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Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

The New Braintree 275th Committee hosted a parade on Oct. 3 to celebrate the town's milestone. The Historical Society's float paid homage to the town's agricultural roots and resilience in the face of adversity.

New Braintree celebrates 275 years

By Paula Ouimette
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NEW BRAINTREE – As the church's bell tolled to announce the arrival of 1 p.m., cannon fire echoed across the green and the town's much anticipated

275th anniversary celebration began.

On Oct. 3, the Olde Home Day celebration planned by the town's 275th Anniversary Committee, started with a parade from Barre Cut Off Road to Memorial Drive.

The parade featured com-

munity organizations, local businesses, police and fire departments from across the region, a bicycle parade and a miniature horse from Soulful Eyes Equine Rescue.

Performances were given by the Quabbin Marching Band, Quabbin Community

Band and the Holyoke Caledonian Pipe Band, as well as a 20-member kazoo band.

Following the parade, Olde Home Day continued

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SB interviews town clerk candidates

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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RUTLAND – The Select Board interviewed two candidates for town clerk at their meeting last Monday following the retirement of former Town Clerk Anita Carlson. The position is now an appointed one rather than an elected one. The candidates interviewed were Elizabeth Hendrickson and Ben Barakian, who is the current acting town clerk.

Elizabeth Hendrickson
Hendrickson said she has more than 20 years of municipal experience, starting in the town manager's office in 2004, before moving to a town clerk's office in 2010 and becoming the assistant town clerk in 2016, a position she has held since. Hendrickson holds a certified town clerk certification.

Hendrickson is a resident of Rutland and said she has an appreciation for the role of town clerk.

"I love helping the customers, the residents," Hendrickson said.

She said some of the challenges that come with the position usually come around elections. Hendrickson said she hopes in the future, the state can come up with some resources to help voters understand what the town clerk actually does, and the processes behind the election.

She said that she would think of ways to streamline

the voting process.

She could not name any specific challenges that may apply to Rutland, and said with the financial constraints of the town, she'd have to look into any issues that arise because of it and figure out the best way to handle it.

Hendrickson said the most rewarding part of the job as town clerk is helping a frustrated customer, or getting a compliment from the public or staff, saying the recognition is most rewarding.

When asked where she feels most confident, Hendrickson said it's her knowledge of elections, and she described herself as being least confident in public speaking, but working on it. She also said she believes each part of the town clerk's job is important.

For record preservation, she said that she'd have to look over what records the town has and how and where they should be preserved for ease of access. Hendrickson said the qualities of a town clerk include being dependable, organized, responsible and service oriented.

When asked how she'd handle a problem on election day, she said if it was with a person, take them off to the side and ask how she could help and if it were equipment, let the voters know they are working on it.

Benjamin Barakian
Barakian said he has about three and a half years of experience in the town clerk's office as the assistant town clerk, has worked

Legislators and local leaders speak against MWRA request

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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BELCHERTOWN – A public hearing was held by the Massachusetts Water Resources Commission to discuss a request from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority to transfer an additional 20 million gallons of water per day from the Quabbin Reservoir to the eastern Massachusetts communities the reservoir serves.

The reason cited is to accommodate the expansion of its service area.

Legislators and local officials, along with residents spoke strongly in opposition of this request at the Sept. 30 hearing, citing fairness, equity and history, among other themes. State leaders in attendance included Rep. Aaron Saunders, Sen. Jake Oliveira, Sen. Jo Comerford and Sen. Peter Durant.

Saunders spoke of the history of the Quabbin, saying "The Quabbin is not merely a distant water source."

He spoke about how it displaced residents and reshaped the region of the state for the benefit of millions of people in metro Boston, and how to this day, the residents and communities protect and steward the water. He said the lands of the Quabbin are taken from the tax bases of communities and residents live with water restrictions to preserve the water, but they cannot access it when their own wells run dry.

"This is the context in which I urge the commission to reject the MWRA's application as presented," Saunders said.

He also noted that the request of 20 million gallons is the largest request ever made in 40 years of the interbasin transfer being law.

Saunders also spoke about the interbasin transfer act, which is the legal process for the request being made. He said under the statute, the donor and receiving communities need to have access to the same information to weigh their decisions, but in this case, the donor communities are not being told what the need for the water is, which communities will be getting it, and how much water is going to each individual community.

He said the eastern Massachusetts communities will have all that information.

"The MWRA's attempt to leverage the very law designed to protect our communities to instead deprive us of basic information about a proposed transfer adds immeasurable insult to generations of injury," he said of the request.

"Quabbin region residents are being asked to comment on the extraction of 20 million gallons of water per day without knowing where the water will go, who will receive it, how much each community needs, or what public benefit supposedly justifies the burden," he said.

Oliveira spoke about the levels of the Quabbin being the lowest they have been in his lifetime.

"If you go to the Quabbin Reservoir right now, you can see how low the water is," he said.

He said the request of 20 million gallons is equivalent to one John Hancock build-

ing in Boston, and there is no clear guidance on who will receive the water. He urged the commission to hold a future hearing on the decision in western Massachusetts so people from the region can attend.

