

# QUABOAG CURRENT

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Volume 18, Number 29

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

Friday June 20, 2025

## Ready, set, go!

**WBES staff participate in costume race**

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

**WEST BROOKFIELD** – The students of West Brookfield Elementary School witnessed a fun inflatable costume race this past week.

The people behind the costumes were their teachers and administrators, who put on hilarious inflatable costumes while racing outside. A total of 16 staff members competed in an inflatable costume race as a result of a student vote.

The voting took place as part of the school's annual "Penny Wars." Students had three choices of fun things to vote on. This year,



Staff members of West Brookfield Elementary School are shown in their inflatable costumes for a fun race the students voted on.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO

the choices were teacher inflatable races, movies in their classroom, and extra recess. All the proceeds go

to PBIS and supports the Cub Store.

In this store, there are some interesting prizes that

kids can get with their cub bucks. Students earn cub bucks by showing positive behavior during school.

Students show they can be safe, respectful and responsible throughout the school day and earn those

cub bucks. Students also demonstrate helpful deeds, including helping other students with classwork and homework.

The cub store features many prizes for students such as toys, cups, and sports gear. Many of these items are generously donated to the school.

This was the first time West Brookfield Elementary School has ever had a costume race. The students of WBES ended the school day witnessing their teachers and other staff participating in the costume race.

When asked if there was a theme to the costumes, Principal Melissa Provost said all the costumes are random animals and characters. Provost had her costume ready and was dressing up as a giant koala.

**COSTUME RACE PAGE 5**

## EQLT hosted second annual bike ride

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
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**NEW BRAINTREE** – The East Quabbin Land Trust hosted its second annual Hills of East Quabbin Ride this past

weekend.

This is a charity bike ride to help benefit the East Quabbin Land Trust. Members of the EQLT were set up at Farmer Matt's in New Braintree, which is where the cyclists would begin their ride.

During this year's bike ride, 50 cyclists showed up to tour the beautiful roads of these rural central Massachusetts towns.

There were new routes in place for this year's Hills of East Quabbin Ride. Maps were provided

at the booth set up by members of the EQLT. Cyclists traveled through the East Quabbin towns of New Braintree, Oakham, North Brookfield, West Brookfield and Hardwick.

The short route was 24.2 miles long and the long route was 47.5 miles long. The EQLT office in Hardwick was the midway rest stop for the bikers. At the end of the ride, cyclists were invited to enjoy some food at Farmer Matt and beverages from Lost Towns Brewing.

Despite a little drizzle of rain in the morning, cyclists still showed up for the ride. There were not only local bikers from the East Quabbin towns, but bikers from all over New England. There were bike riders from Connecticut, New Hampshire and from all regions of Massachusetts.

Rick Romano, who participated in last year's ride and has returned to participate this year, chose



TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO

Patrick, left, and Gerard ride together during the East Quabbin Land Trust's Hills of East Quabbin Ride.

**BIKE RIDE PAGE 6**

## Voters approve FY 26 budget at town meeting

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

**NORTH BROOKFIELD** – Voters took action on 17 articles at the annual town meeting last Friday evening.

With the country's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary approaching, Moderator Sheila Orsi shared the history of town meetings in North Brookfield with information gathered by town historian Brandon Avery and Petersham Moderator Bart Wendell.

"Town meeting is a cornerstone of the American form of governance," Orsi said at the June 13 meeting. "North Brookfield held our own first official town meeting in 1812 on March 10. But 38 years prior, something amazing, yet very controversial happened in 1774."

At this time, the town was designated as the second parish of Brookfield and the year prior, a "dramatic test" for town meeting occurred with the British government needing to raise additional

funds from the colonies to pay for ongoing wars.

A series of acts were placed on colonists to punish them for the actions taken at the Boston Tea Party.

"This was all a step too far for people out west and throughout Massachusetts," she said. "In 1773, resistance to British Imperial policy was regularly debated and coordinated right here in a town meeting across Massachusetts."

Orsi read a letter from the town of Brookfield to the city of Boston, saying its residents would be ready to assist in any resistance against the crown. She said it was common during this time for British loyalists to spy on their rebel neighbors at town meetings and report back to British leadership.

Orsi said town meeting was "the true birthing of the American Revolution."

"Town meeting is the cornerstone of freedom," she said.

Orsi also recognized

**N BROOKFIELD PAGE 6**

## Planning Board OKs changes to businesses

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
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**STURBRIDGE** – The Planning Board reviewed two requests for a waiver of site plan approval for properties located at Brookfield Road and on Main Street.

**29-31 Brookfield Road**

At the June 9 meeting, Town Planner Jean Bubon said the property has been available for lease for some time and the last time the board reviewed a request for this property, the plan included an office space, a 40-seat pizza restaurant and a cabinet showroom. Bubon said the office space is still

in use, but the rest remains vacant.

"The whole property has been reimagined," Bubon said.

She said the office space and upstairs apartment will remain, but the office space will be relocated to the rear of the redesigned, now 16-seat pizza restaurant.

"Probably the most exciting prospect is a new children's play space," she said.

Applicant Jennifer Whitaker said the play space is called The Little Barn, and it provides families with an indoor playground designed for children who are crawl-

**STURBRIDGE PAGE 5**

## The Cougar Store reopens at QRMHS

By Ryan Drago  
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**WARREN** – The Quabog Regional Middle High School community witnessed the reopening of its beloved school store, known as the Cougar Store.

The project to reopen this store was done by Quabog students who are a part of the Entrepreneurship Club. The Advisor of the Entrepreneurship Club is teacher Jean DiRico, who was at the reopening on June 5.

DiRico joined her students during the reopening on June 5, who did an amazing job working on the newly redesigned school store.



State Sen. Jacob Oliveira purchased a candle at the Cougar Store.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO

**COUGAR STORE PAGE 7**

## - community -

### West Brookfield TV to be airing content soon

WEST BROOKFIELD – West Brookfield Community TV is on schedule to begin broadcasting Select Board meetings as its first objective later this summer.

In the interest of seeking other priorities for the future it is hosting an open meeting on Wednesday, June 25 at 6:30 p.m., at the West Brookfield Senior Center.

The purpose is to have town residents, government and service groups, churches and charities, businesses, hobbyists and sportsmen offer their ideas of how the rebroadcasting of content can be of interest and importance to our community.

The station has been unmanned and silent for over seven years. Thanks to the support at Annual Town

Meeting, accumulated PEG franchise fees have been released. Now it's time to hear how valuable and important it will be for residents and local stakeholders of the community.

The committee is in the process of negotiating a new, 10-year contract with Charter/Spectrum and attendance, thoughts, questions and ideas may help to convince the cable provider for more favorable financial contributions to our TV station.

Those unable to attend the meeting can email or call with thoughts, questions, and ideas to our WB Cable Access Committee: westbrookfieldcommunitytv@gmail.com, 508-867-1421 extension 432.

### Federated Church announces Vacation Bible Camp

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

tunity 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.

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.

### Bluegrass Gospel Service will be held 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 bluegrass 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.

### 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](http://www.qvarc.com). Come join them on the town common and discover the power and fun of amateur radio.

### Thrift Store thriving at Methodist Church

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Thrift Store of the George Whitefield United Methodist Church in West Brookfield continues to offer quality used clothing, shoes, accessories, household goods, décor, picture frames, children's toys, books and DVDs at bargain prices.

The Thrift Store is open the first and third Saturdays of each month, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

at 33 West Main St. Many lovely summer wardrobe selections are now available for women, men and children, as well as other seasonal updates to inventory.

Donations of gently used items are appreciated and may be arranged by contacting Jane Dolan at 508-867-5571. Proceeds from sales support the church's ministries and missions.

### Ben Bullock returns to West Brookfield June 24

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Merriam-Gilbert Public Library is pleased to welcome back local musician Ben Bullock on Tuesday, June 24 at 6:30 p.m. for an evening of music with this most talented singer and songwriter who creates his work based on observation, growth, and faith.

Please contact the Library at 508-867-1410 to register. This program is made possible through the generosity of Art and Elizabeth Jay.

### Casey Castenir inducted into Phi Theta Kappa

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College announced that 87 students have been accepted for membership into the Alpha Xi Omega chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa national honor society for 2025.

Casey Castenir of East Brookfield was one of the inductees. Students are invited to join Phi Theta Kappa. A campus celebration was held on May 5 for the inductees.

### Farmers Market is held on Wednesdays

WEST BROOKFIELD – The West Brookfield Farmers Market has returned on the beautiful West Brookfield Common for its 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive season.

The market is held

on Wednesdays from 3-6 p.m., rain or shine, throughout the spring, summer and early fall.

The 2025 season the market will feature 17 vendors with a wide array of locally grown and made goods including

three new vendors sure to please the palate. The West Brookfield Farmers Market is held every Wednesday afternoon from 3-6 p.m. on the common starting on June 4 through Oct. 8, rain or shine.

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# - community -

## All articles pass at town meetings

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

**NEW BRAINTREE** – Both the special and annual town meetings were held on June 2, with all articles receiving approval from voters.

