

BARRE GAZETTE

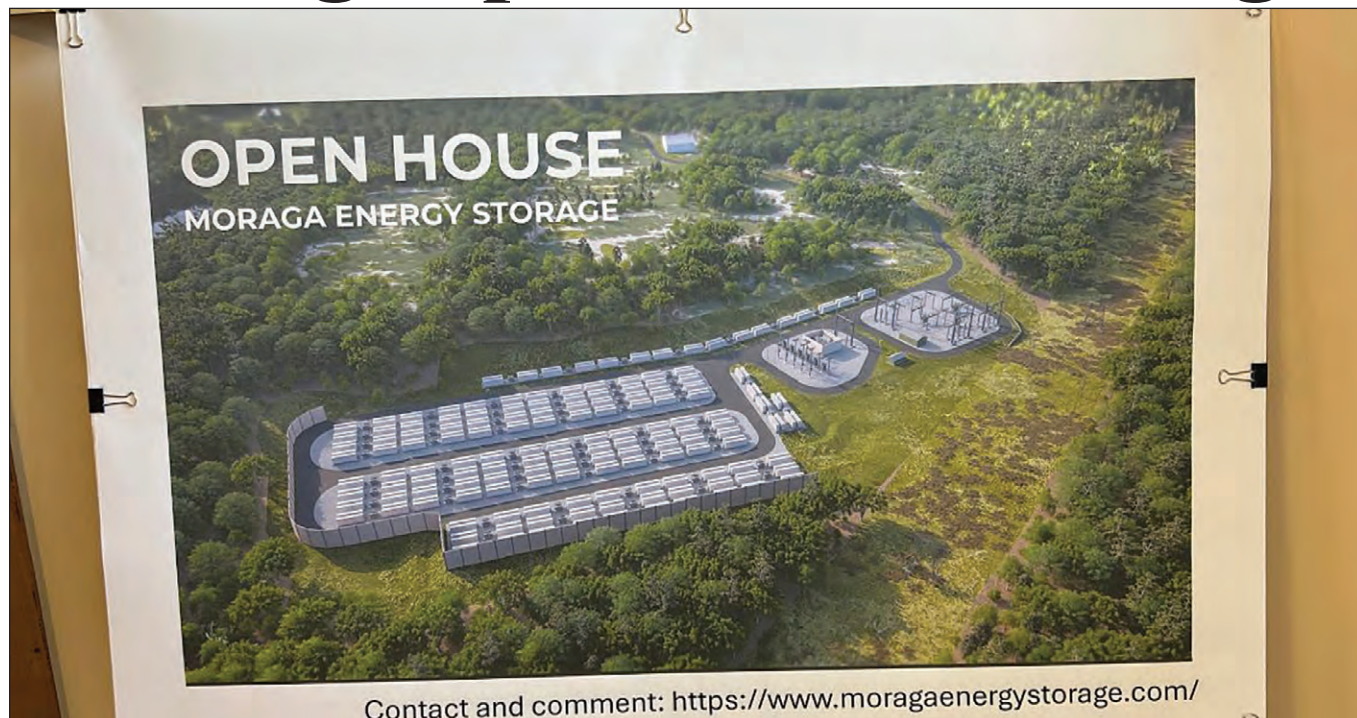
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Barre Library hosts energy storage open house meeting



Contact and comment: <https://www.moragaenergystorage.com/>

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

The Woods Memorial Library hosted an open house for a potential energy storage project in Oakham.

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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BARRE – Moraga Energy Storage hosted an open house in Allen Hall at the Woods Memorial Library about a proposed facility in Oakham.

Moraga Energy Storage is a proposed 180 MW battery energy storage facility located at 358 Coldbrook Road in Oakham, MA, the site of

a former auto salvage yard. Allen Hall was filled with many concerned residents of Oakham who wanted to address their comments and concerns regarding the project and how they feel its not a needed project.

Several Oakham Town Officials were present alongside the residents have heard the concerns and questions by the residents. Oakham Fire Chief Tim Howe attended the open house with mem-

bers of Project Developer, Rhyndland Energy presenting the project that could be installed at 358 Coldbrook Road in Oakham. Rhyndland Energy is a sustainable energy infrastructure development firm that is dedicated to pioneering battery energy storage projects in New England.

Howe is aware of the concerns and frustrations the residents have about this project as many claimed to have not

been notified about the project taking place.

“Not all of the Town residents we’re notified by this,” Howe said.

The open house was part of the stakeholder engagement process of the project as many project developers attended the open house on March 27 to inform the com-

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Funding sought for plant clarifiers

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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NORTH BROOKFIELD – Sewer Superintendent Eric Cardenas appeared before the Board of Selectmen to seek support to apply for a federal grant in order to complete necessary work at the wastewater treatment plant.

