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Volume 18, Number 29

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Friday June 13, 2025



TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

The Quaboag Regional High School Class of 2025 stood proudly in the high school gym as the 57th commencement ceremony that took place on Saturday.

Celebrating the Class of 2025

Quaboag hosts 57th Commencement

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – This past Saturday was the 57th commencement of Quaboag Regional Middle High School, and the gymnasium was filled with family members, staff and community mem-

bers to celebrate and recognize the graduates of the Class of 2025.

After the graduates entered the gymnasium for the ceremony, the Vice President of the class, Parker Tunley led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Performing the National Anthem were Class of 2025 students Avienha Andreoli, Parker Chaffee, Toby Chaplin, Allison Duszlak, Abigail Jolin, Joshua Leaming Jr.,

Dante Martino and Falon Rice. All graduates sang the National Anthem together in front of the podium.

The address of welcome was recited by Falon Rice, the Class Historian. The first speaker of the commencement was Richard Tracy, giving his Class President Address.

Throughout his speech,

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Class of 2025 graduates



TURLEY PHOTO BY MARY WHITELAW

It is a graduation tradition at Quabbin Regional High School for the new graduates to toss their mortarboards in the air following the turning of the tassels.

By Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

BARRE – One hundred and two seniors graduated from Quabbin Regional High School on Friday, June 6.

The rain and thunderstorms forced the event to move into the gymnasium. Despite the change of plans

from an outside to an inside graduation the gym was set up to hold the event in the largest indoor venue, the school gym.

The soon to be graduates processed into the gym wearing blue caps and gowns with the Symphonic Winds playing “Pomp and Circumstance” by Edward Elger. Senior class president

Luke Salvadore and valedictorian Iren Stolgitis led fellow members of the class.

Once the Class of 2025 reached their seats in the front, Stolgitis as senior class secretary, led the audience in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

See QUABBIN GRADUATION PAGE 7

Opening day at the FARMERS MARKET

Common plays host to farmers, bakers and other vendors

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

WEST BROOKFIELD – Despite a spring that emulated a monsoon, June 4 was lovely as 3 p.m. approached and Louise Garwood rang the bell at the headquarters tent signaling the beginning of the West Brookfield Farmers Market, summer edition.

The team, with Louise and Amy Dugas, has been managing this weekly event for decades now and it is a town tradition, but shoppers from other locales are certainly welcome and do attend, and why not, the array of vendors have what you need and want.

Moving clockwise around the common, there is Round Table Farm which looks to be the big cheese at the market as cheese is the specialty. Thus, they are a welcome



TURLEY PHOTO BY RICHARD MURPHY

Shown here are some of the Hunt Road Berry Farm team.

addition to the Wednesday lineup.

Then we find the table of Kate Bakes, and she certainly does, judging by the items on display. Kate was always

a baker, but upon retirement, gave the business a shot.

Her usual variety of comestibles is on the table. There are also sugar free, gluten free and vegan op-

tions. She also produces Ukrainian Sunflower Sugar Cookies with 50% of the

See FARMERS MARKET PAGE 5

Selectmen hear plans to address sidewalks

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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NORTH BROOKFIELD – Jeff Howland, Senior Transportation Planning Engineer for Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, has been working with the town to seek a state grant to replace sidewalks on North Main Street up to Route 148.

“We are working in conjunction with MassDOT,” Howland said at the Board of Selectmen’s June 3 meeting.

Howland said the Department of Transportation is currently working with the town to complete re-pavement of Route 67 from the New Braintree/North Brookfield town line to Spring Street. He said it is a state numbered route, but it is municipally owned.

He said in a recent meeting with town of-

icials, it was discussed having MassDOT pause the paving project at the intersection of Route 148 in order to complete the sidewalk project with the state grant. He said the town would be notified if it was awarded the grant by November of this year.

“Construction of the sidewalks would be done in ‘26,” Howland said.

Howland said the state grant would allow them to reset the existing granite curbing, and either replace the bituminous curbing or put in granite curbing instead. He said noncompliant crosswalks will also be relocated.

“A crosswalk cannot enter into a driveway... also can’t have a pole in them or a catch basin. So, they all have to get moved slightly,” he said.

Howland said if the sidewalks were replaced

See NB SELECTMEN PAGE 5

Budget hearing held for FY 26 school budget

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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NORTH BROOKFIELD – The School Committee held a public hearing to discuss the proposed school budget for fiscal year 2026.

Superintendent Tim McCormick gave a presentation about the proposed budget, which he said still aligns with the school district’s mission to provide high quality education to all students.

“We are committed to

continuous improvement,” McCormick said at the June 6 hearing.

He said the total budget for the school district is \$9,080,825, less offsets \$1,881,621, with the net budget requirement totaling \$7,199,204.

McCormick said some of the figures have shifted since the budget was first presented in January, and he explained the cuts to staffing and supplies that were needed to reach the

See BUDGET HEARING PAGE 11

Select Board discussed concerns about nips bottles

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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STURBRIDGE – The Select Board members held a discussion regarding the sale of alcoholic miniatures also known as “nips.”

At the June 2 meeting, board member Mary Dowling said she initially brought up concerns about nips due to the number of bottles found littered along the roadway, especially on Route 15. She said there is also a safety component regarding the littering of nips, as the empty bottles along the roadway imply a large

percentage of motorists are drinking alcohol and driving.

Since looking into the concern, Dowling said she became aware that the town had the authority to ban the sale of nips in town by town meeting vote.

“Our counsel said that is a matter at the municipal level,” she said.

Dowling said a number of municipalities in the commonwealth have banned the sale of nips, including Newton and towns on Cape Cod.

Dowling said she wanted to hear from residents and business owners about this

topic, while the board continues to research the impact of any potential ban.

The owners of Lucky Mart said they opposed the ban of nips sales, saying it would harm small businesses. They said nips sales account for 35% of their sales, when combined with the purchase of groceries and other items.

The owners said nips are often purchased by people needing affordable options, including senior citizens and those on fixed incomes. They said they would be in support of a redemption program for the nips bottles to try and prevent littering.

A representative from Fred’s Variety Package Store asked the board not to pass a ban on nips bottles, as they also make up a large portion of their business sales. She said these sales are usually combined with the purchase of other more expensive items such as food.

She said fines, more trash bins and education could all help deter littering.

A representative from Yankee Spirits said she also opposes a ban on the sale of nips. She said it doesn’t address the issue of littering;

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- community -

Summer Solstice Party set for June 20

Annual event celebrates summer and small business

By Paula Ouimette
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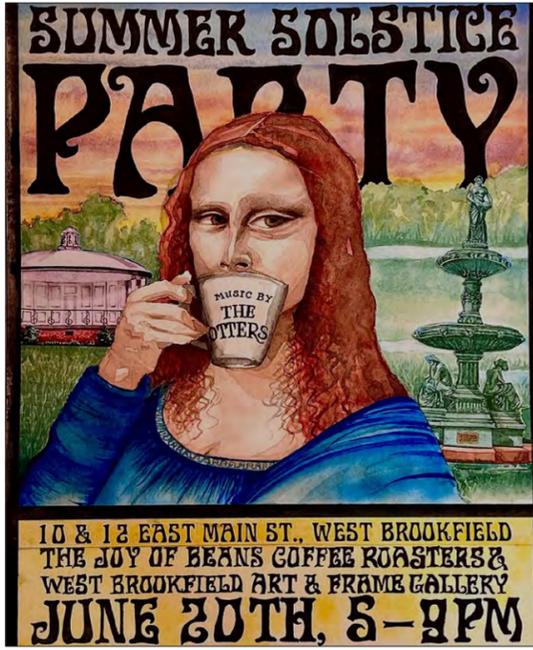
WEST BROOKFIELD – For the second year in a row, The Joy of Beans and West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery will kick off the arrival of summer with their annual Summer Solstice Party held outside at 10 and 12 East Main St.

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

West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery owner Rebecca Fay said the two businesses will be celebrating the arrival of the summer solstice every year at this time.

“It’s like a welcome to summer,” Fay said of the event. “Last year we were impressed with how many people came out.”

Joy Hinton of The Joy of Beans said last year’s food truck, which featured Caribbean cuisine by Bobo of



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

Flames Restaurant in Boston, will be returning with new menu offerings. Providing live music for the event will be popular local band, The Otters, starting at 6 p.m.

This year’s event will also feature a craft at West Brookfield Art & Frame

Gallery.

The past year has shown continued growth and success for the small, women-owned businesses that neighbor each other in the town’s downtown area.

Fay has continued to host shows at the gallery featur-

ing 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, “Books, Engravings & Drawings,” will feature the work of well-known wood engraver Abigail Rorer. An artist’s reception for the show will be held on Friday, Oct. 3 from 5-7 p.m.

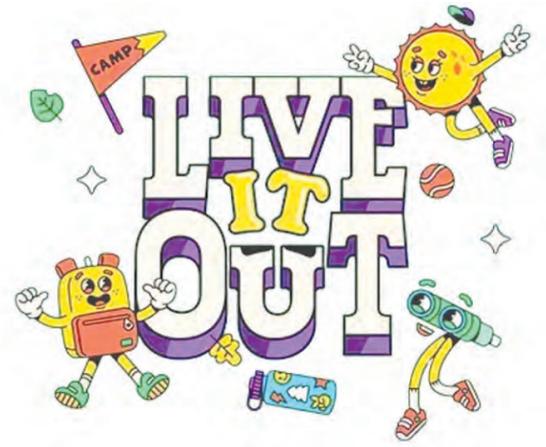
The Joy of Beans continues to serve a variety of freshly ground coffees, refreshing beverages and delicious treats, in addition to hosting live music on the first Friday of each month from 6-7 p.m.

The coffee shop is also home to a vibrant chess club. Hinton said The Joy of Beans will be celebrating International Chess Day in July.

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

“It’s a really unique business friendship,” Fay said of her partnership with Hinton.

Federated Church announces Vacation Bible Camp



SUBMITTED PHOTO
The theme for this year’s vacation bible camp is “Live it Out.” Kids will be encouraged to move their faith into action.

STURBRIDGE – The Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale has announced it will once again offer its popular Vacation Bible Camp this summer.

According to Rev. David W. Cote, this year’s camp will take place from July 21-25 from 9 a.m.-noon on church property at 8 Maple St., between Town Hall and the Joshua Hyde Public Library.

The theme for this year’s camp is “Live it Out.” Participating children will have an opportunity to focus on five key aspects of faith – love, live, share, forgiveness, and service – each rooted in a Bible story that encourages them to embody these values in their daily lives. This emphasizes practical application, guiding children to live out their faith through tangible actions that reflect Christ’s teachings.

“We’ve heard it before: Actions speak louder than words,” said Cote. “So, what does that look like for followers of Jesus? It means more than just learning the stories in the Bible. At this year’s vacation bible camp, kids will learn those stories, but then they will be empowered to move their faith into action.”

The program, which will involve storytelling, games, crafts, and snacks, will be run by CORI-certified teachers who practice SafeChurch policy.

