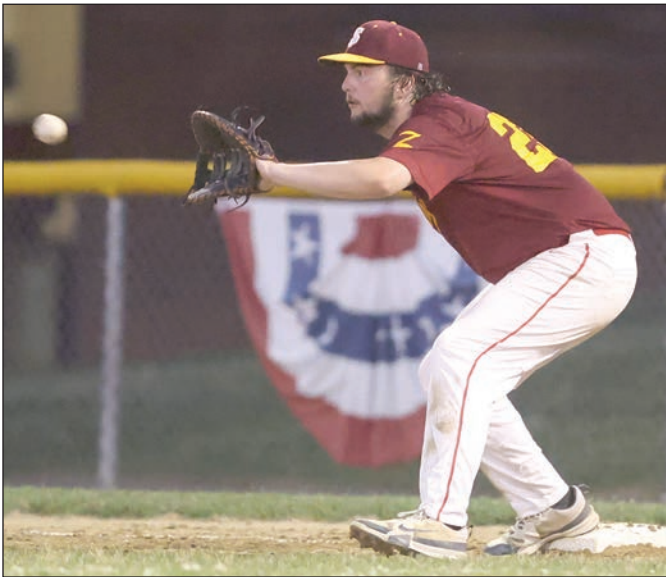
St. Joe’s entered this week’s action with a 13-3

Slattery, who singled to center, and his older brother, Devin, (walk) both crossed the plate on an errant throw by the catcher that bounced into left field.

“I believe baseball games are won and loss on the bases,” said Devin Slattery, who played for Peoples for one season before moving to St. Joe’s. “We put some pressure on them in the second inning, and they made a championship title.”

St. Joe’s entered this week’s action with a 13-3

See TRI-COUNTY page 10



Dillon Slattery makes the catch at first for an out.