Serving as the moderator during the two meetings was Jeff Howland. There were a total of five articles on the special town meeting warrant and nine articles on the annual town meeting warrant.

**Special town meeting**  
Article 5 asked voters to transfer \$10,000 from available funds to the New Braintree Historical Commission to hire a consultant to prepare the Town Center for a National Register Nomination. This article required a two-thirds majority vote in order to pass.

Several residents had questions regarding this decision. Deb Morrison of the Historical Commission spoke on the topic and said this is an additional \$10,000 to hire a consultant to prepare the Town Center to be nominated in the National Register.

When asked about the outcome of this decision, Morrison said it is to “preserve and make aware of the historic significance.

**Annual town meeting**  
Article 4 required a lot of review at the annual town meeting. It was stated in a written document shared with the voters that this year’s budget was difficult to create with the uncertainty of state and federal funds that the town and the school districts received.

The town does continue to put funds into stabilization with financial uncertainty moving forward. If approved, the town will have over \$500,000 in stabilization.

With 10 students attending Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School, the assessment for the town was \$181,735.

The total budget for fiscal year 2026 approved by voters was \$3,059,494.

The amount assessed for the Quabbin Regional School District was \$1,453,854.00. There are 100 students attending the school district, 12 home-school students and 10 in out of district placements.

There was about a 5% increase from state requirements, as well as the school’s insurance and transportation services going up.

The school assessment also included the Quabbin debt and interest on school bonds and out of district tuition and out of district transportation. The educational increase required the town to decrease or level fund budgets for the Town departments by \$56,000.

The Quabbin Regional School District worked to lower the assessment with cuts to their district budget with a final assessment of 6.39% or \$87,322 increase over last year.

The increase from Pathfinder was just over \$12,000 for four additional students. The total educational increase for both school districts was \$99,419.

Article 7 was about the town voting to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L Chapter

44, Section 17.

This would allow the Treasurer to borrow money for the grant funding that is coming back in for the West Brookfield Road project.

**Announcements**  
After the town meetings concluded, Howland allowed any departments or residents to share any special announcements.

Morrison spoke about an upcoming Historical Society event taking place on Friday, June 20 at 6:30 p.m. It is an evening of discussion and remembrance of New Braintree’s “Conserve Our Small Town”.

This was an event that the townspeople took part in to prevent a prison from being built on the current site of the Massachusetts State Police Training Center. The Historical Society recently did a kids tour of the Town Center and will soon want to offer an adult tour as well.

Another announcement was made regarding the pavilion being built at the Town Center. Many volunteers who helped with the project believe having this space will open the door for future events.

## 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.

## Library hosts Summer Eats food program for children

**EAST BROOKFIELD** – The Summer Eats breakfast and lunch program will be available at the East Brookfield Public Library, 122 Connie Mack Drive, Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m.-noon beginning Monday, June 30 and running through Aug. 14.

All children are welcome to pick up a free bagged breakfast and lunch.

A Summer Eats kickoff party will be held on Tuesday, June 24 from 4-6 p.m. at Wire Village School, 60 Paxton Road, Spencer.

## Summer fun for families offered at Old Sturbridge Village

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

On select days in June, families are invited to Old Sturbridge 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 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/>.

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](http://www.osv.org/cowparade).

## Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church clothing drive

**BROOKFIELD** – The Committee for Ecology and Social Action of the Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church is sponsoring a clothing drive through Helpsy, the largest clothing collector in the Northeast.

Textile waste is a fast-growing problem and occupies nearly 5% of all landfill space, but 95% of unwanted clothing can be reused, repurposed, or re-

cycled. Only 15% currently is.

On July 12-19, the church will be open between 3-7 p.m. so you can bring your old clothing (including slips, bras, underwear, socks) and certain other acceptable items, such as shoes, accessories (including hats, bags, belts, scarves and jewelry), luggage, stuffed animals and linens (including sheets, blankets, curtains, table

linens and quilts).

All items in any condition are acceptable if they are clean, dry, and odorless.

The Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church is located at 9 Upper River St. on the Brookfield Common, near the junction of Route 9 and Route 148.

For more information, contact Barbara Hale at [blh.buuc@gmail.com](mailto:blh.buuc@gmail.com).



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**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Type of bread
5. Range of mountains
10. Ended
12. Musical forms with a recurring theme
14. On the nature of being
16. Law enforcement agency
18. Australian flightless bird
19. Subway rodent
20. More dried-up
22. A beaver might build one
23. Suggestive of the supernatural
25. Art \_\_, around 1920
26. American rocker
27. Not or
28. Earliest human: \_\_-Magnon Man
30. Firearm
31. Tough outer skin of fruit

33. Alternative form of a gene
35. Low shrub some call “fat pork”
37. Plants in the chamomile tribe
38. Revolutionary War era spy
40. Portion of a book
41. Hoover’s office
42. Title of respect
44. Tax collector
45. Cool!
48. Real estate
50. Boy’s name
52. Airborne (abbr.)
53. Strongly recommends
55. Hit lightly
56. Bar bill
57. Atomic #54
58. Devotes again
63. Fish sauce
65. French stock market
66. Things that consist of two elements or parts

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Retired game show host Sajak
2. Equal (prefix)
3. Israeli city \_\_ Aviv
4. Loved
5. A type of analyst
6. Ad \_\_
7. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
8. Ran without moving
9. Opposite of yes
10. Diffuse clouds of gas
11. Mentioning one by one
13. Instruments used to dilate
15. Freshwater fish
17. Remotely-manned flying objects
18. Doctor of Education
21. Renews
23. Not the start
24. Pitching stat

27. Small water buffaloes
29. Ceramic jars
32. I (German)
34. Something to toss on a fire
35. The process of flowing in
36. A series of acts at a night club
39. Egg of a house
40. Inquire too closely
43. Travelers
44. Drink
46. Behave in a way that degrades
47. Electronic music style
49. Northern Ireland city
51. Upset
54. Stiff structure resembling a hair
59. Father
60. North Atlantic fish
61. 8th month (abbr.)
62. Make an effort
64. Commercial

# - opinion -

## SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

### Social Security questions asked over coffee

Dear Rusty:  
My coffee conversations among a group of friends have resulted in several questions about Social Security.

1. What happens to the Social Security account of someone who dies before retirement age. What happens to that money and where does it end up?

2. How does the decreased birth rate of the USA affect future Social Security benefits?

3. Is a person, who has never contributed to the So Social Security questions asked over coffee Social Security System entitled to any benefits from the Social Security Administration?

4. Is there a central location online that a person can access that explains the history and current status of the Social Security System, that explains all of it in simple terms. I would like to be able to give this location to people I talk with about Social Security.

Most of the articles we read are like slogging through mud. I enjoy AMAC articles and am college educated, but the average reading level in the U.S. is less than sixth grade. Thank you for considering these questions.

Signed: Curious Reader

Dear Curious:  
Thank you for your readership and I'll be happy to tackle your "over coffee" questions about Social Security.

1. Social Security is a "pay as you go" program, where all money collected from workers is used to pay benefits for all those, who are currently receiving Social Security. In other words, all money contributed is used to pay benefits to others already receiving benefits. It is not put into a separate account for each person and that is a good thing. Most people get more from Social Security than they ever contributed, but benefits are paid for life, regardless of how long one lives. The specific answer to your question is that if someone dies before retirement age, the money contributed has already been used to pay benefits to others. Keep in mind though, that a surviving

spouse or minor or disabled adult child may also collect benefits on a deceased person's Social Security record.

2. The decreasing birth rate in the U.S. hurts Social Security. That's because fewer babies mean fewer future workers contributing to the Social Security program. FYI, in 1950 there were about 15 workers contributing to SS for every one person collecting benefits, but today there are less than three workers for each SS beneficiary. That problem is exacerbated by the steadily increasing U.S. life expectancy. Beneficiaries are now often collecting SS benefits for decades from a program designed to pay benefits for only a few years.

3. Only those who have worked and contributed to Social Security through payroll taxes for about 10 years (40 quarters of SS credit) are eligible to collect SS Retirement benefits. However, some dependent spouses and/or dependent minor or dependent disabled children who have never worked might also be eligible for benefits from the worker's Social Security record. Along with each U.S. state, the SSA also administers another program, known as Supplement Security Income, on behalf of the federal government. However, federal "SSI" benefits are not paid with Social Security funds. "SSI" is a separate government benefit program, with federal benefits paid from the general U.S. Treasury.

4. There are lots of places to get information about Social Security, but I suggest you start at our AMAC Foundation Social Security information website, which can be found at [www.socialsecurityreport.org](http://www.socialsecurityreport.org). Here you will find numerous articles about Social Security, retirement, Medicare, etc., as well as all the Ask Rusty articles I have published weekly over the last 8 years. You can also find excellent Social Security information on our AMAC Foundation main website, [www.amacfoundation.org](http://www.amacfoundation.org). And, of course, you can always ask any questions you have via email to

See SOCIAL SECURITY PAGE 8

### What not do this last week of spring

By avoiding these common mistakes you'll be well on your way to a wonderful landscape this summer.