The Federated Church Vacation Bible Camp is open free of charge to all children in the community, ages 6-12, but pre-registration is requested. Please call the Church Office at 774-304-1021 or email them at churchoffice@sturfed.org. The office is also open Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m.-noon.

Award winning ‘Donut Dollies’ documentary presented

WEST BROOKFIELD – The West Brookfield Senior Center hosted a showing on May 29 of the award winning documentary telling the untold story of the “Donut Dollies” in Vietnam, in tribute to these unsung heroes who volunteered through the Red Cross, in support of our troops during the war.

The “Donut Dollies”

program, officially known as Supplemental Recreational Activities Overseas, recruited wholesome young college graduates to provide a smiling face and touch of home to our troops serving in that war torn country.

Presenter, Elsa Bates recounted stories shared by some of these special women with whom she became acquainted at the Annual

Meeting of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilot’s Association in Tampa Florida in 2022, which she attended as a Gold Star Family member. So impressed with their stories and the relief that they had provided to our service members serving so far from home, she has endeavored to share the stories of these young women who “came and cared” in

service to our country.

The documentary retraces the steps of two of these women who served under less than ideal conditions in recreation halls and remote fire bases, sometimes at great personal risk.

To learn more about this remarkable story, Elsa Silverberg Bates may be reached at elsbates8@gmail.com.

32nd annual Strawberry Festival to be held June 14

NORTH BROOKFIELD – St. Joseph’s Parish in North Brookfield will be having its 32nd annual Strawberry Festival on Saturday, June 14 from 5-6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall, 296 North Main St.

The menu will offer baked ham, homemade baked beans, homemade potato

salad, homemade coleslaw, rolls, iced tea, coffee, water, and the always delicious strawberry shortcake.

Tickets can be obtained by calling the parish office at 508-867-6469. Tickets are \$15 adults and \$7 children ages 5-10. Take out is also available.



Saturday, June 14 ~ 7pm-11pm

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- community -

Kids in the Congo

Local nonprofit provides educational support

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com



SUBMITTED PHOTO BY LYNNE BROUILLETTE
Kids in the Congo is a nonprofit organization providing educational support for children in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

FISKDALE – Kids in the Congo is a 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization which provides educational support to children in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The organization was founded in 2008 and according to its cofounder and President, Lynne Brouillette, the idea began after a conversation with a priest named Salvatore Musande, who talked about life in Congo.

Brouillette was curious to know what was being done to help the children and families in Congo. After making a donation, Brouillette invested more interest in trying to help the kids.

One of the ways to help is by providing educational support and Kids in the Congo helps raise funds to provide uniforms, backpacks and school supplies for these children.

During the same year, Brouillette noticed many empty bottles and recyclable products being left behind in her neighborhood. Soon the organization would collect bottles, cans and other recyclable products to help raise money for the kids.

According to Brouillette, collecting these recycle products is the most consistent fundraiser Kids in the Congo has throughout the year.

From collecting bottles and cans, Kids in the Congo raises approximately \$20,000 to \$24,000 per year. This nonprofit accepts beer, soda, seltzer, water, Powerade, Gatorade, energy drinks, tea,

Snapple, Propel, Vitamin Water, Baj, Hint and juice containers under 40 oz.

In 2011, Kids in the Congo officially become a nonprofit organization based out of Fiskdale. In the beginning, providing educational support was the focus. Kids in the Congo explains why they're focusing on the children in Congo.

The Democratic Republic of Congo is the most mineral rich country in the world. Cobalt and tantalum are essential in the manufacturing of rechargeable batteries used in cell phones, laptops and various electronic devices. In Congo, the use of child slave labor is rampant because of the enormous profits to be made by those in the global supply chain.

According to the research done by the Kids in the Congo nonprofit, Congo provides 75% of the world's cobalt. Many children, who do not get an opportunity to get a good education, find themselves working in the mining process of this product and only receive poor wages; roughly \$2 per day.

Since it was founded in 2008, Kids in the Congo has helped educate over 200 children. As they helped enroll children, the nonprofit has

guaranteed their education through high school graduation.

In 2014, Brouillette went on her first trip to Congo. At that point, there were 50 kids that were enrolled in school. In 2015, Kids in the Congo would start with kids in first grade to help begin their education.

Many of these children that Kids in the Congo helped have been able to pursue further education after high school graduation.

"Education is so critical there," Brouillette said. "Graduates are doing amazing stuff."

The organization also began getting sponsors for kids. These sponsors would contribute \$150 per year per child.

Brouillette has gone to the Democratic Republic of Congo a total of three times. During those trips, the nonprofit would visit at the village schools where the students attend. Kids in the Congo members would bring bracelets, dresses, toys, protractors and other helpful supplies.

In recent years, Kids in the Congo began focusing on raising money for projects. There are three projects the nonprofit is currently try-

ing to fund. One is adding a classroom to Prince of Peace Elementary School in Beni, which costs around \$13,000. Another big project is for a well in the village of Bibwa which has no access to clean water.

The third project is a farm animal project to help provide a sustainable source of food helping to eliminate insecurity in several villages. Getting involved is simple by bringing redeemable bottles to one of the Kids in the Congo drop off locations. Those who wish to donate can also arrange a pickup with Kids in the Congo.

Kids in the Congo is partnered with the Augustinians of the Assumption (Assumptionists) a religious order with priests and brothers working in parishes throughout Congo. This organization has a reenergized board who is working hard to raise awareness. The board consists of four officers and five dedicated volunteers.

Brouillette is dedicated to growing this organization and continues to raise awareness of the importance of providing education to children.

"It is important for people to understand the importance of educating kids," Brouillette said. "Awareness is important."

Donation bins are located at Friendship Baptist Church in Brimfield, Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Sturbridge and St. Anne in Fiskdale. Donations can also be dropped off at 14 Wells Road in Brookfield, or people can text 413-209-6526 for pickup.

Visit www.kidsinthecongo.org to learn more and find out how to donate. You can also call 413-209-6526 or email kidsinthecongo@gmail.com.

Venture Community Services to hold annual Charity Golf Classic

STURBRIDGE – Venture Community Services, one of the Commonwealth's leading nonprofit providers of innovative human services, will host its annual Charity Golf Classic to support the nonprofit's programming for individuals with developmental disabilities on Friday, June 13.

The fundraiser, supported by sponsors Team Hoyt and Country Bank, will also celebrate Venture's 50th anniversary of making a difference in the community.

"We are especially looking forward to this year's Charity Golf Classic as we mark half a century of service," said Mike Hyland, President and CEO of Venture Community Services. "The event truly celebrates the community that supports our mission and enables us to transform the lives of those facing diverse challenges throughout Massachusetts."

Over 120 individuals will come together at Blissful Meadows Golf Club in Uxbridge. The golf tournament will include various challenges with prizes to follow, such as a chance to win \$10,000 with the Stark-

weather & Shepley sponsored \$10K Putt Challenge.

Venture will hold a general raffle as well as a 50th anniversary raffle, with proceeds to benefit the individuals served by the agency.

For more information about supporting the Charity Golf Classic, visit www.venturecs.org/event/golf25 or contact Kerrie Mason at kmason@venturecs.org or 774-922-1136.

About Venture Community Services

Venture Community Services is committed to providing compassionate, person-centered services to nearly 600 people with developmental disabilities and autism across Massachusetts. From its beginnings with two small group homes, Venture has evolved into one of the state's premier human service providers with over 1,000 employees.

Venture encourages independence through a continuum of support, which includes community residential services, day programs, supported employment, transportation, autism supports and shared living. The agency is in its 50th year of providing support to those in need.

Concerts on the Common held monthly in North Brookfield

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Concerts on the Common will be held on select Saturdays on the town common from 6-8 p.m.

Upcoming dates and performers include June 28, DJ Tabby Leblanc, dance party and karaoke; July 26, Stan Matthews and the Rough Riders; and Aug. 30, Superchargers.

These concerts are free, but tips for the band and free will donations toward

future events are appreciated. Food trucks will be available, or people are welcome to bring their own.

Chairs, blankets or something to sit on are encouraged, as well as insect, sun and weather protection.

The Concerts on the Common series is made possible by the North Brookfield Parks and Recreation and the North Brookfield Cultural Council.

Bluegrass Gospel Service will be held on June 22

WEST BROOKFIELD – The George Whitefield United Methodist Church will host a Bluegrass Gospel Service at 10 a.m., June 22, at 33 West Main St.

The program themed "walking each other home" will feature traditional blue-

grass instruments of fiddle, guitar, mandolin, banjo, stand-up bass, harmonica, spoons and voices performing old time favorites along with background stories.

All are welcome. Any questions can be directed to Heidi Jeldres at 978-989-5736.

Church hosts annual chicken BBQ on June 14

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Christ Memorial Episcopal Church, 133 Main St., will hold its annual chicken BBQ on Saturday, June 14, from 1-2 p.m.

The meal includes a half chicken, baked potato, coleslaw, roll, drink, and fresh strawberry shortcake. Take-out or eat in available.

Tickets are sold at the door or call Sandi at 508-867-3272 or Mary at 508-662-8174. Tickets are \$20 per person.



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Kindergarten.....	2
Grade 2	3
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Grade 7	5
Grade 8	15
Grade 9	25
Grade 10	25
Grade 11	25
Grade 12	15

The School Choice application can be downloaded at www.wareps.org or picked up at Central Office 239 West Street, Ware, MA 01082
Deadline to submit applications is June 16, 2025

The selection of non-resident students for admission will be in the form of a random drawing, when the number of requests exceed the number of available spaces.
The drawing, if needed, will take place on June 17, 2025.

The Ware Public School District strives to work with parents and the wider community to educate all students in an environment that supports high academic achievement, instills respect and fosters civic responsibility.

We believe that the ultimate goal of education is to support students as successful lifelong learners.

It is the policy of the Ware Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of age, sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, homelessness, military service, union activity or genetics in its educational programs, activities or employment policies as required by Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments, Chapter 622 of the Massachusetts General Laws, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, M.G.L. c. 71A and c. 76, s. 5.

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- opinion -



Bush beans are a great succession crop

I was “late” planting my bush beans this year, at least according to the calendar. But with the garden being under water for awhile and then mucky for days on end, this past week was the first time conditions were favorable.

We want to grow a lot of beans this year. The kids like them steamed, then stir-fried with garlic. My hope is to have lots of them to freeze, and to do that it will require multiple plantings.

Bush beans are a good example of a vegetable that works well as a succession crop. What that means is that they can be sown multiple times throughout the summer.

Why? Because unlike most other vegetables, beans produce less than 8 weeks from sowing, are not finicky about heat, and as long as you have full sun and average garden soil they can be grown with relative ease.

Consider making additional sowings of this versatile vegetable now before you get busy with the harvest. That way you can enjoy a continuous supply all summer long.

You might still refer to snap or bush beans as “string beans” even though the tough strings that connected the two halves of the pod were bred out of the snap bean beginning in 1884 with Calvin N. Keeney’s in-

roduction of the Stringless Refugee Wax Bean.

Today’s modern stringless beans are a result of those early breeding efforts.

All types of beans require warm soil in which to germinate; 60 degrees at least. White seeded varieties are especially picky about soil temperatures.

