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Volume 29, Number 28

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

Friday, June 12, 2026

★☆☆ Congratulations CLASS OF 2026 ★☆☆

North Brookfield graduates 21 students

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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NORTH BROOKFIELD – North Brookfield Jr.-Sr. High School held its 169th commencement to celebrate the 21 members of the Class of 2026 this past Sunday afternoon.

Faculty, family and friends were in the audience to support the graduates, and honor this important achievement.

“Your families are very, very proud of you,” Principal Brian Beck said. “And you should all be very proud of yourselves. After all, today is the end of an achievement that took you 13 years to complete.”

The graduation exercises began with the Class of

2026 walking into the auditorium to the traditional “Pomp and Circumstance”, followed by the singing of the National Anthem by Chelsea Saunders.

Beck shared words spoken during the eulogy of fallen Boston firefighter, Robert Kilduff, by his daughter, Hanna Jane.

Speaking of her father, Hanna Jane recalled a childhood memory where she didn’t know to pull the handle on an amusement ride that would make the ride more fun and exhilarating. Throughout her life, “pulling the handle” became the advice her father would share with her to encourage her to try new things.

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North Brookfield Jr.-Sr. High School’s Class of 2026 threw their caps into the air after the school’s 169th graduation ceremony.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE



Aaron Bodine and Emily Black smiled after the graduation exercises ended.

TURLEY PHOTO BY MARY WHITELAW

Quabbin High School graduates 103 students

By Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

BARRE – After holding graduation inside last year due to heavy rain, the Class of 2026 had perfect weather for an outdoor graduation.

Led by the Quabbin Regional High School Na-

val Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps Color Guard, the 103 students marched out of the front doors of the high school for the last time on Friday, June 5. School Administrators, School Committee members and faculty followed the Color Guard of Logan

Bruley, Brody Faucher, Kayleigh Fuller and Jillian LaMontagne.

Leading the soon to be graduates were marshals, Madeleine Boisselle and Ella Reeves.

The Symphonic Winds

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58th Commencement celebrates Quaboag High’s Class of 2026

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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WARREN – It was graduation day this past weekend at Quaboag Regional Middle High School as the community celebrated the accomplishments of the Class of 2026.

The ceremony was held inside the school gym as 84 seniors were about to walk and be celebrated to conclude their high school careers.

The Pledge of Allegiance as led by Class of 2026 Vice President Madelyn Bagg. The National Anthem was performed by Madison Schreier.

Class Historian Ava Ostrout came up to welcome everyone to the ceremony. Class President Emma Dion came up to give her Class President’s Address.

Dion thanked the teachers, staff and friends for all

they have done during their high school careers. Dion also recognized the late Principal Casey Handfield for all his support during his time in the Quaboag Regional School District.

Dion reflected on her high school career and wanted to acknowledge a

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Shyloh Peter wore medals during the graduation ceremony.

TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

ATM passes budget, capital projects

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
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WEST BROOKFIELD – West Brookfield held its annual town meeting last Tuesday, where voters took action on 12 articles, including the town budget, a zoning bylaw and a general bylaw change.

FY 27 budget Article 4 was the town’s operating budget, which will be a reduced budget as a result of the failed override. According to the line by line budget provided at the town

meeting, the recommended operating budget for fiscal year 2027 is down 3.42% from FY 26.

Article 4 was split into three motions, the first being the operating budget, the second being the water enterprise budget and the third being the Public, Educational and Governmental budget.

The total amount asked for in the first motion was about \$9.766 million, with \$9.674 million being raised

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Select Board discusses town projects, highway operations

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
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BROOKFIELD – The Select Board met last Wednesday to discuss projects in town, including the Gay Road project and cemetery project.

The board also discussed operations in the Highway Department following the departure of Superintendent Kyle Rutkowski.

At the June 3 meeting, the board discussed a project on Gay Road that is close to complete, but the lead contractor for the work being done, Jim Pioppi, has been hospitalized.

According to the board, all that is left to do is paving to the wires on the road, instead of going to the town line with Sturbridge.

Since there is no highway superintendent to act as a town representative, Select Board member Beth Coughlin motioned to appoint Bruce Clarke, who she said volunteered himself, to oversee the rest of the project. The board approved his appointment.

Coughlin said she would reach out to see if he is looking for compensation.

For the cost of the project, Select Board Vice-Chair Richard Chaffee said the town still has a contract

with Mass Brokenstone for some of the paving work. Chaffee said the original bid was for \$950,000, and Coughlin said the new price is about \$1 million for the paving to the wires.

For the cemetery project, the board also had to appoint a town representative in the absence of a highway superintendent, so the board appointed Kermit Eaton to the position. Coughlin said she received quotes for the project, which they have broken into phases.

Coughlin motioned to accept the bid of Chaffee Landscaping for the project, because they came in

at \$875 per load of screen millings, and the overall cost was \$19,975, according to the board. The board accepted the bid.

Highway operations

Coughlin said a resident has been helping at the Highway Department for five hours per pay period with mowing, and asked if it should be allowed. According to Town Accountant Laurie Bartkus, his salary is paid through the highway budget, and the department is out of money and needs to pay bills.

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The board said they would reclassify an article to allocate \$63,000 of wages to the road reconstruction account for the Gay Road project, and Bartkus said that should leave enough money for the resident's pay.

Chapter 90 reimbursement

Bartkus said the town

is awaiting about \$574,000 in Chapter 90 reimbursements, including for paving on Route 148. Chaffee said he would reach out to East Brookfield or Holland to help submit the paperwork.

Open positions

The board said the town needs to post a position for interim and permanent highway superintendent, and approved a salary range of \$85,000-\$92,000. They also had to post a job description for assessor assistant as the current assistant is planning on working half time starting July 1, then retiring.

The board said they would use the clerk job description, for a yearly salary

range of \$25,000-\$29,000.

Administrative items

The board approved chair Sarah Campbell as the contract authorized signature listing. They also signed a Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency hazard mitigation plan contract and a liability letter regarding East Brookfield's parade route. The board also approved the minutes of April 1.

Items not anticipated

Chaffee asked about after hours activity caught at the Highway Department. The board asked IT manager Jacob Gorham to send the video to the authorities.

Board signs open space contract

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
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EAST BROOKFIELD – The Board of Selectmen met June 1, where they signed a contract with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission for an Open Space and Recreation plan.

Two representatives from CMRPC said they started the application for the town in January or February, and it usually only takes up to two months to process, but the application for East Brookfield took four months.

The town was supposed to get \$11,000 for this year to spend, and only have until June 30 to spend it.

The representatives said for next fiscal year, the town will get \$14,000, but the town has to pay the full amount before it gets reimbursed, so the board voted to pay the \$11,000 bill up, with Chair Andrew Lynch being the designated signer.

Water rules and regulations

The board discussed a regulation that prohibits floor drains in wellhead protection zone two. The board said this would have to go to a fall special town meeting to be approved as a zoning bylaw.

The board also discussed the possibility of forming a board of water commissioners, and talked about the first steps as to whether it would be elected or appointed, along with what the budget would be and who would create the water rates.

The board approved the water department operating budget of \$1,514,699.

Audit article

Lynch said there was a request to place an article on the annual town meeting about a \$28,000 audit of federal grant funds, but he said they have built it into the selectmen's budget since this is the third year in a row the audit has been done.

Meeting times

The board voted to continue holding meetings every other Monday at 6 p.m., and said a summer schedule will be decided at a future meeting.

Properties in tax title

The board authorized the town Treasurer to take action on 327 East Main St., a property that is in tax title. Lynch said there was a foreclosure hearing for the property on May 20, and the town can either take possession or sell it.

The treasurer is authorized to send letters notifying of the property selling by auction.

The board said there are other properties in town in tax title, including 342 Podunk Road, 290 East Main St. and a plot of land on Podunk Road.

Republic contract

The board voted to sign a contract for fiscal year 2027 with Republic Services for a one year trash hauling contract, and it

will cost \$5,000 more for the one year than it would for the five year contract, according to Lynch.

He also said there is a four year option, and the price of the first year would drop off if the town extends.

Lynch said the cost of the one year contract is \$176,000. The board specified that the contract needs to include hauling of private roads.

Board of Health discussion

The board said they would meet with the Board of Health to possibly waive fees for beaver permits if it would alleviate drainage on public roadways. Lynch also said there is an executive session with the Board of Health regarding litigation on June 8.

Administrative items

The board accepted the minutes of March 30, April 27, May 4, May 11 and May 18. They also reorganized to re-appoint Lynch as chair and Robert Button as clerk.

Amateur radio Field Day is June 27-28

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club will be participating in the 2026 A.R.R.L. Field Day on Saturday, June 27, and Sunday, June 28, operating from 2 p.m. Saturday through 2 p.m. Sunday on the West Brookfield Town Common. The public is warmly invited to visit between 2-6 p.m. on Saturday and between 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Sunday to explore the world of amateur radio firsthand.

Field Day is the largest on-air amateur radio exercise in the United States, bringing together tens of thousands of licensed operators to demonstrate the reliability, resilience, and public-service value of amateur radio. For QVARC, it's also a chance to welcome neighbors, families, students, and anyone curious about radio, electronics, or STEM activities.

Visitors will be able to watch live radio contacts being made across the country and around the world, explore the equipment and antennas used for emergency and off-grid communication, and even sit behind a radio to make a contact themselves. Club members will be on hand to explain how amateur radio supports communities during storms, power outages, and public-service events, and why these skills remain relevant in today's interconnected world.

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, recently reflected on the long tradition behind Field Day,

noting that "Amateur radio has been part of the American story since the earliest days of wireless communication...For more than a century, the Amateur Radio Service has advanced the nation's communications capabilities by fostering technical innovation, developing a pool of trained and skilled operators, strengthening emergency and public service communications, and promoting international goodwill."

He emphasized that these contributions show why amateur radio remains "a uniquely resilient and volunteer-driven national resource."

QVARC is proud to carry that tradition forward here in the Quaboag Valley. Its members include hobbyists, engineers, emergency volunteers, and newcomers who simply enjoy learning something hands-on and practical.

The club meets on the last Tuesday of each month, except for July and August, and welcomes anyone interested in getting involved or learning more about the hobby.

Whether you're interested in emergency preparedness, electronics, shortwave communication, or just want to see what amateur radio is all about, Field Day is the perfect time to stop by. Everyone is welcome, and no experience is required.

For more information about the Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club, please visit www.qvarc.com.

St. Aloysius Catholic School lists honor roll

HARDWICK – St. Aloysius Catholic School, 52 Church St., Gilbertville, announced the students who achieved the honor roll for the third trimester.