**Sowing grass seed at the wrong time**

Did you know that the end of August/ beginning of September is the best time to get a new lawn off to a good start? It is, first and foremost because crab grass (the arch enemy of real grass!) can't gain a foot hold late in the growing season. Slightly cooler temperatures and adequate rainfall prevalent during that time of year help too.

**Scalping the lawn**

Healthy turf isn't mown as low, or as often as you might think. Mowing to a height of about three inches will encourage a strong stand of deep-rooted grass that is capable of shading out developing weeds and sustaining itself during periods of drought.

**Removing grass clippings**

Take the bagger attachment off of your mower and let the clippings fall back onto the lawn! Grass clippings are a valuable source of nitrogen, the nutrient responsible for giving grass its green color. It's silly to remove it, only then to provide it in the form of granular fertilizer.

**Watering during the heat of the day**

Most gardeners know that early in the day is the optimal time for watering the lawn as well as other plants. Less water is lost to evaporation, and fungal diseases are kept to a minimum since foliage has a chance to dry before darkness sets in.

**Choosing the wrong plant for the location**

Almost everyone has fall-



by Roberta McQuaid

en victim to the "I've got to have that plant syndrome." This condition causes even smart gardeners to buy plants that don't fit their particular situation. Heed the advice provided on the plant's tag.

If it requires shade, plant it in a shady location. If it demands a well-drained soil and yours is clayey, amend the soil first! Etc. etc.

**Applying mulch too thinly**

Topdressing our shrub beds with a layer of mulch each season can be an expensive endeavor. Frugal gardeners may skip in order to save money. Do so and you may be sorry, as weeds will no doubt pop through less than adequate coverage.

Make sure that bark mulch is three to four inches thick; hay or straw used in veggie gardens should be even thicker, to the tune of eight to 12 inches.

**Mulching too close to the base of a tree**

Never mound up bark mulch against the base of a tree. It can result in bark decay. This condition can bring about a disruption of the translocation process of food from the leaves of the tree to its roots, weakening it severely. The tree will also become more vulnerable to attacks by insects and fungi.

**Not moistening peat moss before use**

Most experts recommend adding peat moss to the planting hole when installing

trees, roses or other shrubs. Rich in organic matter, it will get your plants off to a great start, but only if incorporated correctly.

Peat moss must be moistened before use, otherwise it will wick water away from the plant it is intending to help. Once thoroughly wet, peat moss will aid in moisture retention!

**Forgetting to "butterfly" root balls at planting time**

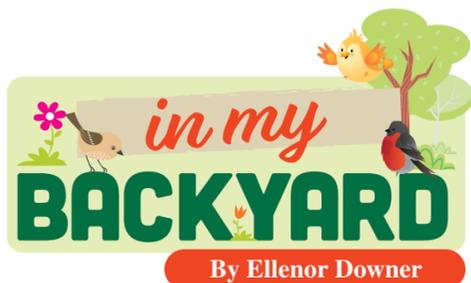
Did you ever purchase a tree or shrub, perennial or annual whose root ball was so thick with roots you could barely see the soil in which it was planted? Plants that match this description are "root bound."

If this situation isn't remedied at planting time the roots may never know they have room to sprawl; ultimately, growth may be affected! Let the roots run free by taking both hands and splitting open or "butterflying" the root ball. Root balls of larger specimens can be scored in several places with a knife.

**Pruning summer blooming shrubs now**

Don't prune your Rose of Sharon or Hydrangea now or you'll take the flowers with your clippings. On the flip side, you have until July 1 to prune your lilacs. Rhododendrons and Azaleas can be deadheaded now for even more flowers next spring.

*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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*



By Ellenor Downer

**Western bluebird**

I received an email in May from a woman, who had a couple of Western bluebirds nest in her backyard birdhouse.

Western bluebirds are small thrushes, who usually perch upright. They are 6 to 7 inches long, larger than a sparrow and smaller than a robin. These bluebirds have thin, straight bills and short tails. The male Western bluebird is shiny blue above with rust orange on the breast and back. The throat is blue in males and the lower belly is whitish. Females are gray-



Western bluebird

buff with pale orange on the breast. Their throat is gray-buff. They have a blue tint on the wings and tail.

They inhabit open woodlands, both coniferous and deciduous and burned areas. They commonly use bird baths. The female lays two to eight pale to bluish white eggs per clutch. They pounce on the ground when looking for worms and berries. They also catch insects. Their primary diet is insects and berries and will come to feeders for mealworms.

Compared to the Eastern bluebird, the male Western bluebird has a blue rather than the bright white belly like the Eastern bluebird. The orange also extends to the shoulders. Western bluebirds are not typically found in Massachusetts.

**Eastern bluebirds**

A Barre resident puts out mealworms for the Eastern bluebirds. He has a pair coming to feast on the mealworms.

**Mute swans and cranes**

A Barre woman reported seeing a pair of mute swans on Long Pond in Rutland. I saw one of the swans this week on the same pond. She also reported seeing a sandhill crane. An Oakham resident thinks a pair of sandhill cranes have nested. He now only sees one in his field or flying overhead between Adams Pond

and the Wolf Swamp area of Oakham. The last time I saw a sandhill crane in my hayfield, there was only one. Earlier this spring I saw a two cranes in the field, which is near Wolf Swamp.

**Titmouse and robin**

An Oakham resident reported, "There was a lot of commotion at the robin nest and I went to the window to see what was going on. A titmouse was gathering the soft fuzzy from under the three eggs. Dad robin came along and drove the titmouse off." She said, "I put out lots of nesting materials, but as always, someone else's looks better."

**Loon fact**

The Loon Preservation Committee offer loon facts in their newsletter. The newsletter said, "Generally, loons will remain on the ocean until they reach adulthood at age three. This is not always the case, each year here in New Hampshire, the committee volunteers observe the presence of five to ten immature loons on the lakes during the breeding season. Upon their return as adults, these loons begin to look for a breeding territory of their own."

They will acquire their first territory in one of three ways: by passively replacing a territory owner that has

See BACKYARD PAGE 8

## QUABOAG CURRENT TEAM



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THE QUABOAG CURRENT (USPS# 10860) is published weekly (every Friday) by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069. Telephone at 413-283-8393 or fax at 413-289-1977. Periodical Postage Prices are Paid at Palmer, MA.

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to: Quaboag Current, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.



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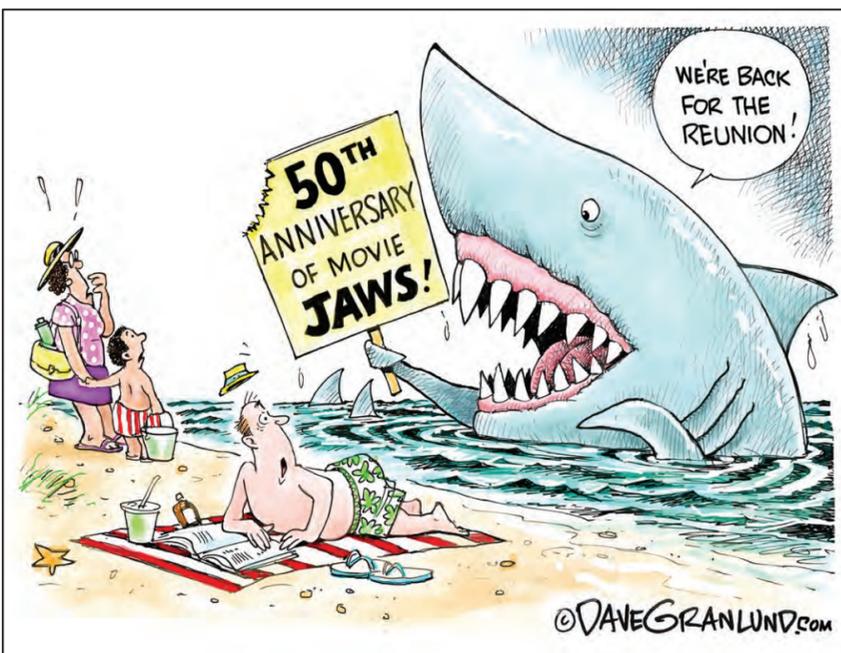
Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500 and 800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We authenticate authorship 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.

**Send opinions to:**

Letters to the Editor, 80 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082 OR e-mail to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com). Deadline for submission is Monday at noon for the following week's edition.

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The costumed staff lined up for one final race.



Madi Gray as a frog took the lead in one of the races.



A minion made an appearance on the racetrack and was cheered on by the students.

**COSTUME RACE FROM PAGE 1**

ala bear.

Some of the teachers were practicing running in the gym with their costumes on. Teacher Ryan Hibbard went as a shark and was seeing if running in a shark costume was possible.

There were three little pigs in the race as well. Dressing as the pigs were Melissa O'Neill, Payton Darger and Jessica Harder.