Black and tan seeds regulate moisture intake more effectively, and therefore are less likely to rot in cool, wet soils. If you want to gamble with an early sowing, sow these instead.

Many seed companies even tell you the seed color in a description. Usually by May 20 the ground is warm enough to sow all types of beans.

Succession plantings can be made every 10 days through July 30. After that it is unlikely that plants will produce a viable crop before frost hits.

Rather than sowing bean seeds in rows, I make good use of garden space by planting them in a four-foot wide block. Anything wider than four feet would make it difficult to reach in among the plants to harvest.

If soil has been turned over or rototilled first it is easy to simply place the bean seeds on top of the soil

four inches apart and push them into the ground with your index finger, up to the first knuckle. Pat the surface of the soil with your palm to firm, and water well. Germination will take place in a week to 10 days.

It is good practice not to work among the plants after a rainstorm or in the early morning when dew is present. Touching wet foliage can encourage diseases and spread them from plant to plant.

When the foliage is dry you will want to be on the look out for the Mexican Bean Beetle. A bit larger than ladybugs, and all brown, these pests and their fuzzy yellow larvae can decimate a stand of bean plants. Vigilance is the key.

If squashing bugs isn’t for you, dropping them into soapy water will also do them in. Try planting marigolds nearby to deter them.

I have also found through experience that subsequent sowings are best sited away from one another. It will take the beetles a longer time to find the new plants than if they are planted side by side.

Harvest beans when they are still relatively thin. Depending on the variety,

pods can average five to seven inches long at maturity. When inner seeds start to swell and fatten up the bean they aren’t nearly as tasty.

As mentioned, bumper crops are possible, and sometimes it may be difficult to keep up with the harvest. One variety known especially for its holding power is Jade. Beans from this variety retain a deep green color and sport thin pods.

I have also enjoyed growing French beans “Haricot Verts” because they are very long and thin, never tough.

Fresh beans are easy to freeze. Blanch in boiling water for three minutes then plunge into ice water until cooled. Air-dry thoroughly, pack in plastic bags, and place in the freezer. Easy breezy.

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.

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I’m a retired veteran; why must I pay for Medicare?

Dear Rusty:
I’m a retired Navy veteran, who is going to be turning 65 years old this year.

My question is concerning mandatory Medicare sign-up requirements. Why do I have to sign up for Medicare coverage at 65 when I can’t start collecting full Social Security benefits until I turn 67? My Social Security benefits will not pay for my mandatory Medicare because I can’t start collecting full Social Security benefits until I’m 67.

I currently pay for TriCare and utilize my local Veterans Administration medical facilities and referrals for my healthcare. With me turning 65 and having to wait until I’m 67 for my full Social Security benefits, it just seems unfair that I’ll have to pay out of pocket Medicare monthly expenses for two years. Is there any way to avoid this unfair penalty?

Signed: Retired Navy Vet

Dear Retired Navy Vet:
First, I want to thank you for your military service to our country. Please know that here at the AMAC Foundation we care a lot about our veterans and you may find the “For Veterans” section of our Foundation website interesting – visit www.amacfoundation.org.

Regarding your question, you should be aware that enrolling in Medicare is not mandatory, but there are consequences if you do not enroll when you become eligible, normally at age 65). For one thing, if you are a retired veteran on military TriCare, you will lose your TriCare benefits if you don’t enroll in Medicare when you are eligible.

TriCare requires that you enroll in Medicare when eligible. And, since you are not yet collecting Social Security, you will be required to separately pay the Medicare Part B premium directly to Medicare; they will bill you when you

enroll in Medicare. Another potential consequence is that if you do not enroll in Medicare Part B when you are first eligible, you may incur a lifetime late enrollment penalty for enrolling in Part B later.

Something else to keep in mind is that there are two “parts” to Medicare – Part A, which is coverage for inpatient hospitalization services and Part B, which is coverage for outpatient healthcare services – doctors, medical tests, etc. Medicare Part A is free to you, but there is a premium for Medicare Part B (\$185/month for 2025).

Note that you will need to pay a Part B premium as long as you are enrolled in Medicare Part B (it doesn’t go away after you are collecting Social Security, but it is taken from your Social Security payment). And there is no way for you to avoid the Part B premium after enrolling and enrolling in Part B is necessary for you to continue your military TriCare-for-life benefits. Note that Medicare Part A and Part B do not include prescription drug coverage, but your TriCare coverage usually does.

It’s important to note that Medicare and Social Security are two independent senior programs with different eligibility rules. As you may know, you can collect early (reduced) So-

cial Security at age 65 (and have your Medicare Part B premium deducted from your SS payment). But you would be collecting Social Security early and, in addition to a reduced benefit, you would also be subject to Social Security’s annual earnings test if you are still working. The SS earnings test limits how much you can earn before some of your SS benefits are taken away if you exceed the earning limit prior to your full retirement age.

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So, is it unfair that you must pay for Medicare Part B before you are collecting Social Security? Well, I think not, because the two

programs are completely independent benefits (the Social Security Administration merely administers Medicare payments as a convenience). Remember your Medicare Part A is free, but you must pay a premium for Part B, and you must take both to retain your military TriCare-for-Life benefits. You can visit this site to see how to pay your Medicare premiums until it is later deducted from your Social Security payment: www.medicare.gov/basics/costs/pay-premiums/online-bill-pay.

Once again, thank you for your service to our country.

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Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500 and 800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

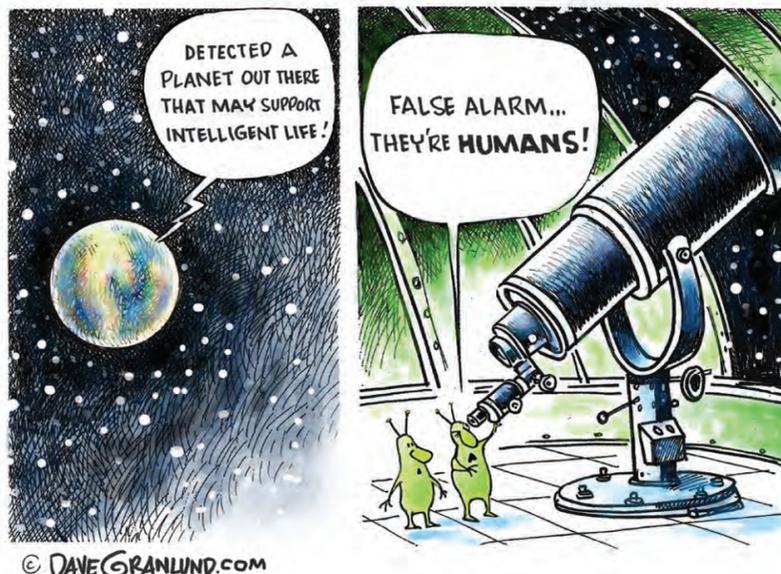
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BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for the Quaboag Current, please email pouimette@turley.com.



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Let them know you saw their ad in the Quaboag Current

- community -



Louise Garwood rings the bell and the 2025 West Brookfield Farmers Market opens for the summer.

FARMERS MARKET FROM PAGE 1

proceeds going to Save The Children to aid vulnerable kids in Ukraine and around the world.

Next came Rhiannon's Light. Bonnie is the impresario of the operation that makes hand poured, eco-friendly candles in small batches. Bonnie, of Welsh descent, named the business after Rhiannon, a famous figure in Welsh literature.

Hunt Road Berry Farm has been at the market probably since the beginning and though the berries are great, the vegetables are as celebrat-

ed. Late spring, they brought strawberries and apples. Also field greens as well as spinach, radishes, scallions, chives, and other crops. Can't wait for the blueberries.

Matt Smith and Leland Mushrooms are at the usual location. The North Brookfield business is back lending variety to the summer market. New this year are the gourmet piopino mushrooms that impart an earthy, nutty flavor. They are not the easiest shroom to grow, but why not a challenge?

New to the summer market, Deep Roots Distillery came up from Fiskdale to



Bonnie and Rhiannon's Light candle company.

provide some baked goods they brought to the winter market and also hummus. This summer, they will be able to sample the liquors and liqueurs they make. The axe throwing that takes place at the Fiskdale shop will not happen...yet.

Crossing over to the other side of the market, there is a vendor who can be called a money changer, literally. Brad takes, say a quarter, and makes it into a ring with the imprint as minted visible. It's not just quarters, nor are they all from the current and last century. Interesting stuff at Coin rings by Brad.

Moving on, we come to an artisan who refers to himself as the Chairman of the Board. It is not in the corporate sense that Wayne Boulette does this, nor is it in the sense Frank Sinatra was. Wayne does a lot with wood, making cutting boards and other useful kitchen utensils that are brought to market. Wayne is a dog lover and has a couple of poodles at home, and part of the chairman's profits go to support the ASPCA.

Next is Joy of Beans Coffee. In charge and doing a good job, is Chase, grandson



Linda Fuchs and Flourish Farm.

of Joy. Joy would return and share a couple of upcoming events. The Otters will be at Joy of Beans on June 20 and a month later, Joy of Beans will be celebrating International Chess Day on July 20.

Next was Linda Fuchs' Flourish Farm with tables covered with a vast selection of starter plants. In discussing the weather, Linda says though it has been up until now a somewhat cold and wet spring, it is not too late to get the plants in, and have a great garden.

Continuing on we find the



Leland Mushrooms are back at the market.



Donald Grimes of Grimes Apiary.

Brookfields extraordinary beekeeper, Donald Grimes. If you like honey and beeswax products, Donald's your man.

Finally, we come to Thompson's Maple Farm. It is a maple farm, but they do a great job with ice cream.

So, it was a fine day and start for the 2025 West Brookfield Summer Farmers Market. The market will run until mid-October and is a great town event. See you next Wednesday.

The Chairman of the Board is shown with his friend.



Deep Roots Distillery came to the market from Fiskdale.



NB SELECTMEN FROM PAGE 1

after MassDOT finished its re-pavement of Route 67, the new road surface would need to be cut by about a foot in order to place the sidewalks, and then repaved.

Food Collaborative update

Karen Farrington of the North Brookfield Community Food Collaborative came before the board to discuss the organization's efforts to address food insecurity in town.

She said the collaborative was founded last summer, and they have partnered with the North Brookfield Public Schools, utilizing its existing food pantry space in the high school. Farrington said high school students help them unload a frozen food delivery each week.

Farrington said a survey was sent out to anyone with school age children, members of the Senior Center and residents at senior housing and low-income housing.

"The response we got was really overwhelming, to see the needs and how many people needed things," she said.

She said the collaborative members began gathering donations and created a schedule so that residents know when food will be delivered. She said Connect Restaurant and the Pizza Palace donate 70 cooked meals to seniors each week.

Transportation is a major hurdle for people in need of assistance, Farrington said, with over 70 families getting home deliveries.

"We're unique in the sense that we deliver," she said.

Farrington said they are now helping over 120 households and it's just going to keep growing.

"The need for food is a struggle for a lot of people," she said.

She asked the board if it would be possible to have a free farmstand at the little park located downtown. She said she would be responsible for the farmstand and its contents.