Grade Four, Honors
Jakob McBride, Lachlan McMartin, Juliana Moryl and Anthony Prentiss

Grade Five, High Honors
Connor Shunaman

Grade Five, Honors
Malikai Grinkley

Grade Six, Honors
Nicholas Barkoskie, Lillian Soja and Grant Verham

Grade Seven, High Honors
Aidan Caulfield

Grade Seven, Honors
Gabriel Docimo and Nicholas McBride

Grade Eight, High Honors
Gavin Letendre

Grade Eight, Honors
Jackson Boudreau, Hailey Casiello and Noelle St. Jacques

PTO hosts summer 5K and family festival

WEST BROOKFIELD – The West Brookfield Elementary School PTO is hosting a summer 5K and family festival on Saturday, June 20.

The event will include a 5K, a fun run for kids, family games and activities, food trucks, vendors and more.

The PTO is looking for sponsors to help make this event memorable for everyone. In

return, sponso's logos will be placed on runner's T-shirts.

Sponsorship tiers include bronze \$100, silver \$200, gold \$300, diamond \$1,000. If you are interested in being a sponsor or a runner please email wbrookfieldpto@gmail.com

Proceeds of the 5k event go to the non-profit to fund a variety of student events throughout the year.

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USDA INSP. SMOKED SHOULDER PORK PICNIC..... \$1.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN THIGHS TRAY PAK 77¢ lb
USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS CENTER CUT PORK LOIN CHOPS..... \$2.89 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN PARMESAN MINI EMPANADAS 9 OZ BAG \$3.99 ea
USDA INSP. SLICED FROM OUR DELI WUNDERBAR BOLOGNA..... \$2.89 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN FARM RAISED TALAPIA FILLETS \$3.99 lb
USDA INSP. SLICED IN OUR STORE MUENSTER CHEESE \$5.55 lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN COOKED SHRIMP 71/90 COUNT 1 LB BAG \$4.99 ea
USDA INSP. STORE MADE ITALIAN MARINATED 1/2 CHICKEN \$2.49 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF RIBEYE STEAKS \$10.99 lb
USDA INSP. STORE MADE ALL VARIETIES LINKS OR PATTIES ITALIAN SAUSAGE \$2.79 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP ROUND LONDON BROIL \$7.77 lb
USDA INSP. STORE MADE ITALIAN MARINATED 1/2 CHICKEN \$2.49 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP ROUND LONDON BROIL \$7.77 lb
USDA INSP. STORE MADE ALL VARIETIES LINKS OR PATTIES ITALIAN SAUSAGE \$2.79 lb	USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF 7 LB BAG \$4.29 lb

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Spaghetti dinner fundraiser is June 20

BROOKFIELD – The Brookfield Congregational Church, 8 Common St., will host a spaghetti dinner fundraiser on Friday, June 20 from 5:30-7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

The menu includes spaghetti and meatballs, garlic bread, beverage, side salad and dessert. The cost is \$12

for adults and \$6 for children or \$30 for a family of three or more.

Proceeds from the fundraiser go to BCC Teen's Mission Trip. For more information, contact Harriet LaCasse at 508-347-3464 or the church office (Monday, Wednesday or Friday) at 508-867-6262.

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- community -

Summer Solstice Party

Annual event celebrates summer and small business

By Paula Ouimette

Editor

pouimette@turley.com

WEST BROOKFIELD

The Joy of Beans and West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery will kick off the arrival of summer with their third annual Summer Solstice Party to be held outside at 10 and 12 East Main St.

All are welcomed and invited to attend this free public event that celebrates not only the arrival of summer, but the collaboration between these two small, women-owned businesses.

The Summer Solstice Party will be held on Saturday, June 20 from 5-9 p.m., rain or shine. People are encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs.

West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery owner Rebecca Fay said the two businesses will be continue this tradition every year, and that it has grown since it first started three years ago.

"I think the crowds just keep getting bigger and better," Fay said. "Bringing the community together with art, music and amazing food is what this party is all about," Fay said.

Joy Hinton of The Joy



Submitted Photos

Rebecca Fay of West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery and Joy Hinton of The Joy of Beans, are shown outside of their East Main Street businesses.

of Beans said last year's food truck, which featured Caribbean cuisine by Bobo of Flames Restaurant in Boston, will be returning with new menu offerings. Providing live music for the event will be the band and local favorite, Spooner Well, starting at around 6 p.m.

This year's event will also feature a free pin-making craft for children at West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery.

New this year is a community Mandala project,

full of all different colors and shapes and contributed to by community members.

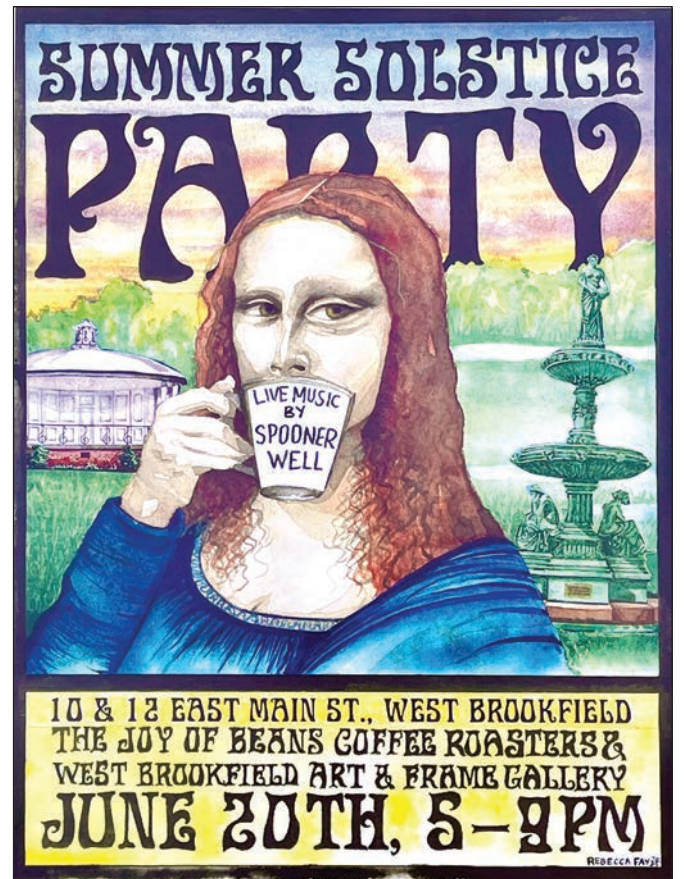
Fay said the First Congregational Church of West Brookfield is also hosting a Summer Solstice concert on the same night at 7 p.m., and she encouraged people to attend both and experience all that West Brookfield has to offer.

The past year has shown continued growth and success for The Joy of Beans and West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery – business-

es that neighbor each other in the town's downtown area.

Fay has continued to host shows at the gallery featuring local artists, as well as a variety of workshops. Several new artists have joined the gallery, giving shoppers a chance to purchase one-of-a-kind artwork directly from the creator.

The next show the gallery will host, "Sunrise – A Postpartum Show" will feature the work of painter Vanessa Varjian created during her



The annual Summer Solstice Party hosted by The Joy of Beans and West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery will be held on Saturday, June 20 from 5-9 p.m., outside at 10 and 12 East Main St., West Brookfield.

first year of motherhood. An artist's reception for the show will be held on Friday, Aug. 7 from 5-7 p.m.

The Joy of Beans continues to serve a variety of freshly ground coffees, refreshing beverages and delicious treats, in addition to featuring the work of an artist of the month on her shop's walls. This month's artist is Janet Lynn McClish, who was a female pioneer in the world of commercial photography.

A reception with McClish's husband, Vern, will be held on Friday, June 12 from 3-5 p.m.

The coffee shop also offers "Concert Boxes" packed with a variety of refreshments to be enjoyed during the town's Wednesday night summer concert series on the common.

Fay and Hinton said they both enjoy providing events for the community, and bringing people together for fun and fellowship.

E Brookfield Public Library lists events

EAST BROOKFIELD – The East Brookfield Public Library, 122 Connie Mack Drive, will host Movie Time on select Mondays at 1 p.m.

Dates include June 22, July 6, July 20, Aug. 3 and Aug. 17. Stop by the library with your lunch and enjoy a block buster movie and meet new friends.

Summer Eats Program

The library will host the Summer Eats Program June 29 through Aug. 13 from 11 a.m.-noon. All children are welcome to come by the library and pick up a free breakfast and lunch meal.

Church hosts annual chicken BBQ June 20

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Christ Memorial Episcopal Church, 133 North Main St., will host its annual chicken BBQ on Saturday, June 20 from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

The meal includes a ½ chicken, baked potato, cole slaw, roll, drink and fresh strawberry shortcake. Take-out or eat in.

Tickets are \$20 per person and will be sold at the door or they can be reserved by calling Sandi at 508-867-3272 or Mary at 508-662-8174.

Brookfields Lions Club honors members at awards banquet

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Brookfields Lions Club recognized eight members for their dedication to community service and humanitarian efforts during the club's annual Awards Banquet held May 21, at Hardwick Crossing Country Club in Gilbertville.

Club President William Cass presented Melvin Jones Fellowship Awards to Lion Philip Bricault, Lion Jeffrey Hayes, Lion Geno Waugh and Lion Steven Willette in recognition of their exceptional service and commitment to Lionism.

The Melvin Jones Fellowship, established in 1973 by Lions Clubs International, is considered one of the organization's highest honors. Named after Lions founder Melvin Jones, the award recognizes outstanding humanitarian service and support of the Lions Clubs International Foundation.

"Within Lionism, the Melvin Jones Fellowship symbolizes a person who truly embodies the Lions motto, 'We Serve,'" said Cass. "These recipients have consistently gone above and beyond through leadership, community involvement



Brookfields Lions Club Membership Chair, Andy Caron (left) with Joseph J. Camarda Fellowship Award Winners William Fullam, Douglas Morrison, Paul Thompson and Marc Kokansky.

and dedication to helping others."

In addition to a personalized plaque and lapel pin, recipients of the fellowship also received congratulatory letters from Fabricio Oliveira, LCIF chairperson, recognizing their role in supporting humanitarian causes throughout the world.

The letter noted that LCIF-funded programs support efforts to fight diabetes, preventable blindness and childhood cancer, while also responding to natural disasters, feeding the hungry, empowering young people

and protecting the environment.

Membership Chair Lion Andy Caron also presented the Lions District 33A Joseph J. Camarda Fellowship Award to Lion William Fullam, Lion Marc Kokansky, Lion Douglas Morrison and Lion Paul Thompson.

The Joseph J. Camarda Fellowship, established in 1986 by the District 33A Sight & Hearing Conservation & Treatment Fund, honors individuals who have made significant contributions to sight and hearing initiatives throughout



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

President Bill Cass (right) with Melvin Jones Fellowship Award Winners Steven Willette, Geno Waugh, Jeffrey Hayes and Philip Bricault.

Massachusetts. Named in memory of Past International Director Joseph J. Camarda, the fellowship recognizes exceptional humanitarian service and dedication to improving vision and hearing health in local communities.

Recipients receive a personalized plaque and lapel pin, while fellowship contributions support programs that provide assistance for

individuals facing vision and hearing challenges throughout District 33A communities.

"The Lions Club has a long tradition of recognizing members who quietly make a difference year after year," said Caron.