Meghan Valley dressed as a dinosaur, Laura Marino was also dressed as a shark, Nicole Jones was a ballerina, Billie Moberg went as an inflatable T-Rex, Lori Duff went as a princess on a unicorn, Lindsay

Yaeger went as a chicken rider, Madi Gray as a frog, Christina DiBona as a cow, Amy Gray as a duck, Melissa Luukko as a frog, Sarah Frazier as a dinosaur and Laura Lillibridge as a unicorn. There was also a minion making an appearance during the race.

The staff in costume marched to the field outside where their students watched and cheered them on. The event consisted of several races and one final race featuring all the characters running at once.

In charge of the races was Physical Education Teacher, Jean Sweet. Cones were placed to set up the start and finish line for all the races. Several students



Teacher Ryan Hibbard dressed as a shark was in a close race with the T-Rex.

made signs for their teachers as they rooted them on in the race.

It was a warm day, but

the staff had a great time participating in the inflatable costume race and gave the students of West

Brookfield Elementary School some fun memories as the school year comes to a close.



West Brookfield Elementary School Principal Melissa Provost went as a koala bear for the inflatable costume race.

**STURBRIDGE FROM PAGE 1**

ing up to about age 6. The Little Barn will provide families with interactive play and sensory play, as well as a café selling coffee and bakery items.

"We'll have a birthday room," Whitaker said.

Nabil Roufail co-owner of the building at 29-31 Brookfield Road, said the proposed pizza restaurant included with the existing office space is 2,500 square feet and The Little Barn is 3,500.

The board voted to approve the waiver of site plan.

**Scottish Inn**

The board also waived site plan approval for the Scottish Inn, located at 142 Main St.

Bubon said owner Pravin Patel would like to add coverings to any exposed walkways to protect guests from the elements. Another change would convert four apartments located in the back building into eight motel room suites.

"This project did go to the Design Review Committee last Monday and it was approved. It has been reviewed by staff and comments have been provided," Bubon said.

She said the main concern regarding the project is the need to contact Dig Safe and have the Water and Sewer departments mark the location of water and sewer lines prior to the installation of the posts for the coverings. She said additional bollards will be between 140 and 142 Main St. to protect pedestrians in the walkway.

Architect Amanda Normandin said there was a lot of ice along the walkways in the winter, and the coverings will help prevent people from slipping and falling.

"We just wanted to add some more protection," she said.

Normandin said a handicapped accessible room will also be included in the design plan.

**Town Planner update**

Bubon said the pre-construction meeting for Convenient MD Urgent Care was held and work is now underway at the site.

She said work has also started on the façade of Dollar Tree, which should be opening in the fall. She said this is the last vacant

space in the Shaw's plaza.

Bubon recognized recent Tantasqua Regional High School graduate Griffin Harold, who she

has mentored since he started high school. She said he has helped the Building Department with projects and attended De-

sign Review meetings and Planning Board meetings.

She said Harold will be attending Bridgewater State University with a ma-

job in geography and a minor in planning.

"I'm sure you're going to do great things," she said.

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN!

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PALMER FOR

TOMORROW

Gathering

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- Preventative Measures
- After Care

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR:**

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**WHEN & WHERE**

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at The Palmer Public Library

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\*You will always be able to stay completely anonymous at Palmer for Tomorrow, we will never ask or share your name or your story.

FREE FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED!

# - community -



Mark Lynch started his bike ride in the Hills of East Quabbin ride.



Cyclists checked in prior to the bike ride. Members of East Quabbin Land Trust were stationed at the starting and end point of the ride, Farmer Matt's in New Braintree.

## BIKE RIDE FROM PAGE 1

to participate in the long route in the first Hills of East Quabbin Ride and said he witnessed many of the beautiful back roads and rolling hills in the East Quabbin region.

"It was a good ride last year," Romano said. "It's about getting exercise and having fun on this ride."

Both routes took cyclists through the Ware River valley. The tour highlights many of the EQLT properties such as Wendemuth Meadow (25 Bates Street, North Brookfield), Mandell Hill (660 Barre Road, Hardwick), Deer Park Preserve (Barre Road, Hardwick), Patrill Hollow Preserve (Hardwick Road, Hardwick), Pynchon's Grist Mill Preserve (165 Wickaboag Valley Road, West Brookfield), and Eva's Woods (Ware Corner Road,



Cyclists started their ride as they exited from Farmer Matt's.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO

Oakham).

Though it started off as a "rainy ride" the cyclists had a great time and enjoyed the Hills

of East Quabbin. Start times were flexible, but many bikers returned to Farmer Matt's in the afternoon. For more activities provided

by the East Quabbin Land Trust, visit eqlt.org. This charity bike ride helps benefit the East Quabbin Land Trust, who is dedicat-

ed to caring for the farmlands, woodlands and waters in the East Quabbin region of Massachusetts.

## N BROOKFIELD FROM PAGE 1

Kathy Crevier for her many years of dedication to the town and for serving as its longtime moderator. She said Crevier is preparing to move to Florida.

**Dedication of town report**  
Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis said the 2024 town report is dedicated to former Moderator James Caldwell.

He said Caldwell moved to town with his wife in the 1990s and immediately became involved in municipal

government. He served as Moderator from 2013 until this year.

"Thank you, Mr. Caldwell, for your service to North Brookfield, and most of all, your friendship," Petraitis said.

The town report also memorialized the late Lisa Morgan, who worked at the town's transfer station.

"Lisa was a friendly soul who always had an upbeat personality...there wasn't a holiday or event that went by without Lisa wearing a hat or outfit to celebrate and

make people smile or laugh on that day," he said.

**FY 26 budget**  
Voters approved the fiscal year 2026 budget in article 3, with four separate motions to break down the various departmental expenses.

The first motion totaled \$5,560,468.59 which will be funded from Stabilization, with \$90,000 coming from Free Cash to Group Insurance. This portion of the FY 26 budget will pay for the salaries and expenses of various town office staff.

The second motion to-

taled \$977,488.16 and this pays for police, fire, emergency management and the town's various inspectors. The third motion totaled \$7,779,991.04 to pay for town's school assessments.

The fourth motion totaled \$1,145,531.20 to pay the salaries and expenses for highway, Council on Aging, library, veterans agent and parks.

The total operating budget set for FY 26 was approved at \$15,463,478.99.

**Emergency Squad services**  
Article 13 asked vot-

ers to raise and appropriate \$70,000 for the North Brookfield Emergency Squad Services Contract account, bringing its total to \$110,000 for FY 26, in addition to \$68,000 for the ALS Services account for a total of \$178,000.

**Print-free legal notices**  
Voters approved of the motion for article 15, which will allow the town to post "print-free" digital legal notices instead of paying for printing in newspapers.

Town Clerk Tara Hayes said other towns are doing

this and voters need to accept the act in order for the legislature to allow it. She said the town spends about \$1,000 a year to print legal notices in newspapers.

Hayes said abutters for any public hearing will also be notified directly by mail.

**Other articles**  
All other articles passed, including bylaw amendment articles 16 and 17, which established the creation of revolving funds for the Board of Health's Tobacco Control and Police Department Records Requests, respectively.

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COVID Vaccine: As a condition of employment, depending on job assignment and location, employees may be required to have received COVID-19 vaccination and/or other vaccinations, or to have been approved for a vaccination exemption prior to their start date. Finalists for these positions will be provided details about the verification or exemption process. Candidates with questions on vaccination requirements should contact the diversity officer listed on the posting for additional information.

# - community -



The Quaboag Entrepreneurship Club was joined by their Advisor, Jean DiRico as the Cougar Store is set to reopen at Quaboag Regional Middle High School.



All the Quaboag Entrepreneurship Club students and their Advisor Jean DiRico are shown behind the Cougar Store check-out counter.

## COUGAR STORE FROM PAGE 1

When asked about the project, DiRico said the school store hasn't been used in 10 years and this school year was a good time to have it revitalized. A total of 10 students who are part of the Entrepreneurship Club participated in redesigning the store and took up a lot of responsibilities and learned numerous skills during the project.

The 21st Century After-school Program students in the Entrepreneurship Club redesigned the store, which has been completely repainted and outfitted like an actual retail store. The students learned about store layout, marketing, purchase orders, mark-up, invoicing, and other aspects of creating a business plan. The 21st Century Community Learning Center grant from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education funded the club and helped give these students the opportunity to learn new skills and put together an amazing space that is part of their school.

The kids will have the responsibility of running the school store as if it's their own business. These kids were also the creative minds behind picking the type of merchandise that will be sold in the store. The store sells water bottles, wristbands,



Long sleeve and short sleeve Quaboag shirts are available to purchase at the newly revitalized school store.

ball caps, T-shirts, polo shirts, lanyards, M&M jars, candles, plushies, and bags. Any income that is generated at the school store will go towards school projects and improvements. The store will also be providing community service hours through the National Honor Society.

During the opening of the store, students were joined by very special guests. Visiting the students at the store were state Senators Peter Durant and Jacob Oliveira. In addition to the Senators, State Representatives Todd Smola and Donnie Berthiaume also joined the students for the reopening of their school store.

Smola said the best part about this event is the project and the store is run by the kids.

"The students have the involvement," Smola said.

