

Country Journal

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BLANDFORD

Board meets prior to meeting

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

Prior to the Annual Town Meeting on June 1, the Select Board met with Town Clerk Doris Jemiolo, Town Counsel Mark Reich of KP-Law and Moderator David Hopson to review the meeting warrant articles.

This is done prior to every town meeting. The board then acknowledged the resignation of Edna Wilander from the Planning Board as Vice Chair and thanked her for her many years of service in that capacity.

Appointments

Then the board continued with appointments as follows: Kim Bergland to the Zoning Board of Appeals for the term July 01, 2026, through June 30, 2029; the following appointments are for one year: Douglas Emo as Watson Park Groundskeeper; Joseph Henning as Blandford's Veteran's Agent; Cristina Ferrera as Town Administrator; Jennifer Girard to Risk Management; Aaron Poteat as Plumbing and Gas Inspector and Adam Dolby to Hazardous Waste.

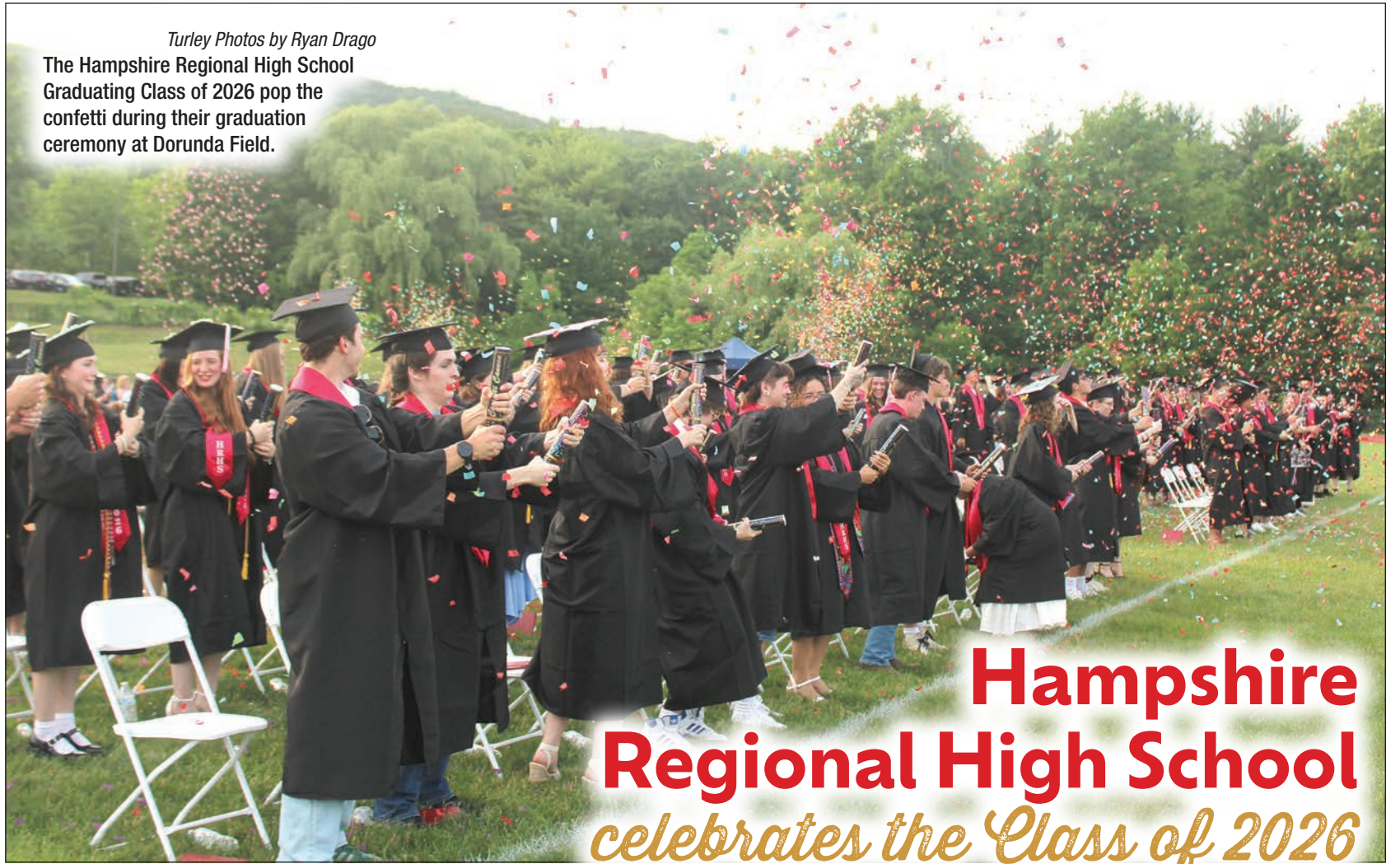
Senior tax work off

The board then reviewed basic job descriptions for the Senior Tax Work-off program from the Council on Aging and the Town Clerk's office.