"These awards reflect the spirit of service and compassion that continues to define Lionism in our local communities."

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- opinion -

Foxgloves take the stage in June

I came around the corner of the house and to my surprise, the purple foxglove was in flower! Yippee!

This is just the start of a wonderful sequence of blooms lasting the rest of the month and then some. Read on, straight from the archives to learn more about these unique plants.

Those of us who favor romantic, old-fashioned flowers have likely devoted some space in our gardens to the common purple foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) or one of its cultivars. This is for good reason, as there are few plants more breathtaking than a foxglove in full bloom. Imagine three to five-foot tall spires of uniquely marked bell-shaped flowers in shades of white, pink, and rose.

One well-grown plant may yield five or more stalks! Group several plants together for a show stopping display come the end of June.

Native to western Europe, the common foxglove has had a place in North American gardens since its introduction during colonial times.

There has always been a mysterious side to foxgloves, due in part to an unusual name and the potent medicine that is obtained from the plant.

Legend has it that foxglove was derived from "folk's glove," folks referring to the elves and fairies of country lore. Another legend tells that the fox needed magical gloves to steal a chicken or two.

A less fanciful explanation traces glove to gleow in Old English; a gleow was an ancient musical instrument made of bells suspended from a curved frame.

In 1785 William Withering, an English physician, published a decade's worth of studies devoted to the use of foxglove as a heart medi-

cine. Although far too dangerous to be used by amateur herbalists, the drug digitalis was studied at length in the early years of the 20th century and is still prescribed by doctors today for those suffering with certain types of heart disease.

Foxglove are easy to grow in full sun or part shade as long as they are provided with fertile, well-drained soil rich in organic



matter. Most species tend to be biennials or short-lived perennials.

In my garden all types self-sow; leave a few seed heads to ripen if you appreciate volunteers as much as I do. When purchasing foxgloves from garden centers start with a first year plant, nourish it well and enjoy blooms the following year.

Steer clear of plants already in flower, it is likely they will perish after blooming.

Of the 10 or so species of foxglove grown today, the most popular are the cultivars of the common foxglove.

"Foxy" flowers a mere five months from sowing; it is often grown as an annual. Even taller and denser clumps of rose, white or yellow flowers may return in following years. "Giant Shirley" can grow to a whopping nine feet, sporting tightly packed, spotted flowers in rich hues of pink.

Other cultivars include the all white "Alba," the unusual "Apricot Beauty," and the widely available "Excelsior Hybrids" whose placement of florets horizontally around the five-foot stem makes viewing the unique inner markings of the flowers especially easy.

There are other more subtle species of foxglove worthy of placement in your garden.

One of my favorites is the Rusty Foxglove (*Digitalis ferruginea*). Small flowers the color of liquid gold bloom up three to six-foot stems late in the summer.

Although touted as being a biennial this species has returned for several years in my part shade, moisture retentive location.

The yellow foxglove is a reliable perennial, shorter than most, only 24-30 inches tall and blooming a soft yellow in early June. This species also prefers part shade and adequate moisture.

The Grecian foxglove, a true biennial, has grayish flowers, blooming in July up three-foot stems.

The straw foxglove is relatively new to my garden, blooming happily for the first time last summer. It is the most diminutive flower-wise of any mentioned thus far and it tops off about two and a half feet tall.

Whether you plant the common foxglove for a show stopping display or settle on one of its more subtle cousins, do give these old-fashioned beauties a place in your garden.

J.L. Hudson, Seedsman, of Star Route 2, Box 337, La Honda CA, 94020 offers an extensive collection of foxglove seed for sale. Send along \$1 for a very interesting catalog.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



Water access for the future

By Elizabeth Martin
Guest Columnist

A resilient community is a healthy community, and for good health we need clean water, clean air, and good food.

Few would argue otherwise, and most of us are used to taking it for granted that our government is somehow or other guaranteeing the quality of these necessities for a healthy life.

Our Quabbin region serves as a sort of guarantor for the rest of the Commonwealth by conserving large areas of natural forest and open land, and by sending 200 million gallons of water to Boston every day.

Meanwhile our local water systems are stressed, and we have no access to Quabbin water ourselves. In the town of New Salem, which borders the reservoir, the town wells recently failed.

Worse than that, in my view, the Commonwealth's misguided effort to site large industrial battery energy storage facilities and industrial solar installations on rural land endangers the land and the aquifers.

Water scarcity is an up-coming emergency around the world as populations increase and cities grow. Boston relies on one reservoir, but New York

City requires nineteen reservoirs to supply its water needs.

In the American southwest the Colorado River supplies water to seven states under an allocation agreement made a century ago. The amount of water allocated turns out to be much more than the amount of water in the river, so groundwater supplements it, depleting the aquifers.

The area irrigated with this water includes California's Imperial Valley, where most of the vegetables we eat in the winter are grown. It also includes the cities of Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Tucson and Salt Lake.

Thinking ahead, considering the people who will live here in Central Massachusetts long after we're gone, requires that we take responsibility for protecting our rivers, ponds, and aquifers from pollution and depletion; for protecting the forests that hold the soil in place, filtering rainwater and snowmelt and refreshing the air; and for protecting our local farmland for access to healthy food.

We are fortunate to have people and local organizations that are devoted to conservation of the land. Let's support their efforts and create a resilient community for now and for the future.



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THE QUABOAG CURRENT (USPS# 10860) is published every Friday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977. Periodical Postage Prices are Paid at Palmer, MA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069.



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Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

- letter to editor -

Resident considers benefits of school merging

To the Editor,

On Tuesday night, I attended the West Brookfield Town Meeting, which was sure to be contentious due to the 2-1/2 override failure and decision to close our Elementary School and send children to Quaboag Regional Elementary School.

I have empathy for the parents who are furious at this decision after moving here to raise their families in this storybook town, just like my family did in the early 1950s. I was sad and mad about it myself.

But after speaking with others, I came to realize

the benefits of this move.

First of all, kids will go all the way straight through Elementary School, and on to High School graduation with their same friends, with no stress about changing schools and people.

It will all be familiar to every one of them. There is value in that!

Kids will be fine, unless we make them "not fine." If we fill them with excitement for the future, they'll gobble it up!

Did I mention, Warren is just three miles away?

Elsa (Silverberg) Bates
West Brookfield

Must I set up a Social Security account to enroll in Medicare?



Dear Rusty:

I turn 65 this November 2026. Someone told me I need to set up a Social Security account at least three months ahead of time before applying for Medicare for the first time. I do not intend to take any Social Security benefits until, perhaps, age 67 or later. Please advise and thank you.

Signed: Looking Ahead

Dear Looking Ahead:

You don't technically need to "set up" an online SSA account to enroll in Medicare, but it would be more efficient

to do so. We always recommend creating your online "my Social Security" account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount well before you are ready to claim your Social Security benefits. That's because you can monitor your projected Social Security benefits to help you decide when to claim, but it also facilitates other things you might need to do at the Social Security Administration such as claiming your SS retirement benefits online and enrolling in Medicare online.

As for Medicare, you can enroll in Medicare up to three months before the month you turn 65, and you can contact the Social Security Administration by phone up to three months prior in order to schedule an appointment to enroll over the phone (call 1-800-772-1213 to make the appointment). You can enroll via telephone, even if you don't have your "my Social Security" online account set up.

However, an advantage to creating your personal online Social Security account is that you could then enroll in Medicare online as described at this link: www.ssa.gov/medicare/sign-up. And you can, as you wish to do, enroll only in Medicare without also taking your Social Security benefits at this time.

I want to also make you aware that if you are still working and have "creditable" healthcare coverage from your employer ("creditable" is an employer group plan with at least 20 participants), then you can delay enrolling in Medicare until your employer coverage ends (thus saving the usual Medicare Part B monthly premium). When your employer's healthcare coverage ends, you will enter a Special Enrollment Period during which you can enroll in Medicare without incurring a Late Enrollment Penalty.

Finally, please be aware that whenever you claim your Social Security benefits, you will be automatically enrolled in Medicare Part A (inpatient hospitalization coverage) and Part B (coverage for outpatient medical services). Since there is a monthly premium associated with Medicare Part B (but not with Part A), you can choose to decline Part B if you are still working and covered by your employer's creditable healthcare plan, until your employer's healthcare coverage ends.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the

See SOCIAL SECURITY PAGE 12





NORTH BROOKFIELD

Meet the Class of 2026



Nathaniel Stonehouse, the Class of 2026's salutatorian, received his diploma.



Alexis Caouette, the Class of 2026's third ranked scholar, received her diploma.



Nathan Crago received his diploma.



George Macpherson, Sophia Giangrande and Nathaniel Stonehouse performed "Landslide" during the graduation ceremony.



Jhavi Moore walked out of the auditorium after graduating.



George Macpherson, the Class of 2026's valedictorian, received his diploma.



Declan Simpson received his diploma.



Nathan Ryan received his diploma.



Sophia Giangrande was presented the Julianne Caron Memorial Scholarship by Principal Brian Beck.



Alex Burritt was presented the Random Act of Kindness award by Principal Brian Beck.



Kaylee Higgins received her diploma.



Emma Barbadora received her diploma.



The Class of 2026 applauded the school's faculty during the ceremony.



Aleyshamary Ferreira Gomez received her diploma.



Caden Fitzgibbons received his diploma.



Guest speaker for this year's graduation was Class of 1976 alumnus Kevin St. Cyr.



Members of the Class of 2026 stood during the graduation ceremony.



Rebecca Batchelor received her degree.



Cooper Mann's cap reflected his passion for dance.

CLASS OF 2026 FROM PAGE 1

Hanna Jane said her father made it his mission to never postpone joy.

Beck said he decided to pull the handle when he came to the school district, which he said was one of the best personal decisions of his life. He said the Class of 2026 made him feel "immediately welcomed" as if he'd always been part of the school community.

"Now it's your turn to bring that joy elsewhere. Make your own path, take your own risks, find new joy...pull the handle," he said.

Class of 2026 President Rebecca Batchelor talked about the friendships that have been built over the years, and how they are all about to start the next chapter of their lives.

"Adulthood doesn't come with a map; none of us have all the answers. We won't know what the next step will be and that's okay," Batchelor said. "What matters is that we keep moving forward."

Class Advisors Margaret Hanson and Kerry Bradshaw recognized the top four students in the class, starting with fourth ranked scholar Sophia Giangrande.

Giangrande spoke about taking an AP literature class with the late Damian Sar-

rette, a class she never wanted to take.

"I felt overwhelmed," she said, as she sat at her desk and asked for help from Sarrette.

Giangrande said Sarrette brainstormed with her to help her come up with a way to succeed in his class and she felt hopeful as she left the school. The next day, she learned of his tragic passing.

"I felt emotions I hope to never feel again," she said. "I never truly knew the full extent of how much his support meant until it was gone...I would do anything to thank him just one more time."

Giangrande then read from Sarrette's favorite poem, "Harlem" by Langston Hughes.