Oliveira also spoke about the interbasin transfer law, saying "the spirit of the law is intentionally being broken right now, and if this makes its way to a court of law, I guarantee that they would probably side with the legislators."

Comerford spoke about the commission's responsibility to safeguard the water future for the entire commonwealth, and spoke about how the Quabbin towns face restrictions on economic development

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Williamsville Road residents sign petition

By Ellenor Downer
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BARRE – The Select Board received a resident petition from Ben Johnson of Williamsville Road for a commercial vehicle weight restriction on Williamsville Road from Valley Road to the Hubbardston line.

He said he obtained 33 signatures at 23 different homes supporting a commercial vehicle weight restriction of 2 ½ tons. He said only four people he visited declined to sign the petition.

Johnson presented the petition and cover letter to the Select Board at their Monday, Oct. 5 meeting.

He said Hubbardston Road, Route 62, was a better route for the trucks since it is a state road and less populated.

He said School Street, which is part of the route from the center of Barre to Hubbardston and Templeton along with Williamsville Road, had even denser populations than Williamsville Road. He did not solicit signatures from those residents.

He said trucks speed on the road and many are

very loud. He has a decibel meter and recorded levels exceeding 85 decibels.

He said several exceeded 100 decibels. The engine noise and braking made it difficult to carry on a conversation in his house. He said it was his opinion that some of the trucks "choose to be loud."

Johnson said a section of Williamsville Road recently got paved and it was long overdo. He went to Department of Public Works Commission meeting in 2020 and got berated.

Select Board Chairman Maureen Marshall said the Board contacted the Massachusetts Department of Transportation regarding the procedure to restrict weight of commercial vehicles.

The DOT required an engineering study, a traffic survey, a viable detour route and had the authority to approve or not approve the restriction.

In response to the speeding issue, Police Chief James Sabourin said he will set up a speed trailer on Williamsville Road.

Johnson concluded he

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SB discusses private road plowing

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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HUBBARDSTON – The Select Board met Monday where residents from Plum Tree Lane were requesting the town plow the road this coming winter, but since the road is owned by a third party entity, the town does not maintain it.

The board weighed the possibility of placing an article on the Oct. 27 special town meeting related to whether residents would be willing to fund the plowing of that street.

According to residents of the road, the town was originally supposed to take over

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Autumn colors begin to show



Turley Publications photo by Ellenor Downer

Trees are starting to show some color on Barre North Common.



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SPORTS



Nathan Cruz weaves through traffic with the ball.



Owen Twarog gets a leg up on the opponent to kick the ball away.

Panthers win two straight

BARRE – The Quabbin Regional High School boys soccer team picked up two big wins last week. The Panthers defeated Ayer Shirley 2-0 last Tuesday followed by a 2-1 win over Tahanto Regional on the road. The wins helped bring Panthers well above .500 and Quabbin is now 5-2-1 with an eye now on grabbing a state tournament spot coming in the next couple of weeks. Quabbin is back in action on Monday, Oct. 12, hosting Quaboag at 4 p.m.



Goalie Silas Stukuls Barrieau jumps up to punch the ball away.



Matthew Labrousse battles for the ball near the sideline.



Logan Bruley works the ball upfield.



Gavin Rivard scans for his passing options.

Panthers shut out against W Boylston

BARRE – Last Friday night, Quabbin Regional High School football was defeated at home by West Boylston 41-0.

West Boylston scored three touchdowns in the first

quarter and two in the second quarter to jump out to a huge lead. The Panthers were not able to get any major offensive threats going and ultimately suffered the shutout.

Quabbin football is

now 1-3 on the season and looks to turn things around at Oxford High School on Friday, Oct. 9 at 6:30 p.m.

Their next home game is against Narragansett Friday, Oct. 16 at 6 p.m.

Quabbin girls remain undefeated

BARRE – After battling to a 3-3 tie at the start of the season, Quabbin Regional High School girls soccer has now won seven straight games, including two win last week. The Panthers defeated Ayer Shirley 6-0, then took down Fitchburg at home last Thursday 5-2. Quabbin is now 7-0-1 and now needs just one more win to qualify for the Division 4 State Tournament. The Panthers are back in action on Monday, Oct. 12, hosting Quaboag at 2 p.m.

Goalie Mia Gleason leaps to make the catch and the stop.



Alison LaRoche lines herself up to head the ball.



Alison LaRoche tracks the ball as she readies to kick it upfield.



From left, Saylor Bissonnette, Alison LaRoche and Allie Lipiec celebrate a goal by Bissonnette.



Owen Marion goes for a header.



Gianni Holland tries to play the loose ball.



Elijah Hodge punts the ball away.

Pioneers fall at home, but rebound to pair of wins

PALMER – Last week, Pathfinder boys soccer had a 5-1 loss at home against Southwick Regional, but rebounded to defeat Smith Vocational 2-1 and then Monson 2-0 last Friday night

to improve to 7-2-1 overall on the season. The Pioneers were then off for six days before returning action on Thursday, Oct. 8 against the High School of Commerce at 4 p.m.



Brody Wetnicka looks to settle the ball and turn play around



Owen Pear sends a free kick up the field.