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Veterans receive *Quilts of Valor*

BARRE – Ten veterans received Quilts of Valor at a ceremony held in the Senior Center on Saturday, July 11.

The senior center quilting group made all the quilts. Members of the Barre Senior Center quilting group included Eileen Bohigian, Linda Eastwood, Pam Hinckley, Cathy Miknaitis, Ann Mitus,

Carole Stanley and Judy Wypych.

The mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover Service Members and Veterans touched by war with comforting healing Quilts of Valor. Quilts of Valor Massachusetts State Coordinator, Theresa Pereault officiated at the ceremony.



Turley Publications Photos by Ellenor Downer
Dennis G. Fleming, Massachusetts Army National Guard, gets wrapped in his Quilt of Valor quilt with help from his sister, left and Quilts of Valor Massachusetts State Coordinator Theresa Pereault at a ceremony held at the Barre Senior Center on Saturday, July 11. A story and photos of some of the recipients appeared in the July 23 edition. Photos of the remaining recipients will appear in the next edition.



Pamela J. Gonsalves, U.S. Marines, gets wrapped in her Quilt of Valor quilt with help from Betty Jo O'Brien, Senior Center Director and a U.S. Air Force veteran, from left and Theresa Pereault.



David R. Hardaker, U.S. Seabees, gets wrapped in his Quilt of Valor quilt with help from his wife, Anne Hardaker and Theresa Pereault. Ten veterans received Quilts of Valor at the July 11 ceremony.

Override fails for DPW truck purchase

BARRE – Town Clerk Ellen Glidden announced the unofficial Tuesday, July 28 special election results.

There was one question on the ballot which sought exemption from Proposition 2 ½ for the amount to purchase a 10-wheeled dump truck for the Department of Public Works. It failed to pass.

Two hundred fourteen (118 precinct 1 and 96 precinct 2) voted no and 170 (89 precinct 1 and 81 precinct 2) voted yes.

Voter turnout for the spe-

cial election was 8.67% with 384 (207 precinct 1 and 177 precinct 2) of the town's total 4,428 (2,170 precinct 1 and 2,258 precinct 2) casting ballots.

Of the total 384 ballots cast 21 (16 precinct 1 and 5 precinct 2) were by absentee ballots and 60 (38 precinct 1 and 22 precinct 2) by early voting. Two absentee ballots, one from each precinct, were not returned and 40 (27 precinct 1 and 13 precinct 2) early ballots were not returned.

Town administrator position posted

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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HUBBARDSTON – Hubbardston will be opening another search for a town administrator, as the Select Board held a special meeting last Monday to post the job description for an interim town administrator.

According to the board, they are looking for a three to six month option.

As of the July 20 meeting, interim Town Administrator Sean Fitzgerald was still employed by the town. He was hired in January of this year to serve a term ending on June 30 while the board looked for a permanent town administrator.

The board opened up a search committee in March in anticipation of the end of Fitzgerald's term. The committee brought forward three candidates in May, including Elizabeth Kazinskas, Allyson Mitchell and Alex Magee.

Following the interviews of these candidates on May 15, the board voted to offer the job to Magee. After about a month of contract negotiations with him, he accepted a position in another town.

On June 29, the board extended Fitzgerald's term until the end of December.

However, at the July 20 meeting of the Select Board, chair Katie Young said as

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Select Board hears updates on parking and recent break-ins

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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HARDWICK – Police Chief Kevin Landine attended the Select Board meeting Monday to discuss illegal parking near Rose 32 Bakery along with a recent incident of vehicle break-ins in the Wheelwright village of town.

During the last Select Board meeting, a resident raised concerns about safety risks as a result of cars parking near the bakery, noting there are signs that prohibit it. Landine said he understands the concerns, but parking on that stretch of road had been common for many years, and there were only signs put up around 2020 at the order of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

Landine said officers will move cars along when possible, and an officer was handing out warning parking tickets between the last meeting and the July 27 meeting, but there are cases where the officer has their blue lights on and motorists still park along the road.