Alexis Caouette was named the third ranked scholar, and shared advice to her fellow classmates.

"Try everything you can," she said. "It doesn't matter if you're good at it, all that matters is that you do it... let yourself grow, let yourself be changed by everything around you...but above all else, have fun."

Salutatorian Nathaniel Stonehouse talked about the Class of 2026's journey, starting in the elementary school and up through the high school. He said they had great times filled with incredible learning.

He said high school was

a "whole new world" but the thing that remained the same, was the dedication of the teachers.

Stonehouse said the best part of attending a small school was not only all of the support he received from the staff, but also from his peers.

"I could spend hours talking about all the memories," he said.

Stonehouse said his senior year could be summarized by the phrase "blink and you'll miss it."

He said the students should feel real pride in their accomplishments.

"This school is one that I'm truly proud to be a part of and this class is made up of some of the brightest people I'll ever meet," Stonehouse said.

Valedictorian George Macpherson thanked his classmates for making his high school experience memorable and meaningful.

He said "resilience" is the first word that comes to mind when he thinks about his class. Between the pandemic, changes in school administration, budget cuts and fears about the high school closing, the students have faced many hardships.

"The hardship we have faced has especially prepared us for these uncertain times," he said. "I encourage you

all to embrace hardship and embrace the challenges life throws at you."

Giangrande, Macpherson and Stonehouse then performed a rendition of "Landslide" by Fleetwood Mac.

Guest speaker for the graduation was Class of 1976 alumnus Kevin St. Cyr, who recently attended his 50th reunion.

St. Cyr originally attended college to study biology, but eventually switched to plastics engineering when he realized he didn't like dissecting animals.

"I switched...and never looked back," he said.

St. Cyr went on to enjoy a successful career in his field, and he said the path forward doesn't have to be a straight line.

"You don't need to have your entire life figured out today," he said. "The winding road ahead is your opportunity. You just need the willingness and fortitude to keep moving forward when the road bends or there's a road block."

St. Cyr said each student's skills will get them on a team some day, but it is their people skills that will keep them on a team.

"Wherever you go from here...pay attention to the

people around you," he said. "Learn their names, talk with them, show up for them when they need you."

St. Cyr said relationships matter for personal growth. He also encouraged the students to give back and get involved in their communities.

"Giving back is not something you do after you've made it in life; it's a way to make it in life," he said. "I still learn something new every time I give something back through volunteerism."

St. Cyr said not to forget where they came from and their roots in North Brookfield.

"Your roots are not a limitation—they're your foundation," he said.

Superintendent Tim McCormick said graduation

spoke about the impact the faculty has on the education of each student.

He held a moment of silence to remember Sarrette and the "profound loss" his passing had on the community.

"His influence lives on in the students behind me today," McCormick said.

McCormick said the Class of 2026 is about to enter a world that is rapidly changing, and he encouraged them to face challenges, even if failure seems likely. He said the world needs more people who will work alongside others to solve issues.

"More than anything, it needs good people. People who show up. People who care," McCormick said.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE



QUABOAG REGIONAL

Meet the Class of 2026



The Quaboag Regional High School Class of 2026 threw their caps in the air during the school's 58th Commencement.



Haylee Nash, left, is shown next to friend Karl Prosser after the graduation ceremony was complete.



Former Quaboag Vice Principal Anthony Cacace presented a diploma to Jacob Cacace.



The Quaboag High School Band applauded the Class of 2026.



The Stevens family celebrated graduate Jack Stevens of the Class of 2026.



Class of 2026 graduate Olive Moulton is shown during her Salutatorian's Address.



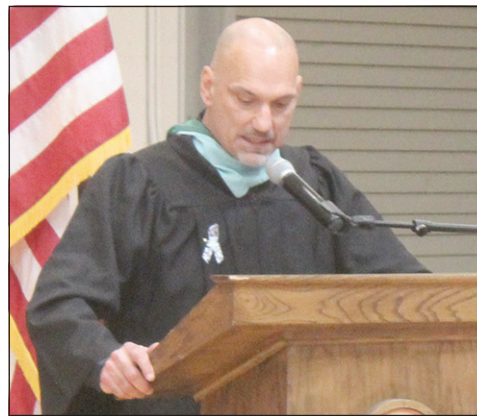
Madison Schreier performed the National Anthem.



Patrick Downes was the keynote speaker for this year's graduation ceremony at Quaboag Regional High School.



Class President Emma Dion approached Superintendent Stephen Duff to receive her diploma.



Principal John Diorio welcomed everyone to graduation day.



Superintendent Stephen Duff welcomed family and friends to the Class of 2026 graduation ceremony.



Amara Reis-Kim and Ashton Winders posed with "Knick's in 4" signs implying that the New York Knicks will win the NBA Championship in four games.



The Quaboag gym was packed with families, friends and school community members to celebrate the Class of 2026.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO



QUABOAG REGIONAL

Meet the Class of 2026



Madeline Dufresne is shown with her parents, with flowers and diploma in hand.



The Quaboag Singers performing "Time After Time" by Rob Hyman and Cyndi Lauper.



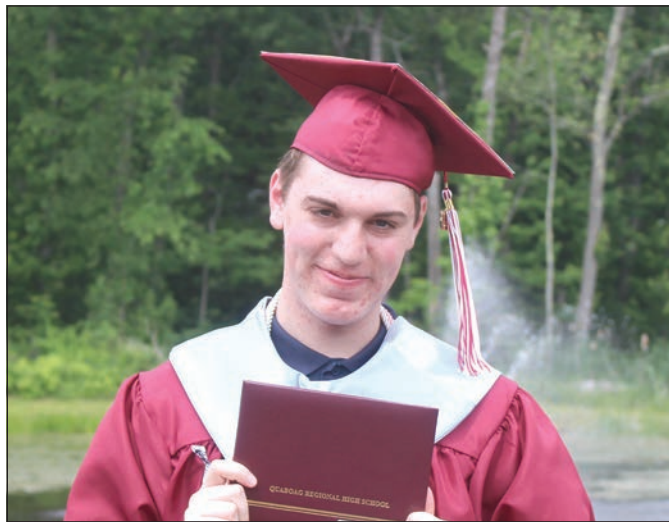
Valedictorian William Lopes is shown alongside his mother holding up his diploma.



Music Teacher James Joinville conducted during the Quaboag Regional Wind Ensemble's performance of "Spring Will Come Again".



Isaac Cowher and Ashton Winders showed off their diplomas.



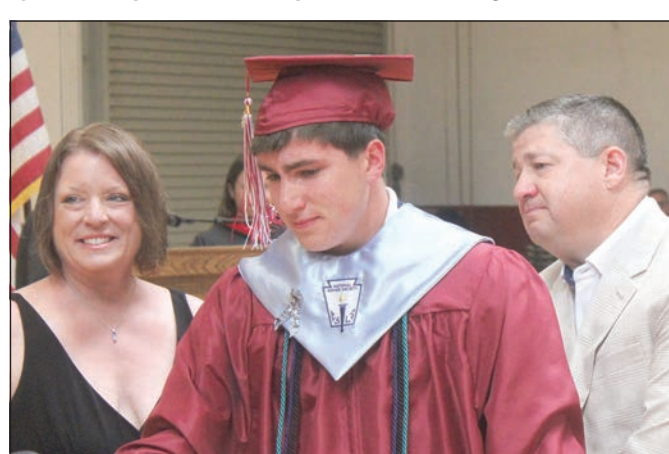
Kyle Withers posed with his diploma outside the high school.



Superintendent Stephen Duff presented a diploma to Naiihly Peter.



Saharah Ackerman and Madic Andreoli made their way during the procession of the 58th Quaboag Commencement.



Connor Burgess accepted his diploma, which was presented to him by his parents.



Quaboag Director of Facilities Marc Astrella presented a diploma to Emma Astrella.



Class Treasurer Madeline Potvin, left, and Class Historian Ava Ostroun made their way through the school gymnasium during the procession of the graduation ceremony.



Camden Olivo was waiting for his name to be announced prior to receiving his diploma.

QUABOAG FROM PAGE 1

popular saying that is usually said by high school math teacher Mr. Reilly.

"Do what you know how to do."

Dion will always remember the selflessness that came from her high school as she and her class step into an uncertain future. After six years of being with the same group of people, Dion wanted everyone to celebrate the Class of 2026.

"We made it," Dion said.

The audience witnessed the musical selection performed by the Quaboag

Singers, which includes graduating seniors for one final time. The Quaboag Singers performed "Time After Time" by Rob Hyman and Cyndi Lauper.

Superintendent Stephen Duff came up for his Superintendent's Address. Duff thanked everyone who made this ceremony possible, as well as town officials, Police and Fire/EMS for their continuous support of the school community.

Duff said it was a pleasure watching the seniors grow during their time at Quaboag. His inspiring words included, "treat people with respect, value them,

even if you don't agree with them."

Also, "remain dedicated, and hardworking."

The keynote speaker for this year's graduation ceremony was Patrick Downes, who has a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from William James College. During his speech, Downes asked the graduating class an important question for them to think about.

"What is the meaning of your life at this point?" Downes asked.

Downes talked about how he thinks that people are best when they're together and people should

try to make other people's lives better. Downes told the Class of 2026 to "be motivated by your compassion for others."

The Quaboag Regional Wind Ensemble performed "Spring Will Come Again" conducted by Quaboag Music Teacher James Joinville.

The first senior speaker to speak was Salutatorian Olive Moulton. She talked about how earlier this week she learned that the Class of 2026 had a 100% graduation rate.

It amazed Moulton that everyone found their motivation to make it through high school leading up to

their graduation day.

After everything that Quaboag has taught them, Moulton said she and her class "now have the opportunity to be the source of inspiration for someone else."

The Valedictorian for this year's graduating class was William Lopes who is planning to attend Boston College. Lopes talked about the exact amount of time spent in high school, which was 6,000 hours in total.

Lopes said, "we spent those hours here", and Lopes reminded his classmates that "your time matters."

Class Advisors Aimee

Lamoureux and Michelle Zawalski read the names of the graduates during the presentation of diplomas. The turning of the tassel was led by Class President Emma Dion, Class Vice President Madelyn Bagg, Secretary Landon Hogan, Treasurer Madeline Potvin, Historian Ava Ostroun, Student Advisory Council Hayssa Freitas and Student Advisory Council Evangelina Iwaniec.

The Class of 2026 tossed their caps in the air as the recessional music "Landslide" by Fleetwood Mac was playing in the background.



QUABBIN HIGH SCHOOL

Meet the Class of 2026



Quabbin Regional High School's Class of 2026 walked out of the school for the last time as students.



Luis Pagan was one of the student speakers.



Valedictorian Elizabeth Matheson received her diploma.



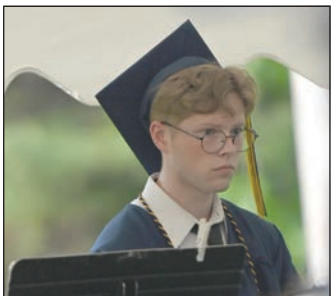
Alexis Holden and Aidan Mahoney walked together during the processional.