The store was successful years ago at Quaboag and after 10 years of not operating,

it was time for it to return and is now run by the students. Smola describes Quaboag as a community based school that provides much interaction and the students are able to interact more with the community as they operate their school store.

"We're proud of these students," Smola commented. "Promote your school pride."

There was an inspiring sign in front of the newly renovated school store, which will now be known as the Cougar Store.

Durant said having this store will give these students "real world experiences."

The senators and representatives were excited to meet the students of the Quaboag Entrepreneurship Club and go shopping for some merchandise in the new school store.

Assistant Superintendent of Development, Madeline Smola, was in attendance for



For the first time in 10 years, the school store at Quaboag Regional Middle High School is now open and will be operated by students of the Entrepreneurship Club. The Cougar Store sign with its newly designed logos on the side.

the reopening of the store and welcomed all the guests prior to the ribbon cutting. Smola is also the District Coordinator of both 21st Century programs in the district.

DiRico said having this store is "great for the school" as well as for the students. Many students have expressed interest in possibly wanting to pursue a career in business or become entrepreneurs. DiRico said many students talked about it a lot while working on the new school store.

Prior to the ribbon cutting, Madeline Smola would welcome some students from the Entrepreneurship Club to speak and share some words for those who attended.

A special thanks was given to Madeline Smola, Jean DiRico, Stephen Duff, Marc Astrella, the Quaboag custodial staff, Michael Lavelle,

Isabella Santos, Jill Curtis, Lisa Long, Mark Carron, Casey Handfield, and the 21st CCLC.

When Lopes thanked Handfield for being a constant supporter of the project he said, "he would've loved how this store turned out." Lopes said this project taught him financial related skills and also taught him having "a sense of community".

After the ribbon cutting, all guests would enter the Cougar Store for the first time. A lot of merchandise was purchased as these talented students of the Quaboag Entrepreneurship Club got to work during the opening of the new Cougar Store at QRMHS.

The store will have new hours in the fall during next school year.

## Send Us Your Autumn Event Information

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

Total circulation of 85,000 reaching over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley.

**Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 11.**

## Community Autumn Events Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

**FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley**

Event Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Time \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Description \_\_\_\_\_

Cost \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name & phone number for more information \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO:**

**Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email\* them to: jamie@turley.com**

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

# - public safety -

## East Brookfield Police Log

During the week of May 5-11, the East Brookfield Police Department responded to 150 building/property checks, 62 directed area patrols, 11 traffic controls, four radar assignments, 11 emergency 911 calls, nine citizen assists, three assist other agencies, one investigation, five complaints, one missing person, one motor vehicle accident, one fraud, two animal calls and 21 motor vehicle stops in the town of East Brookfield.

**Monday, May 5**  
 7:20 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, East Main Street, Citation Issued  
 3:14 p.m. Assist Citizen, West Main Street, Spoken To  
 5:39 p.m. Assist Citizen, North Brookfield Road, Spoken To  
 6:38 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Baker Hill Road, Services Rendered  
 7:41 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Jean Avenue, Services Rendered  
 11:47 p.m. Missing Person, Haywood Drive, Report Taken

**Tuesday, May 6**  
 7:48 a.m. Assist Citizen, Faith Drive, Officer Handled  
 8:51 a.m. Assist Citizen, Faith Drive, Services Rendered

12:38 p.m. Assist Citizen, Faith Drive, Services Rendered  
 12:48 p.m. Fraud, Connie Mack Drive, Services Rendered  
 1:10 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Connie Mack Drive, Services Rendered  
 1:33 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, East Main Street, Transported to Hospital  
 9:41 p.m. Disturbance, Faith Drive, Officer Handled

**Wednesday, May 7**  
 11:20 a.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, North Brookfield Road, Spoken To  
 5:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Citation Issued  
 6:57 p.m. 911 Welfare Check, North Brookfield Rod, Services Rendered

**Thursday, May 8**  
 9:11 a.m. Suspicious Activity, Draper Road, Spoken To  
 11:09 a.m. Assist Other Agency, East Main Street, Officer Handled  
 3:48 p.m. Assist Citizen, Faith Drive, Services Rendered

**Friday, May 9**  
 8:01 a.m. Investigation, Connie Mack Drive, Services Rendered

9:36 a.m. 911 Misdiagnosis, East Main Street, No Action Required  
 11:01 a.m. Assist Citizen, Telephone, Dispatch Handled  
 5:43 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, East Main Street, Negative Contact

**Saturday, May 10**  
 10:18 a.m. Assist Citizen, Shore Road, Services Rendered  
 10:21 a.m. Complaint, Connie Mack Drive, Officer Handled  
 6:20 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, West Main Street, Negative Contact  
 8:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued  
 8:15 p.m. 911 Disturbance, West Sturbridge Road, Officer Handled

**Sunday, May 11**  
 1:26 p.m. Assist Citizen, Connie Mack Drive, Spoken To  
 6:02 a.m. 911 Welfare Check, East Main Street, Transported to Hospital  
 8:07 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Out of Town, Services Rendered  
 8:52 p.m. Assist Other Agency, East Main Street, Dispatch Handled

## Stay alert for cryptocurrency scams when scrolling on TikTok

Money-flipping cons and investment scams have been on the rise for years, and since 2020, the Better Business Bureau has received more than 4,000 reports from consumers about investment scams, many of which involved cryptocurrency. Traditionally, these scams have taken the form of long-term romance scams to slowly gain the trust of their targets. More recently, however, these scams have taken to social media platforms, where scammers can more quickly target a larger audience and steal your money and personal information. BBB Scam Tracker frequently receives reports of cryptocurrency scammers on TikTok.

Here's what you need to know. **How the scam works** You're scrolling through TikTok when you receive a direct message from a user asking if you're interested in investing. The user's profile seems legitimate, and the company's website looks real. You may also encounter a user sharing videos of piles of cash, saying you can earn that much money through cryptocurrency investments, too. You decide to engage with the user, and they present you with a great cryptocurrency investment opportunity. For an initial investment of a few hundred dollars, your money could double or triple in just a few days! You say yes and start the investment process. At this point, the user will ask you to communicate off social media on a different messaging app. You'll be asked to send money through a digital wallet service and potentially purchase cryptocurrency and send it to them. Then, they will "invest" the money for you, which allegedly starts multiplying

immediately. When you try to get your money back, the scammer will claim you must pay service fees. At first, these amounts may seem harmless and are just a few hundred dollars. However, if you pay one fee, the scammer will likely continue to ask for more, always promising you will get much more back than you spend. Unfortunately, these fees are fake, and any money you send will end up in the scammer's pockets. You won't be getting a return on your investment, and you won't be getting your initial deposit back either. BBB Scam Tracker has received reports from people targeted by cryptocurrency scammers on TikTok. One person shared their experience:

"I was asked by a woman on TikTok if I was interested in investing. I told her yes, but I was skeptical. She assured me she worked for a legitimate company. I trusted her and proceeded with a \$500 investment through bitcoin to an account with [company name redacted]. I was told after 24 hours I could withdrawal my profit. I had to pay 30% fee of \$2,150 then it would be deposited in my bank account in 24 hours. After 24 hours I received an email that I had to pay a 'gas fee' of \$4,250. At this point I knew it was a scam..."

**How to avoid social media cryptocurrency scams** Use good judgment. Get-rich-quick schemes and investments guaranteed to give you a huge return are nearly always scams. If an offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Do your research. Before you contact someone through TikTok or another social media platform, look up their name, phone number, and company name (if they have one) online and on BBB.org. The investment

industry is highly regulated, so be wary if investments are unregistered with the SEC or other investment industry regulators. You can also search on BBB Scam Tracker for scam reports. You'll likely find complaints online about it if they have conned others. Don't give into scare tactics. If an "investor" contacts you, they may try to convince you the investment will only work if you act right now. Or, if you've already sent them funds, they may threaten you with legal action if you don't pay their fees. In any case, don't give in to scare tactics. Recognize them as the hallmarks of a scam. Understand how digital wallet services work. Treat any money you send through a digital wallet service like cash. Once you send the money, there will be little you can do to get it back if you were scammed. Only use these apps with people you know and trust. Find a trusted financial advisor to help you. If you are interested in investing, look for BBB Accredited financial consultants to help you. Working with a vetted and reliable business can help you avoid investment scams online. Read BBB's tips on how to find someone to help you manage your finances. **For more information** Learn more by reading BBB's investigation on investment scams. Read up on more investment scam techniques and money-flipping scams. If you spot a scam on TikTok or elsewhere, report it to BBB Scam Tracker, even if you didn't lose any money. Your report helps boost consumer awareness about the issue. Check out more crypto tips and financial wellness advice on BBB.org.

