

# QUABOAG CURRENT

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Friday, June 26, 2026

## Select Board extends radio agreement

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis  
Staff Writer  
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BROOKFIELD – The Select Board revisited the agreement between the town and Apple Country Radio that allows the station to use a room in the Town Hall known as the green room at their meeting last Wednesday.

This comes after the original agreement which was signed last year expired in April, and the board extended it 90 days to consult with legal counsel.

At the June 17 meeting, the board said they received a letter from town counsel suggesting the town continue the agreement as a license agreement rather than a lease agreement, because there are separate legal processes.

Interim Town Administrator Blythe Robinson said she was comfortable with that recommendation, as it allows the radio station to broadcast but also protects the town. Robinson said the town owns the property, and should have latitude in case something happens, so they

are not locked up in a lease agreement.

Part of the discussion was to have the radio station pay \$2,100 per year to utilize the room, but Select Board member Richard Chaffee said that might not be enough, taking into account heating, cooling and electricity.

Select Board member Beth Coughlin said the board should not base the price of the station on fair market value if the agreement is a license agreement, because that is a step in the lease agreement process.

Apple Country Radio founder Sharon Mahoney said there is no heating or cooling in the green room, or another room the station utilizes called the mezzanine, and they do not use an electric heater in the room, because that decision should be left up to the people who use it, including the radio station and IT director Jacob Gorham.

She also said the cost of electricity was based on a former cost of \$157

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## 100 and fabulous

Millie Reed celebrates centennial birthday

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WEST BROOKFIELD – Mildred “Millie” Reed celebrated her 100th birthday surrounded by family and friends at her residence at Brookhaven Assisted Care last week.

The June 17 party featured live music by Lori Brooks, a variety of refreshments, a birthday cake, and an outpouring of support for Reed, who spent many years living in neighboring Warren.

Reed was born during the Great Depression in 1926, the daughter of John and Fabiola Brunelle. Her family moved around a lot during this time, and she remembered eating only oatmeal and water.

A proud Republican, Reed recalled voting in her first presidential election, and selecting candidate Dwight D. Eisenhower.

At the party, Reed’s

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TURLEY PHOTO BY PAULA OUIMETTE

Millie Reed celebrated her 100th birthday with family and friends at Brookhaven Assisted Care on June 17.

## BOS holds gravel pit licensing hearing

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis  
Staff Writer  
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NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Board of Selectmen held a hearing regarding new regulations on gravel pit operations in the town at their meeting last Tuesday.

Chair Jamie Gilman said this bylaw was recommended by the Planning Board to ensure activities on gravel pits were consistent with the regulations. He said the original bylaw was approved unanimously at the annual town meeting of 2023, but it had not been enforced until 2026.

Building Inspector John Couture and Police Chief Ryan Daley each inspected the properties with gravel pits, and recommended all of them be re-licensed, so the board voted to approve the licenses of several residents in attendance who operate gravel pits.

Executive assistant Mary-Beth Kularski said the annual license fee is \$100, but she sent out a letter charging \$50 since the regulations were acted on halfway through the year.

John Kaminski, a resident who has a gravel pit, said his property has been grandfathered in, and the property has had a pit for 70 years without issue. Kaminski

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TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY

Joy Hinton and Rebecca Fay are shown at the Summer Solstice celebration hosted at their two businesses.

## Great weather, lovely place, lively band, fine food

Summer Solstice celebration returns to West Brookfield

By Richard Murphy  
Correspondent

WEST BROOKFIELD – It happened again, on the exact same day as last year, June 20, at the same place, and by the same two impresarios, The Joy of Beans and West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery.

They are making the two venues together more or less the cultural capital of the town of West Brookfield.

The day itself is the Summer Solstice, that is the

longest day, and the shortest night of the year. Sans storm and rain, it is usually wonderfully pleasant.

Why wouldn't someone want to have a good time?

At 10 and 12 East Main St., two businesses front the street such that the parking lots together, without vehicles provide a space that would be a natural spot for a party.

West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery, at 10 East Main St. is where you'll find “gifts and original artwork by local artists; complete custom framing services; a vast, vintage poster and print collection, and friendly service.” It is operated by Rebecca Fay.

The Joy of Beans, at 12 East Main St. is headquarters of Joy Hinton’s coffee operation that sources gourmet brews from all over the planet. The coffee is renowned, but that is only the beginning as the shop has teas and pastries as well as events such last year’s International Chess Day.

The two have something else in their favor. If there is a deity that governs the weather, that spirit is in Joy and Rebecca’s corner. There had been predictions of some precipitation in the days previous, but the

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## Select Board approves housing production plan

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis  
Staff Writer  
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STURBRIDGE – The Select Board approved a housing production plan as recommended by the Affordable Housing Trust and the Planning Board at their meeting last Monday.

At the June 15 meeting, Town Planner Jean Bubon said a housing production plan is updated every six years, and the last one expired in March. She said the trust had been working on this new plan since January.

Bubon said there was a community survey, a forum, interviews and data gathered from citizens for this plan.

Housing consultant Karen Sunnarborg said the plan is detailed and comprehensive, and the housing production is a subset of Mass General Law chapter 40B, regional planning. She said if the town produces 20 units that meet the requirements of the plan, they enter into safe harbor for a year, and if they produce 40 units, they get two years of safe harbor.

Sunnarborg said this gives the town more power over developer’s plans if the town deems the use inappropriate.

She said under the plan, developments have to target people making 80% of the median income of the town, and there are working families involved. She said one of the main focuses is rental housing, along

with downsizing and first time homeowners as well.

Sunnarborg said some ideas the trust came up with was looking into a starter housing bylaw, which brings financial incentives for an overlay district for smaller, more dense housing. She said another idea was cottage housing, where many smaller homes are built around a central green space.

She said one of the key pieces of this program is agreement between the developer and the town, where the town helps provide direction to developers based on priorities, and the town files jointly with the developer for the project.

### Timber harvest plan

A representative from Hull Forest Products Inc. described a plan for a forest cutting plan at 155 Breakneck Road. He said the property has had similar work done dating back to the 18th century, and more recently had harvests done in 1976 by Rossi Hardwoods, 1986 by Bill Hull and from 1996 to the early 2000s by Sam Hull.

The representative said this plan is for about 260 acres out of the approximately 320 acres on the property to improve the health of the forest, and improve habitat and recreation opportunities. He said there are some water and wetland crossings,

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# - community -



Viviana Chamberly, age 4, participated in the kid's run and received a medal.



The kids run took place on West Brookfield common during the inaugural Dashing into Summer 5K and Kid's Run, put together by the West Brookfield Elementary School PTO.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO

## Dash into Summer

PTO hosts inaugural 5K fundraiser

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WEST BROOKFIELD – The inaugural Dash into Summer 5K and Kid's Run was held to benefit the West Brookfield Elementary

also supported by many volunteers, including members of the Quaboag Honor Society.

The fun began with the Kid's Run, with a course outlined on the common.

President Madalyn Chamberlain called all the runners to the starting line. Family and friends looked on and cheered for the kids

Greg, Joe and Herschel were doing some stretch exercises to get ready.

Those who participated in the 5K came from all over the region. Aidan of Sturbridge and Kelan of Oakham ran together during the 5K and started the run together right up front at the starting line.

The Dash into Summer

had various raffles going on, including a 50/50 raffle and a table of raffle prizes such as tickets to the Woo Sox and gift certificates.

The PTO also accepted donations of old sneakers to recycle.

A cornhole match was taking place between volunteers Cody and Cole. Cadence and Reagan were in the middle of a competitive game of Giant Jenga.

"The wind is winning so far," Reagan said, as Jenga blocks continued to fall.

Vendors included Grace Wellness, which helps empower men and women to sustain healthy lifestyles habits. Representing Grace Wellness was Karen Rocheleau, a National Board-Certified Health & Wellness Coach who supports clients through life coaching and whole-body health programs.

For crafters, Diane Loughrey of All From The Heart Crafts provided 3D printed crafts of all kinds.

Brynne's Bread of Oakham had their food truck parked on the common. Brynne Stark and her daughter Rosie were serving customers during and after the 5K and Kid's Run.

Brynne's Bread has been operating for the last 16 years and has operated their food truck for the last two years. Stark said her most popular pastries according to customers are cinnamon rolls, sourdough, her breads and whoopie pies.

The first ever Dash into Summer 5K and Kid's Run was a success and will be back in West Brookfield. More information about the West Brookfield Elementary School PTO can be found on its Facebook Page, "WBES PTO."



The start of the 5K with adults and teens participating.

School PTO and had close to 100 participants.

At the June 20 event, Treasurer of the WBES PTO Amanda Wodyga said they're "planning on doing it again" next year.

The West Brookfield Elementary School PTO provides funding for a variety of student events throughout the year. The PTO is

as they dashed their way through the course.

Viviana Chamberly, age 4, was participating in her third fun run this past weekend. Her previous runs include a fun run in New London last year, and a spooky run in Sturbridge.

A lot of runners were warming up on the common prior to the 5K. Friends

event also had a mix of vendors and activities, including a gaga pit set up by Cub Scout Pack #159, who represent Brookfield and West Brookfield.

Children also enjoyed facepainting and balloon twisting before and after the runs.