Madeleine Hardy waved to her family and friends.



Garrett Erickson, Elizabeth Lambert and Julianna Lindsten performed during Superintendent Colleen Mucha's speech.



Aiden Fuller performed with the Symphonic Winds.



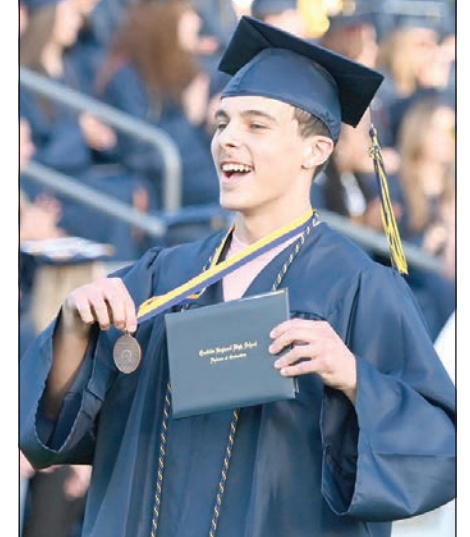
Salutatorian Tricia Bruso received her diploma.



Jaymeson Pina waved to his family.



Owen Breuer received his diploma.



Cameron Vega celebrated his achievements.

QUABBIN FROM PAGE 1

under the direction of Toni Brown played the traditional "Pomp and Circumstance" by Edward Elgar for the procession to the podium and bleachers.

Garrett Erickson, Senior Class Vice President led the audience in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Finnegan Leander, Senior Class President, gave the welcome from the Class of 2026. He said, "Uniqueness makes society successful."

He also urged people to "step away from their clusters and seek out others not in their group."

Quabbin Regional High School Principal Abigail Rigney greeted the audience and acted as emcee.

She said "growing up in a small town can be challenging."

She said those small town connections represent roots. She said not everyone will stay near to their hometown.

However, "wherever they stay, they should put down roots and wherever your journey takes you remember your roots."

The first student speaker was Elizabeth Matheson, Valedictorian. She said she was referred to as a nerd, in a positive way.

She said she believed being a nerd was being passionate about something. She told about her journey to become an Eagle Scout and the hours she spent to achieve that honor.

The next speaker was Tricia Bruso, Salutatorian. She talked about "resilience" and how it helped her achieve.

Graduating seniors joined the Symphonic Winds to perform "Havana Nights" by Randall Standridge.

The next student speaker, Luis Pagan, took to the podium. He talked about how their high school journey began in a pandemic. Despite the chaos, they still learned a lot.

Following his speech, Julianna Lindsten sang "Amor Eterno" by Juan Gabriel. She recently received the Seal of Bilingualism in Spanish.

The final student speaker was Owen Breuer. He said he imagined this day for a long time and dreamed he would speak at his graduation.

The seniors joined the Quabbin Singers for "No Time" by Susan Bramfield. Julia Tuttle directed the Singers.

QRSD School Superintendent Colleen Mucha certified the seniors met all the requirements for graduation. She said "leaving high school was the ultimate road trip." She said they would need snacks and a play list. Principal Rigney provided all the graduates with what she referred to as "car candy."

The Superintendent asked three students: Julianna Lindsten, Elizabeth Lambert and Garrett Erickson to help her with the playlist.

Lindsten and Lambert sang duets for four songs on the superintendent's playlist for the graduates. Erickson accompanied them on guitar. They sang a few lines from "Life in a Bottle," "You've Got a Friend in Me," "Imagine" and "Miss Me When I'm Gone."

QRSD Committee member, David Deschamps, spoke to the graduates before the awarding of diplomas. He said one of his favorite authors was Louise Penny. The chief character in her series of books followed these four tenets. "I don't know. I need help. I was wrong and I am sorry." Then, Supt. Mucha; Walter Nutter, QRSD Committee member and class advisors, Molly Sczuka and Colleen Fors, handed out the diplomas.

Just before "Fanfare and Recessional" by James D. Phoyhar, senior class secretary, Breuer and senior class treasurer, Brooke Roseberry led their class in the moving of the tassels.

Class of 2026 announce future plans

BARRE – The Quabbin Regional High School Class of 2026, 800 South St., announce their future plans. The 103 graduates, 45 will attend a four year college or uni-

versity and 27 at two year community college. Four will enter the military with two in the U.S. Air Force, one in the U.S. Navy and one in the Army National

Guard. Nine will attend a post graduate program with three of those in the Quabbin Regional School District Post Grad program. Ten will en-

ter the work force and eight plan a gap year. Here is a list of the graduates and their future plans.

Adam Henry Adams	Worcester State University	Collin Joseph Lindley	Merrimack College
Owura Danquah Ankoma-Mensah	University of New Haven	Isabel Mae Lindquist	Work Force
Michael Lawrence Atkins	Post Graduate Training	Julianna Rikki Lindsten	University of Massachusetts Amherst
Carly Rae Beaton	Mount Wachusett Community College	Rosilyn Olivia Lyden	Framingham State University
Tyler Hess Belden	Framingham State University	Saige Luis Magnan	Work Force
Emily Carol Black	Nichols College	Aidan William Mahoney	Bridgewater State University
Aaron Steven Bodine	Mount Wachusett Community College	Madalyn Road Malcolmson	Mount Wachusett Community College
Trevor James Boissoneau	Work Force	Milo P. Malcolmson	Gap Year
Olivia Grace Breatout	Lasell University	Grace Elizabeth Manna	Bryant University
Owen Michale Breuer	University of Massachusetts Amherst	Elizabeth Priscilla Matheson	Northeastern University
Branden Steven Brooks	Quinsigamond Community College	Hunter Rose McQuestion	University of Maine
Tricia Marie Bruso	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	Gabriel Charles Miller	United States Navy
Troy Edward Budreau	Eastern Kentucky University	Gabriela Xiomara Molina	Mount Wachusett Community College
Bailey Lauren Burke	Mount Wachusett Community College	Virginia Rose Morin	Collective Academy
Brendan Thomas Carleton	Southern Maine Community College	Tyler James Norling	QRSD Post Grad program
Alexander David Carroll	Maine College of Art and Design	Salem Marie O'Brien	Quinnipiac University
Micah Boyd Cerezo	Syracuse University	Luis Y. Pagan	Army National Guard
Addison Nicole Christiansen	Westfield State University	Adrian William Russell Parker	University of Massachusetts Amherst
Jillian Irene Christiansen	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	Garrett Joseph Pease	Mount Wachusett Community College
Jennah Caroline Ciccarelli	Mount Wachusett Community College	Amauri James Perez	United States Air Force
Kylee Brenna Costello	Mount Wachusett Community College	Sabrina Mattia Perry	Mount Wachusett Community College
Trace Lee Davin	The Peterson School – Electrical	Jaymeson Wyatt Pina	Work Force
Annabella Rose DiMartino	University of Massachusetts Amherst	John Eugene Proctor	Work Force
Mia Leigh Ducos	Skidmore College	Parker Joseph Proulx	University of Massachusetts Amherst
Kalina Jane Dyer	Clarkson University	Anthony Joseph Quartarone	Worcester Vocational Night School
Alyssa Madeline Ebert	University of Maine	Quin Edward Reynolds	EMT Training
Garrett Lloyd Erickson	Elizabeth City State University	Madeline Anne Rigney	Westfield State University
Sadie Fjeld	Gap Year	Brooke A. Roseberry	Mount Wachusett Community College
Joseph Michael Flynn	Mount Wachusett Community College	Aaron Christopher Rowell	Worcester State University
William Dolan Fowler	Mount Wachusett Community College	Lindsey Frances Ryan	Mount Wachusett Community College
Aiden John Fuller	Clark University	Wesley Robert Sanderson	Curry College
Ava May Gilman	Mount Wachusett Community College	Eric Roland Serrano	Curry College
Jordyn Alexander Guilderson	Great Bay Community College	Lia Kendall Sherblom	Mount Wachusett Community College
Hemily Briana Halaby	QRSD Post Grad program	Noah Raymond Sinclair	Work Force
Madeline Elizabeth Hardy	Gap Year	Emmalise Michal Skagerlind	Clark University
Adelaide Beatrice Harmon	Syracuse University	Allison Nicole Sprankle	American Medical Response Program
Emma Elizabeth Harrington	Mount Wachusett Community College	Madelyn Rose Stauder	University of Massachusetts Amherst
Ian Miller Haupt	Mount Wachusett Community College	Chase Richard Talbot	Gap Year
Alex L. Holden	Gap Year	Maxwell William Ure	Work Force
Austin Michael Holmes	Work Force	Cameran James Vega	Gap Year
Annie Elizabeth Howe	Mount Wachusett Community College	Samantha M. Vessair	Gap Year
Emma Nicole Kahlau	Worcester State University	Xavier James Wade	QRSD Post Grad program
Sean M. Keddy	Gap Year	Andrew Ronald Warfield	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Artemis Amira Kleber	Mount Wachusett Community College	Thomas Yates Wigglesworth	Worcester State University
Anna Grace Labrousse	Assumption College	Bianca Lotus Wilder	Mount Holyoke College
Elizabeth Rose Lambert	Mount Wachusett Community College	Collin S. Wilk	Work Force
James Daniel Lambert	Mount Wachusett Community College	Mariana Cori Williams	Mount Wachusett Community College
Anthony Edward Landry	Mount Wachusett Community College	Richard Michael Wilson	United States Air Force
Aiden Daniel LaPointe	Worcester State University	Farrah Sage Wojcik	Springfield College
Jacob John LaValley	Work Force	Hannah Mary Zereski	University of Rhode Island
Finnegan Kelly Leander	Assumption College	Jin Xi Zou	University of Massachusetts Amherst
Annabelle Grace Leslie	Mount Wachusett Community College		

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SPORTS



Kaelin Pellicane takes a lead off the base.

Warriors get past Fairhaven

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

FISKDALE – Just like she did a year ago, Tantasqua sophomore righthander Keira McCord posted a shutout in the round of 16 game of the Division 3 state tournament.

The fourth-seeded Lady Warriors scored five runs in their final three at-bats and McCord took care of the rest en route to a 5-0 home victory over 13th-seeded Fairhaven, last Wednesday afternoon.