"I think it's centrally located, it's handicapped accessible, it's easy for people to get to," she said.

Farrington said the common could also be a location for the free farmstand.

She said as the need for food assistance grows, so does the need for donations and volunteers to help deliver meals and groceries.

Farrington said non-perishable, unexpired food items can be dropped off in the box located at 70 Bates St., and monetary donations can be mailed to The Coalition for a Healthy NB, P.O. Box 98, North Brookfield, MA 01535 with checks made payable to The Coalition for a Healthy NB.

Review of ATM/STM warrants

The annual town meeting will be held on Friday, June 13 at 7 p.m. in the North Brookfield Elementary School auditorium. The annual town meeting warrant has 17 articles with several related to bylaw changes, as well as the fiscal year 2026 budget.

A special town meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 24 at 5:45 p.m. in the Police Station to take ac-

tion on an article to transfer money from free cash to Board of Selectmen Downtown Development Engineering Expense.

Spending requests

The board approved three spending requests received from the Cemetery Commission including \$647.70 for emergency repairs on a vehicle; \$1,000 for tree removal from Cutter Cemetery; and \$2,496 to excavate and repair an underground water leak at Walnut Grove Cemetery.

The board also approved a spending request in the amount of \$380 for emergency repairs to the rear window of the Highway Department's backhoe.

Transfer requests

The board approved the following line item transfers: Town Collector, \$61.20 from Collector Clerk's Salary to Postage; and Fire Department, \$1,857 from Fire Training to Fire Salary;

The board also approved the following line item transfers for the Highway Department, \$2,000 from Care of Tree Warden Salary to Tree Maintenance, \$7,214.07 from Snow and Ice Vehicle Repair to Snow and Ice Salary, \$2,161.19 from Snow and Ice Sand to Snow and Ice Salt, \$2,838.81 from Snow and Ice Sand to Snow and Ice Salary and \$281.81 from Highway Salary to Highway Snow and Ice Gas, \$39,181.10 from Highway Salary to Snow and Ice Salt.

The Fire Department submitted a Reserve Fund request in the amount of \$6,000 to be transferred to Fire Salary to fill a negative balance. This request

was approved by the board members.

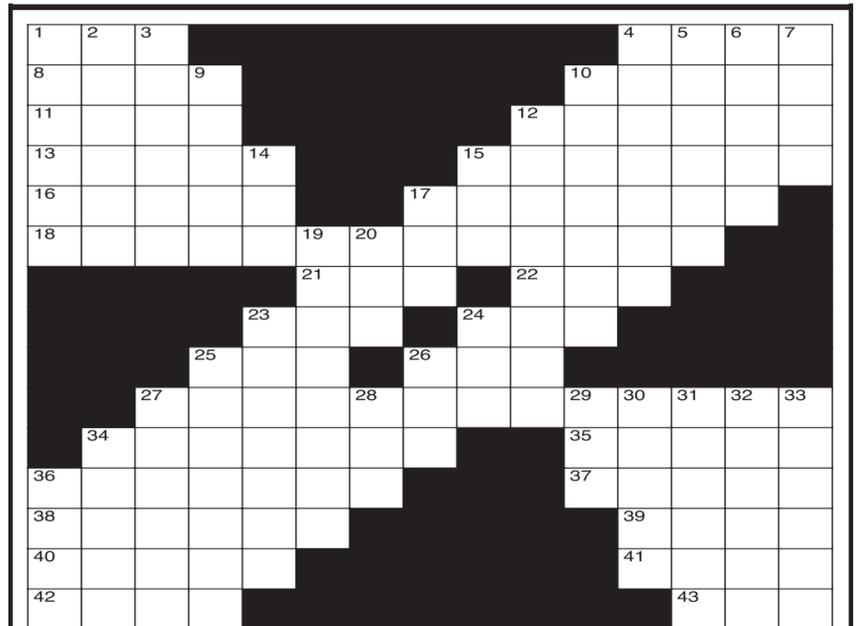
Water Commission appointment

Water Department Superintendent Jamie Flamand said after the annual town

election the Water Commission failed to fill a vacancy; and since then, the Water Commission has had three candidates come forward to fill the term. Flamand said the commission members se-

lected Don Gillette due to his background in construction and water treatment plants.

The board voted in favor of appointing Gillette to fill the vacancy on the Water Commission.



CLUES ACROSS

- Racquet sports association
- Places to sleep
- Native American tribe
- Small platforms
- Egg shape
- Running out
- French painter
- Some are "of the Caribbean"
- Painful intestinal problem
- More irritated
- Prove yourself
- Catch
- Supplement with difficulty
- American automotive giant
- Form of "to be"

CLUES DOWN

- Consisting of uncombined atoms
- Island country
- Heavenly body
- Caribbean island
- Copyread
- A place to eat
- Drops down
- Native group of Alaska
- Engage in
- "Desperate Housewives" lane
- Thyroid-stimulating hormone
- Foot (Latin)
- A place to bathe
- Animosities

- Partner to cheese
- Venus ____, plant
- A donation
- Pokes holes in the ground
- Midway between northeast and east
- Looked into
- Not young
- Annoy constantly
- Something one can strike
- Most glacial
- Ten less than one hundred
- Idle talker
- Has moved through the air
- Container for shipping

Quaboag Regional Middle High School CLASS OF 2025



Jeffrey Hurley, left, and Jack Morgan made their way through the crowd as the graduation ceremony began.



Yousif Khudhair, left and Blake Merrill made their way through the gym during graduation.



Parker Chaffee, left and Izaiah Flores posed for the camera as they walked during graduation.

QUABOAG GRADUATION FROM PAGE 1

Tracy recognized the entire class as a whole. With four years of high school now complete, Tracy said he believes his classmates are ready for the future.

For the musical selection, James Joinville accompanied the Quaboag Singers and performed "Closer to the Flame" by Susan Boersma and David Lantz III. Among the singers were graduating seniors who performed one final time at their school.

Superintendent Stephen Duff gave his address and said this moment is "about a group in its entirety."

Duff expressed thanks to all who are a part of the school community, including the dedicated staff, who were in attendance during the graduation ceremony. Duff describes the staff at the Quaboag Regional School District as the "heart and soul" of the school community.

Going back to the graduating class, Duff said he views this class as inspiring.

"Excellence has been nothing short of inspiring," said Duff. "A powerful sense of community."

Duff said he believes this graduating class is prepared for what is next in their future. The Superintendent also hopes the graduates still remember their journey through high school and remember the connections they made along the way.

"This is more than



Norah Schwenker, left, was the class Salutatorian, and Nora Pennington-Russell was the Valedictorian.

school...it's a family, it's a home," Duff said.

Allison Duszlak went up to the podium to introduce the keynote speaker. Giving the speech was Christina Predella, owner of Oakholm Farms.

Predella used to teach at Quaboag and as part of her speech reflected on her journey and talked about her time at there and then her experiences after leaving.

"Some of my best years were here at Quaboag," Predella said.

According to Predella, accomplishing successes in life takes not only hard work, but also perseverance. "Perseverance is the heartbeat of every success story," said Predella. "Lean into perseverance."

The graduates know they are crossing a major mile-



Class President Richard Tracy is shown during his address.

stone in their lives and Predella wants them to always remember where they came from and how some of their journeys started in high school.

"Never forget where you came from," she said. "Your roots are right here."

Becoming the owner of Oakholm Farms not only consisted of hard work, but a lot of learning curves for Predella, but it was good for her to step out a comfort zone and pursue something to obtain growth.

"Growth never comes from comfort zones," Predella said.

Another musical selection would take place in the school gymnasium. Mr. Joinville said this selection is dedicated to Principal Casey



The National Anthem was performed by Ariendha Andreoli, Parker Chaffee, Toby Chaplin, Allison Duszlak, Abigail Jolin, Josua Learning Jr, Dante Martino, and Falon Rice.



The Quaboag Singers performed "Closer to the Flame".

TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO



Katelynn Swistak introduced the Valedictorian.

Norah Schwenker, who thanked her family, friends and teachers. Schwenker reflected back on her journey



Nora Pennington-Russell is shown during her Valedictorian address.

through high school and expressed appreciation for all the opportunities her class has during their time as stu-

dents. "Let us embrace these new opportunities," Schwenker said.

Student Advisory Council Katelynn Swistak came up to introduce the Valedictorian, her friend, Nora Pennington-Russell. During her speech, Pennington-Russell thanked all the teachers who helped her feel she can truly overcome anything. She also thanked Nurse Dulak, who she believes encouraged her to pursue a career in health-care.

After receiving their diplomas and prior to the turning of the tassels, the Quaboag Class of 2025 along with all who attended gave a big round of applause to the Handfield family.

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Katelynn Swistak, right, is shown alongside her proud father, Mark Swistak, as she received her diploma.



Sebastian Veliz-Baldizon is shown alongside his father, Derick Veliz, who presented his diploma.



The graduates turned their tassel as the Class of 2025's graduation ceremony came to a close.

Quabbin Regional High School CLASS OF 2025



Class of 2025 senior class president Luke Salvatore and valedictorian Irene Stolgitis led the soon to be graduates into the Quabbin Regional High School gym at Friday, June 6 graduation.



Due to rain and afternoon thunderstorms, the Quabbin Regional High School held their graduation ceremony inside the school gymnasium.

QUABBIN GRADUATION FROM PAGE 1

Salvatore in his welcome declared the Class of 2025 to be the greatest Quabbin class of all time. He had his "future self" call his cell phone. He hung up the first time, but he took the call on the second attempt. His "future self" gave him some snippets of the future.

He also thanked the facilities department for setting up the indoor graduation venue. He said they even placed an inflatable goat, a class mascot in one corner.

Principal Purnima DeMorais said tonight marks the beginning of the story ahead of you. She said the most defining moments still to come.

Stolgitis said her goal as a 13 year old was to be valedictorian of her class. She also said it was hard to celebrate when one realizes this is the final days of high school. She said not to look back to but what is to come. The rest is still unwritten.

A selection by the Symphonic Winds, "Choose Joy" by Randall Standbridge and directed by Toni Brown followed the valedictorian's address.

Salutatorian Sydney Gagne then gave her address. She said in elementary school upon hearing the Class of 2025 seemed so far



Twin brothers, Benjamin Bibek, left and Joshua Bibek will enter the military after graduation. Benjamin opted for the U.S. Air Force and Joshua, the U.S. Navy.

away. She said in 2023 she made the decision to participate in a dual enrollment with Quinsagmond Community College. She earned her Associate's Degree this year. She said the program taught her discipline.

The first student speaker Amanda Samaha followed the salutatorian's address. She encouraged her classmates to face challenges head on and related she faced an illness.

The Quabbin Singers under the direction of Julia Tuttle sang "Bridge Over Troubled Water" by Paul Si-

mon. Before the handing out of the diplomas, Superintendent Colleen Mucha addressed the group and then QRSD Committee member Kristyl Kelly followed.

Superintendent Mucha said 20% of the class were in Naval Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps, 10% in chorus and/or band, 38% played multiple sports and 5% earned the Eagle Scout rank. This class had 155 enrolled in freshman year, over the years some opted for other school and tonight 102 graduated.

