



Judge orders halt to White House ballroom

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TAUNTON DAILY GAZETTE

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026 | TAUNTONGAZETTE.COM

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The younger John Hornstra escorts one of 80 new dairy cows to the Hornstra Farms barn in Whitman on March 12. They came from Millborne Farm in Granby, Connecticut. John Hornstra bought the old Peaceful Meadows Farm with the desire to return it to a working dairy. PHOTOS BY GREG DERR/THE PATRIOT LEDGER

Hornstra Farms in Whitman gets new herd

Hannah Morse The Patriot Ledger | USA TODAY NETWORK

Hornstra Farms no longer has to wait until the cows come home. They're already here.

More than three dozen milking cows from a farm in Connecticut were welcomed to Hornstra Farms' Whitman location on Thursday, March 12. Another 40 calves were, too.

This moment marks a significant step in John Hornstra's mission to keep dairy farming alive on the South Shore. Hornstra purchased the former Whitman dairy farm Peaceful Meadows at auction in 2023 for \$1.9 million, and has since been working to restore it for milk production.

Cows were brought to the Whitman location in 2024 to graze the fields as renovations were underway.

Since 2013, Hornstra Farms' products like ice cream and home-delivered, glass-bottled milk have been made from the milk of its cows on the Norwell farm or outsourced from Tully Farm in Dunstable.

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John Hornstra and his dad, John Hornstra, in the dairy barn with fresh milk on March 12. The elder Hornstra was named Farmer of the Year by the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture.



The cows come home to Hornstra Farm in Whitman on March 12.



Middleboro Select Board Vice Chair Teresa Farley, left, and Middleboro Interim Town Manager Joe Perkins at the March 30 Middleboro Select Board meeting.

EMMA RINDLISBACHER/TAUNTON DAILY GAZETTE

Fire chief Thompson placed on paid leave

Emma Rindlisbacher

The Taunton Daily Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

Middleboro Fire Chief Owen Thompson has been placed on administrative leave, Interim Town Manager Joe Perkins said at the Monday, March 30, Select Board meeting.

Thompson is on paid administrative leave, Perkins said in response to a question from the Gazette. Perkins also said that Thompson is on leave due to a "personnel matter" and that the "town doesn't discuss personnel matters."

The Select Board voted unanimously at their Monday meeting to appoint Dana Fontaine, a retired Middleboro Fire captain, to be the interim fire chief pending the negotiation of his contract.

Here's what we know about the matter and the impact it may have on the town's budget process as it attempts to determine what cuts should be made to close a budget shortfall.

Impact on budget process

Perkins said Monday that he had met with all but one of the town's department heads as part of the budget process for determining what cuts

See THOMPSON, Page 2A

Berkley celebrates start of work on new school building

Dave DeMille
Taunton Daily Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

Spring comes with a fresh start at Berkley Public Schools this year, as the district celebrated March 20 the groundbreaking for its new elementary school, according to a community an-

nouncement.

Leaders described the new Berkley Community School as a long-term investment in students and families. Superintendent Melissa Ryan said the project reflects both continuity and progress.

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Berkley Public Schools celebrated the March 20 groundbreaking of its new community school with local and state leaders in attendance.

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