## New Braintree Police Log

During the week of June 9-16, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 15 building/property checks, nine directed/area patrols, one traffic control, five radar assignments, three emergency 911 calls, four citizen assists, one assist other agency, two scams, one complaint and three motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

**Monday, June 9**  
 4:24 p.m. 911 Misdiagnosis, Gilbertville Road, Services Rendered

6:39 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Barre Road, Taken/ Referred to Other Agency

**Tuesday, June 10**  
 2:45 p.m. Scam, Old Common Road, Spoken To

**Wednesday, June 11**  
 4:25 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Memorial Drive, Dispatch Handled

**Thursday, June 12**  
 11:57 a.m. 911 Misdiagnosis, Ravine Road, Spoken To  
 2:24 p.m. Assist Citizen, Old Common Road, Un-

known Outcome  
 4:37 p.m. Assist Citizen, Barre Road, Services Rendered

**Friday, June 13**  
 6:49 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Written Warning  
 11:32 a.m. Scam, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled  
 1:47 p.m. Assist Citizen, Ravine Road, Officer Handled

**Sunday, June 15**  
 7:02 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Spoken To

**SOCIAL SECURITY FROM PAGE 4**  
 SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org. Or, if you prefer, you can just call us on 1-888-750-2622 if you have questions about Social Security or about Medicare enrollment. The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for in-

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**BACKYARD FROM PAGE 4**  
 died or is otherwise missing, by establishing a new territory on a lake that is not currently occupied by loons or by fighting and evicting another loon from its territory and taking its place. One of the ways a loon can acquire a breeding territory is to intrude upon an already-occupied territory and engage in territorial battles with the member of the pair that is the same sex. If the intruder wins, it will

evict the resident loon and take its place as a pair member on that territory. The article said, "Research has shown that while selecting their first breeding territory, loons tend to look for lakes and ponds that are similar, at least in terms of size and pH, to the lake they hatched on. This may be a result of increased chance of survival due to familiarity, if, as a chick, a loon learned to forage and evade predators on a lake with certain characteristics, it makes sense that it would seek out

those same characteristics, to which their skills are well suited, to breed on." Another factor that has been shown to influence territory selection is previous chick production. Territorial intrusions tend to increase following successful hatches, indicating that loons without a territory of their own may use the production of chicks as an indicator of territory quality and target those successful territories for takeover. Because they stay on the ocean for the first years of

their lives and then must spend time, sometimes many years, acquiring a breeding territory of their own, most loons will not hatch chicks of their own until they are six-seven years old. People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing [mybackyard88@aol.com](mailto:mybackyard88@aol.com) or [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com) or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

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# SPORTS

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## Cougars make it to second round of tournament

By Tim Peterson

WARREN—The Quaboag girls' tennis team began the Division 4 state tournament with a home victory for the third consecutive year.

Led by seniors, Isabelle Aberle, Erin McGrath, and

Norah Pennington-Russell, the 15th-seeded Lady Cougars defeated the 18th-seeded Quabbin Lady Panthers, 4-1, in a round of 32 match held at the Quaboag Regional tennis courts on May 28.

"We've won a home match in the state tournament during the past couple

of years, and it feels very good to do it again this year," said Quaboag head coach Norm St. Denis. "I was a little bit worried before the start of today's match, but our three singles players had convincing victories, which was good to see."

The other Lady Cougars seniors are Norah Schwenker, Lila Broadley, and Skylar Cook.

"All six of our seniors are starters and are very important play for us," Denis said. "They've been outstanding leaders to the underclassmen. They'll be very hard to replace next year."

Two years ago, the Lady Cougars defeated Millis in a round of 32 home match. They beat Sturgis East Charter in last year's round of 32 contest.

Quaboag (16-2) was scheduled to face the sec-



Erin McGrath lines up a serve.



Isabelle Aberle socks a return hit.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY SOFIA DIGRANDE

ond-seeded Bromfield Trojans in a round of 16 road match on Tuesday afternoon. It was the third meeting between the two teams during the past year.

"It has been a lot of fun

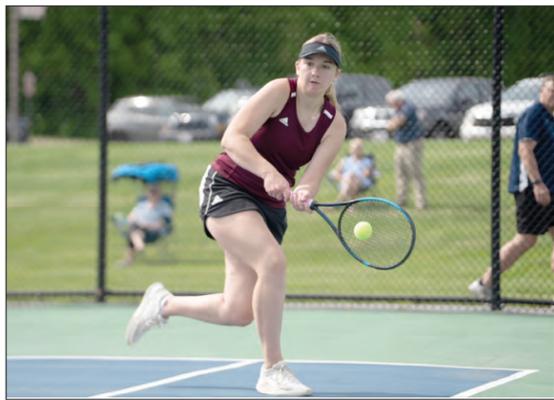
playing Bromfield," Aberle said. "They're a very good team, but it's been a friendly match whenever we do play them. I'm very glad that we won today's match."

The Lady Cougars lost at

Bromfield, 4-1, in the round of 16 last June.

The two teams also faced each other during the 2025 regular season at Quabo-

See **TENNIS** PAGE 10



Nora Pennington-Russell looks to keep the ball in play.

## Monson Legion picks up win over Aldenville

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE— During the past several years, all the District 3 Legion baseball teams qualified for the playoffs. That won't be the case this summer. Only the top six teams in the standings will qualify for the Legion playoffs.

Two days after having their season opener at North Adams Post 125 postponed due to rain, Monson Post 241 defeated Aldenville Post 337, 4-2, at Szot Park in Chicopee, last Wednesday night.

"There isn't going to be a Western Mass. playoff this year," said Monson manager Steve Tripp. "The top six teams will qualify for the State tournament. Every game that you play during the regular season is very important."

The first-place team in the District 3 standings will be hosting one of the pods in the preliminary round of

the double elimination state tournament. There are going to be a total of seven pods with four teams each. The winner of each pod, along with Quincy Morrisette Post 294, will advance to the Final Eight Team Department Championship Tournament, which will be held at Adams Field in Quincy from July 26-30.

The Northeast Region One Tournament will be held at Holy Cross College in Worcester.

Brayden Mega, who graduated from Pathfinder Tech, was the winning pitcher for Monson against Aldenville. The righthander went the distance allowing two runs on just three base hits. He issued two walks and recorded six strikeouts.

"We received an outstanding pitching performance from Brayden Mega," Tripp said. "This is the third year that he's been playing for us, and he has improved each year. We do have sever-



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Matthew Santos from Palmer High School picks up a grounder.

al other very good pitchers on this year's team."

Monson's other pitchers are Austin Meacham (Monson High School), Nate Kaczuwka (Ware High School), and Liam McGrath (Quaboag Regional), who's a first-year member of the Legion team.

Mega, who won five games for the Pioneers this past spring, will be playing

college baseball at Monroe University, which is in New York City. Their baseball team competes at the NJ-CAA Division I level.

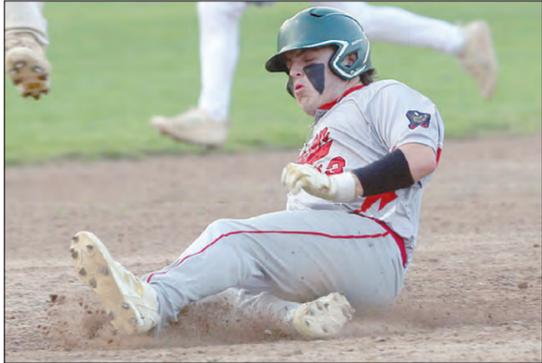
Mega can also play for the Legion team again next summer.

"I just wanted us to win our season opener," Mega

See **MONSON** PAGE 10



Shane Szado, of Monson, frames up a pitch.



Nathan Kaczuwka, of Ware, slides into third base.

## Pioneers battle to draw with Black Rock

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—While the Western Mass. Pioneers haven't lost a home match this season, their faithful supporters have celebrated just one victory at historic Lusitano Stadium.

The only meeting of the regular season between Black Rock FC and the Pioneers ended in a 1-1 draw before a large crowd, last Friday night.

"We do have a lot of quality players, and we always try to strive for excellence," said

Pioneers defender Aidan Kelly, who's also the team's first year captain. "It's always disappointing whenever we drop points, especially at home. Hopefully, we can get a result in our next match at Vermont. We just need to keep working hard."

The soccer teams in the USL League Two earn three points for a victory and one point for a tie.

The Pioneers (5-0-2) had a total of 17 points after their first seven matches. They're battling Vermont Green FC (5-0-1, 16 points) for first place in the North-

east Division standings.

The first meeting of the 2025 regular season between the two rivals was scheduled to take place at Virtue Field in Burlington, Vermont on Tuesday night.

The Western Mass. squad will be hosting Vermont in their final match of the regular season on July 11.

The Pioneers also played a 1-1 tie in the home opener on May 23 against Seacoast United Phantoms, who are the defending USL League Two champions. Their only home win came against New England FC, 4-1, on June 6.

"We dominated tonight's game, but we couldn't put away our chances," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. "Sometimes you can score a goal on four or five shots. Sometimes you take many shots and don't score any goals. It's just part of the game."

Black Rock hasn't celebrated a victory at Lusitano Stadium since the 2018 regular season. The two squads did play a scoreless draw at the old stadium in 2023.

Kelly, who joined the Pio-

See **PIONEERS** PAGE 10



Jenna Kalwa pops up a pass forward.

## Mutiny gets shutout of Racing Power FC

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Sole possession of first place in the U.S. East Conference standings was at stake entering the first ever meeting on the soccer pitch between Racing Power FC USA and the New England Mutiny.