She referred to them as



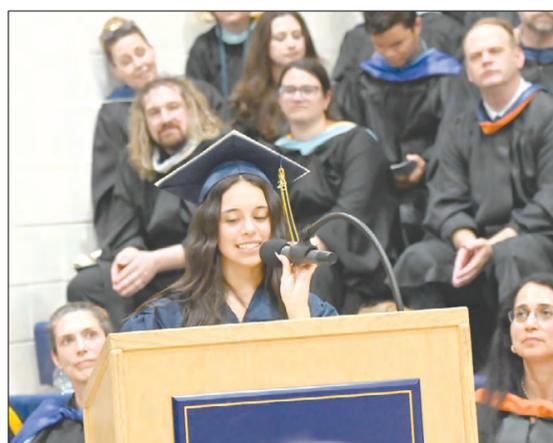
Choral teacher Julia Tuttle directed the Quabbin Singers at the Friday, June 6 Class of 2025 graduation. Senior chorus members joined to sing "Bridge Over Troubled Water" by Paul Simon.



Class of 2025 President Luke Salvatore gave the welcome from the Class of 2025. The inflatable goat can be seen on the roof of the entry in the right corner.

ford, the second student speaker, said she was honored to be standing here as she finished up this chapter of her life.

Class Vice President Ruby Gatulis, and Ellie Frost, class treasurer led their class in the turning of the tassels. Mortarboards then went flying into the air. Finally, the students recessed to "Fanfare and Recessional" by James D. Ployhar.



Abigail Crawford was one of the student speakers at the Quabbin Regional High School graduation. To the right is Quabbin Regional High School Principal Purnima DeMorais.



Quabbin Regional School District Committee Vice Chairman Debra Chamberlain, right, gets ready to hand out a diploma. QRSD Superintendent Colleen Mucha then congratulated the student.



Quabbin Regional High School Principal Purnima DeMorais, left and QRSD Committee Chairman Mark Brophy process in during the beginning of the graduation ceremony. School Committee member Mark Wigler is behind them.



Class Salutatorian Sydney Gagne spoke at the Quabbin Regional High School graduation on Friday, June 6.

Celebrating Our Graduates

Congratulations & best wishes!

Your Success is BIG NEWS!
We are very proud of you!

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- community -

Ham radio operators take to the field in West Brookfield

Emergency Communications Drill to be held on June 28

WEST BROOKFIELD – On Saturday, June 28, from 2-6 p.m., the Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club will participate in the annual American Radio Relay League Field Day on the town common. Field Day is the largest

emergency communication exercise in North America, sponsored by the ARR), and it brings together over 35,000 licensed amateur radio operators across the U.S. and Canada. The goal is to set up temporary stations using off-grid power to demonstrate ham radio's ability to provide vital communications during natural disasters, power outages, and other emergencies.

The public is invited to stop by and learn about amateur radio, see it in action, and even try making a radio contact. Club members will be on hand to explain how amateur radio supports emergency preparedness, provides public service communications, and how anyone can get started and earn a license. This is a great opportunity

for anyone interested in technology, communication, or community service to see firsthand how ham radio can connect people when it matters most. For more information about the Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club, visit www.qvarc.com. Come join them on the town common and discover the power and fun of amateur radio.

St. Michael Romanian church's benefit turkey dinner

STURBRIDGE – The Publick House Historic Inn and Restaurant will host another in their series of community dinners on Monday, June 16, this time to benefit St. Michael Romanian Orthodox Church of Southbridge.

The Publick House cooks for many local organizations as a way of giving back to the commu-

nity. Each sponsored organization receives a portion of the ticket price for every dinner served. The dinner will offer two seating times to accommodate guests: an early seating from 4:30-6 p.m. and a later seating from 6:30-8 p.m. Attendees will be treated to a buffet-style meal that includes oven-roasted turkey, cornbread-sausage

stuffing, mashed potatoes, butternut squash and cranberry sauce. Tickets are priced at \$17 per adult and \$7 for children aged 4-12 years. To purchase tickets or for additional information, please reach out to Spiro Thomo at 774-200-8043 or Jen Boilard at 508-801-3030. Payments may be made

by cash or check made payable to The Publick House. Tickets are pre-paid only, no tickets will be sold at the door. The deadline for ticket purchases is Friday, June 13. The mission of St. Michael Romanian Orthodox Church is to experience the grace of God and to share it with others.

- obituary -

Dorothy C. Fullam, 92

PRINCETON, NJ/WEST BROOKFIELD – Dorothy C. Fullam of Princeton, New Jersey and West Brookfield, passed away on June 6, 2025, at the age of 92.

She was a model of kindness to all she met and was devoted to family and the organizations she supported to persevere the best of the past, make land available for public enjoyment and promoting first generation women attending colleges.

She was born on May 9, 1933, to Dorothy Dane and Harold C. Cochran in West Brookfield where her family lived for generations. She attended Warren High School in Warren, Pine Manor Junior College in Brookline and the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. She worked at Guaranty Bank of Worcester after college.

In 1968 Dorothy (known as Dotty to everyone) married Walter F. Fullam, whose family also came from West Brookfield. They made their home in Princeton but continued to spend summers in West Brookfield. After his death in 2000, she continued to return to her family home each summer in Massachusetts.

She embraced all things Princeton including: the Princeton Historical Society, McCarter Theater, D&R Greenway, Nassau Presbyterian Church, the Nassau Club, Morven, Drumthwacket and the Woman's College Club, an organization dedicated to financially supporting young women in college. Through her work with the family, the Cedar Ridge Preserve was established in Hopewell, New Jersey.

Dotty also kept and grew all her connections to West Brookfield. She was a lifetime member of the First Congregational Church and a member of Old Sturbridge Village for over 70 years, where four generations of her family have worked.

She was a member of the Village Council of Ambassadors. This is a job she took seriously and with enthusiasm. She always engaged anyone she met in a discussion about the Village and an invitation to visit.

She was also a founding member of the Jedediah Foster Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution,

DEATH NOTICE

Fullam, Dorothy C.
Died June 6, 2025
Services June 14, 2025

in West Brookfield. Her support for Lady Doak College, in Maduri, India stemmed from her connection to

Reverend Joseph Gaylord, whose daughter Helen co-founded the college for women in 1948.

Dotty attended decades of Adams Family Reunion Picnics at the Rock House in West Brookfield. As a long-term member of the Trustees of the Reservation, she and Walter established the Rock House Preserve. In addition, she continued to support the East Quabbin Land Trust, which recently established the Little Marshy Meadow pocket park in West Brookfield.

Preceded in death by her husband and stepson, Caleb, she is survived by her stepson W. Ross Fullam and his wife Wendy and stepson Francis A. Fullam and his wife Patricia, as well as five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her cousin, Ralph Cochran, and his family.

She left a legacy of kindness to all. She demonstrated this every day and was loved by many for her generous and thoughtful good nature. She kept track and acknowledged the birthdays of hundreds of people. And every kindness to her was acknowledged with a swift and heartfelt thank you note.

Family was paramount to her, and she remained the center of activities and gatherings. She was a blessing to all who knew her and will be sorely missed.

Funeral arrangements will be under the direction of Mather-Hodge Funeral Home, Princeton. There will be a graveside service at Princeton Cemetery on Saturday, June 14, 2025, at 11 a.m. Later this summer there will be a memorial service for her at the First Congregational Church of West Brookfield.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to: The Women's College Club of Princeton, P.O. Box 3181, Princeton, NJ 08540 and The East Quabbin Land Trust (P.O. Box 5, Hardwick, MA 01037), designated to the Little Marshy Meadow.



New Braintree Police Log

During the week of June 2-9, the Hardwick New Braintree Police Department responded to 10 building/property checks, 10 directed/area patrols, four radar assignments, six emergency 911 calls, two illegal dumpings, two assist other agencies, three safety hazards, one complaint, one investigation, two fires, one harassment, one motor vehicle accident, two animal calls and three motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, June 2
8:49 a.m. Illegal Dumping, West Brookfield Road, Services Rendered

6:39 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Oakham, Services Rendered

Wednesday, June 4
3:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Brookfield Road, Written Warning
5:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old Turnpike Road, Citation Issued

Thursday, June 5
2:06 a.m. Medical Emergency, Gilbertville Road, Transported to Hospital
8:27 a.m. Illegal Dumping, Utley Road, Report Taken
8:22 p.m. Disturbance, Utley Road, Officer Handled

Friday, June 6

12:16 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Road, Transported to Hospital
2:19 a.m. Fire Alarm, West Brookfield Road, Services Rendered

8:46 a.m. Safety Hazard, McEvoy Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

12:40 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Crash, Barre Road, Services Rendered

3:33 p.m. Safety Hazard, Ravine Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

5:29 p.m. 911 Welfare Check, McEvoy Road, Officer Handled

Saturday, June 7
9:40 a.m. Safety Hazard,

McKay Road, Unknown Outcome

3:36 p.m. 911 Fire/Other, Unitas Road, Services Rendered

4:13 p.m. Harassment, Utley Road, Spoken To

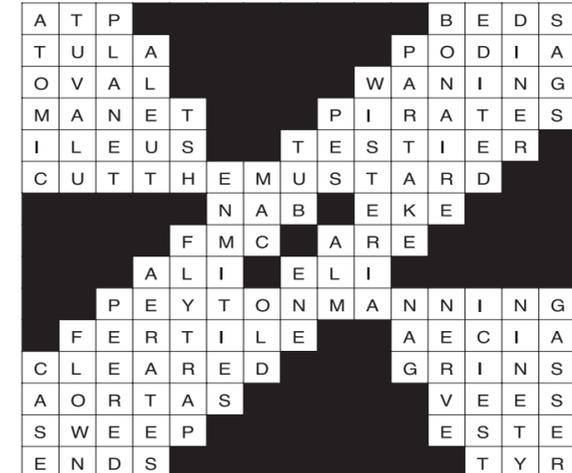
Sunday, June 8
1:53 a.m. 911 Fire/Other, Goodfield Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

12:56 p.m. Investigation, Unitas Road, Officer Handled

5:12 p.m. Assist Other Agency, McKay Road, Officer Handled

6:59 p.m. Complaint, Ravine Road, Officer Handled

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Warriors take down Montachusett

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

FSKDALE—If the members of the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School softball team had any thoughts about handing Tantasqua Regional its first loss of the season, they didn't last very long.

The fourth-seeded Lady Warriors held a 7-0 lead after the first two innings and they coasted to a 12-0 home victory over the 20th-seeded Bulldogs, last Wednesday afternoon.

The Division 3 round of 16 game came to an end with two outs in the bottom of the fifth inning due to the 12-run mercy rule.

"It's always very important to take an early lead in every game that you play," said Tantasqua head coach Frank Moccio. "We set the tone of the game in the first inning."

The home victory improved Tantasqua's overall season record to a perfect 22-0. The last time that the Lady Warriors suffered a loss was at Medfield, 6-3, in a Division 3 preliminary round game on May 31, 2024.