He said the police are doing what they can to help the issue.

He said there is another issue with motorists parking

at the municipal building to access the bakery, since there is no crosswalk between the two buildings, and there are also residents living in the apartments on Main Street who regularly walk and do not have a crosswalk to use.

Landine suggested the board send a letter to MassDOT highlighting these concerns, along with concerns about getting better signage. He said MassDOT did not allow painting the road because of a state or federal law.

Another suggestion from the board was to allow parking on the side of the road the bakery is not on.

Landine also gave an update on some vehicle break-ins in Wheelwright on the weekend of July 18, where 11 cars were broken into including one car stolen. He said the perpetrators were likely driving a stolen car out of New Britain, Connecticut, and they wear masks and gloves to conceal evidence.

Landine said they also have a juvenile drive the cars so traffic charges get dropped. According to Landine, there was an arrest made on Route 20 recently where two of the three perpetrators were detained.

He urged residents to lock their doors, saying the perpetrators only target unlocked vehicles.

Public comment guidelines
The board opted to not

allow public comments for this meeting, but discussed how the session can be managed more effectively in the future. Board members said the last meeting got out of control with personal attacks.

Select Board Chair Jeff Schaaf said he was reluctant to take public comment away. According to Town Administrator Justine Caggiano, some other towns limit speakers to two minutes each, along with limiting the time of the public comment session.

Warrant policy

The board continued discussions on the signing of financial warrants, with Select Board Vice-Chair William Tinker saying two out of the three board members should be required to sign the warrants, since they require a majority vote of the Select Board. He also brought up that the warrants need to be signed by 3 p.m. on Wednesdays and they sometimes do not show up until noon, giving the board only three hours to analyze and sign them.

He said two signatures is acceptable and one should be only in emergencies.

Tinker also said he is not being consistently included on email chains concerning warrants and other Select Board business.

Caggiano noted the short

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Meetinghouse Committee discussed building repairs

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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HUBBARDSTON – The First Meetinghouse Preservation Committee met last Tuesday where they discussed repairs that are needed for the building, and cost estimates members have received.

Committee member Betty Ann Sharp said she met with Department of Public Works Director Travis Brown along with two companies to get quotes on needed areas of repair such as water infiltration. Sharp said a company called Groundworks gave a

verbal estimate of \$75,000-\$100,000 for the repairs while another company called Erickson Foundation Solutions quoted the repairs at \$67,000.

Sharp said both of the companies gave generally the same information, including part of the floor needing to be removed because there is a small crawlspace that makes access difficult. Sharp said the size of the space is about 41 feet by 63 feet, and the next step is to engage a structural engineer.

Committee member Gary Kangas noted there was another church on

Pitcherville Road that had a water problem, and they filled the space with concrete.

Other committee members, including Sharp, noted the wood floors are historic, with member Susan Worth saying there is a preservation restriction on the building. Committee member Katie Young also noted water can still make it through concrete.

Another issue brought up was water flow, and making sure it is redirected from the building. The commit-

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Nine ADA Commission members appointed by Rutland Select Board

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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RUTLAND – The Select Board seated nine members to a newly approved Americans with Disabilities Act commission, which was formed following the May 9 annual town meeting.

According to a post made on the town website (rutlandma.gov), the ADA commission must consist of a majority of members with a disability, a member who is the immediate family member of someone with a

disability and a town official, elected or appointed. The maximum number of members for Rutland's commission is 13.

Some of the applicants attended the July 20 meeting, including Christine Drolet, who said her husband has hearing difficulty and requires special considerations for his work as a firefighter, and she is looking to help out others with disabilities.

A similar sentiment was shared by applicant Ian Campbell, who said he is looking forward to not only

advocating for people with disabilities, but to informing the public. He said disability is something that affects everyone.