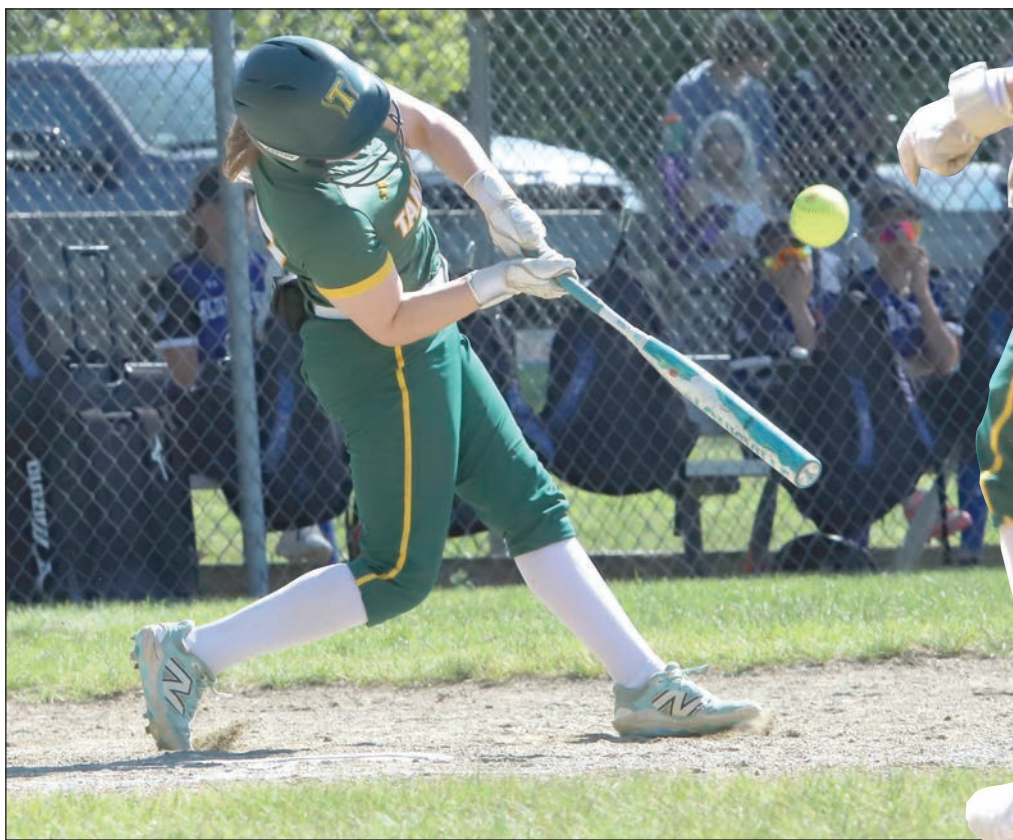
“We’re very excited about going back to the Elite 8 again,” said McCord, who’s

a school choice student from Palmer. “We just took advantage of their mistakes in today’s game.”

A year ago, Tantasqua recorded a 12-0 shutout win against Monty Tech in the sweet 16 contest before losing to Nipmuc Regional in an Elite 8 home game.

The Lady Warriors entered this year’s state tournament with a 17-4 overall record. They began the postseason with a 5-1 home win versus 29th-seeded Greater Lowell Tech in the round of 32.

See **WARRIORS**
PAGE 10



Brynn Boucher swings and sends a fly ball to the outfield.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Keira McCord swings and connects.



Olivia Fiske makes her throw.



Keira McCord winds up to send a pitch home.



Kaelin Pellicane makes the catch at first base.



Jewels Normandin sends a throw to first.



Caleigh Foley sends a quick pass away.



Jenna Kalwa settles the ball.

Busy schedule continues for Mutiny

LUDLOW – The New England Mutiny continues double duty, playing in both the UWS and USL-W leagues. Last week, they were in action for two games, facing both the Maine Mystics in a UWS game, then followed that with a USL-W game against rival AC Connecticut. Neither final score was reported. The Mutiny were in action earlier this week against Hudson Valley and next face the Maine Footy on Saturday, June 13.



Laci Lewis turns play around.



Kendall Bodak, of Monson, tries to settle the ball.



Rachel Marchini winds up for a free kick.



Bella Meadows gets the stop.



Kayleigh Lukasik rears back for a touch.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

- sports -

Tri-County Baseball season opens up

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

THORNDIKE – PeoplesBank has captured the Tri-County League championship title the past twelve years.

Teddy Bear Pools and Spas and the St. Joseph's Saints are two of the TCL teams looking to end the PeoplesBank dynasty this summer.

The first meeting of the regular season between the two squads was an old fashion slugfest.

Teddy Bear Pools pounded out 17 base hits leading to a 12-6 victory over the Saints at St. Joe's Park, last Friday night.

"It's always a lot of fun whenever we play against St. Joe's, especially at this field," said Teddy Bear Pools player/coach Ryan Magni. "We had trouble scoring runs last year, but we did the job offensively, which made the difference in tonight's

game." The road win improved Teddy Bear Pools record to 2-0.

Before moving to Teddy Bear Pools, Magni played eight seasons for St. Joe's. His brother, Brandon, is listed on the Saints roster, but he didn't play in last Friday's game.

"I played eight seasons for St. Joe's," Magni said. "I'm still friends with a lot of their players."

One of those players is St. Joe's player/coach Brian Hayes.

"Ryan and I are good friends," Hayes said. "We talked on the phone for an hour earlier today. I also have a batting cage at my house that he uses."

St. Joseph's entered the home game with a 3-0 record.

The winning pitcher was Matt Drobiak, who graduated from South Hadley High School. The righthander allowed four runs on six hits

during the first four innings. He walked one and struck out one.

"In the Tri-County League, a starter only needs to go four innings to be the winning pitcher," said Magni, who pitched the final three innings to earn the save. "Matt pitched very well in tonight's game. I also coached him at Holyoke Community College the past two years."

Magni, who began last Friday's game at second base and had two base hits, took over as the baseball coach at HCC in 2022. He isn't going to return to that position next spring.

Drobiak had a 3-0 lead to protect before throwing his first pitch in the bottom of the first inning.

Teddy Bear's

mon Jimenez (3-for-4), and centerfielder Xavion Maldonado, who also finished the game with three base hits.

Feltovic worked the first three innings.

opening frame with a double by centerfielder Pat Fitzgibbons (2-for-4), which scored shortstop Devin Slattery, who lead-off with a single to left.

Matt Drobiak delivers a pitch home.

Trey Yesu pitches for St. Joe's.

He was replaced on the mound by Trey Yesu, who was the ace of the Bridgewater State University pitching staff during the past couple of years. Yesu graduated from Monson High School.

The home team responded in the bottom half of the

first three runs against righty Jack Feltovic scored on RBI singles by catcher Willie Landman (3-for-5), third baseman Ra-

Slattery, who graduated from Ware High School, was named as the Tri-County League MVP last year. He led his team with three base hits against Teddy Bear Pools.

The visiting team put two more runs on the right field scoreboard with two outs in the second inning.

Shortstop Ray Toth, who graduated from Granby High School, doubled home the first run. He scored

when Jimenez blasted a triple to right field.

Teddy Bear Pools, who are playing their home games at South Hadley High School, scored another run in the third giving them a 6-1 lead.

St. Joe's, who had nine base hits, answered back with an RBI single from Fitzgibbons and a sacrifice fly by first baseman Bobby Trigillo.

Both teams scored a run in the fourth inning.

Then Teddy Bear Pools pretty much put the game out of reach by scoring five more runs in the fifth inning.

Toth, who's currently a member of the Wheaton College baseball team, contributed with a two-run single. After loading the bases, right fielder Bailey Griggs cleared them with a triple to right.

Trailing, 12-4, St. Joe's could only score single runs in the fifth and sixth innings.

St. Joe's will be looking to even the season series when they host Teddy Bear Pools for the second time on June 19.



Nate Carillon catches the ball.



Ramon Jimenez fields a grounder.



Ryan Magni makes an off-balance throw.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Dillon Slattery, of Ware, picks up a ground ball.

WARRIORS
FROM PAGE 9

McCord hurled a two-hitter in the round of 16 game against the Blue Devils (13-9). She issued two walks and recorded 13 strikeouts. She had eight consecutive strikeouts early in the game.

"I've improved my pitching skills a lot this season. I added a rise ball this year, which has really helped me a lot," McCord said. "We just wanted to dominate them in today's game."

The only two seniors listed on the Lady Warriors

softball roster are centerfielder Kiara Gonzalez, and second baseman JulieAnne Petersen. The duo graduated with the other members of the senior class on May 30.

"It feels great to be going back to the Elite 8 again," Petersen said. "We worked very hard during the regular season to get back here again."

Gonzalez and Petersen, along with junior shortstop Jewels Normandin were the Lady Warriors tri-captains this spring.

In this year's Sweet 16

contest, McCord set the tone in the top of the first inning.

Fairhaven senior centerfielder Kaia Furtado began the game with a walk and sophomore shortstop Juliette Flynn reached first base on a fielder's choice play before advancing to second on a wild pitch.

McCord retired the next two batters with a line-drive and a strikeout ending the Blue Devils threat. She then retired the next nine hitters.

Fairhaven righty Brianna Pierce managed to keep the Lady Warriors off the scoreboard during the first three

frames.

McCord drew a four pitch walk leading off the bottom of the fourth inning. Then McCord's batterymate, Brynn Boucher, who's a freshman, hit a pop-up which was dropped by the second baseman. Pierce retired the next two hitters before sophomore third baseman Olivia Fiske hit a hard groundball single into centerfield scoring McCord. Gonzales followed with a walk, but the home team wound up leaving the bases loaded.

McCord gave up a pair of singles in the fifth, but the

Blue Devils failed to tie the score.

The Lady Warriors scored two more runs in the bottom of the fifth without the benefit of a base hit.

With the bases loaded, freshman first baseman Kaelyn Peilicane was hit-by-a-pitch forcing home Petersen, who was also hit-by-a-pitch. McCord, who reached first base after being hit-by-a-pitch, scored the Lady Warriors third run on a passed ball.

Gonzalez and junior leftfielder Morgan Goody began the sixth inning with

back-to-back walks. Petersen ripped a double off the centerfield fence scoring Goody. The Lady Warriors final run crossed the plate on a bases loaded walk by Peilicane.

While the Tantasqua offense only had two base hits, they took advantage of six walks and three hit batters.

"We want to get on base anyway that we can," Petersen said. "We also want to keep passing the bat."

McCord struck out the side in the top of the seventh, which kept Tantasqua's season alive for several more days.



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WITH TERI FRYKENBERG

- community -

TipTop Co-Op offers free summer herbalism workshops

BROOKFIELD – TipTop Co-Op is pleased to be the recipient of a grant from Quaboag Hills Community Health Improvement plan and will be offering a series of free summer workshops starting in June.