The Lady Warriors began this year's state tournament with a 5-2 home win versus 36th-seeded Fontbonne

Academy in the round of 32. There wasn't very much drama in the round of 16 contest.

After freshman righthander Keira McCord struck out the side in order in the top of the first inning, the Lady Warriors put four runs on the scoreboard in the bottom half of the frame.

The rally began with a leadoff walk to sophomore shortstop Jewels Norman. She stole second base before junior second baseman Jules Peterson also drew a walk. Both runners moved into scoring position following a wild pitch. Then McCord helped herself by hitting a sacrifice fly to right field. Senior first baseman Maddy Luce followed by hitting a hard ground ball into left field which scored another run. Following a walk to senior right fielder Alexi Hague, freshman third baseman Olivia Fiske lined a two-run single into center field.

The Bulldogs threatened against McCord in the second.

Sophomore Maggie Perna drew a leadoff walk and freshman starting pitcher Mabel Miling beat out a taper in front of the plate for an infield hit. The next two batters struck out before an-

See WARRIORS PAGE 10

Bankers grab win as Tri-County opens season

HOLYOKE — The Tri-County Baseball League, which still contains the best quality adult baseball in the region, was back in action last week. Multi-time champion PeoplesBank opened up their season last Thursday at Holyoke's Mackenzie Stadium and defeated Hilltown Tents 15-5. James Flahive got the win while catcher Pete Hogan homered for the Bankers.



Cam Rivest catches a fly ball to right.



Lefty James Flahive delivers home.



Catcher Pete Hogan slides safely into third.



Cam MacDonald comes up throwing home.



Johnny Gegetskas is safe at home.



Dave Clark fields a ground ball to second.

Mutiny return home to record win over Eagles

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW — Even though the weather was miserable, it was still an enjoyable evening for the New England Mutiny players and their faithful supporters.

The Mutiny, who scored a pair of second half goals, defeated the Ole' Eagles, 2-0, in front of a large crowd on a rainy night at Lusitano Stadium last Saturday.

"It's always nice to win at home," said Mutiny head coach Federico Molinari. "I thought we played very well tonight, especially during the second half."

The Mutiny (2-0) began the regular season by posting a 4-1 home win over Maine Footy two weeks earlier. That match was stopped by the referee in the middle of the second half due to a thunderstorm.



Chloe Laizer gets ready to send the ball away.

The Ole' Eagles (0-1), who are from Trumbull Connecticut, is a first year member of United Women's Soccer, which is celebrating its tenth season.

A couple of the Mutiny players saw their first action in the second home match of the regular season.

Chloe Laizer, who's

graduating this week from West Springfield High School, was the starting goalie.

During the second minute of the first half, Alexa Pino fired a shot from the left side of the box, but Laizer made the diving save keep the visiting team off the scoreboard.

"This was my first start with the Mutiny, and I was a little bit nervous before the game. I had a lot more confidence after making the early save," said Laizer, who'll be a freshman on the St. Michael's College women's soccer team in the fall. "Playing a game in the rain and wind is very challenging, especially as a goalie."

Pino, who'll be a freshman at the University of South Carolina in the fall, is the two-time Connecticut Gatorade Player of the Year.

The Mutiny back-up goalie was Maddie Riley, who's a member of the



Laci Lewis looks to deke out an opponent.



Olivia Crespo makes her way up the field.

See MUTINY PAGE 10



Several outgoing seniors were honored at a recent Pioneers game.

Western United pioneers celebrate 37 graduating seniors

By Abigail McCoy
Staff Writer
amccoy@turley.com

LUDLOW — The evening of May 31 was filled with pride, emotion, and celebration as the Western United Pioneers Football Club honored 37 graduating seniors during a special halftime ceremony at historic Lusitano Stadium. Held under the lights and light rain, the event brought together families, coaches, alumni, and soccer fans to recognize the achievements of student-athletes who have helped shape the club's legacy.

"These individuals have been more than just players on the field," said Western United Pioneers FC President Carlos Chaves in his opening remarks. "They have been ambassadors of the club and pillars of our community. Their dedication, passion, and sportsmanship have left an indelible mark on our organization."

The evening's recognition ceremony honored graduating players from the club's junior

academy, many of whom are continuing their athletic careers at the collegiate level. Chaves emphasized that the event was more than a send-off, it was a celebration of personal growth, commitment, and the role these players have played in the club's success.

Among the honorees were standout players such as Chloe Laizer, Abigail Toomey, and Hudson Manzolini. One graduate, Chloe Laizer, was even the starting goalkeeper for the night's match with the New England Mutiny, the region's senior women's professional team that shares a deep connection with the youth academy.

"Most of the women on the Mutiny roster are NCAA Division I collegiate athletes," Chaves explained. "And Chloe, a high school senior, started in goal tonight. That tells you what kind of talent and commitment we're celebrating."

Founded with the mission of developing young talent, the Western United Pioneers program today serves around

800 athletes, half boys and half girls, from ages 4 through high school. The program has grown into a vital part of the regional soccer landscape, nurturing talent and fostering community spirit.

"Tonight is about all 37 of our graduating seniors," said Chaves. "Whether they're going on to play in college or moving forward in life in other ways, we're proud of them. We want to recognize the dedication and passion they've shown not just to the sport, but to our community."

Names of all the graduates were read aloud during the halftime ceremony, receiving enthusiastic applause from the packed stands. The full list includes:

Katelyn Gilhooly, Calleigh Foley, Avery D'Amour, Allison Morris, Mia Carvalho, Evan Costa, Sophia Scyocurka, Brianna Ribeiro, Robert Bustamante, Ethan Sousa, Eleanor Leland, Colette Thayer, Taylor Colberg, Taryn Cariveau, Madeline Hockman, Parker Tunley, Gabriella Fialho, Lilliana Barkyoub, and

See PIONEERS PAGE 10

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- sports -

T-Birds bringing back Community Caravan

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds are proud to announce the return of the T-Birds Community Caravan, with support from MassMutual, marking the third annual summer tour designed to bring the excitement of Thunderbirds hockey to communities across the region.

This year's Caravan will include three stops throughout the Greater Springfield area during the summer months, continuing the initiative's mission to keep the T-Birds top-of-mind in the offseason while deepening

the team's connection to local families and fans. This summer's Caravan dates are as follows:

•Saturday, June 14 - Forest Park, Springfield – 12 to 2 p.m.

•Saturday, July 19 - Sonny's Place, Somers, CT - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

•Saturday, August 9 - Amelia Park Ice Arena, Westfield - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. *

*The Westfield Community Caravan will also feature the annual T-Birds Street Hockey Tournament on the outdoor deck hockey court at Amelia Park. The Street

Hockey Tournament features teams of players ages 9-12. To register your team, click here.

"After a fantastic continuation of the program last summer, we're thrilled to bring back the Caravan and keep building on its success," said Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa. "We're equally excited to welcome back MassMutual as a partner and thank them for embracing our mission of being champions in the community beyond the Thunderdome."

Each free-to-attend event will feature appearances by

Thunderbirds mascot Boom-er, team staff, and a lively mix of interactive games, street hockey, family-friendly activities, and local vendors. Fans can also enjoy delicious food options, with each Caravan date spotlighting a local nonprofit beneficiary, helping to raise awareness and support for impactful community organizations.

"We're delighted to support the Springfield Thunderbirds not only on the ice but also throughout the local community," said Dennis Duquette, head of community responsibility at Mass-

Mutual and president of the MassMutual Foundation. "Their caravan provides terrific activities for local kids and families, and we're proud to be a part of it."

The Springfield edition of the Caravan will be collecting donations benefiting The Gray House. Among the requested items are baby food, diapers and wipes, school supplies, and non-perishable food items. The Thunderbirds will also be hosting food drives at the July and August Caravan stops. The July Caravan at Sonny's Place will benefit the Enfield Food

Shelf in Connecticut, while the August Caravan in Westfield will collect items for the Westfield Food Pantry.

Additional information for all Community Caravans will be released in the coming weeks via the Thunderbirds' website and social media channels.

For more information on upcoming events, including the Community Caravan, stay tuned to the T-Birds on social media @ThunderbirdsAHL, or visit the Community Tab on www.SpringfieldThunderbirds.com.

WARRIORS FROM PAGE 9

other walk to freshman designated player Hailey Cummings loaded the bases.

McCord got out of the jam without giving up a run with another strikeout.

Then McCord retired nine of the final ten Monty Tech batters that she faced. She finished the game with a one-hitter with three walks and ten strikeouts.

With one-out in the bottom of the second, McCord drove home two more runs by hitting a towering shot off the center field fence for a triple. She scored on a wild pitch giving the Lady Warriors a 7-0 lead.

McCord also led off the fourth inning with a double to right field before scoring on a throwing error by the shortstop. A couple of bat-

ters later, Hague grounded a single up the middle bringing home another run. Fiske also had a run, scoring double in that inning.

The Lady Warriors, who banged out a total of 12 base hits, final two runs of the game were scored with two-outs in the fifth. Senior catcher Emma Quinn knocked home the first run with a double. Then Hague ended the ball game a couple of innings early with a ground ball RBI single into left field.

"We haven't been able to get this far in the state tournament during my high school career," Hague said. "It feels very good, and we just want to keep winning games."

Hague is a senior tri-captain, along with Luce and Quinn.

MUTINY FROM PAGE 9

girls' varsity soccer team at Ludlow High School.

Both teams had several corner kicks during the first half, but the match was still scoreless at half-time.

The Mutiny finally broke the ice with a corner kick goal in the 56th minute.

Avery Galante sent the ball into the box from the left corner where Maya Mathis, who's a defender, sent a shot into the back of the net past goalie Emily Robinson for her first goal as a Mutiny player.

"Avery and I are best friends. We used to play on a club soccer team together," Mathis said. "My younger sister, Sadie, was

also on the field when I scored my goal, so it was very exciting sharing that moment with them."

Maya Mathis, who graduated from Acton Boxboro Regional High School, was a member of the UConn women's soccer team during the past two seasons before entering the transfer portal. She'll be joining the University of Kansas women's soccer team this fall.

"I just wanted to make a change and go to a part of the country where I've never been before," Maya Mathis said. "I'm really excited about playing soccer at Kansas."

Sadie Mathis will be playing soccer at Boston College.

About twenty minutes later, the Mutiny were giv-

en a penalty kick following a foul inside the box.

Taylor Jenkins, who also plays at UConn, put the PK into the right corner making the score 2-0.

A couple of local players who played in the home match are Maddy Theriault (Palmer), Tennessee Murphy (Monson) Kylie Ray (Minnechaug), Bella Meadows (Pope Francis/Chicopee) Olivia Crespo (Ludlow), and Avery Klingensmith (Belchertown).

The New England Mutiny will be one of the four teams competing in the inaugural Brandi Chastain Cup. The Mutiny will be facing Richmond Ivy of the USL W-league at City Stadium in Richmond, VA. On Thursday night.

"It's really special for us to be regarded as one of the

top teams in our league," said Klingensmith, who's is a member of the American University women's soccer "We're very excited about playing in that game. The team that we'll be playing has some quality players, so it'll be a challenging match for us."