George Farrington is another newly appointed member to the commission. Farrington said he is a brain tumor survivor, and has spent 11 years as a disability advocate and inclusion leader. Jenna Leary is another member who attended the meeting, who said she has a daughter with a disability, and is looking to make sure

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SPORTS

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Quabbin Area Little League competes in playoffs

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BARRE—Nine of the 13 players on the Quabbin Area 12U Little League All-Star roster are headed for the full-size baseball diamond next spring.

Even with two losses in the state sectional tournament, Quabbin walked away with moments the players and coaches won't soon forget.

Because neither Leominster nor Athol/Orange were able to field All-Star teams, the District 3 tournament wasn't held this year. Quabbin automatically advanced into the sectional tournament for the first time as the District 3 representative.

"We didn't get to compete in the District 3 tournament, but I think we have enough talented players to win it. We've been building to get to this point during the past couple of years," said Quabbin manager Matt LaPointe. "We received our championship banner a couple of days ago. We took a team picture with the banner before tonight's game. We hosted a sectional state tournament game for the first time and I'm very proud of



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Hunter Mitus fouls off a pitch.

these kids."

Quabbin hosted Holden at Felton Field in a first round game of the double-elimination tournament on July 22.

Holden, who scored four runs in the top of the first inning, celebrated a 6-0 victory.

One of Quabbin's 12-year-old players is Richie Valcourt, who was the start-

ing pitcher against Holden.

After allowing four runs on five hits in the opening frame, the righthander only allowed two runs (one earned) on seven hits during the final six innings he was standing on the mound. He struck out two.

"They're just a powerhouse team and they were able to take the lead in the



Richie Valcourt fires home with a pitch.

first inning," LaPointe said. "I thought Richie did a fantastic job of keeping them off balance after the first inning. We also made a couple of very nice plays defensively."

Following the game, Valcourt, who's been playing baseball since the third grade, talked about playing in the state sectional tournament for the first time.

"We're a very good team and it's very exciting playing in this tournament for the first time," he said. "I was nervous before the start of the game. I'm excited to be moving up to the bigger field next year, but it's going to be challenging."

The other 12-year-olds listed on the Quabbin All-Star roster are Clayton



Dylan Mace makes a throw to third.

Cranston, Noah Carrier, Lukas Lance, Michael Leslie, Dylan Mace, Hunter Mitus, Deklan Sampson, and Mateo Serra.

The other four members of the squad were Jack Bowen Murphy LaPointe, Jake Pimental, and Lukas

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Blue Sox nearing end of regular season

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox went 1-for-2 in a doubleheader against the Mystic Schooners on Saturday. Entering Saturday's doubleheader against the Schooners (22-17) Valley sat at 16-18-1, sixth in the South Division and outside the playoff picture, trailing both Danbury and Bristol for one of the division's postseason spots. The Blue Sox (17-19-1) responded with a convincing 10-3 victory in Game 2 to split the twin bill and remain in the postseason hunt.

Mystic struck first in the first game and opened the inning when Bryce Detwiler lifted a sacrifice fly to right field after consecutive singles from Jack Harley and Anthony Belisario put runners on the corners.

The Schooners added another run in the fourth as Chris Walsh lined a two-out single before Adam Troch followed with an RBI double down the left-field line, giving Mystic a 2-0 advantage. Valley answered immediately in the bottom half; however, Chris Cancel launched a solo home run to left field to cut



Trey Spees swings and makes contact.

the deficit in half.

Andrew Oppenheimer kept the Blue Sox within striking distance throughout his six-inning start, allowing three runs, only two earned, while striking out four. But Mystic manufactured what proved to be the decisive run in the sixth after a hit batter, a walk and a Valley

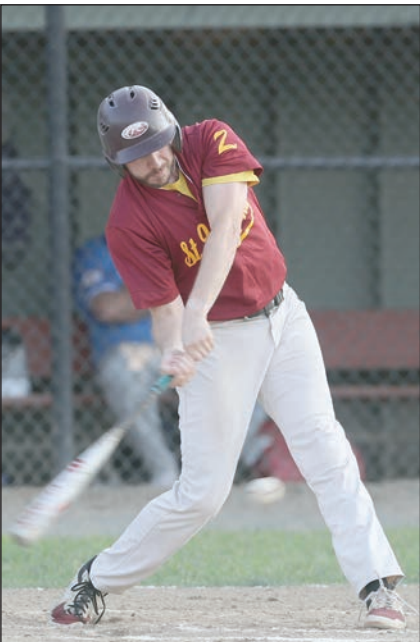
error loaded the bases. Walsh singled to center to score Detwiler and extend the lead to 3-1.

