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BARRE GAZETTE

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Select Board sets tax rate

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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HUBBARDSTON – The Select Board held the annual tax classification hearing at their meeting last Monday, where Steve Boucher, associate assessor, presented the board with some numbers to aid their decision.

The vote of the Select Board would be whether to set a single tax rate, or split it so commercial, industrial, commercial and chapter land have a higher burden of the cost.

Boucher said the levy for this fiscal year is about $9.579 million, which is a $381,000 increase over last year or a 4.14% increase. He said the levy ceiling is 2.5%, so the town can't levy over $21.882 million, so the maximum levy is about $9.585 million.

He also noted the town added about $92,800 in new growth over last fiscal year.

Boucher said residential accounts for 93.18%, with the other classes accounting for 6.8% combined. He said if they were to split the rate, they'd be at the maximum shift allowed by the state of 50%, and it would reduce residential bills by about $200, while increasing the other clases to pay $16.42 per every $1,000 the property is valued at.

Boucher said a single rate would be $10.94 per thousand, which is subject to changes from the Department of Revenue but it's usually very close, according to Boucher.

He said the FY 27 average single family house valuation is $470,448 which means the average tax bill would be $5,147, over the average last year of $4,947, as the valuation was averaged at $442,500 in FY 26.

Select Board member Katie Young noted the town is actually decreasing the tax rate, but the reason the bill will go up is because valuation is going up. She also noted that splitting the rate could bankrupt businesses.

The board voted to set a single rate after a discussion about the struggles residents can have from their tax bills going up.

Open session

Bill Mayrose of the Cable Advisory Committee said they are holding an optional public hearing on Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. to gather information about what residents like and don't like about cable television and whether they watch the public access. He said the process is once the committee does the work with town counsel to work out an agreement, they will then go to the select board for a mandatory public hearing some time in the future.

A survey about cable is due Nov. 30.

Resident Ed Blanchard said he was disappointed that the town rescinded their letter to the Worcester History Museum regarding obtaining the Mishoon boat and requested to be put on the agenda of the Dec. 21 meeting to speak more about it, since Young noted this was not an agenda item for the Nov. 16 meeting.

Licenses

The board approved the various annual licenses for

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Historical Society hosts Thanksgiving market

HUBBARDSTON – Shoppers made their way to the Williamsville Chapel for some pre-holiday shopping at the Hubbardston Historical Society's Thanksgiving Farmer's Market.

The market featured a number of local vendors, including Still Life Farm, Ladybug Farm, Greenwood Hill Farm, Wachusett Vineyards, Honeyberry Farm, Mema's Crafts, Tiny's World, Mathilde Duffy, Watercolors by Jane and Rich Brodmerkle.



Mathilde Duffy displayed her handmade cards.



Judy Wiinikka is shown next to a display of fresh produce.





Turley Photos by Camren Robertson

Shoppers browsed the Hubbardston Historical Society's Thanksgiving Farmer's Market held at Williamsville Chapel.

Donation helps efforts to restore Paige Building



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

The Paige Building Friends received $10,000 from the Barre Savings Charitable Foundation to continue restoration efforts of the Paige Building on the Hardwick common. Shown from left are Ed Hood, Stephen M. Brewer, Warren Johnson and Sherry Johnson.

By Paula Ouimette
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HARDWICK – The Barre Savings Charitable Foundation recently donated $10,000 to the Paige Building Friends to help continue the group's efforts to restore the historic building on the common.

The check was presented by BSCF President Stephen M. Brewer to Friends members Warren Johnson, Sherry Johnson and Ed Hood on Nov. 18.

"We've been raising money as much as we can," Warren Johnson said. "It's a good building. We're restoring it historically."

This includes making repairs to the roof, foundation and painting the exterior. The electrical service was also updated, and the building is ready to be connected to the town's sewer system.

"We did a lot of work inside to secure the foundation," he said.

Warren Johnson said while they have completed a lot of work on the Paige Building so far, there is still a lot to be done.

Sherry Johnson said the Paige Building Friends hope to create a community space in the building, with a focus on agricultural programs (including growing food) through the help of the Farmers Guild of Hardwick.

She said the Friends want to "bring it back to life for the community."

Warren Johnson said the

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Town clerk lists official election results

By Ellenor Downer
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HUBBARDSTON – Two thousand four hundred forty one voters of three thousand eight hundred fifty three registered or 63.35% cast ballots in the State Election on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

Edward J. Markey, Democratic candidate for re-election, received 1,059 votes in the Senator in Congress race, Republican challenger John Deaton had 1,242 votes, Independent Shiva Ayyadural had 61 votes and Joe Tache, Socialism and Libertarian got 38 votes.

Statewide Edward J. Markey won another term.