Members of the PTO



Volunteers Cadence and Reagan played a round of giant Jenga.



Cole prepared to toss in a round of cornhole against fellow volunteer Cody.



Katerina Landon crossed the finish line during the first ever Dash into Summer 5K.



President of the West Brookfield Elementary School PTO Madalyn Chamberlain called all the runners to the start prior to the Kid's Run.



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# - community -



## Red, white and boom

Annual fireworks show enjoyed at Quaboag

WARREN – The Warren Parks Department held its annual fireworks show at Quaboag Regional Middle High School last Friday, welcoming the start of summer.

Prior to the start of the fireworks show, people enjoyed live music by Wonderland Mafia, face painting and feather hair extensions, a bounce house, food trucks and vendors.

The Warren Parks Department will continue its summer entertainment with

its Concerts in the Park series on Friday, June 26 at 6 p.m., featuring Moose and the High Tops at Dean Park, end of Dean Street in West Warren. Bring a blanket or chair.

This concert will have a “bounce house blow out,” with multiple bounce houses and an obstacle course. The concert is free, but two-hour wristband admission to the bounce houses is \$15 per person with sales beginning at 5:45 p.m.

These events are sponsored in part by a grant from the Warren Cultural Council, a local agency which is sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY CAMREN ROBERTSON

Maeve and Christine Luszczy waited for the Warren Parks Department's annual fireworks show to



AJ Paquette had his face painted at the fireworks show.



A child got some cotton candy.



Friends enjoyed the fireworks show and the start of summer.

## Lake Wickaboag ‘Lights Up’ for nation’s 250th on July 4th

WEST BROOKFIELD – To celebrate our nation’s 250th birthday, the Lake Wickaboag Preservation Association is sponsoring a 4th of July weekend spectacular in the theme of “The Spirit of America – Light Up Lake Wickaboag.”

Cash prizes will be earned by several, bragging rights will be claimed by many, and lots of fun will be had by all.

Starting on Friday, July

3, the weekend will include displays of patriotic and themed docks, boats and decorated cottages.

On Saturday, July 4, at approximately 6:30 p.m., a massive boat tie up center lake is planned to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and sing the Star Spangled Banner.

Following at 7 p.m., a full “Light Up Lake Wickaboag” parade will start at the Boat Club and continue cruising into the

night.

If you can’t get out on the lake in a boat, kayak or canoe, no worries. Pack your beach chairs and picnic baskets or relax on a floatie within the town beach area.

Whether an active participant or spectator, you won’t want to miss it.

For more details, check the LWPA Facebook page, visit lakewickaboag.com, or email LWPA01585@gmail.com.

## East Brookfield Public Library lists summer events

EAST BROOKFIELD – The East Brookfield Public Library, 122 Connie Mack Drive, will host Game Day Afternoon on Thursday at 3 p.m., starting on June 25.

Come learn to play different card games, like Uno, Go Fish, War and more. All ages are welcome to attend.

### Reading Buddies

Reading Buddies will start on Thursday, June 25 at 2 p.m. Please call the library for your child to be

matched with another child.

meet new friends.

### Movie Time

Movie Time will be held on select Mondays at 1 p.m. Dates include June 22, July 6, July 20, Aug. 3 and Aug. 17.

Stop by the library with your lunch and enjoy a block buster movie and

### Summer Eats Program

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

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- opinion -

# in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



## Kohlrabi - The first question of summer

A reader of 'In the Garden' wrote in with this question for the Garden Lady: "Can you tell me why my kohlrabi did not make a bulb? I have grown them all my life and enjoyed them shredded like coleslaw or cooked with a white sauce. I also know I can use the leaves in stir fry. Thanks for any advice you might have."



I'm thinking either of these scenarios are likely not the case, unless you are gardening in a new locale with new materials or more limited space. The other two considerations are Mother Nature related.

While I am not highly experienced when it comes to kohlrabi culture, I applied a few basic gardening principles to come up with some ideas as to why you are having issues with bulb development, some within your control and others left up to Mother Nature.

Kohlrabi is a member of the cabbage family, a cruciferous vegetable. Think cabbage, broccoli, kale, Brussels's sprouts, etc.

The swollen stem is considered the "bulb" but it does not grow below ground. Picture the heart of cabbage or the stem of broccoli swollen to look like a flying saucer of sorts.

As our reader mentioned, they are great in coleslaw and they keep a long time. Like other members of this family, they are considered highly nutritious.

Let's start with fertility. For the biggest, bulbous stem, think less nitrogen and more potassium and phosphorus.

I'm curious if you fertilized with high nitrogen sources, such as composted manure, blood meal or fish emulsion? Or perhaps used a chemical fertilizer with a ratio such as 10-5-5?

The first number would indicate a higher amount of nitrogen than the other two numbers for phosphorus and potassium, respectively.

Another thought would be that kohlrabi can sometimes resist proper bulb formation if it is spaced too close together. Planting a minimum of eight inches apart gives the plant enough space to do it's thing.

Since you've had luck with kohlrabi in the past,

As I recall, we had a burst of hotter than normal weather in late May. Since Kohlrabi is a cool weather crop, thriving at temperatures less than 75 degrees, the heat stress could have signaled the crop to bolt without ever forming a bulb.

Are your plants tall and spindly, or are they otherwise well developed? If you installed transplants, perhaps the trouble started even before the plants even made their way into your garden. Just another thought!

The second weather related issue is moisture. Mother Nature has not been generous in the rain department. Sometimes when droughty conditions are followed by bouts of deep soaking, the would-be bulbous stems can crack or get fibrous before actually bulbing up.

Since we have had less rain that what would be ideal, providing consistent moisture is key.

Although I am not 100% certain why you are having issues this year, I hope that you do give kohlrabi another try. Maybe it was just an off year.

Typically we gardeners are an optimistic lot and our motto is "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." That, I know we will.

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*



## A 320-mile hike on the Appalachian Trail

By Julie Midura

When we stepped onto the Appalachian Trail for a 26 day, 310-mile backpacking trip from Fontana Dam, North Carolina to Damascus, Virginia, we had no idea what adventures and misadventures lay ahead.

We had no idea that on our very first night in the Great Smoky Mountains, we would come face to face with a large black bear, who would lunge forward, clamp his enormous jaws around another hiker's backpack - which happened to be lying by my feet - and lumber off into the woods with it.

We never imagined that the same fearless bear would return to the campsite a half a dozen times throughout the night while we were snuggled in our two-person sleeping bag. Or that we would be standing outside of our tent at midnight blowing whistles as the bear slowly approached us - the beam of light from our headlamps igniting the bear's eyes a golden yellow.

Or that Tom would pick up a medium-sized boulder and lift it over his head in case the bear came any closer. Or that other backpackers who had been sleeping in the nearby shelter would race towards us with headlamps shining like spotlights through the shadowed forest, and one of them would dispense bear spray directly into the bear's face to finally ward it off for the last time.

Or that, due to this close encounter, Smoky Mountain National Park officials would close the campsite to hikers the following day.

This is the longest backpacking trip Tom and I have ever embarked on.

In our attempt to hike all 2,200 miles of the Appalachian Trail, we know that we need to amp up the mileage with each trip we



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

take. At 61 and 69 years old, we likely have limited time before our bodies protest against this type of strenuous activity.

But being out here is about so much more than making miles and achieving a goal. It's about rediscovering who we are away from the creature comforts we are accustomed to.

Away from the chaos. Away from the responsibilities. Away from the noise.

As I write this, we are halfway through our trip. We've been out here on trail for 13 days, hiking between nine and 11 hours each day.

We have been awed by the power of nature in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. Been pelted by torrential rain while thunder rumbled overhead and have melted in 90-degree heat under a blazing sun.

We have stood on the highest mountain on the entire Appalachian Trail, the 6,640-foot summit of Kuwohi, formerly known as Clingman's Dome. Played "who's going to blink first" with a five-foot long snake.

We've stood atop mountains looking at views that have taken our breath away, and we've sat side-by-side on the ground in the middle of the forest, our legs stretched out on the dirt and our heads leaning back against our backpacks, simply watching the clouds dance across the sky.

Tonight, we have pitched our tent on a bed of pine needles under a tree, not far from the summit of Big Bald. We are surrounded by twisted, gnarled trees and rocks the size of mobile homes.

It feels as though we are in a cloak and dagger mystery novel.

After eating our freeze-dried dinner of beef and

pasta, we walked 150 feet up the trail to a small viewpoint, where we sat down on a large flat rock for almost an hour while waiting for the sun to meet the horizon.

We talked about everything. And nothing. Important things and nonsensical things.

We relived our days out here so far. Reminiscenced about past adventures and future plans. Talked about family. Life. Dreams.

I snuggled in closer to Tom as the air chilled. And we waited.

The sun hung low. Clouds caught the fading sunlight and the golden orb blazed through them with such intensity that we briefly looked away. But when the sun drifted lower, we watched the world catch fire in shades of crimson, orange and gold.

Like strokes on canvas, the sky was transformed, leaving us breathless.

Our conversation paused. The earth slowed. The world existed only in the present moment. Time stood still.