The COA has the need for someone to do light dusting, maintaining books outside the COA room, organizing the resource brochures available in the hallway and help with the community garden.

The Town Clerk needs

MEETING, page 6



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago
The Hampshire Regional High School Graduating Class of 2026 pop the confetti during their graduation ceremony at Dorunda Field.

Hampshire Regional High School celebrates the Class of 2026

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer

This past week was the 54th Commencement for Hampshire Regional High School as they celebrate the Class of 2026.

The ceremony was held outside on Dorunda Field

as family members, friends, and school staff await the arrival of 95 graduating seniors. Hampshire Regional High School features students from several towns, including Westhampton, Southampton, Williamsburg, Goshen, and Chesterfield. The ceremony began

with all 95 seniors making the proud walk from the school entrance to Dorunda Field. The National Anthem was performed by the Chamber Singers, with Aidan Linden serving as the Director.

The opening greeting was given by Rachel

O'Connell, Class of 2026 Vice President. O'Connell thanked all the teachers and families for being at the ceremony and reminded her fellow graduates, "don't forget where you come from."

Class Secretary Eleanor Cleary talked about moments that defined their

school. Over the years, students have grown and changed.

Salutatorian Corinne Somes of Chesterfield got to speak as well during the ceremony. Somes will be attending Wellesley College.

CLASS OF 2026, page 9

HUNTINGTON

New firetruck vote falls short

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

A proposal to purchase a \$1.2 million new fire truck for the town of Huntington failed to make the two-thirds majority required for a debt exclusion.

Sixty of the 105 registered voters casting paper votes at Huntington's

Annual Town Meeting on June 1 voted to support the purchase; the remaining 45 were opposed. The proposal passed its first test with a simple majority vote as a ballot question at the annual town election on May 9, with a vote of 104 to 94. Both the election and town meeting votes are required for a debt exclusion.

Passing a debt exclu-

sion means allowing the town to borrow funds to pay a big bill over time, with interest, and having those payments be beyond the limitations of Proposition 2-1/2, which caps tax revenue increases at 2-1/2% each year.

Fire Chief Josh Ellinger told the voters

VOTE, page 2

HUNTINGTON

Select Board hears complaint overdue police road detail wages

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

Police Chief Brian Kowal met with the Huntington Select Board at their June 3 meeting in Stanton Hall to report that wages owed to two of the town's police officers have not been paid.

Officer Todd Michon and Deputy Chief Robert Garriepy worked police details to support the Basket Street water main project from October through December 2025. Invoices totaling \$32,706.22 for these details and the patrol car were issued to the contractor Western Earthworks and have yet to be paid.

In a memo to the Select Board, Kowal wrote that the two men experienced delays in payment for their work far beyond a reasonable time frame. At the meeting, he said that he'd been told by Western Earthworks the men would be paid once the town pays that company. In the meantime, the town is waiting for the funding back from the

state under an expense-reimbursement contract. Town Administrator Jennifer Peloquin said that EPA has approved the cost and the paperwork is now with the DEP.

The group discussed using the revolving account set up for this project to pay Michon and Garriepy, while they wait for payment from Western Earthworks. While the town does have enough funding to pay the two in the meantime, the revolving account itself is empty. "We've been paying things out as quickly as the money comes in," Peloquin said.

Chairman Roger Booth said that a memo had recently come across his desk from the state, advising contractors that they need to pay their subcontractors first. He will forward that to Peloquin.

In the meantime, the board moved and unanimously approved consulting with legal counsel about how to have the town pay the police-

BOARD, page 3

BLANDFORD



Turley Publications photos by Mary Kronholm

Candidates for election June 13: from the left are, Library Trustee incumbent Byam Stevens, School Committee, Katherine McDonough and Select Board incumbent Cara Letendre, Bradley Curry and Corinne Shartrand.

Meet the Candidates Night helps voters make decision

By Mary Kronholm
Correspondent

Meet the Candidates Night organizer George Reichert introduced the purpose behind the evening and a summary of how the event came to be.

"Here we are tonight

with a number of candidates for positions. They will speak for five minutes, and then questions will be directed to them," he said.

Reichert told the audience that each question was to be written on a four-by-six file card available at either end of each row. Questions

could be directed to a candidate or all the candidates; no questions would be asked unless they were signed by the person asking the question.

He introduced the moderator for the evening, Robert Gazda, former principal at Gateway Regional

High School, faculty member at Westfield State University, now retired and holder of multiple degrees. Gazda is not a Blandford resident.