Valley mounted one final rally in the seventh. Chris Carson doubled to center before pinch-hitter Alex Hill delivered an RBI single to trim the deficit to one. With the tying run aboard, Mystic closer MJ Bollinger recorded the final two outs to preserve the 3-2 victory. Despite matching the Schooners with seven hits, the Blue Sox came up just short.

The Blue Sox wasted little time putting the loss behind them in the nightcap.

Nick Tomasetto ignited the offense with a solo home run in the first inning before Michael Iannazzo added a sacrifice fly later in the frame to give Valley a 2-0 lead. Tomasetto drove in another run with an RBI single in the second, and after Mystic answered with one of its own, Valley broke the game open in the third.

Nick Spaventa blasted a solo home run to center before Chris Carson added an RBI single. A wild pitch later scored Michael Iannazzo to cap a three-run inning and extend the Blue Sox's lead to



Brandon Magni swings and connects for the Saints.



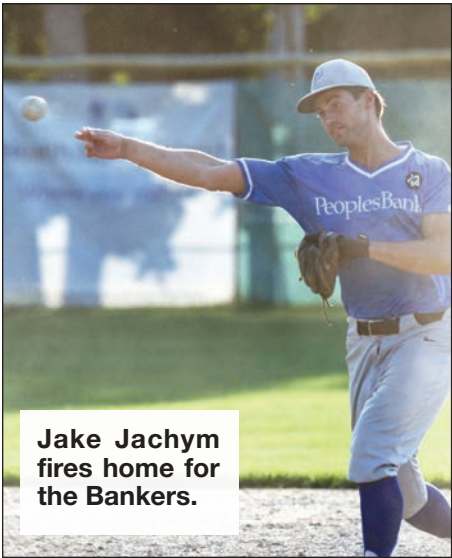
Tre Yesu, of Monson, fires home for St. Joe's.

Saints beat rival PeoplesBank

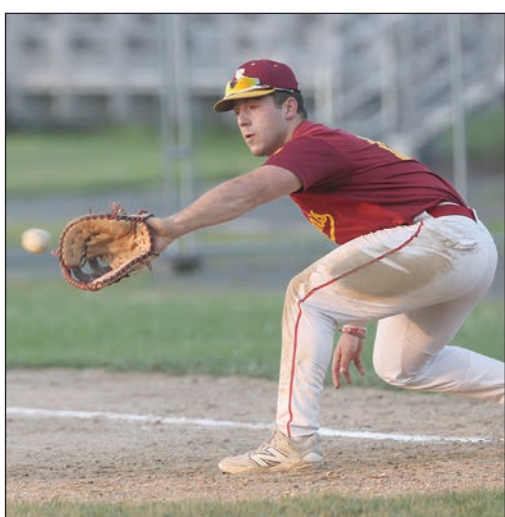
HOLYOKE – Last Thursday night, the pennant race stepped up with rivals PeoplesBank and St. Joe's matching up at Mackenzie Stadium. While PeoplesBank trailed early in the game, they nearly came all the way back, but St. Joe's prevailed 9-7. The playoffs are on the horizon in the league with St. Joe's and PeoplesBank likely drawing top seeds for the six-team playoffs.

Turley photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com

Dave Clark sends a throw to first for PeoplesBank.



Jake Jachym fires home for the Bankers.



Joe DeMichele makes a catch at first.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Nick Tomasetto looks to turn a double play during recent action last week at Mackenzie Stadium.

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