Once the sun disappeared behind the distant ridges-leaving the lingering shades of blue and pink and purple behind - Tom and I stood, bowed our heads, and praised God for his goodness.

Then we slowly walked hand in hand back to our tent as darkness descended on the forest.

Over the past eight years of backpacking, with well over a thousand miles completed, there are about five nights on trail that I will never forget.

This is now one of them. Stay tuned for the second half of our backpacking trip in a future edition of the newspaper.

Onward!

QUABOAG CURRENT

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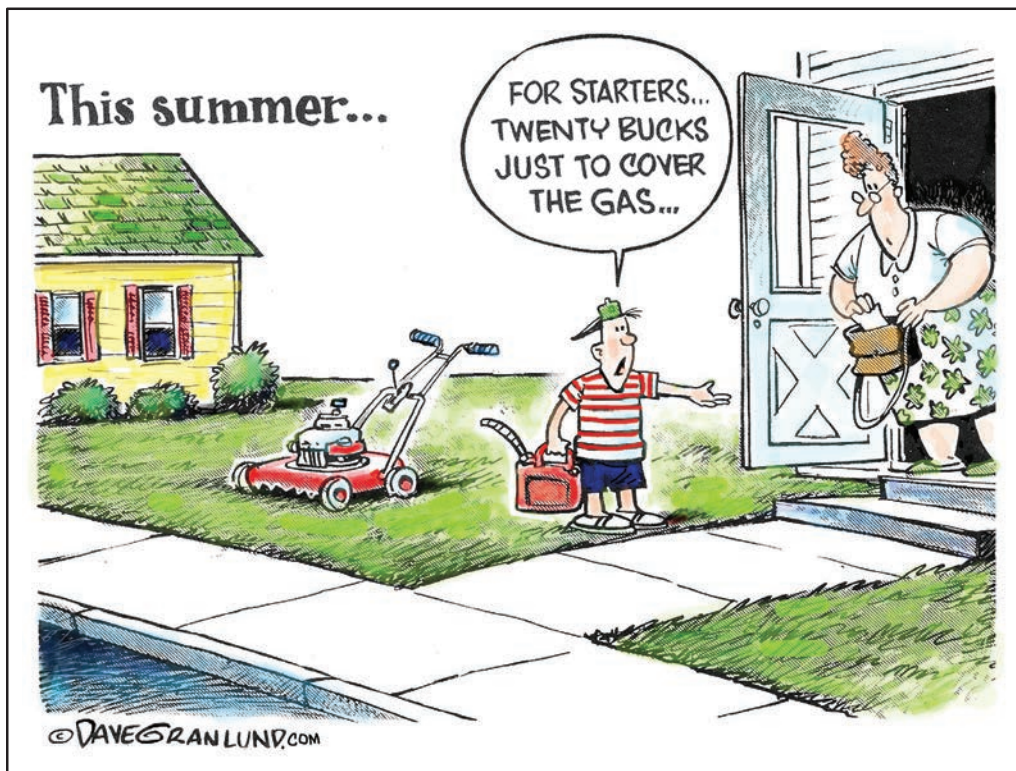
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- community -

# Superintendent presents test scores, ideas for future

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis  
Staff Writer  
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**NORTH BROOKFIELD** – The School Committee held a regular meeting last Monday where Timothy McCormick, the superintendent of North Brookfield Public Schools gave a presentation on test scores and ideas from the school community on the future of the district.

At the June 15 meeting, McCormick presented results from a Measures of Academic Progress test that was administered at all levels, but the results for the high school were not yet available. McCormick said the MAP test is designed to examine student growth and achievements, and look at progress regardless of grade level.

He said the academic team designed a four step process for the review of scores including describing, reflecting, interpreting and

prioritizing. Some of the strengths based on the results were grade four math, which scored in the 81st percentile, grade five math, which scored in the 68th percentile and grade five reading, which scored in the 65th percentile, according to McCormick's presentation.

There were also two examples of students in cohorts A and B that improved significantly, the student in cohort A gaining 43 percentile points over three years, and the student in cohort B gaining 53 points in that same time.

There were also some areas to focus on highlighted in the presentation, including grade six reading, which averaged in the 43rd percentile, grade six math which averaged between the 41st and 43rd percentile, grade eight reading which averaged in the 28th percentile and grade eight math which averaged between the 39th and 42nd percentile.

McCormick said the interpretation from this data is there is strength in the elementary school and a gap in the middle grades, meaning there is a need to fine-tune instruction in those grades. Some next steps include targeting middle school reading, expanding student teacher conferences and aligning the MAP tests with MCAS.

School Committee member Nancy Waldron asked what could be driving the lower results in the middle school, and McCormick said they have implemented a new program called high quality instructional material, and staff are still learning how to use it appropriately.

### Reimagining North Brookfield

McCormick said there were multiple sessions with the school community, including listening sessions with students, staff and parents where they gave input on what they want to see

moving forward in North Brookfield Public Schools.

McCormick said some of the priorities that came out of these meetings include career readiness, student choice (electives and clubs), community connections and wellness and belonging initiatives. He said other priorities included expanding student opportunities, creating an advisory board and bringing back a study hall block.

McCormick said students want more Advanced Placement and dual enrollment classes for college credit, wellness days, and a focus on arts and innovative career pathways. He said some ideas to meet these needs include phasing in AP classes, having a social emotional learning block, inviting guest speakers for career days, and bringing more structure into the school day. McCormick said there were students asking for Spanish classes, so the board voted

to move forward with posting a position for a full-time Spanish teacher.

### Student representative

Student representative Noah Gillette said the high school held class elections on June 10, and the rising sixth graders will hold their elections in the fall. He said there was a class day and field day on June 5, and an overnight lock in for Student Council members on June 18, where they participate in team building activities.

### Financial report

McCormick said as of the June 15 meeting, there was about \$730,000 remaining in the general fund, which would be expended by the end of the fiscal year. He said they would carry over \$500,000 between Circuit Breaker and school choice funds, and those figures are aside from \$1.3 million in fiscal year 2027 offsets.

McCormick also said an application has been sub-

mitted to the Attorney General's office for a grant related to a new cell phone policy that will roll out in the fall. He said the \$10,000 grant will cover Yonder pouches, which restricts access to cell phones during school hours.

### Recognitions and donations

McCormick recognized the class advisors and counselors for the work they have done for the end of year events, and also recognized the elementary school staff and parents for their help at field day.

Chairman Matt Grant recognized softball coach Shiela Leblanc on her retirement after over 30 years.

The senior class donated a tree and a plaque in remembrance of late teacher, Damian Sarrette; the Parent Teacher Organization donated \$273 to the music department, Michael Kittredge donated \$120 and a resident donated flags for the school.



Millie Reed posed for photo with her family members.

### MILLIE FROM PAGE 1

friends said she was both an accomplished painter and a dedicated nurse. She also went to college, which was uncommon during her time.

Reed said she was a caretaker for her father for three years, her mother for seven years and her husband, Erwin Harry Reed, for 20 years. "He's been gone 34 years," Reed said of her husband.

The Reeds had two children during their 40+ year marriage, Erwin Harry Reed Jr. and Sandra Aulenback.

Family has always been important to Reed, who said her mother inspired her artistic side. She said they would stencil and quilt together.

"My mother and I always were together," she said.

Many of her family members were able to attend her 100th birthday party, including her son and her brother, Raymond Brunelle. Reed said her brother served a



TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE

Millie Reed blew out the candles on her birthday cake.

year in Vietnam, and that he was approaching his 95th birthday.

Reed was also joined at her party by many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, including some that traveled from California for the special day.

Reed continues to be ac-

tive in her community, and her friend's said she never skips a song or dance at the Warren Senior Center.

Turning 100 has been bittersweet for Reed, who said she is both happy and sad about the milestone.

"Sad because I've lost just about everyone," she said. "And happy to have such a gathering of relatives and friends."

While blowing out the candles on her cake, Reed asked if she could make a wish to live 100 more years.

The staff at Brookhaven Assisted Care said Reed has touched the lives of a lot of people.

"She has such a big community," BillyJo said.

Manager Erin thanked everyone who made the party a success, including Heidi McDermott at Shaw's supermarket, Green Thumb Florist in West Brookfield, and Reed's friend who baked the cake.



Family and friends celebrated Millie Reed's centennial birthday.

### N BROOKFIELD FROM PAGE 1

ki said he did not want to sign a new contract because the board could change the regulations in the following year.

Gilman said that is not true, because once a property is grandfathered in, it is permanent.

Gilman said the reason this bylaw was recommended was there were some gravel pits whose operations did not align with the specifications, and this bylaw allows the town to keep an eye on changes of use. He said the bylaw is the only way to have control over the pits, because without a regulation, there are no violations.

Kaminski said this is a "99%" rule, where most people are following the regulations, but have to make up for one person disobeying them.

Gilman said the intent was not to interrupt any businesses, but this bylaw allows for consistency and fairness.

Gilman said Kaminski would have to pay the \$100 fee, but a resident who was with him said that would not happen because they pay property taxes.

The resident asked if the people who voted on the bylaw had gravel pits. Gilman said it was an annual town meeting of less than 100 people who voted on it.