If the Mutiny defeats Richmond Ivy, they'll be hosting the finals of the Brandi Chastain Cup on June 18 at Lusitano Stadium. The California Storm beat Pan World Elite, 4-1, in the other semifinal, which was held in May.

The Mutiny will also play two regular season road matches against NJ Alliance and the Ole' Eagles before returning home to face Racing Power FC on June 14.

PIONEERS FROM PAGE 9

Derke Lonczak, Ryan Baublitz, Madison Rathbone, Norah Walsh, Nicholas Byrnes, Matthew Ryan, Loretta Petraszewicz, Carlos David, Thomas Wadas, Otis Chuan, Pasquale D'Ascoli, Helen Vissas, Casimir Pierre, Chloe Laizer, Joey Borelli, Abigail Toomey, Ryleigh Remillard, Fallon Clancy, and Hudson Manzolini.

The evening also marked a confluence of tradition and celebration. Lusitano Stadium, one of the nation's oldest soccer-specific stadiums, served as a fitting venue for such an occasion. Built in the 1920s, the walled stadium is home to both the Western Mass Pioneers (USL League Two) and the New England Mutiny (United Women's Soccer), both of which maintain strong ties to the junior academy.

"What makes this place special is the culture," said Chaves. "It's intimate, it's family-driven. You've got volunteers in the kitchen and at the bar. You've got local beer and Portuguese sandwiches being served. It feels like home."

Despite dreary weather earlier in the day, spirits remained high following the club's spring picnic held before the match. Over 450 players, families, and sup-

porters turned out for the event, which blended the grassroots spirit of the club with the professionalism of a matchday experience.

"Our kids had their picnic in the rain, and then they stayed for the game," Chaves said. "That's what community looks like."

As the Pioneers look to the future, leadership remains committed to fostering talent through experienced coaching and mentorship.

The junior program's Director of Coaching, Federico Molinari, brings professional playing experience from Argentina and Italy and also serves as head coach for both the Mutiny and the men's pro team.

"We're a nonprofit, and what sets us apart is the soccer-specific culture and family atmosphere," Chaves said. "We're not just building players...we're building people."

As the night concluded,

seniors posed for photos, hugged their teammates, and soaked in the applause one final time as youth players of the Western United Pioneers FC. The send-off was not only a tribute to past accomplishments but a call to future greatness.

"You will always be part of our family," said Chaves. "And we look forward to seeing the amazing things you'll accomplish next."

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Turley Publications will print your Autumn event **FREE OF CHARGE** in our **Autumn Fest Supplement** which will be published **September 10, 2025.**

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***Be sure to indicate "Autumn Event" in the subject line of your email.**

- community -

BUDGET HEARING FROM PAGE 1

current budget. He said the initial request for the FY 26 budget at the start of the year was \$8.2 million and it included two additional positions in order to create a new sub-separate classroom.

McCormick said budget drivers continue to be salaries, out of district tuition costs and transportation. He said the cost of transportation for FY 26 is just shy of \$1 million, and it

is not included in the net school spending formula.

"We started to work on some of these numbers knowing that we would have to make some cuts to support this budget," McCormick said.

McCormick said savings were made through staff realignments, which includes replacing outgoing staff with new hires at a lower pay rate.

"We were able to replace positions, at sometimes close to \$50,000 less than

what we're paying for those current staff members," he said.

McCormick said the fuel oil line item was also reduced by 15,000 gallons (about \$40,000) by looking at heating trends over the past few years.

He said the school district received a \$75,000 state grant which can be used to offset the salary for a district-wide STEM teacher by \$25,000.

McCormick said athletic transportation was reduced

by about \$17,000 and one bus was cut to give a further cost savings of about \$90,000. He said materials and supplies were also cut to help reduce the budget.

"That's a total savings... just shy of \$525,000," McCormick said.

McCormick said an increase in Circuit Breaker and transportation reimbursements have also helped to add to the number of off-sets for the FY 26 budget.

The School Committee voted to accept the budget as

presented by McCormick.

"There's been a lot of work done to come to this point," Committee Chair John Magario said.

Public comment

An English Language Arts teacher in the high school whose position has been cut in the FY 26 budget, said the teachers and staff work "exceedingly hard" in the school district.

"Every day is a joy and a battle at the same time," she said. "We have the absolute pleasure of working with

the children in this town... but we also have the uphill battle of having to deal with folks who just want to slander and defame."

She said it was unfortunate that an override wasn't considered as an option to help address the budget shortfalls.

The committee members and residents attending the budget hearing discussed the need for more federal and state aid to help take some of the financial burden off of the taxpayers.

SELECTBOARD FROM PAGE 1

but instead pushes people to purchase their nips out of town instead.

She said nips account for 8% of their sales.

She said she is hoping the state will place a deposit on nips bottles, to help reduce littering and give people more incentive to pick up any dropped bottles to redeem them. She said Yankee Spirits and its staff is committed to helping the town address the littering problem.

"On behalf of all of us, I ask that you not move forward with this," she said. "We look forward to working with the town, we are committed to helping and being a part of solution that we discuss, but we cannot support a nips ban."

Dowling thanked the business owners for presenting information about the ban of nips sales and sharing ideas to address littering.

Goodwin said he is not comfortable taking a vote on the ban of nips sales at this time and he said something needs to be done at the state level to address the littering of nips.

"It is a problem, and it is a problem that needs to be communicated viciously and aggressively to Beacon Hill," Goodwin said. "We've got a liquor problem, and we've got a driving drunk problem."

Town Administrator Robin Grimm said she will partner with the liquor store owners to help create a "Keep Sturbridge Beautiful" program to encourage people to return nips bottles to recycle them.

"We're not going to stop everybody from tossing junk out the window, but if we could at least incentivize and help people to bring those bottles back," she said.

Affordable Housing Trust program

Town Planner Jean Bubon and Housing Coordinator April Griffin presented an update about the Affordable Housing Trust's work over the past year.

"We've been working pretty hard this past year getting the Affordable Housing Trust up and running and developing some programs," Bubon said.

Bubon said the trust has a buy down program for income-eligible applicants including people ages 55 and over, first time homebuyers, displaced homemakers, single parents and more, to help purchase a home. She said the award can range from \$75,000-100,000, funded through the Affordable Housing Trust account.

"In exchange, a permanent deed restriction will be placed on that home so it

will be affordable in perpetuity," she said.

Bubon said she is hoping they will be able to approve two affordable homes this year.

"I think it's a great program; it provides homeownership opportunities, it contributes to our subsidized housing inventory and we're hoping that you'll support this very valuable, very great program so that we can move forward with it," she said.

The Select Board voted in favor of approving the buy down program.

DPW contracts

The Select Board voted to accept an engineering contract with Tighe & Bond in the amount of \$64,000 after receiving town meeting approval to expend the funds.

Department of Public Works Director Heather Blakeley said this con-

tract will address necessary maintenance to coat the large settling tanks at the wastewater treatment plant.

The Select Board also approved an intermunicipal agreement to participate in the Central Massachusetts Regional Stormwater Coalition from fiscal year 2026 through FY 2030 with an annual fee of \$4,000.

Blakeley said the town has participated in this intermunicipal agreement for about 15 years now.

"This has been a very valuable resource for us here in central Mass," she said. "It's a very valuable tool of how to meet some of our stormwater goals and tell us how to meet them going forward."

Liquor license hearing

The Select Board approved an all-alcohol beverages liquor license for Sturbridge Luxury Cinema, LLC, located at 100 Charl-

ton Road.

Sewer abatement

An Arnold Road resident requested an abatement for her abnormally high sewer bill, which she initially contacted the town about last fall.

The homeowner said she recently discovered leaks in her home's lawn irrigation system, which caused the bill to increase during summer usage. She said the interest has built up on her sewer bill, which she had not paid since the discrepancy was noted last year.

Select Board Chair Jamie Goodwin said the board would not be able to abate the sewer bill, as the cause of the increase was not the town's responsibility. The board was also unable to wave the interest that had accumulated through late fees.

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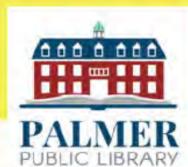
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**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Energy Facilities Siting Board
Notice of Adjudication
And Public Comment Hearing
EFSB 24-02/D.P.U. 24-190
New England Power Company
d/b/a National Grid
(Palmer to Ware Transmission Project)**

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/palmer-to-ware-transmission-project>
Project Summary and Public Comment Hearing Overview

New England Power Company d/b/a National Grid (the "Company") filed petitions seeking approval to construct, operate, and maintain a new overhead transmission line in Palmer, West Brookfield, and Ware, Massachusetts that will replace approximately 10.

35 miles of an existing transmission line in the same right-of-way (the "Replacement Line"). The Company plans to remove the existing transmission line and existing 147 structures; the Company would then replace the existing structures with 112 steel structures and construct, re-establish, and improve utility access routes. The Replacement Line would continue operating at 69 kilovolts ("kV") although capable of operating at 115 kV in the future, if needed. This work is referred to herein as the "Palmer to Ware Transmission Project" or the "Project." The Project description and maps of the Project site are provided below.

The Siting Board will conduct a public comment hearing with both in-person and remote participation options:

Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

Location: Palmer High School Auditorium

**4105 Main St
Palmer, MA 01069**

Remote attendees: join by clicking this link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86262871350>

For audio-only participation, attendees can dial in at (646) 558-8656 (not a toll-free number) and then enter the Webinar ID: 862 6287 1350.

To provide oral comments during the public comment hearing (in person or on Zoom), please send an email to Yonathan.Mengesha@mass.gov with your name, email address, and mailing address by **noon, June 24, 2025**. To sign up by telephone, please leave a voice-mail message referencing "EFSB 24-02/D.P.U. 24-190" at (617) 305-3544 with your name, telephone number, and mailing address. Pre-registered commenters will speak first, and other commenters afterwards.

The Siting Board also invites written comments on the Project. Written comments will be most useful to the Siting Board if submitted by **Friday, July 11, 2025**.

Important Dates

Public Comment Hearing **June 25, 2025**

Deadline to file written comments **July 11, 2025**

Deadline to file for intervention/limited participant status **July 11, 2025**

Public Comment Hearing

At the public comment hearing, the Company will present an overview of the Project. Public officials and members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments about the proposed Project. The public comment hearing will be transcribed by a court reporter. A recording of the public comment hearing will be available on the **Siting Board's YouTube channel** after the hearing, at https://www.youtube.com/@MaDPU_hearing

Public Review of the Company's Petition

A detailed description of the Project, links to the Company's petitions, attachments, and analysis, and periodic updates are available via the Siting Board's webpage for the Project <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/palmer-to-ware-transmission-project>. The Company also maintains a webpage for the Project: <https://palmartowareimprovementproject.com/>.