Attending were three candidates for Select Board:

CANDIDATES, page 6

Meet the Graduates
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Chester.....7	Huntington.....2,3	Washington.....11
Classifieds.....12	Northampton.....11	Westhampton.....7
Cummington.....5	Obituary.....13	Williamsburg.....3
Easthampton.....5	Opinion.....4	Worthington.....5



☆... Congratulations **HRHS CLASS OF 2026** ...☆



95 seniors represented the Hampshire Regional High School Graduating Class of 2026. This was the 54th commencement for the school.



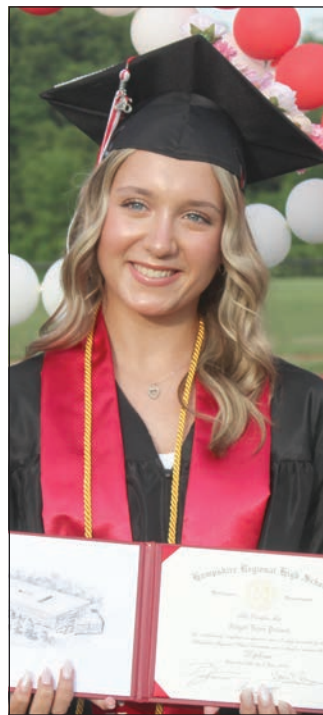
Kinnon McColgan is surrounded by his family after graduating from Hampshire Regional High School.



Bridget Sullivan with her high school diploma.



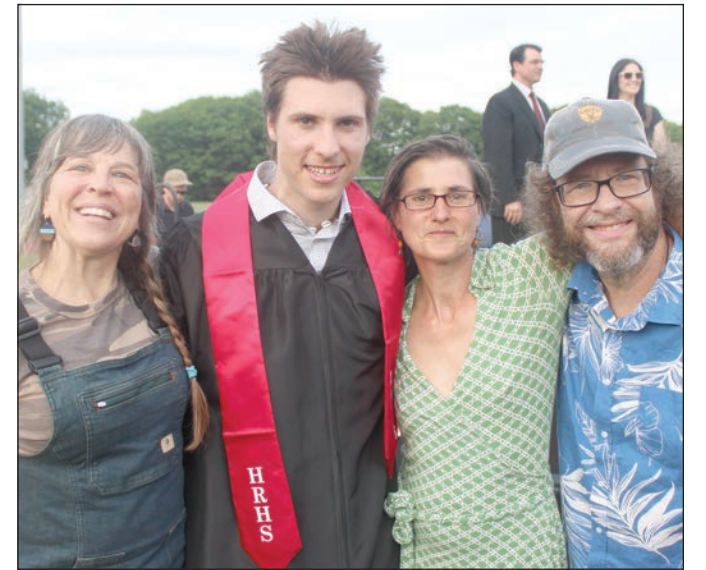
Left to right stands high school friends Logan Rourke and Amelia Perry.



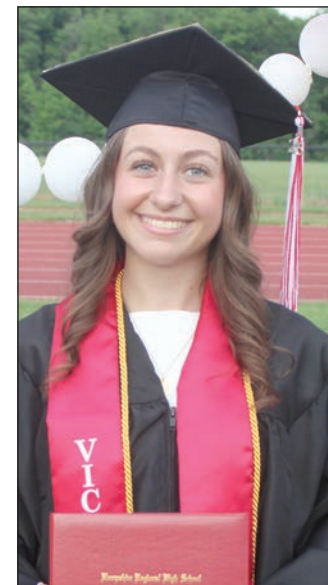
Abigail Provost posing with her diploma.



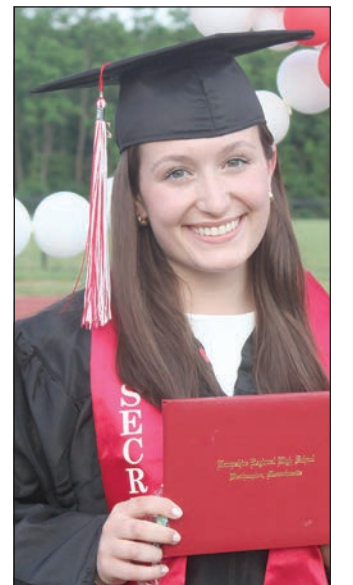
Class of 2026 Valedictorian and Treasurer Augustus Niswonger making his way down the stage after receiving his high school diploma.



Adam Muller alongside his family after the graduation ceremony was complete.



Class of 2026 Vice President Rachel O'Connell posing with her diploma.



Class of 2026 Secretary Eleanor Cleary posing with her diploma.



Left to right stands Alexander Fried, James Bresnahan, and Joseph Masi, three of the 95 graduating seniors of Hampshire Regional High School.



Principal Lauren Hotz speaking during the ceremony.



Superintendent Vito Perrone during his speech during the graduation ceremony. Perrone said, "You're always Raiders."



Amelia Hanke standing next to her proud parents.



The Chamber Singers performing the National Anthem.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago



The High School Chorus Seniors performing "In My Life" by The Beatles.