### Spending requests

The board approved several spending requests from the Highway Department. The department requested to spend \$291.84 for a piston for a leaking plow, \$4,385.49 for shop supplies, \$650 for a trimmer, \$5,358.24 for 12 tires, including for a Mack and a sander, along with \$1,423.01 for ball joint replacements for a Ford F450.

### Reserve fund requests

The board approved several reserve fund requests, including \$1,620.45 to library heat for excess fiscal year 2026 expenses, \$903.40 to the fire maintenance account for pest control and \$900.83 to the fire equipment account for turnout gear.

### Fire/Highway costs

The board approved a quote for dirt for the Fire/Highway project from Bond Sand Gravel and Asphalt totaling \$2,396, including 20 tons of dirt at \$29.95 per ton and four loads of material at \$599 per load.

Gilman said Bond is donating the trucking for a savings of \$520. The board also approved the fire and highway spend up to \$500 for grass seed and hay for the project from Klem's.

### Fuel bids

The board passed over signing contracts with Petersen Oil for diesel fuel and Frantacelli Oil for #2 heating oil because of some confusion regarding wording in the contracts.

### 215 Main St

The board signed a three-year lease for the town offices at 215 Main St. from June 30, 2026 to June 30, 2029, at an annual rent of \$38,239.44 for approximately 4,460 square feet of office space.

### Donations

The board accepted a \$100 donation to Parks and Recreation, along with a separate donation of four bundt cakes from Marsha Ort.

### Public comment

A resident was concerned about operations at 45 Hines Bridge Road, where there is a gravel pit. They said after a change of ownership, the new owner has not honored hours of operation, and there have been more trucks and activity, including weekends and holidays.

The resident also said they have faced intimidating behavior from the new owners. Kularski said the Building Inspector said the property was clean, and had no issues.

Another resident said he wanted an update on road reconstruction on Mount Pleasant Street. He said he cannot get through the road, and has heard multiple different answers on when the project will be completed.

Kularski said it is a federal project, and the town has no control over it.

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# - community -



Gregg, Sparky and Bill of Spooner Well performe.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY

## SUMMER SOLSTICE FROM PAGE 1

evening would be all that one could ask for.

Certainly, the men providing the music would be glad of that. Spooner Well is a popular local band noted for an eclectic style. You name it they play it.

To illustrate the versatility, after performing "Peaceful easy feeling", the trio played a Celtic sounding tune by member Bill that was a complete departure.

The band's name harks back to the America Revolution. Bathsheba Spooner was less than happily married to a wealthy Tory

farmer, Joshua Spooner. Three men, on her behalf, murdered Joshua and threw him down the well. Hence Spooner Well.

All involved were hung. Crime didn't pay.

Heading in the opposite direction from the band, one arrived at the tent setting up to provide sustenance to the assembled. Flames Restaurant has venues in the Boston area. Flames provided the food last year, and they must have done something right as they were back again.

Chef Noel was busy preparing the cuisine. Joy's Husband, Travis is longtime friends with Noel.

The menu was Jamaican chicken dishes and sides and was doing a brisk business.

So, folks were hanging out, eating or conversing as the evening progressed. To the right of the band was the Community Mandala Project. It was a poster where now and again someone would come over and take a marker and add to what someone else had previously posted.

A mandala is defined as a graphic depiction of the spiritual universe and its myriad realms and deities. In asking about what the organizers intended, the response was it was just for fun.



Chef Noel of Flames Restaurant was at the helm.

And why not. At the Solstice the universe could be whatever you want it to be.

It all continued, with Joy and Rebecca having every reason to be satisfied with the evening.

The ladies never stop and certainly have more plans.

Rebecca shared some of Art & Frame's upcoming events. On Aug. 7, "Sunrise - A Postpartum Show" is planned. What could that be? Gallery artist Vanessa

Varjian will share paintings from her first year of motherhood. Come on the 7th if you can from 5-7 p.m., but the show will hang for a month.

On Sept. 4 there will be "Avian Obsession." That is the stunning work of Evan Lipton, "a man with a keen interest in our feathered friends." Stop in from 5-7 p.m.

At West Brookfield Art & Frame art does not stop.

Shows and demonstrations will continue through the year.

As for Joy, well, something is always being planned, and interesting, not that what goes on at 12 East Main St isn't always such.

The longest day of 2026 continued with all in attendance lingering on enjoying each other's company, and the music and food and beverages as summer began.

## BROOKFIELD FROM PAGE 1

per year, which former Town Administrator Ronald Aponte requested be changed to \$179. She said Chaffee agreed to that cost at the time. There were also questions about whether the costs of the room were contingent on broadcasting, to which Mahoney said there were no specifications in the agreement.

Mahoney said there is also an insurance cost of about \$2,100 per year, and they cannot afford an in-

crease. She requested to maintain the current costs and assess after a year.

She said they are close to starting broadcasts out of the room, but there is still some electric work needed. She said the radio station could technically be broadcast from her home, but it would cost \$4,500 and 10 gigabyte internet, and she would not want volunteers going through her home.

The board voted to extend the current agreement another 30 days, and also voted to allow Mahoney to work with Robinson.

## Appointments

The board unanimously approved the appointment of Matthew Schlegel as a full-time police officer. Police Chief Michael Blanchard said he has five years of experience.

The board also appointed Marylou Rowe as town treasurer at a rate of \$45 per hour. Robinson said she is a qualified treasurer and collector who works as an assistant accountant in another community, and will continue working there while providing work in Brookfield three days a week.

The board also approved

an agreement for assessing services with Diane Bishop, who the board said will provide remote work for day-to-day duties like phone calls and emails. The cost of her services was approved at \$7,500.

## Spending requests

The Police Department requested to spend money for a new water heater. Blanchard said it was fixed in January, but did not last long and they need a new one. He said the money would be transferred from an overtime account to an expense account.

The Water Department also requested to spend money for emergency supplies, which Water Commission Chair Don Taft said were used during a water main break on Mill Street. Each request was approved by the Select Board.

The board also approved various end of year transfers.

## South Pond Beach updates

Beach Committee Chair Jeff Clark said the buoys were put into the water at South Pond, and a permit was gotten by the new Board of Health Chair Jake Hill.

Clark said there has not been any vegetation management at South Pond due to Highway Department

turnover. He said there was vandalism of a porta potty found. Clark said there was some concern about ticks along with nothing being done for accessibility.

## Transfer station deck

The board voted to allow Chaffee to receive quotes for repairs of the deck at the transfer station. Coughlin said she already had one contractor look at it.

Robinson said earlier on the day of the meeting, someone put their foot through a crack in the deck.

Administrative items  
The board approved a response by Robinson, which was reviewed by town counsel, to an open meeting law complaint filed by Christopher Kelleher dated May 22, 2026. The board also approved an invoice from the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission and signed a contract with Eric Kinshurf for accounting services in fiscal year 2027.

The board acknowledged reports from the Police Department and grant writer.

FY 27 board appointments

There were several appointments to boards and committees to start July 1, the new fiscal year, including the following: Barbara Haberlin, Steve Novak and Shelby Hill to the Agricul-

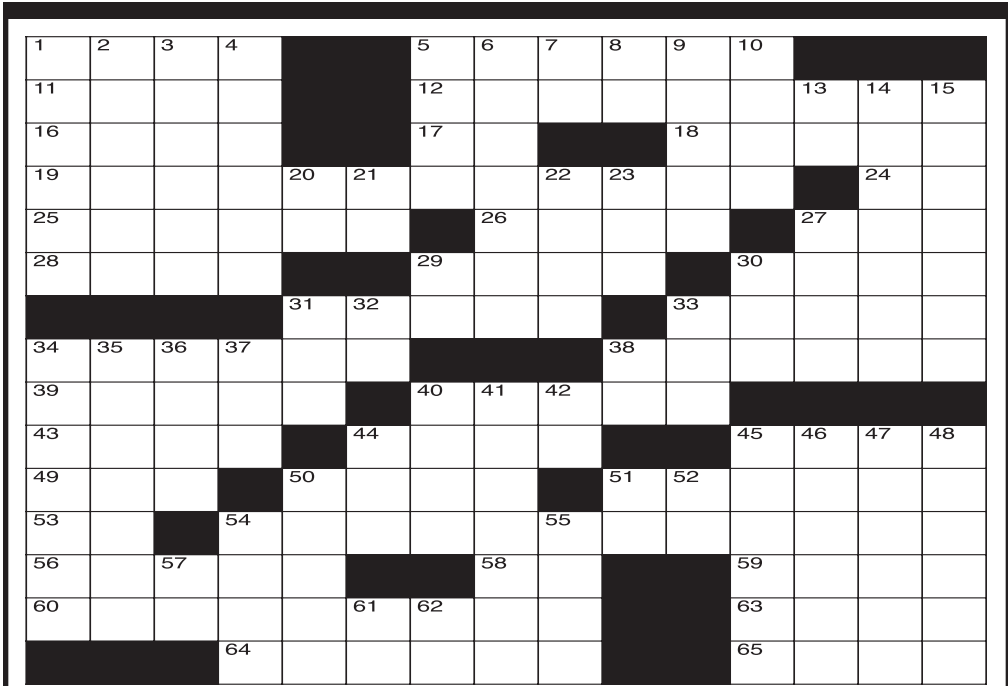
tural Commission. Alan Jones, Kaitlin Servant, Michelle Mandella, Clark, Michelle Clark and Christine Murray to the Beach Committee

Michael Creighton and Jacob Gorham to the Cable Advisory Committee. Coughlin to the Capital Improvement Planning Committee. Elisabeth Olesin and Meghan Crane to the Communications Committee. Arthur Tatro as Constable. Sandra Couture and Donna Killam to the Council on Aging.