After a scoreless opening half, the Mutiny scored three second half goals en route to a 3-0 shutout victory at Lusitano Stadium, last Saturday night.

"We played very well for the entire game," said Mutiny head coach Federico Molinari. "We finally scored a few goals in the second half." The Mutiny had a perfect 5-0-0 record following their third shutout win of the season. They only allowed two goals in their first five regular season matches.

The Mutiny are hoping to finish in first place for the fourth time since 2019. They lost to the Santa Clarita Blue Heat in the United Women's Soccer Championship match a year ago in a shootout. It was their only loss of 2024.

Racing Power FC (4-1-0) outscored their first four opponents, 19-0. They only had four subs for the road match, including the back-up goalie.

Cat Perez, who was born in Bogotá, Colombia, was the Mutiny's starting goal-



Aida Name of Chicopee gets in action for the Mutiny last weekend.

ie for the first time this season. She was also a member of her country's soccer team which competed in the 2024 Summer Olympics games in Paris, France. She has also played for Team Boca Blast of the WPSL.

Chloe Laizer, who recently graduated from West Springfield High School, replaced Perez 15 minutes into the second half.

The duo didn't have to make very many saves against Racing Power, who's an affiliate of the Portugal's Pro women's team.

The Mutiny starting defenders were Rachel Marchini, Aida Name, Anna Car-

See **MUTINY** PAGE 10

## - sports -

## Bonsignore breaks record for wins at Riverhead

RIVERHEAD, N.Y. — Justin Bonsignore had a perfect day Sunday at Riverhead Raceway.

Driving the No. 51 Phoenix Communications machine for Kenneth Massa Motorsports, Bonsignore was fastest in both NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour practice sessions on

Father's Day, then followed it up by capturing his first pole award of the season in qualifying.

Bonsignore rocketed to the lead early, then settled for second for much of the middle stages of the race. It was on pit road where the Kenneth Massa Motorsports team again shined -

getting Bonsignore back out front into the final stages.

He would hang on, holding off Ron Silk, Patrick Emerling and Matt Hirschman over a flurry of restarts in the second half of the race to take the victory.

The win was Bonsignore's 46th career on the NASCAR Whelen Modified

Tour, all with Kenneth Massa Motorsports. It was also his 12th career at Riverhead - breaking a tie with Mike Ewanitsko for the most all-time in Whelen Modified Tour competition at the New York quarter-mile.

"I've been wanting to break the record for a long time," Bonsignore said.

"Mike was a childhood hero of mine. The pit crew did another awesome job, with two excellent pit stops. To have my family here, it's the first race that all of them have been to this year. For it to be on Father's Day at home and everything we did, it's just really cool."

Justin Bonsignore will re-

turn to the track at Pocono Raceway on Saturday, June 21, driving the No. 19 Toyota GR Supra in the NASCAR Xfinity Series for Joe Gibbs Racing. The team will carry sponsorship from TW Cable LLC for the event, which will air live on The CW at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday afternoon.

## TENNIS FROM PAGE 9

ag Regional. The Trojans squeaked out a 3-2 win in that contest.

Quaboag's only other loss this season was at Wachusett Regional, who qualified for the Division 1 state tournament.

"We lost to Wachusett 5-0, but three of our matches were close," Denis said. "We wanted to improve our non-league schedule this year."

The last time that Quabbin and Quaboag faced each other in a girls' tennis match was during the 2023 regular season. The Lady Cougars won that match 5-0 at home.

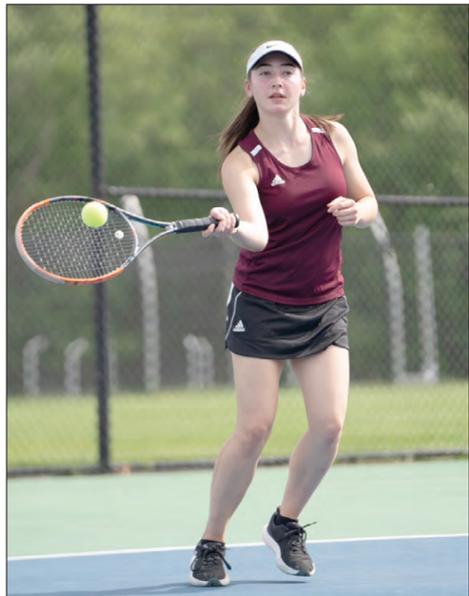
Quabbin finished the 2025 season with a 15-2 overall record. Their only other setback was a 3-2 non-league road loss to Doherty, who's a Division 2 team, on May 14.

"This was one of my favorite seasons since I've been coaching the tennis team," said Quabbin head coach Garth Weideman. "We have a bunch of juniors, who'll be returning next year. Our future does look very bright. Quaboag was the better team in today's match."

A year ago, Quabbin beat Randolph in the round of 32 before losing to second-seeded Manchester Essex in the round of 16.

The two seniors listed on the Lady Panthers tennis roster are Haley Ayer and Ellie Frost.

There wasn't very much



Lila Broadley returns a hit.



Maddy Stauder returns a hit across the court.

drama in this year's round of 32 match.

Aberle defeated Quabbin junior Farrah Wojcik, 6-1,6-0 in the first singles match.

Despite losing the match, it was a very good learning experience for Wojcik, who also plays field hockey.

"My opponent made a lot of good shots, and I had trouble returning them," Wojcik said. "It was a good learning experience. We had an outstanding season and I'm hoping that we can make it a little bit farther in the state tournament next year."

In the second singles match, McGrath posted a

6-1,6-1 victory against junior Kalinia Dyer.

That match sealed the Lady Cougars' victory.

"It's very exciting to be moving on in the state tournament," McGrath said. "Quabbin is a very good team."

Pennington-Russell cruised to a 6-0,6-0, win over Ayer in the third singles match.

"Our singles players are very different players," Denis said. "Isabelle has the perfect stroke and she always done everything right. Erin has to fight for every point during her matches. Norah has good instincts and ground strokes."

The two double matches were very close.

Schwenker and Broadley teamed up to beat junior's Maddy Stauder and Lizzie Matheson, 6-3, 7-6 (7-3) in first doubles.

The Lady Panthers captured the second doubles match, as Frost and sophomore Audrey Laursen posted a 7-7 (7-2),3-6, 10-3 win over Cook and junior Hayssa Freitas.

While the Lady Cougars seniors were able to win the final home match of the 2025 campaign, the returning Lady Panthers will be looking to make another trip to the Division 4 state tournament in 2026.

## MONSON FROM PAGE 9

said. "I was feeling very good out on the mound, especially after my teammates gave me an early 4-0 lead."

Aldenville (2-1) began the Legion season with a 9-1 road win against the Wilbraham Falcons.

A year ago, Aldenville lost to Belchertown in the District 3 championship game.

Righthander Justin Moskal, who was the ace of the South Hadley High School pitching staff this past spring, didn't receive very much support from his defense against Monson.

The majority of the Aldenville players are from South Hadley.

Monson second baseman Miguel Velasquez led off the second inning with an infield hit. Then Kaczuwka, who started at third base, bounced into a 6-4 fielder's choice play and catcher Shane Szado drew a walk.

After stealing third base, Kaczuwka scored the game's first run following a throwing error by the catcher.

"Nate is a fantastic base runner," Tripp said. "He has very good baseball instincts. You can always count on him to do the right thing."

With one-out in the fourth, Kaczuwka reached first base following a fielding error. Szado and right fielder Jarett Skowyrza followed with walks, which loaded

the bases. Then McGrath hit a foul pop-up which was caught by first baseman Matt Drobiak. He threw the ball to catcher Memphis Huertas, but the runner at first base broke towards second on the play. Kaczuwka crossed the plate following a run down. An infield hit by center fielder Jason Mumper scored Monson's third run. Another run scored on a throwing error, which gave the visiting team a 4-0 lead.

Aldenville cut the deficit in half with a two-out rally in the bottom of the fifth inning.

Shortstop Brandon Carillon was hit-by-a-pitch, and third baseman Alex Savlick walked. One run scored on a double by centerfielder Noah Carillon. Drobiak also drove home a run with a single into center field.

Mega would then retire the final seven Aldenville batters of the game, which gave Monson its first win of the Legion season.

"We just made several costly mistakes in tonight's game," said Aldenville manager Mason Scott. "We did battle back after following behind 4-0. We're now looking forward to playing Westfield."

Aldenville squeaked out an 8-7 win at Westfield Post 124 last Friday night

On the same night, Monson suffered an 11-3 loss to East Springfield Post 420 in their first home game at Legion Field in Palmer.

## MUTINY FROM PAGE 9

son, and Laci Lewis, who's the team captain.

Name, who graduated from Belchertown High School, will be a junior on the University of Rhode Island women's soccer team this fall.

Another defender listed on the Mutiny roster is Kylie Ray. She played soccer at Minnechaug Regional for legendary head coach Nundi Goncalves. Ray is currently a

member of the women's soccer team at Seton Hall University.