Hard copies of the Company's petitions, including all attachments, are available for public inspection at the following locations:

Boston
Energy Facilities Siting Board
One South Station, 3rd floor
Boston, MA 02110

Palmer
Clerk's Office
4417 Main St. Ste 10
Palmer, MA 01069

Palmer Public Library
1455 N Main Street
Palmer, MA 01069

West Brookfield
Clerk's Office
2 East Main Street
West Brookfield, MA 01585

Merriam-Gilbert Public Library
3 West Main Street
West Brookfield, MA 01585

Ware
Clerk's Office
126 Main Street - Suite F
Ware, MA 01082

Young Men's Library Association
37 Main Street
Ware, MA 01082

Decision on the Project Proposal

The public comment hearing marks the beginning of an official, state-level decision-making process focused on whether the Project should be approved. The Siting Board will make the decision based on the following laws:

1) Under G.L. (Massachusetts General Law) c.(chapter) 164, § (section) 69J, the Siting Board will review the Company's proposed Project to determine whether the Project will provide a reliable energy supply with a minimum impact on the environment at the lowest possible cost.

2) Under G.L. c. 164, § 72, the Siting Board will determine whether the proposed Project is necessary, serves the public convenience, and is consistent with the public interest.

Intervention and Participation

Persons or groups who wish to be involved in the Siting Board proceeding, beyond providing comments at the public comment hearing or submitting written comments, may seek either to intervene as a party or to participate as a limited participant. A petition to intervene or participate must also be filed no later than July 11, 2025, and follow the instructions provided below.

"Intervenor" or "Party" Status: An intervenor can participate fully in the evidentiary phase of the proceeding, including the right to participate in evidentiary hearings, file a brief and present comments to the Siting Board on the Tentative Decision, and to appeal a Final Decision.

"Limited Participant" Status: A limited participant receives documents during the proceeding and may file a brief and present comments regarding the Tentative Decision to the Siting Board.

A petition to intervene must demonstrate that the petitioner may be substantially and specifically affected by this proceeding. See below for filing instructions. For more information on the Siting Board's procedural rules, please see the following link: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/980-cmr-105/download>.

Filing Instructions

Written comments on the Project, or a petition to intervene or participate as a limited participant in this proceeding, must be filed in two places:

First, the comments or petition must be sent to the Siting Board by email - to dpu.efiling@mass.gov AND to Connor.C.Tarr@mass.gov no later than the close of business on July 11, 2025. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (EFSB 24-02/D.P.U. 24-190); (2) the name of the person or entity submitting the filing; and (3) a brief description of the document. The email should also include the name, title, and telephone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing.

Second, the comments or petition must be sent by email to counsel for the Company, Catherine Keuthen, Esq. at ckeuthen@keeganwerlin.com.

Accommodation Requests

Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities (e.g., Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format) are available upon request. To submit a request for an accommodation, please email Melixza Esenyie - Non-Discrimination Coordinator and Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs at eadiversity@mass.gov, or call 617-626-1282. In your communication, please include a description of the request with as much detail as possible and provide a way we can contact you if we need more information. Please allow at least one week (7 days) advance notice. Last-minute requests will be accepted, but we may be unable to fulfill them.

Language interpretation services are available upon request. Include in your request the language required and a way to contact you if we need more information. Requests may be made at least one week (7 days) in advance. It may not be possible to accommodate last-minute requests. Contact the Presiding Officer for more information (contact information below).

Non-Discrimination Notice

The Siting Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex, income, ethnicity, class, disability, religious creed or belief, gender identity, sexual orientation, genetic information, English language proficiency or ancestry in administration of its programs or activities. See the Siting Board's Non-Discrimination Notice at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/efsb-non-discrimination-notice-and-grievance-procedure>.

If you have any questions about this notice or any of the Siting Board's non-discrimination programs, policies, or procedures, you may contact:

Melixza Esenyie - Non-Discrimination Coordinator and Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Human Resources, 9th Floor, 100 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114, eadiversity@mass.gov, 617-626-1282.

If you believe that you have been discriminated against with respect to a Siting Board program or activity, you may contact Melixza Esenyie (identified above) to learn how and where to file a complaint of discrimination.

Contact

For further information about the proceeding, please contact the Presiding Officer at the address or telephone number below:

Connor Tarr, Presiding Officer
Energy Facilities Siting Board
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110
Connor.C.Tarr@mass.gov
(617) 305-3596

For periodic updates please visit the Siting Board's webpage for this proceeding found at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/palmer-to-ware-transmission-project>.

Project Description

The Company owns and operates an existing transmission line, Line O15N, that extends about ten miles, from National Grid's Palmer Substation to its Ware Substation (the "Palmer-Ware Line"). National Grid proposes to replace the Palmer-Ware Line and the transmission structures that are holding it up and then remove the old lines and structures. The Company maintains that the Project is needed because inherent design characteristics and physical deterioration of the existing Palmer-Ware Line have resulted in poor electric reliability. According to the Company, rebuilding the existing line would address the widespread damage to the existing structures, improve telecommunications between the two substations, and improve electric reliability. An interactive map of the Project is available at the following link: <https://palmartowareimprovementproject.com/index.htm#project-map>.

Route Description

The Palmer-Ware Line traverses the towns of Ware, West Brookfield, and Palmer. Beginning at the Palmer Substation at the southern end of the line, the Palmer-Ware Line travels in a northeasterly direction, crossing U.S. Route 20, Flynt Street, Thompson Street, the Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate 90), Smith Street, Old Warren Road, and West Ware Street for a total of 8.07 miles in Palmer. The Existing Line then crosses into Ware, continuing in a northeasterly direction across Prendiville Road twice and traveling 1.18 miles, before entering West Brookfield. In West Brookfield, it continues northeast, crossing West Main Street/MA Route 9 and traveling 0.9 miles before turning westward back into Ware. In Ware, the Existing Line travels 0.2 miles and crosses Gilbertville Road/MA Route 32 just before entering the Ware Substation.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

**Energy facilities siting board
ONE SOUTH STATION
BOSTON, MA 02110
(617) 305-3525**

Translation and Interpretation Services

English

ATTENTION: Additional translation and/or interpretation services are available upon request at no direct cost to the individual requesting the service. Include in your request the language required and a way to contact you if we need more information. It may not be possible to fulfill last-minute requests. Contact Yonathan Mengesha at Yonathan.Mengesha@mass.gov to make a request.

Español (Spanish)

ATENCIÓN: Hay servicios adicionales de traducción y/o interpretación disponibles a pedido sin costo directo para la persona que solicita el servicio. Incluya en su solicitud el idioma requerido y una forma de comunicarnos con usted si necesitamos más información. Es posible que no sea posible cumplir con solicitudes de último momento. Comuníquese con Yonathan Mengesha a Yonathan.Mengesha@mass.gov para realizar una solicitud.

Portugues (Standard Portuguese)

ATENÇÃO: Serviços adicionais de tradução e/ou interpretação estão disponíveis mediante solicitação, sem custo direto para o indivíduo que solicita o serviço. Inclua em sua solicitação o idioma necessário e uma forma de contato caso precisemos de mais informações. Pode não ser possível atender a pedidos de última hora. Entre em contato com Yonathan Mengesha pelo e-mail Yonathan.Mengesha@mass.gov para fazer a solicitação.

Kreyòl Ayisyen (Haitian Creole)

ATANSYON: Sèvis tradiksyon ak/oswa entèpretasyon siplemantè disponib si w mande sa san yon pri dirèk pou moun k ap mande sèvis la. Nan demann ou an, mete lang ou egzijè a ak yon mwayen pou kontakte w si nou bezwen plis enfòmasyon. Li gendwa pa posib pou ranpli yon demann nan dènye lè. Kontakte Yonathan Mengesha nan Yonathan.Mengesha@mass.gov pou w fè yon demann

Français (French)

ATTENTION : Des services de traduction et/ou d'interprétation supplémentaires sont disponibles sur demande, sans frais directs pour le demandeur. Indiquez dans votre demande la langue requise et un moyen de vous contacter si nous avons besoin de plus d'informations. Il se peut que nous ne puissions pas répondre aux demandes de dernière minute. Merci de contacter Yonathan Mengesha à Yonathan.Mengesha@mass.gov pour faire une demande.
06/13, 06/20/2025

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KITCHEN / DISHWASHING POSITIONS

Eagle Hill School, a college-prep board school located in Hardwick, MA, seeks to hire highly motivated, hardworking, and energetic individuals to join our kitchen staff.

Eagle Hill School is seeking full and part time kitchen staff for dishwasher positions as well as food preparation and serving.

- Ability to work in a team environment
- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision
- Must be flexible regarding scheduling, including nights, weekends, and/or holidays as needed
- Successful completion of background checks is required
- Physical Requirements and Work Environment
- Must be able to lift approximately 30-50 pounds
- Bend, kneel, push, pull, and other physical exertion
- Ability to stand and walk for extended periods of time
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HELP WANTED

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Eagle Hill School, a college-prep board school located in Hardwick, MA, seeks to hire highly motivated, hardworking, and energetic individuals to join our housekeeping team.

Essential Duties & Responsibilities:

- Window cleaning; Vacuuming; Dusting; Trash Removal; Restroom Cleaning; Floor cleaning with commercial machines

Required Qualifications & Skills

- Ability to work in a team environment; Proven ability to work independently with minimal supervision; Must be flexible regarding scheduling based on business demands; Successful completions of background check; Willingness to work flexible schedule including nights, weekends, and/or Holidays as needed

Physical requirements:

- Able to lift up to 50 lbs.; Able to push/pull up to 50 lbs.; Able to bend, stretch, and twist; Able to stand for long periods of time; Able to climb multiple flights of stairs on daily basis and walk frequently; Able to work with chemicals according to directions

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Old Sturbridge Village offers things to do this summer

STURBRIDGE – Old Sturbridge Village is starting the summer off with an exciting lineup of events this month.

Visitors to the Village this June will have the opportunity to participate in friendly competitions at Family Field Days, learn about Juneteenth, and meet colorful cows at CowParade.

Family Field Days

On select days in June,

families are invited to the village for some friendly competition. Games and competitions include stilts walks, jump rope challenges, baseball, egg and spoon races, and more.

Family Field Days take place on June 14, 15, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, and 29. The village will be open from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., but activity times will vary.

Family Field Days are

included with standard daytime admission. Tickets are available online at <https://www.osv.org/event/family-field-days/>.

Juneteenth

On Juneteenth, Thursday, June 19, visitors will have the opportunity to hear a performance by gospel choir Anthony Smith and Fully Committed, as well as a drumming performance by the African Community Ed-

ucation group of Worcester. In addition, guests can join a discussion on New England's Black Abolitionists, participate in the Kids Freedom Parade, and more. Old Sturbridge Village will be open from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

In commemoration of this day, admission to the Village is free, pre-registration is encouraged. Pre-register online at <https://www.osv.org/event/juneteenth/>.

CowParade

CowParade opens at Old Sturbridge Village on June 21. It features more than a dozen, life-size cow statues that have been transformed into imaginative works of art by a selection of New England artists.

CowParade is the largest public art event in the world and has been to more than 100 cities, including Madrid, London and Tokyo. This

Old Sturbridge Village exhibit will be unveiled to the public the weekend of June 21-22 and will run into September.

Visitors to the Village will have the chance to meet these beautiful bovines up close and learn about their unique connections to Old Sturbridge Village and New England. Tickets are available at www.osv.org/cowparade.

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