Carol Plumb to the Historical Commission. Paula Casey, Claudia Forgit, Amanda Veer, Mike Seery, Sgt. Sean Marino, Holly Chisholm and Laurie Bartkus to the Insurance Advisory Committee. Blanchard as an Overseer to the Dispatch Board. Michael Seery as Parking Clerk.

Marino, Matthew Lapioire, Egbert Pinero Pina and Ashley Dennisson as full-time police officers. Lisa Hanrahan and Timothy Nye to the Recreation Committee. Plumb to the Board of Registrars.

Coughlin as Worcester Regional Transit Authority representative and member of the WRTA Advisory Committee. Patrick Mulhern to the Zoning Board of Appeals and KP Law as Town Counsel.



## CLUES ACROSS

1. Nocturnal S. American rodent
5. Requesting
11. Give temporarily
12. Excitedness
16. Armed Forces branch
17. Actor Harris
18. Middle Eastern capital
19. Air hostesses
24. Partner to "Pa"
25. Percussion instrument
26. Popular computers
27. Reduce light
28. Asian mountain range
29. Every one of two or more
30. Absence of difficulty
31. A public announcement of a proposed marriage
33. Whittles
34. Impact
38. Serviceman
39. A French river
40. Prehistoric people

## CLUES DOWN

1. Colorless fluid
2. Of a main artery
3. Photographer's tool
4. Blues Traveler hit "But
43. Messenger ribonucleic acid
44. \_\_\_ Clapton, musician
45. Ancient Greek sophist
49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
50. Singer Hansard
51. A way to disentangle
53. Atomic #93
54. Manifesting approval
56. Indigo bush
58. Former AL MVP Vaughn
59. Off-Broadway theater award
60. Fencers
63. Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
64. Relating to passerine birds
65. Arrange systematically

## CLUES DOWN

5. Grew older
6. Not the leader
7. \_\_\_ Lang (country singer)
8. A driver's license is one
9. Nests of pheasants
10. Wildebeests
13. Equal to one quintillion bytes
14. Japanese three-stringed lute
15. Type of cat
20. It cools your home
21. The ancient Egyptian sun god
22. Pouches
23. German trigraph
27. Form of Persian
29. Measurement unit
30. Body part
31. Bridge building degree
32. Indicates position
33. Political action committee
34. Snack food

35. Front part of a quadruped
36. Locate
37. Pitching statistic
38. \_\_, myself and I
40. City in Utah
41. They play in the trenches
42. "Can't Touch This" rapper \_\_\_ Hammer
44. Type of tree
45. Performers
46. Slang for mistake
47. More open
48. Most slick
50. Needles
51. University of Dayton
52. Atomic #11
54. Large fish of the mackerel family
55. Not any
57. \_\_\_ and behold
61. Popular sports highlight show (abbr.)
62. "The Great Lakes State"

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# SPORTS

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## Post 241 suffers loss to Greenfield

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

PALMER – Entering the second week of the American Legion baseball season, Monson Post 241 had the opportunity to move into a first-place tie with Greenfield Post 81 in the Zone 3A standings.

The Monson supporters didn't have very much to cheer for in the first meeting between the two teams. Greenfield remained in sole possession of first place and improved to a perfect 3-0 following an 11-0 shut-out victory on a gorgeous evening at Legion Field in Palmer, last Monday (June 15). The contest ended after five innings due to the 10-run mercy rule.

"We made more errors than we had base hits in tonight's game," said Palmer manager Steve Tripp. "You always have to make the plays to beat a very good hitting team like Greenfield."

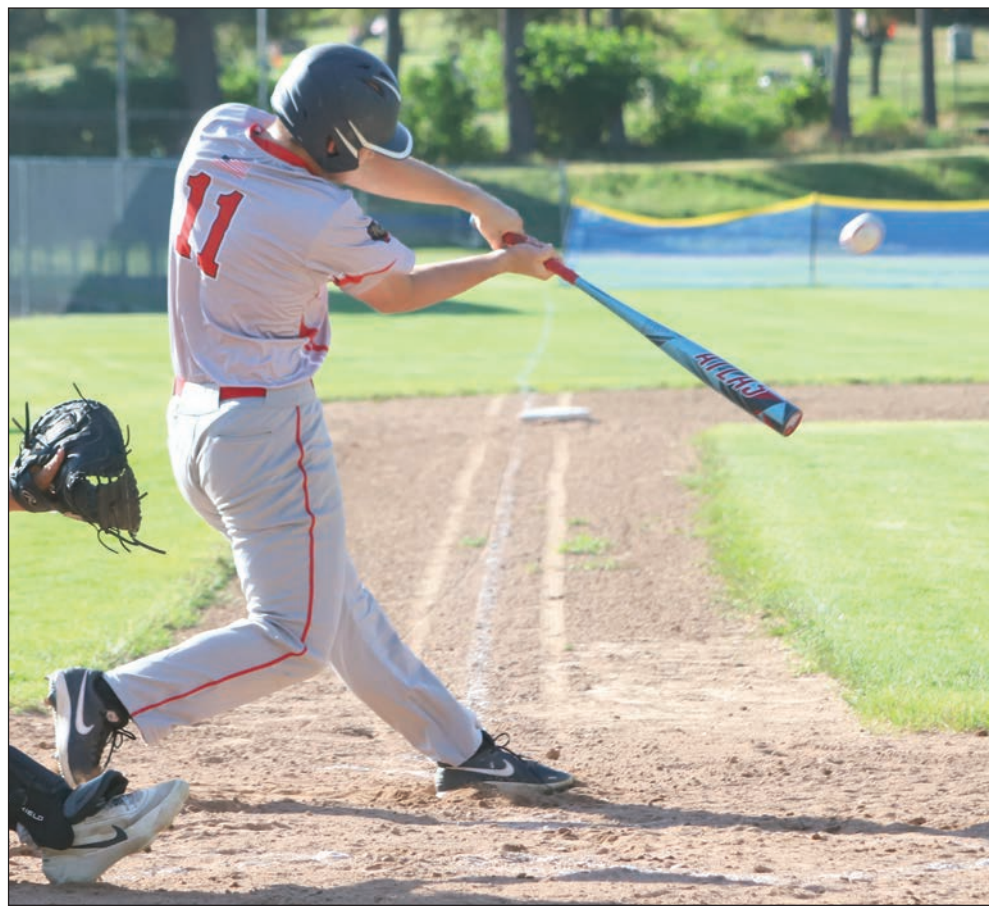
While Greenfield outscored their first three opponents, 39-2, Monson (1-2) only scored seven runs in their first three games, which were all played at home. Four of the runs came in, a 4-2 win over Sheffield Post 340 on June 12.

Tripp received some good news about Theo Haley, who suffered an injury at a preseason practice.

Tripp was originally told that it was a season ending injury, but after seeing a doctor, Haley was cleared to return to action. He's hoping to play his first game during the next couple of weeks.

This past spring, Haley was one of the leading hitters on the Palmer varsity baseball team.

Making his second start of the Legion season, Brayden Mega, who graduated from Pathfinder Tech a year ago, set down the first three Greenfield hitters that he faced on a groundball out and two strikeouts. The righthander didn't receive very much support after



Liam McGrath, a Quaboag student, makes solid contact.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

that.

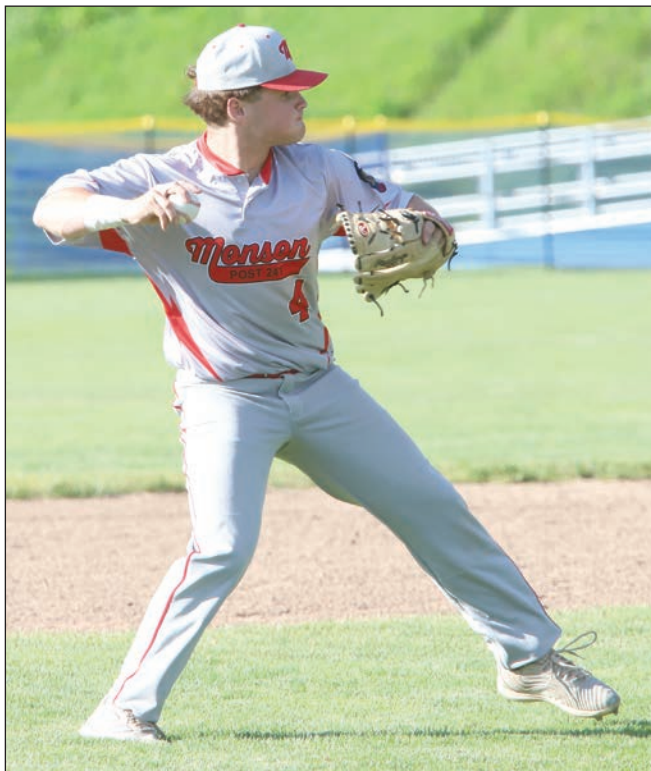
The Monson batters had a chance to take the lead against Greenfield righthander Matthew Burke in the bottom half of the opening frame.