The first workshop is a one-hour “Introduction To Herbalism” class on Thursday, June 18 at 7 p.m. It will be conducted by member Dina LeDuke in her barn located at 7 Sherman St., with

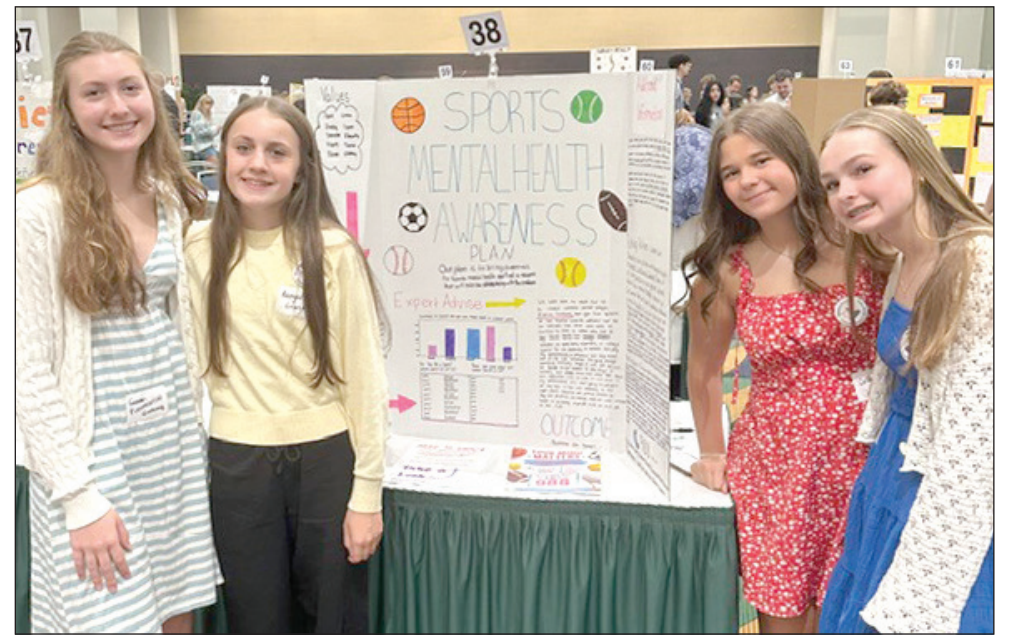
in walking distance from the store. Samples of herbs will be provided.

A second class will be held on Thursday, July 16 at 7 p.m. in the same location.

LeDuke is a life-long lover of herbal teas and proponent of natural medicines. She recently completed an Herbalist Apprenticeship certificate at Honey Wall Holistic in Charlton, following the Rosemary Gladstar method.

The workshop will cover the basics of herbs that can be used for common ailments and overall health. Participants will make sample herbal tea blends and enjoy a cup during class.

Please register at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSev3cUX2uuyXs4zW18Z0J6R7LwCkp-JzW-ThFcl1WcU-JUn6Lg/viewform> prior to June 13 at 7 p.m. Seating is limited.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Farrah Piermarini, Raegan Grant, Callie Hawk and Caitlyn Toomey presented their Civics Action Project on sports mental health awareness at the DCU Center in Worcester.

Library celebrates America from the beginning

EAST BROOKFIELD – Come learn about how the National Parks played key roles in the Revolutionary War, enter for your chance to win a book and view a musket, and pick up the National Commemorative Stamp and coin, that tells the history of the National Parks at the East Brookfield Public Library, 122 Connie Mack Drive.

This is a two-part program by Vincent Kordack: “Road to Independence” Monday, June 29 at 5:30 p.m. and “World Turned

Upside Down” Monday, Aug. 10 at 5:30 p.m. Refreshments from the Revolutionary War will be served

All ages are welcomed; however, the program should hold the interest of people from 12 and up.

Kordack is an East Brookfield resident with more than 38 years of experience as a National Park Ranger; He was assigned to 16 of the 18 National Parks that revolve around the Revolutionary War.

Church to host solstice concert

WEST BROOKFIELD – The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, UCC, 36 North Main St., will host a concert on Saturday, June 20 at 7 p.m., preceded by a social hour from 6-7 p.m.

“Solstice Sing for Peace and Justice - Songs to Cultivate Community, Compassion, and Commitment” will feature local singing group, A Chorus for These Times, directed by Nym Cooke with instrumentalists and guest artist Leslie Sweetnam.

All are welcome and snacks will be served.

There is no admission charge but donations will be accepted to support Abby’s House, Worcester’s largest provider of affordable housing specifically designed to meet the needs of women and children.

For more information, call the church at 508-867-7078, or contact Karen Murphy (kmurphy718@charter.net) or Nym Cooke (nymcooke@gmail.com).

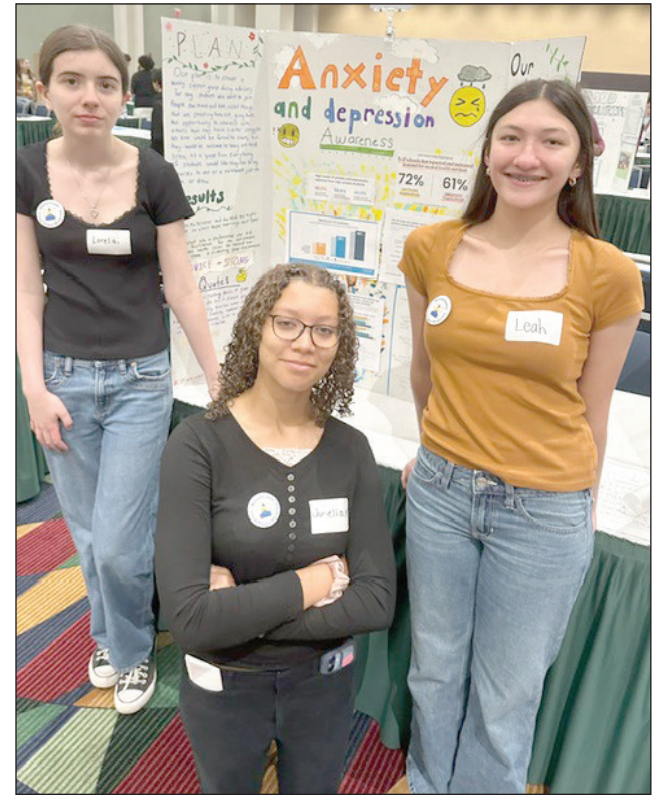
Quaboag students featured at state civics showcase

WARREN – Quaboag Regional Middle High School eighth graders in Joe Salvatore’s civics classes completed their capstone Civics Action Project.

These group projects had the students identifying values that are important to them and from those values choosing a topic within their community to research and potentially create an action plan to create a positive change. The process of researching their topic and collecting evidence pulled together many of the skills they learned in their civics course throughout the year.

Students also learned to collect input from opposing sides, identify obstacles, communicate with policy makers, and realize that creating change or “getting something done” in a community is not as easy as just saying it.

After the school level showcase two groups were selected to attend the state level showcase at the



Lorrelai Croft, Jariella Male (kneeling) and Leah Vongratsamy presented their Civics Action project focused on anxiety and depression awareness.

DCU Center in Worcester. Showing their work with hundreds of other students from central Massachusetts, Quaboag students did an excellent job presenting to community leaders and received praise for their project work and presentation.

Congregational Church to hold Strawberry Festival

NEW BRAINTREE – The New Braintree Congregational Church is hosting its annual Strawberry Festival on Saturday, June 13 at 5:30 p.m. at the New Braintree Town Hall, Memorial Drive.

Come enjoy this family-style meal of baked ham, baked beans, potato salad,

coleslaw, rolls and beverages followed by strawberry shortcake for dessert.

Tickets are \$20 for adults; \$12 for children ages 5-10, children 4 and under are free. There will be one sitting.

Make your reservations by calling 508-410-7424 or 413-477-6653.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO

Shown from left are artists Mollie Kellogg, Terry Rooney and Holly S. Murray at the opening reception of the WOW: Wild Ornerly Women/Wisdom of Women exhibit at ArtWorks Gallery in Ware.

WOW art exhibit returns to ArtWorks Gallery

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – ArtWorks Gallery in Ware held an opening reception for the Wild Ornerly Women art exhibit this past weekend.

This exhibit is curated by artist Terry Rooney, who was one of 12 female artists whose work was featured in this exhibit.

WOW highlights the themes of energy, self-empowerment, and taking back power. The artwork of female artists, who might have been overlooked in the 20th century probably felt invisible, but no more as WOW arrived to Workshop13.

Rooney had several art pieces up in the exhibit, including her charcoal on mylar work, “Ms. Liberty, part 1 of 4 panels”. Rooney was joined by Mollie Kellogg



Cynthia Consentino is shown sitting next to her ceramic pieces, which can be seen at ArtWorks Gallery in Ware.

who had four art pieces featured in the exhibit.

Kellogg returned to Workshop13 and showcased four of her art pieces that consist of figurative paintings and mysticism. These art pieces by Kellogg were worked on over a period of time, starting around 2004.

See WOW EXHIBIT
PAGE 12

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- Sealed with a kiss
 - River in the Netherlands
 - Large sandwich
 - Asian people
 - Swiss city
 - Fuzzy fruit
 - Japanese persimmons
 - Ninth month (abbr.)
 - When you hope to get somewhere
 - An idealistic social reformer
 - Wings
 - What you owe
 - A name of God
 - Colorless mineral
 - Elected official (informal)
 - Rattling breaths
 - Abnormal breathing
 - Tropical Old World tree
 - “Seinfeld” character
 - A citizen of Senegal
 - Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
 - Greek mythological beauty
 - Something for sale
 - Erase
 - Gets rid of
 - Broad inlets
 - Play again
 - Formerly (archaic)
 - Move away from land
 - Change a color
 - Move swiftly and lightly
 - Sea vessel
 - Written works
 - Residue
 - Engraved
 - Having sufficient skill
 - One and only
 - Erased
 - One who touts
 - Move quickly and lightly
 - Blemished
 - Less than exciting
 - Born of
 - N. German town
 - Notes
 - Move away from land
 - Vulcanite
 - More ignoble
 - Child actor Kirk
 - Written works
 - Sea vessel
 - Residue
 - Engraved
 - Having sufficient skill
 - One and only
 - Erase
 - Broad inlets
 - Nightmarish street
 - Play again
 - Formerly (archaic)
 - Change a color
 - Move quickly and lightly
 - Notes
 - Midway between northeast and east
 - Space station
 - Relating to the ears
 - Congressman
 - Yelled at
 - Rudely assertive
 - Defunct European money
 - Shared one’s soul
 - Onion rolls
 - A way to state clearly
 - Relating to a lobe
 - Underlying message
 - Hollywood pig
 - Indicates pitch
 - Filament of a feather
 - Small ornamental ladies’ bag for small articles
 - Diminish
- CLUES DOWN**
- Scottish island
 - Google certification

- public notices -

TOWN OF NORTH BROOKFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Brookfield Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing to consider a petition to locate poles, wires, cables, and fixtures, including the necessary anchors, guys, and other such sustaining and protecting fixtures, brought before it by Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc **Tuesday, June 30, 2026 at 6:15 PM** at the North Brookfield Police Department, 55 School Street, North Brookfield, MA 01535.
 The pole locations that will be considered are as follows:
North Main St – National Grid to install 1 JO Pole on N.