Tennessee Murphy, who lives in Monson, scored her first goal in a Mutiny home match during the 63<sup>rd</sup> minute.

The scoring play began when Lewis launched a crossing pass into the box from the right touchline. After the ball took a high bounce, Murphy headed it into the back of the net past goalie Riley Melendez.

"We knew that tonight's opponent was a very good team," said Murphy, who scored her first two goals of the season on the road. "It was a perfect cross from Laci. When I saw the ball go over the defender, I was a little bit nervous because I didn't want to miss a scoring chance. After I headed the ball into the net, it was a very good feeling."

Three minutes later, the Mutiny were given a penalty kick following a foul in the box.

Chioma Okafor, who's a member of the UConn women's soccer team, blasted a shot into the lower left corner of the net giving the home team a 2-0 advantage.

Murphy, who's a first-year member of the Mutiny, assisted on the third goal in the 79<sup>th</sup> minute.

After dribbling around a

couple of defenders, Murphy made a short pass to Avery Klingensmith, who finished off the play by putting a shot into the right corner.

"I used to play against Avery when we played in the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League," Murphy said. "It's been a lot of fun being teammates with her on this soccer player."

Klingensmith, who's from Belchertown, will be a senior on the American University women's soccer team. During her outstanding high school career, Klingensmith was selected to the All-American team by the United Soccer Coaches.

Murphy, who transferred to the Loomis-Chaffee School four years ago, received the same honor last fall.

"My older sister, Brooke,



Avery Klingensmith, of Belchertown, navigates through traffic.

was also an All-American and it was a very special honor for me. I really didn't expect it, but it was a lot of fun celebrating the accomplishment with my family," said Murphy, who's entering her senior year at Loomis. "I've also committed to play soccer at Bucknell University. It's a small school and I

really like the soccer team. I think it's a very good fit for me."

The Mutiny are scheduled to play a road match against the Maine Footy on Saturday night before facing the NJ Alliance in the regular season home finale at 5pm on June 29.

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## PIONEERS FROM PAGE 9

neers a year ago, is from Belfast, Northern Ireland. He'll be a senior on the UMass men's soccer team in the fall. The Minutemen men's soccer coach is Fran O'Leary, who's a native of Dublin, Ireland.

"My college coach is from Ireland," Kelly said. "He's the main reason why I decided to play soccer at UMass. It has been a great three years there and I have one more left. I'm really looking forward to it."

Kelly replaced Nicholas Oberrauch as the Pioneers captain.

"I learned a lot from Nicholas last year," Kelly added. "I was honored when Federico told me that I was

going to be the captain of this year's team. I'm very glad to be leading this group of players."

Kelly is also a starting defender, along with Jared Smith, Jaiden Willems, and Juan Hermoso.

Kelly and Smith combined to score what turned out to be the only Pioneers goal against Black Rock following a corner kick two minutes into the opening half.

Israel Neto booted the ball into the box from the left corner. Kelly tapped the ball over to Smith, who fired a wide open shot into the back of the net for his first career goal with the Pioneers.

"We've been working on set pieces at practice," Kelly

said. "I got my foot on the ball and luckily Jared was there to take a shot. I'm very glad that he scored his first career goal in tonight's match."

Black Rock scored the equalizer on a header by Koki Hamada in the 10th minute.

Western Mass. goalie Cam Hall didn't have to make very many saves during the final 80 minutes of the match.

At the other end of the field, the Pioneers had seven more corner kicks during the final 35 minutes of the opening half, but they were unable to score.

With 15 minutes remaining in the half, Mamadi Jiana, who's a former member of the Chicopee High

School boys' varsity soccer team, stole the ball away from a Black Rock player. He then took a shot from inside the box, which sailed high over the crossbar.

The score was deadlocked 1-1 at halftime.

The Pioneers had several more scoring chances in the second half, but they could put the ball into the net past goalie Benjamin Diffley.

With less than two minutes remaining in the contest, Kelly made a sliding tackle breaking up a break-away opportunity for Black Rock.

The visiting team didn't have any other shots on goal, and the score was still tied when referee Fabio Cardoso blew his whistle for the final time.

# - public notices -



**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](mailto: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](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://palmertowareimprovementproject.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

**TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE**

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, 18-25, as amended by Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2009, The Wetlands Protection Act, the West Brookfield Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **WEDNESDAY July 2, 2025 at 6:00 pm** in the first floor meeting room, West Brookfield Town

Hall, 2 East Main Street.  
6:00 pm – Public Hearing:  
RDA – 173 Shoreline Drive – Ezpeleta – Tree Removal  
NOI – Abbreviated - Continuation – 25 Rodman Street – Carlson – replace wall, patio, stairs  
RDA – Continuation - Vegetation Management – CSX Transportation -  
NOI – Leland Road - Water Department – Continuation - Construction of new water treatment facility.  
06/20/2025

**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](mailto:dpu.efiling@mass.gov) AND to [Connor.C.Tarr@mass.gov](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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://palmertowareimprovementproject.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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Yonathan.Mengesha@mass.gov) para fazer a solicitação.

**Kreyòl Ayisyen (Haitian Creole)**

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**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](mailto:Yonathan.Mengesha@mass.gov) pour faire une demande.  
06/13, 06/20/2025

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- 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
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- 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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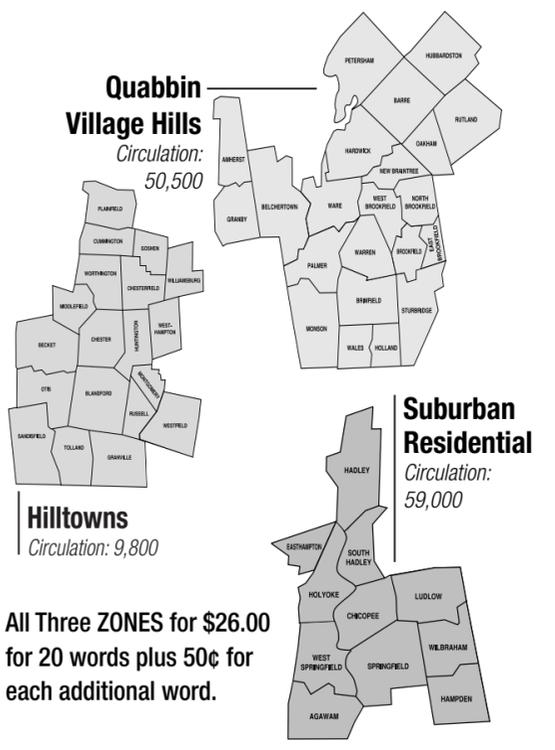
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# Memorial car show honored longtime club member

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – The South Barre Rod & Gun Club hosted its annual Mark Blanchard Memorial Car Show & BBQ this past weekend.

This was the third time the club has hosted this great event in memory of Mark Blanchard, a longtime member of the South Barre Rod & Gun Club.

In addition to cars, the club provided a delicious chicken BBQ meal. Over 200 chickens were cooked outside as guests lined up to eat.

This annual car show takes place every year on Father's Day weekend. This year, about 20 cars were featured during the car show. Karen Blanchard, the wife of Mark, was joined by many car collectors and enthusiasts who enjoy cars and brought many vintage cars for this year's memorial car show.

Running the car show alongside Blanchard were



The South Barre Rod & Gun Club hosted the 3rd Annual Mark Blanchard Memorial Car Show this past weekend. Shown is a sign made in honor of Mark, who was a longtime member of the club.

Stanley Miknaitis and Dave Altobelli. This group enjoys cars and runs car shows together throughout the region. Miknaitis brought a couple vintage cars of his own, including a red 1964 Ford Falcon Futara.

For Miknaitis, collecting and fixing vintage cars is a hobby and he has been

involved in car shows since 1997. His journey into being around cars started when he came across a 1964 Falcon that was about to be demolished. After taking it off the truck, withing an hour, Miknaitis got it running.

Having a car in his possession gave him a project to do and soon that one

project became a hobby. "I've met a lot of people and got more friends involved," Miknaitis said.

Miknaitis has gone to national car shows all over the United States. The second car he brought was a 1965 Ford two door Wagon. What makes this vehicle rare is only 4,800 were ever made. Miknaitis will be attending another car show later this year that is hosted by the Barre Lions Club on Sept. 6 on the Barre Common.

In addition to vintage cars, there were also vintage pickup trucks as well. One of the oldest trucks on display during the annual Mark Blanchard Memorial Car Show was a 1955 Red Chevrolet Pickup. Many guests got to tour around the back field of the South Barre Rod & Gun Club to see these vintage cars and the owners were there to present some information.

The event also featured music and a raffle where guests can try to win some cool basket prizes. Under the pavilion was a beautiful



A yellow Dodge Challenger was parked in the back field of the South Barre Rod & Gun Club.



Stanley Miknaitis is shown alongside a 1965 Ford Two Door Wagon; a rare vehicle.

sign made in memory of Barre Road. Visit [www.southbarrerodandgunclub.org](http://www.southbarrerodandgunclub.org) or follow the club on Facebook for future events.

The South Barre Rod & Gun Club is located at 2626

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