Third baseman Sebastian Mayberry beat out a groundball to the shortstop for an infield single leading off the inning. After the next batter struck out, first baseman Kyle Kaczuwka was also safe at first base following another infield hit. The threat ended quickly, as Burke retired the next two batters on a flyball and a strikeout.

"We haven't scored a first inning run during our first three games of the season," Tripp said. "We've been struggling offensively."

Monson had at least one base runner during the next four innings, but none of them advanced past second base.

With one-out in the second inning, shortstop Matt Santos reached first base following a fielding error by the Greenfield shortstop. It was only error made by the



Sebastian Mayberry sends a throw to second.

Post 81 defense.

Santos stole second base before Burke struck out the next two hitters.

Kaczuwka drew a walk with two outs in the next inning.

Monson's only other base hit in the game was

a single into rightfield by Josiel Ortiz, who was a defensive replacement at second base, with one-out in the fourth. Catcher Jarett Skowrya walked with two outs. Once again Burke ended the inning with his

See POST 241 PAGE 8



URLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM  
Kayleigh Lukasik heads up the field for the Mutiny.

## Mutiny suffers loss to Crusaders

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Following three straight 2-1 road losses, the New England Mutiny were looking to celebrate a home victory versus the Hudson Valley Crusaders.

The Mutiny managed to take a 1-0 lead before the Crusaders responded with four unanswered goals leading to a 4-2 victory in a USL W League match held at Lusitano Stadium, last Saturday night.

"This is a very challenging league," said Avery Klingensmith, who was an outstanding soccer player at Belchertown High School. "We've had several games this season where we had taken an early lead and wound up losing, which is a little bit frustrating. Protecting a lead is something that we need to work on. We really wanted to win tonight's game."

The Mutiny (1-5-2) are



Chloe Laizer corals the ball.

first-year members of the USL W League. Their only victory came at home against AC Connecticut, 5-0, on May 30. They lost two close road matches against Hudson Valley, 2-0, and 2-1.

The Crusaders (5-2-2), along with Hartford Athletic and Vermont Green FC, are trying to finish the regular season in first place in the Northeast Division. Only the first place team

See MUTINY PAGE 8

## Western Mass. Pioneers battle to draw with Boston Bolts

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – After 21 days away from historic Lusitano Stadium, the Western Mass. Pioneers returned home last Friday night for an intrastate showdown with the Boston Bolts.

The Pioneers faithful supporters had plenty to celebrate early in the match, as the home side stormed out to a 2-0 advantage in the 24th minute.

The Bolts responded with a goal late in the first half. They struck again 15 minutes into the second half and the USL League Two matchup ended in a 2-2 draw in front of a large crowd.

"We held a 2-1 halftime lead," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. "We didn't play very well in the second half. This is a very disappointing result for us."

Both teams entered the match with a total of 14 goals.

The Pioneers (5-1-2), who have allowed 10 goals, are

currently sitting in third place in the Northeast Division table behind NEC and Vermont Green FC.

The top two finishers in the division will automatically qualify for the league playoffs.

The Pioneers, who went 2-0-1 in their previous three matches on the road, have qualified for the league playoffs each year since joining USL League Two in 2019.

The Western Mass. squad will most likely need to win their remaining five regular season matches and get a little bit of help along the way to keep the playoff streak alive.

"It's very disappointing letting a two goal lead slip away, especially in front of our fans," said Felipe De Andrade, who scored the Pioneers second goal. "We're going to continue to improve and keep fighting the rest of the season."

De Andrade, who's from Westborough, played for the Bolts, which only won three matches a year ago.

"Western Mass has always been a very strong team," he said. "I just wanted a new challenge this year. The atmosphere here is amazing and it's a privilege to be a member of this squad. I wouldn't change anything."

De Andrade, who was a member of the New England Revolution Academy soccer team in high school, began his collegiate career at UMass Boston. He'll be joining the men's soccer team at Bryant University, which competes at the Division 1 level, this fall.

The Pioneers had a couple of scoring chances during the first ten minutes of the contest.

Bolts goalie William Synnestvedt made his first save on a header from Martin Echarren six minutes into the first half. A minute later, Echarren, who plays soccer at the University of Charleston, lined a shot towards the goal, but Synnestvedt (2 saves) made the diving save knocking the ball over the end line resulting in a corner kick.



Santiago Blasco fights to keep the ball.

The Pioneers broke the ice during the 21st minute.

The scoring play began with Alfred Baafi delivering a crossing pass in the box to

See PIONEERS PAGE 8

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY  
Jaiden Williams makes a quick pass to his left.

- sports -

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# Turleysports

## Athlete of the Month



**Keira McCord**  
*Tantasqua Regional High School*

**McCord turned in an outstanding season, leading Tantasqua softball deep into the state tournament this year.**

*To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.*

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**MUTINY FROM PAGE 7**

earns a berth in the league playoffs.

Klingensmith, who wrapped up her collegiate soccer career at American University in Washington D.C. last fall, is planning to join a professional soccer team in Greece at the end of the summer.

“I’m really looking forward to starting my professional soccer career in a different country,” Klingensmith said. “Its going to be a different type of experience for me.”

Hope Santiniello, who’s from Agawam, has been a member of the Mutiny since 2019. She played in her first home match of the 2026 season against the Crusaders.

“The atmosphere at this stadium is always amazing,” said Santiniello, who was a starting defender for the first time in last Saturday’s match. “It’s always been a pleasure playing for this team.”

Just like Klingensmith, Santiniello is seeking an opportunity to play soccer at the professional level. She’s hoping to join a women’s team in Florida.

Another local player listed on the Mutiny roster is Tennessee Murphy, who began her high school soccer career at Monson High School before transferring

to the Loomis Chaffee School in Connecticut. She’ll be a freshman on the Bucknell University women’s soccer team in the fall.

“Being a member of this soccer team is preparing me for the college level,” Murphy said. “I’m counting down the days until I leave for college. I’m looking forward to the challenge.”

Murphy is scheduled to leave for Pennsylvania on July 27.

The Mutiny took a 1-0 lead less than ten minutes into the opening half.

Hudson Valley goalie Brianna McDonald attempted to clear the ball, but it went directly to Mila Dillard, who put a shot into the open net for an unassisted goal.

Dillard, who lives in Chicopee, is going to be a senior on the Pope Francis girls’ varsity soccer team, which is coached by her father, Brent. She has verbally committed to playing soccer at the University of Kentucky a year from now.

The Crusaders tied the score during the 18th minute of the opening half with Joy Okonye putting a header into the left corner of the net past Mutiny goalie Chloe Laizer.

About six minutes later, a goal from Emmanuella Frimpomaa gave the visiting team the lead for first

time. The Crusaders were then given a penalty kick following a foul in the box.

Okonye took the shot, which deflected off the right post.

With five minutes remaining in the first half, Laizer made an outstanding save on a breakaway shot from Frimpomaa, which kept the score at 2-1 a little bit longer.

The Crusaders did take a 3-1 lead when Marta Carrasco Mesa headed the ball into the net following a corner kick.

Frimpomaa scored her second goal of the match 30 seconds into the second half, which pretty much sealed the Crusaders victory.

At the end of regulation, Trinity Clark scored a goal for the home team.

The Mutiny were scheduled to play a road match against AC Connecticut on Tuesday night before wrapping up the season against Vermont Green at Lusitano Stadium at 6pm on Saturday night.



Hope Santaniello, of Agawam, sends a long kick away.



Avery Klingensmith, of Belchertown, tries to get control of the ball.



Monson's Tennessee Murphy advances up the field.

**POST 241 FROM PAGE 7**

sixth strikeout.

Burke was relieved by righty Evan Tsipenyuk before the start of the fifth inning.

Pinch hitters Hunter Sherman and Julian Detra drew walks with one out before Tsipenyuk retired the next two hitters ending the game a couple of innings early.

Greenfield scored eleven runs in their final four At-bats. Only four runs were earned, as Post 241 committed a total of seven errors.

Centerfielder Hunter Donahue (2-for-2) was hit-by-a pitch leading off the second inning. He advanced to second base on an error and to third base on a wild pitch. He scored the game’s first run on the back end of a double steal play. Catcher Luca Siano also contributed with an RBI single in the second inning.

After retiring the first two batters in the third inning, Mega should’ve been sitting in the third base dugout, but a flyball hit by third baseman Chase Zraunig was dropped by the right fielder. The visiting team wound up scoring three runs in that frame to take a 5-0 lead. Monson made two more errors in the fourth, which helped Greenfield build an 8-0 advantage.

Greenfield reached double digits against righty relief pitcher Emerson Boronski when shortstop Samuel Connors knocked home a run with a double down the right field line. Connors, who went to third base on a wild pitch, crossed the plate on a ground out by DH Connor Bergeron making the score 11-0.

**PIONEERS FROM PAGE 7**

Echarren, who put a header into the right corner of the net.

Three minutes later, De Andrade fired a shot into the back of the net after receiving a pass from Echarren.