Main St beginning at a point approximately 30'feet east of the centerline of the intersection of N. Main St and Reed Ave. National Grid to install one Pole #36-50 on the East side of the road.
Donovan Rd – National Grid to install 2 JO Poles on Donovan Rd and relocate 2 JO Poles on Donovan Rd beginning at a point approximately 110'feet west of the centerline of the intersection of Donovan Rd and East Brookfield Rd and continuing approximately 508 feet in a west direction. National Grid to relocate Pole #2 ~42'E of existing pole, relocate Pole #4 ~10'W of existing pole, install Pole 0-50 ~83'W of P25, and install P1-50 ~67'W of P1.
Donovan Rd – National Grid

to install beginning at a point approximately 110'feet west if the centerline of the intersection of Donovan Rd and E. Brookfield Rd and continuing approximately 508'feet in a west direction. National Grid to install new 10'x13' MH5 and 10'x13' MH6 on Donovan Rd. National Grid to install approximately 435' of 2-5" conduit on Donovan Rd.
 Said hearing will begin at 6:15 PM and continue until completion, and will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 166.
 Jamie Gilman, Chairman
 Ralph Kay
 Peter Orsi
 06/12/2026

- community -

WEST BROOKFIELD FROM PAGE 1

through taxation. According to the motion sheet provided, the budget is not being funded with free cash, but the town did have to use supplemental funds totaling \$92,316.

The total requested for the water enterprise budget was for \$613,863, funded by water users, and the recommended budget for the PEG fund was \$79,500, funded by the contract between Charter Communications and the town.

Confusion emerged after the first motion, as some residents said they did not understand why the town was seeking the water and PEG separate from the operating budget. A motion was made on the floor to table article 4 pending discussion.

A resident spoke and said the second and third motions were additional revenues.

The moderator, William Mansfield, said he could change the order of the motions if he made an error, and it could be an easy fix, but some residents said the budget was not ready to be voted on.

MJ Haesche, a member of the Advisory Committee, said if the town did not vote on a budget at the June 2 meeting, the town would "shut down in three weeks." Haesche said there were informational meetings and departmental meetings open to the public, but not many people attended.

She said the motion to table should not be supported. Board of Selectmen Vice-Chair Catherine Lamica said if the budget was not approved, there would be no money on July 1.

The motion to table failed.

Line by line review

Mansfield read through the line-by-line budget and residents were able to stop him if there were questions, then they reviewed the questions at the end. One resident said they were concerned about the Police Department budget being cut 22.48%.

Police Chief Nathan Hagglund was asked if the department explored grants or regionalization.

Hagglund said the grants are for new officers only, not to fund current officers. He said the grants are also competitive, with most of the money going to cities, and there is a match.

He said regionalization takes time, because there are feasibility studies that need to be completed first.

He said \$180,000 was cut from the budget, with 94% of it being salary, which means they have to cut the midnight shift and rely on the State Police out of Brookfield during those hours, but they will have two officers each on the day and evening shift.

A member of the Board of Assessors asked why the department was cut so much, (a reduction of 17.67% according to the budget provided). Town Administrator Theresa Cofske said that no departments were hit more than others, and it was done proportionally.

A resident asked why the Selectmen's budget had \$103,000 in it, and Cofske said that number is the Town Administrator budget plus any expenses for the board. Another resident asked why the West Brookfield Elementary School was still budgeted for \$230,000. Cofske said it is for maintenance costs, and it is a town property.

Other amendments

One resident motioned to amend the budget for education from about \$5.175 million to zero. Mansfield said the school budget is fully funded to meet the school assessment levels, and said the motion was out of order.

Another resident motioned to take the \$74,916 budgeted for the Council on Aging and switch it to the Police Department. Hagglund said he would not support this motion because each part of town is important, and the motion failed.

After discussion, the article was re-considered in its entirety and passed.

Capital projects

There were two motions for capital projects. The first was a transfer of \$60,935 from the capital stabilization fund for two capital projects recommended by the Capital Improvement Committee.

These include \$35,500 for phase two of the Route 9 project and \$25,435 for five sets of turnout gear and helmets for the Fire Department. This motion passed.

The second motion was for a transfer of \$145,000 from the water stabilization fund for capital projects recommended by the Water Commissioners. These projects include \$10,000 for cybersecurity improvements, \$30,000 for Ware Point treatment plant upgrades and improvements, \$30,000 for the Leland Road treatment plant, \$15,000 for an insertion valve and \$60,000 for a new utility truck.

This motion also passed.

Bylaw changes

Town meeting approved amending section 5 of the zoning bylaws by deleting section 5.12, amending the title of section 5.13 for major site plan reviews and removing the word major from the title, and amending some wording within the bylaw. Town meeting also approved a general by-law to re-name the Board of Selectmen to the Select Board.

Other articles

Voters approved all other articles, including compensation for elected officials, revolving fund limits, an addition of \$10,000 to the building maintenance account from unspent money from a previous article, an addition of \$25,000 to the town's road maintenance account also from unspent money from a previous article and an authorization for the select board to obtain land rights for the Long Hill Road bridge.

Article 6, which was funding for private road repairs, was indefinitely postponed due to shortages of funds.

STM

A special town meeting was held before the annual town meeting, but five of the six articles were indefinitely postponed due to shortages of funds. The only article voted on was article one, which supplemented \$6,000 from a previously voted article for line items in the FY 26 budget.

Administrative items

The board approved chair Sarah Campbell as the contract authorized signature listing. They also signed a Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency hazard mitigation plan contract and a liability letter regarding East Brookfield's parade route.

The board also approved the minutes of April 1.

Items not anticipated

Chaffee asked about after hours activity caught at the Highway Department. The board asked IT manager Jacob Gorham to send the video to the authorities.

BROOKFIELD FROM PAGE 1

The board said they would reclassify an article to allocate \$63,000 of wages to the road reconstruction account for the Gay Road project, and Bartkus said that should leave enough money for the resident's pay.

Chapter 90 reimbursement

Bartkus said the town is awaiting about \$574,000 in Chapter 90 reimbursements, including for paving on Route 148. Chaffee

said he would reach out to East Brookfield or Holland to help submit the paperwork.

Open positions

The board said the town needs to post a position for interim and permanent highway superintendent, and approved a salary range of \$85,000-\$92,000. They also had to post a job description for assessor assistant as the current assistant is planning on working half time starting July 1, then retiring.

The board said they would use the clerk job description, for a yearly salary range of \$25,000-\$29,000.

- public safety -

New Brantree Police Log

During the week of June 1-8, the Hardwick/New Brantree Police Department responded to 13 building/property checks, 21 directed/area patrols, six radar assignments, three emergency 911 calls, two citizen assists, three investigations, one safety hazard, one complaint, one motor vehicle accident, three animal calls and three motor vehicle stops in the town of New Brantree.

Monday, June 1

4 p.m. Complaint, Unita Road, Officer Handled

Wednesday, June 3

5:03 a.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Mara Road, Officer Handled
 10:50 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
 11:39 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Utley Road, Transported to Hospital
 8:15 p.m. Harassment, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

Thursday, June 4

6:59 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
 9:29 a.m. Investigation, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
 10:48 a.m. Investigation, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

6:46 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Brookfield Road, Patient Refusal

Friday, June 5

11:31 a.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, Gilbertville Road, Report Taken
 5:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Citation Issued

Sunday, June 7

1:26 p.m. Gunshots, Pierce Road, Officer Handled

WOW EXHIBIT FROM PAGE 1

Dana with Butterfly. This series of art by Kellogg shows strength and magic.

Holly S. Murray also attended the opening reception and had several sculptures exhibited. Her work is made of cone 6 stoneware and was shaped into the form of cactuses. Each cactus has a different feature to it.

Arriving at the opening reception was Cynthia Consentino of Shelburne Falls. Consentino usually works with ceramics but also enjoys painting and drawing.

The theme behind her work revolves around love-hate, being interactive, and figurative thinking.

Several of her ceramics featured in Wild Ornerly Women are faces and the expressions these faces make when two faces come close to each other. One of her ceramic faces is called "Love You, Hate You", a title tied to that love-hate theme.

One of her popular figurines, "Figurine I & II" were made back in the late 1990s. These two earthenware and



An Incognito Witch Selfie "Dana with Butterfly" by Mollie Kellogg.

glaze figurines were also featured at Wild Ornerly Women. The figurines show two young women with guns in hand, showing they're trying to take power back.

WOW is a show of powerful social commentary works by women who have continued to voice their opinions.

Artists Grace Graupe Pillard and Holly S. Murray have works that express the outrage over the destruction of society and the world. Pillard's work featured in

the exhibit is called "Disintegrating Capitol", an oil and alkyd on canvas.

Other artists featured in the Wild Ornerly Women exhibit include Denise Beaudet, Anne Burton, Irene Christensen, Roselle Chartock, Lyn Horan, Susan Montgomery and Robin Tewes.

The exhibition is on display through June 20 with gallery hours being Saturdays and Sundays, from 1-4 p.m. at ArtWorks Gallery, 69 Main St.

SOCIAL SECURITY FROM PAGE 4

Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

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ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.
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Kelly Daige graduates from Stonehill College

EASTON – Kelly Daige of North Brookfield received a Bachelor of Science degree at Stonehill College's 75th Commencement held on May 17.

At this year's ceremony, Leo J. Meehan III '75, president and CEO of W.B.

Mason, served as keynote speaker. He also received an honorary degree alongside Matt Brown '16, who established the Matt Brown Foundation, and Sister Andrea Lee, I.H.M., former president of St. Catherine University and Alverno College.

Ashley Parker earns Dean's List at Norwich University

NORTHFIELD, VT – Norwich University is pleased to announce that Ashley Parker, of Spencer has earned Dean's List honors for the spring 2026 semester.

Dean's List recognition

is awarded to full-time undergraduate students who achieve a semester grade point average of 3.4 or higher, acknowledging sustained academic achievement and dedication to scholarly success.

Concerts on the Common scheduled announced

NORTH BROOKFIELD – North Brookfield Parks and Recreation, in conjunction with North Brookfield Cultural Council, will be hosting Concerts on the Common this summer season.

A Mass Cultural Council grant is making these concerts possible for all residents to enjoy.

Dates and bands include June 20 from 6-8 p.m. – Ravenwood, an easy listening blue grass band; July 25 from 6-8 p.m. – Sue Lyons, an acoustical guitar player and vocalist; Aug. 15 from 6-8 p.m. – Stan Matthews, country music with some

exceptional Johnny Cash tunes; and Aug. 29 from 3-5 p.m. – the Superchargers, a fun rock and roll band.

All concerts are free, they are held on Saturdays and start at 6 p.m. and end around 8 p.m. Food will be available for purchase but folks are welcome to bring their own. Feel free to bring chairs, blankets, bug spray and sunscreen – whatever makes you comfortable.

The playground is right on the common, located on Grove Street in town.

There will also be games for families to enjoy and some surprise craft tables during some concerts.

Senior Center lists June events

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The North Brookfield Senior Center, located at 29 Forest St., will offer the following events and activities during the month of June.

Activities include: Drawing Class, June 25 at 11 a.m.; and Bingo and Pizza, June 26 from 6-8 p.m. Please call 508-867-0220 to sign up for Bingo and Pizza.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

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