Although the Democratic Healey and Driscoll team won another term as Governor and Lieutenant Governor, in Hubbardston the Republican team of Minogue and Oliver received more votes 1,295 Healey and Driscoll got 1015. The Independent team of James and Kittredge had 106.

In the Attorney General race, the town did not follow the state trend of electing

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STM voters fund options to keep only eight streetlights on

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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RUTLAND – A special town meeting was held at Glenwood Elementary School last Thursday where voters were presented with a 22 article warrant to take action on, including funding priority streetlights.

Following the failed override in May, the town had expended its budget for streetlights within the first quarter of the fiscal year, and the town put together a sheet of priority lights with the help of public safety departments.

There were 32 priority lights, however the motion asked voters for $9,900 to fund just eight high priority lights, one on Barre Paxton Road, one on East County Road, two on Glenwood Road, three on Main Street and one on Maple Avenue.

There were four scenarios that could have happened, according to the printed warrant. The town could have paid $9,100 to pay the bill for October and November and have all lights shut off on Nov. 30, they could pay the $9,900 to pay the bill and keep eight on, they could pay $12,100 to pay the bill and keep 32 on and they could pay $37,000 to pay the bill and keep all lights on.

Some residents spoke about their concerns with safety if the streetlights are shut off, and others said the town was trying to tighten their belt and be financially responsible.

Select Board Chair Sheila Dibb noted the lights should have been shut off at the beginning of the fiscal year, and it was an oversight by the town to keep all of them on with a cut budget.

An amendment to the

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SPORTS

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Outstanding season for Panthers ends in quarterfinals

SOUTH DEERFIELD – In the 2026 season, offense was never in short supply for the Quabbin Regional High School field hockey team.

The Panthers, who went an impressive 16-2 overall in the regular season, were shut out for the first team all season long in the quarterfinals of the Division 4 State Tournament at Frontier Regional High School on Sunday, Nov. 15.

Quabbin trailed 1-0 into the second half, trying feverishly to get into Frontier's circle. But Frontier managed to snag a second goal late in the game to secure the win, and the Panthers were not able to get on the board.

Quabbin's record overall was 18-3 this year.



Makenzie Casey tries to stop a bouncing ball.

Violet Kelley tries to get the ball by a defender.



Abby Rogowski guides the ball.



Ellie Poulin winds up for a free hit.





Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Above, Kelsey Nickson tries to clear the ball. Left, Charley Chauvin looks to pass by an opponent.



Leo Bates takes the ball to the left side.



Panthers edged by one score in Week 10

ORANGE – On Thursday, Nov. 12, the Quabbin Regional High School football team felt to Mahar Regional in a non-playoff game 22-15.

Quabbin spotted Mahar 15 points early in the game, which was hampered by on-and-off rain throughout. Quabbin's defense shored up in the middle of the game and the Panthers managed a pair of scores by Jacoby Venne, one on a pass and one on a rush to tie the score 15-15.

But Mahar got a touchdown in the fourth quarter to re-take the lead and the win.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

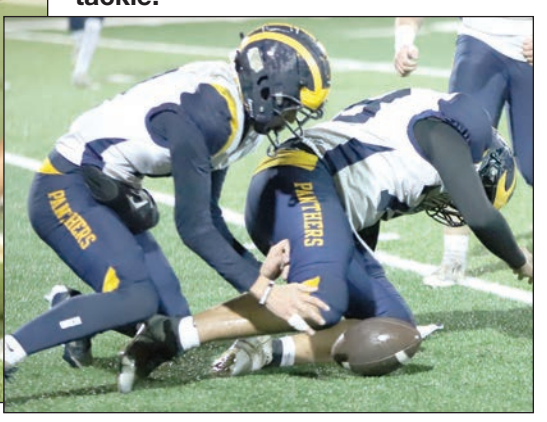
Above, Quabbin's defensive line works hard. Left, Danny Gonzalez makes a block.



The defense combines to make a tackle.



Zakk Mielnicki goes on a carry.



Jacoby Venne pounces on a loose ball.



The Pioneers run a rushing play.

Offense struggles in vocational tournament

FRAMINGHAM – After a nonplayoff win in Week 9, the Pathfinder Tech football team was in the semifinals of the state vocational tournament featuring smaller schools.

Pathfinder battled Keefe Tech at Framingham State on Friday, Nov. 13, falling 41-7 in the matchup. Keefe Tech moved to the championship game. It was the second straight year Pathfinder participated in the vocational tournament.

Pathfinder entered their Thanksgiving matchup with Belchertown with an overall record of 6-4.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

A pair of Pioneers go for a tackle.



Grayson Griswold takes the snap.

Peyton Kularski makes a block on the line.



Terynce Senquiz makes a block for the defense.