The Bolts (3-4-2) cut their deficit in half when Connor Gibson scored on a header in the 37th minute.

N i - kolaj Ber-



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI  
Brayden Mega sends a pitch home.



Anthony Elliott fouls off a pitch.

telsen was the Pioneers starting goalie for the first time this season. He replaced Ben Alexander, who suffered an injury in a 1-0 win over the Conn. Rush two nights earlier.

“Ben suffered a head injury the other night and he had to get stitches,” Molinari said. “He’ll probably be out a couple of games.”

During the 60th minute, Xavier Tanyi lined a shot from about 25 yards out into the net tying the score at 2-2.

The Pioneers had a couple of chances to retake the lead during the last 30 minutes, but the score didn’t change

on the scoreboard.

Western Mass. defender Riley Priddy was given a straight red card from referee Luis Reis after pulling down a Bolts player just outside the top of the box in stoppage time. The free kick taken from Rainer Osselmann-Chai deflected off a Western Mass. defender and the home team salvaged a tie.

A tie is better than a loss, but it wasn’t what the Pioneers fans were hoping for.

The Pioneers are scheduled to face the Bolts for the second time this season at Brandeis University on June 30.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY  
Thomas Wadas clears the ball away.

Maeve Staunton overtakes an opponent.

- community -

# Pathfinder packs gymnasium for graduation ceremony

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Staff Writer  
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – On June 7, Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School held its graduation ceremony to an audience of close to 1,500.

The families and loved ones of this year's graduates from Pathfinder Tech gathered in the gymnasium at Belchertown High School. This marked the first time in 51 years that Pathfinder's graduation was moved off-campus.

"We were forced to pick a specific date this year, because Skills USA Nationals were moved and conflicted with everyone's graduations," said Superintendent Eric Duda, who explained that there were students flying back from Atlanta, Georgia late the night before the graduation ceremony.

The school had planned to hold the graduation on the main campus, but when the weather started to look questionable, the school announced that the ceremony would be moved.

"Belchertown offered a year ago to let us use their space should we need it," Duda said. "We've been very involved in Belchertown, so I guess it was all meant to be."

During his address to the graduates, Duda made reference to the enormous American flag behind the stage, and tied it to the nation's 250th anniversary that is being celebrated this year.

"This flag stands not only behind you physically,



The proud Aliengena family walked away with a Pathfinder Tech diploma, (from left) Melissa, Max, and Michael.

but symbolically as well today, reminding us that each of you has an important role to play in shaping the next chapter of our nation's history, and change is key," Duda said. "I stand before you today filled with pride, excitement, and anticipation for each of these amazing graduates seated before me. I have witnessed them embrace transformative change over the last four years."

Duda compared the changes the students will make to the future to the school's expansion into Belchertown, opening the Cold Spring Campus to offer 150 more seats to students.

Speeches were then presented by graduating students, offering encouragement to their classmates as they enter into the profes-

sional world. The valedictorian, salutatorian, and class president each had a speech prepared.

"High school students will always have something to complain about," Valedictorian Noel Plumadore said. "They complain because they all will have to make sacrifices; whether it's their career, their studies, their social circle, or something as simple as the time they have in the day, something will have to be lost. This does not go away when we enter adulthood, but to minimize the pain that comes from these sacrifices, we must seize opportunity where we can. By going to Pathfinder Tech, we have already learned to take advantage of an opportunity not everyone gets."

"As we step off this stage today, we are leaving be-

hind a place and environment we all became familiar with," said Salutatorian Destiny Rodriguez. "The future is unpredictable, and as much as we dislike change, it is a constant in our lives. Do not be afraid of the challenges that await you. There will be many moments throughout your lives that will feel uncertain and the next step in your journey may feel unclear. It's within these obstacles you face, that personal growth flourishes. Remember it's okay to be human and make mistakes. But most importantly, remember success is not measured by how much you have accomplished or earned, but by the person you have become."

"I owe a lot to both my brothers," said Class President Rachel Roblinski. "My



Salutatorian Destiny Rodriguez celebrated her achievements with Kennndyl Roberts and Dylan Holbrook.

older brother Tommy, a '24 alum, taught me a lot about responsibility...My younger brother Jayden always reminded me that life wasn't too serious, and to enjoy my senior year. My father Dr. Michael Roblinski, a name I hope to one day embed myself, thank you for dealing with all the busy schedules and late night study sessions."

She then shared a phrase in Chinese, which translates to "I know life hasn't been easy for the both of us but I couldn't be more grateful I went through it all with you. Thank you for giving me a life of endless support. I love you Mom," before thanking her mother in English for the sacrifices she made so she could make it to the stage that weekend.

School Committee Chair

Julia Quink sent the graduates off with a speech about resilience.

"Years from now, when you look back on this day, I hope you remember not just the diploma you received, but the lessons you learned about perseverance, friendship, responsibility, and growth," Quink said. "Be ambitious in your dreams, be kind in your actions, be courageous when faced with uncertainty, and, when life presents obstacles, as it inevitably will, remember that resilience is not the absence of difficulty; it is the determination to keep moving forward despite it."

The graduates then received their diplomas, and were played out with Green Day's "Good Riddance (Time of Your Life)".

## 5th Tim Morin Memorial Car Show held

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Motors were running as the 5th annual Tim Morin Memorial Car Show was held at the North Brookfield Sportsmen's Club.

Justin Milner was one of the organizers for this year's car show, which featured 65 cars. This car show was named after the late Tim Morin, who did a lot for the Sportsmen's Club and was the founder of the annual car show the club puts on every year.

After Morin passed, the North Brookfield Sportsmen's Club continued to do the car show in memory of him. According to Milner, Morin, alongside his brothers, were big into cars.

Milner had a car of his own on display, a blue Ford Mustang, which he's owned for 26 years. His son Landon is also a car fan.

Joining the North Brookfield Sportsmen's Club for the car show was radio per-



Justin Milner handed a plaque over to Pitt, the owner of this 1932 Ford B Pick Up Truck.

sonality Bruce Marshall of The Valley's Classic Hits 97.7. This car show was part of Marshall's 2026 Cruise Season.

Marshall is the proud owner of a 1953 Chevy Sedan Delivery. Marshall said cars represent a lot of things and the owners behind them always have stories to share.

"They all bring back memories," Marshall said.

During every car show Marshall has a pick, known as Bruce's Pick, which this year was a 1959 Chevy Bel Air owned by Bob Hebert

of Palmer.

A lot of owners sat alongside their vintage and modern vehicles for the car show.

One couple, Kevin and Karen Moran of Southbridge, brought their 2018 Ford Mustang GT. The color was decorated blue and red and was nicknamed the "KSTANG."

The Morans have owned this vehicle for the last six years and still drive it throughout the year for day trips.

"Our summer jam," Kevin Moran said.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO



The front of the "KSTANG," a 2018 Ford Mustang GT owned by Kevin and Karen Moran of Southbridge.

This year's car show had some rare and unique cars and trucks.

One of the oldest trucks that entered is a 1932 Ford B Pick Up. This truck received one of the 15 plaques that were awarded in this year's Tim Morin Memorial Car Show.

The couple who owns this vintage pick up had work done to it about 40 years ago and to this day still do a couple drives with the truck in the summer.

Next to this vintage pick up was another classic pick

up, a 1984 Chevy Step Side with the back lifted.

A team of judges went around the field to see all of the cars entered in the show and determined 15 winners plus a Best in Show award.

John Sidebottom served as one of the car show judges and announced the winners.

The winners, after they were announced, drove up to the pavilion of the North Brookfield Sportsmen's Club to receive their plaque and then drove off with their vintage car. Milner and his



A red 1955 Chevy Model 210 received a plaque during the car show.



A blue Plymouth GTX made its way out of the North Brookfield Sportsmen's Club.

# - community -

## Sturbridge celebrates America250

*Parade and festival to be held on June 27*

STURBRIDGE – The Town of Sturbridge will celebrate America250 on Saturday, June 27 with a parade and festival.

The parade steps off at 10:30 a.m. from the intersection of Stallion Hill and the OSV Access Road. Featured are Bob Briere as Grand Marshal, and Guest of Honor Virginia Jalbert, the town's oldest resident.

There are over 70 units participating – bands, floats by local groups and businesses, scouts, local youth sports teams, dance troupes, vintage vehicles, clowns, a tank, and so much more. Viewing will be along Route 20 and Route 131 starting at Saw Dust Coffee House and ending at the Town Common.

Emcee Bill Emrich will have colorful play by play of the entrants.

At 1 p.m., the America250 Festival kicks off on the Town Common. Jenee Lacey will sing the National Anthem, followed

by welcoming remarks by state Sen. Ryan Fattman and state Rep. Todd Smola, and readings from the Burgess Elementary School essay contest winners.

Also attending and reading her essay, which has been awarded second place in the National Essay Contest, is Burgess sixth grader, Elizabeth Beaupre. The 215th Army Band of the Massachusetts Army National Guard will perform from 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Throughout the event, which lasts until 5 p.m., there will be various booths, activities and demonstrations. These include a militia encampment and military uniforms display, historical activities, a display of Model A cars, axe throwing, a bouncy house, yard games, a photo booth and food trucks from BT's Smokehouse, Thai Place, Chic-fil-a and Suzy Q's Ice Cream.

The Publick House and Oakholm Brewery will be serving beer, and Deep Roots Distillery will serve lemonade and cocktails. At 2:30 p.m. there will be

a cherry-pie-eating contest, followed by a ceremonial cake cutting and serving of a special America250 cake created by the Publick House.

From 2:30-3:30 p.m. interpreters will be stationed in the Old Burial Ground to engage visitors in a self-guided tour and discuss the Revolutionary War veterans buried there.

At 3:30 p.m., performers from Mass Motion Dance Academy will dance to patriotic music.

Parking around the Common will be available for handicap and accessible needs. There will be parking available behind the Town Hall, in the parking lot off Haynes Street, and at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 345 Main St. Additional parking is available at the Burgess Elementary School and the Sturbridge Host Hotel, with shuttle buses providing service to and from the Common starting at approximately 12:30 p.m.

Follow traffic signs for road closures and traffic shifts due to the parade.

## New Braintree Police Log

During the week of June 15-22, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 13 building/property checks, 27 directed/area patrols, six radar assignments, one traffic control, one emergency 911 call, three citizen assists, one assist other agency, one motor vehicle investigation, two safety hazards, one scam and two animal calls in the town of New Braintree.

**Monday, June 15**  
10:27 a.m. Safety Hazard, Worcester Road, Services Rendered

**Tuesday, June 16**  
8:48 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

**Wednesday, June 17**  
8:23 a.m. Safety Hazard, Utley Road, Officer Handled

**Thursday, June 18**  
10:41 a.m. Welfare Check, Bernard Whitney Road, Investigated  
2:22 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

**Friday, June 19**  
5:07 a.m. Motor Vehicle

Investigation, Unitas Road, Criminal Complaint  
12:38 p.m. Scam, Gilbertville Road, Voice Message Left

**Saturday, June 20**  
12:23 p.m. Assist Citizen, Barr Road, Negative Contact

1:21 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

**Monday, June 22**  
12:15 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Ravine Road, Transported to Hospital

## Library celebrates America from the beginning

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

122 Connie Mack Drive. This is a two-part program by Vincent Kordack: "Road to Independence" Monday, June 29 at 5:30 p.m. and "World Turned Upside Down" Monday, Aug. 10 at 5:30 p.m. Refreshments from the Revolutionary War will be served. All ages are welcomed;

however, the program should hold the interest of people from 12 and up. Kordack is an East Brookfield resident with more than 38 years of experience as a National Park Ranger; He was assigned to 16 of the 18 National Parks that revolve around the Revolutionary War.

## Amateur radio Field Day is June 27-28

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

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

Visitors will be able to watch live radio contacts being made across the country and around the world, explore the equip-

ment and antennas used for emergency and off-grid communication, and even sit behind a radio to make a contact themselves. Club members will be on hand to explain how amateur radio supports communities during storms, power outages, and public-service events, and why these skills remain relevant in today's interconnected world.

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, recently reflected on the long tradition behind Field Day, noting that "Amateur radio has been part of the American story since the earliest days of wireless communication...For more than a century, the Amateur Radio Service has advanced the nation's communications capabilities by fostering technical innovation, developing a pool of trained and skilled operators, strengthening emergency and public service communications, and promoting international goodwill."

He emphasized that these contributions show

why amateur radio remains "a uniquely resilient and volunteer-driven national resource."

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

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

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

For more information about the Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club, please visit [www.qvarc.com](http://www.qvarc.com).

### STURBRIDGE FROM PAGE 1

which they will use timber-bridge mats and corduroy for.

He said the plan has been discussed with the state forester, and a worker from the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife will be meeting with Hull Forest Products Inc. to create a buffer for a protected fumitury plant. He said the project will run between Nov. 15 and April 15.

The Select Board approved the plan.

### Pole hearing

The board approved the placement of a jointly owned pole at Burgess School Road.

### DPW report

Department of Public Works Director Heather Blakeley said the department is working on street sweeping, street mowing and cleaning of catch basins. She said the department is trying to control the knotweed.

She said there is preparation for the June 27 parade happening, including beautification and flower planting.

Blakeley said the sidewalks on Cedar Street should be done around July 4, and there is a Safe Route to School project in the works with the Department of Transportation. The board also approved a contract with the Mass Brokenstone Company for paving work for \$1,017,264.

### Water/Sewer report

The Water and Sewer Su-

perintendent Shane Moody said the wastewater plant is running the best he had seen since 2012, and equipment at the plant is still running but getting old.

He said a water filter upgrade has been completed, and that gives the town time to start planning for a new water treatment plant.

He said the schools and day cares are participating in free lead testing, which is comprehensive, through the Department of Environmental Protection.

He said the towns' water is below the danger threshold for PFAS, but there may be new regulations coming soon.

### Monuments discussion

Chairman of the Memorials Monuments and Markers Committee Walter Hersee said a Liberty Tree and bronze plaque have been installed on the town common.

He also said the Krupp Capillo monument on Route 15 was damaged in an accident, but it is fixable. Hersee said his plan is to move the monument 12-15 feet farther back from the road, since it is only about eight feet from the road at the present.

### Historic preservation plan

The board voted to execute an agreement between the town and Barrett Planning Group LLC for the preparation of a community wide historic preservation plan in the amount of \$57,000. Bubon said that leaves \$2,000 for printing and incidental costs.

She said this is phase 4 of the plan, which was originally going to be the last one, but there is more work to be done, so a phase 5 is likely next year.

She said the goal is to

capture stories, unique architectural styles and documentation before homes are gone forever. She said this is funded from the Community Preservation Committee.

### Dispatch appointment

Police Chief Earl Dessert brought forward Laurel Ives, and recommended the board authorize her to be hired as a full time dispatcher with the Police Department. Dessert said she has a bachelor of arts from the University of Massachusetts with a degree in sociology and English.

He said Ives passed her background check, and is a strong candidate. The board appointed Ives as dispatcher.

### Action items

The board took no action on a provision that would extend alcohol service until 3 a.m.

The board appointed Santiago Gonzalez and Seth Mansur to the Agricultural Commission, and reappointed Michael Hager and Mary Carolyn Porter to the Finance Committee.

The board accepted the resignation of Christopher DeRose from the Finance Committee.

The board issued multiple one-day liquor licenses including to Rushford and Sons Brewhouse LLC for the Sturbridge Farmers Market on July 2, July 9, and July 26, to Deep Roots Distillery for June 27 for the 250th celebration and Oct. 17 and 18 for the Sturbridge Harvest Fest.

The board issued a Hawker and Peddler license to Dennis Walsh Farmstand at the Empire Village parking lot for the sale of fruits and vegetables between July 1 and Oct. 1.

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The Patrolmen's contract provides an education incentive and a candidate with prior municipal policing experience may also be considered to start at a higher rate of pay.

Resumes and cover letters must be returned no later than Friday, July 3, 2026, to the attention of Lt. Kyle Whitcomb, WPD PO Box 606, Warren, MA 01083 or [whitcomb@warren-ma.gov](mailto:whitcomb@warren-ma.gov).

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# Ravenwood performs on North Brookfield Common

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

**NORTH BROOKFIELD** – This past weekend's Concerts on the Common featured Ravenwood, a string band featuring the fiddle, mandolin, bass, guitar, and vocals.

The band has been performing since 2017 and features talented artists from all over Massachusetts.

This string band provides a performance consisting of original songs and covers. Ravenwood focuses on old time tunes, old standards, acoustic jazz and bluegrass.

Representing the band is five talented members behind the string instruments and vocals. John Alphin

plays mandolin, Don Calsyn on the fiddle, Barry Searle on acoustic guitar, Chet Fairchild on bass and Sarah Miller on vocals and percussion.

The origins of Ravenwood began with Alphin and Searle, and they crossed paths with Calsyn, Fairchild, and Miller.

One day, the band found themselves rehearsing in Springfield. The rehearsal had taken place on Ravenwood Street, which quickly became the inspiration for the group's name.

Ravenwood performed covers from Bob Dylan to Fleetwood Mac but also had some original songs to share.

Alphin wrote the song "The Whole Day Through". Calsyn the fiddler wrote

"April Rain" and Barry Searle wrote a song called "Apple Valley".

The strings tied well together as guests brought their lawn chairs to relax on the Common for some music and good times. Ravenwood came to North Brookfield last year and was excited to return again for another concert.

"We're glad to be here tonight," Calsyn said.

This series is made possible by the North Brookfield Parks & Recreation Department. Concerts on the Common are also supported by the North Brookfield Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

The next Concert on the Common will be on Saturday, July 25 from 6-8 p.m.,



TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

Ravenwood String Band performed this past weekend on North Brookfield Common. Shown from left is Don Calsyn on the fiddle, Chet Fairchild on bass, John Alphin on mandolin, Sarah Miller on vocals and Barry Searle on guitar.

and will feature Sue Lyons. Lyons is a singer and acoustic guitar player.

Aug. 15 will feature Stan

Matthews, from 6-8 p.m. and Aug. 29 at 3 p.m. will feature Superchargers.

North Brookfield will

have a 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration on the Common on Saturday, July 4, starting at 1 p.m.

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