At the March 25 meeting, Cardenas explained that the original scope of work for the wastewater treatment plant upgrade included the replacement of the mechanisms in two secondary clarifiers, but this was not included due to lack of funds.

He said the replacement is estimated at \$1.7 million.

“It’s basically just a large tank that allows the velocity of the water to slow down and allows the solids to settle to the bottom and the clear liquid to go over the top and down to the next process,” he said.

Cardenas said the clarifiers’ mechanisms are in poor condition, and about 35 years old. He said one is leaking oil.

“They don’t have very much life left to them,” Cardenas said of the clarifiers. “They’re an essential piece of the process...without them you pretty much

don’t have treatment.”

Cardenas said he is looking to apply for Congressionally Directed Spending through the Rural Development Community Facilities Program to pay for the upgrade. He asked for the board’s approval to move forward with the grant application and to have them draft a letter of support.

Cardenas said there is a 25% local match for the grant, if approved. He said they would need to dip into the department’s retained earnings to cover the cost of the match.

The deadline for the grant was March 31. The board voted to approve and sign the letter of support to send to Senator Elizabeth Warren’s office.

New Highway Department hire

Highway Superintendent Randy Morgan recommended the board approve the hiring of Eric Josephson as a heavy equipment operator with an April 1 start date.

“He has all the qualifications that we’re looking for,” Morgan said.

Spending requests

The Board of Selectmen approved a request to

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Looking at Hubbardston over time

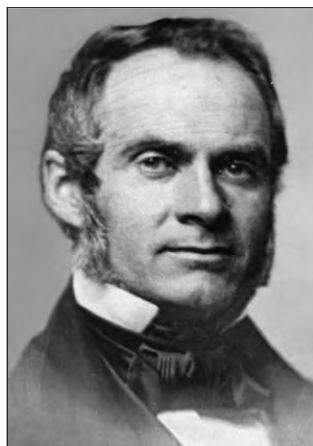
By Eric Goodhart
Correspondent

“Now and Then” was the theme of the film produced by Hubbardston Historical Society President Gary Kangas.

The event was held on Thursday, March 20 at the Williamsville Chapel, located at 4 Burnshirt Road.

Communities throughout historic New England take pride in restoring and keeping alive their heritage. Hubbardston is one such community, and members of the Historical Society are committed to preserving this tradition. www.HubbardstonHistory.org

Approximately 42 longtime residents attended the screening that night. I could hear murmurs of excited recognition of historic homes, many of which were over 150 years old, as well



Submitted photos
Jonas G. Clark

as places and past residents on film who shared stories about Hubbardston and its people during their time.

When the large town of Rutland, named after the English Duke of Rutland, was established in 1713, this was an active Indian territory. King George III still ruled from across the ocean.

Hubbardston is named after Thomas Hubbard, a prominent shopkeeper. Originally part of Rutland, it was incorporated in 1767.

The first European settlers from Finland and Sweden are recorded as arriving in what now is Hubbardston as early as 1737. They primarily worked as laborers on established farms and then went on to pursue other endeavors after establishing themselves. It is a natural human characteristic that when someone comes to a new country after leaving an inhospitable one with limited freedom of choice, they are often more ambitious and motivated to become self-sustaining and entrepreneurial than those who have lived a life of relative comfort since birth. One such person would have

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‘Becoming Darlene’

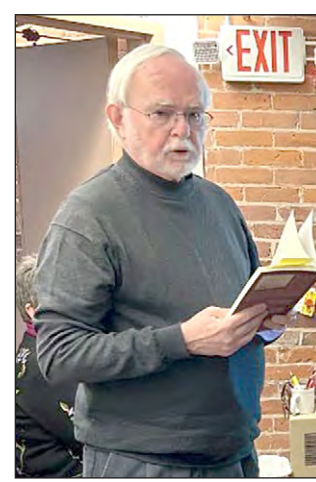
Author chronicles life of Belchertown State School patient

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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HARDWICK – The Paige Memorial Library welcomed author Ed Orzechowski to discuss his book, “Becoming Darlene – The Story of Belchertown Patient #4952”.

Orzechowski is a retired high school English teacher who lives in Northampton. His writing journey began when he was freelancing for several magazines out of Springfield. He would then work as a part-time radio news writer for WARE.

Orzechowski’s book is a follow up of his previous book “You’ll Like it Here, the Story of Donald Vitkus — Belchertown Patient #3394”.



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

Ed Orzechowski is shown reading a passage from his book “Becoming Darlene - The Story of Belchertown Patient #4952” at the Paige Memorial Library

Darlene Rameau was 7 years old when she was admitted to Belchertown State School back in 1963. Orzechowski wanted this

presentation to be more of a conversation than a talk as he took questions and comments during his presentation of the book about Darlene.

Several guests had ties to the Belchertown State School and agreed with Orzechowski’s description of it as an institution that was underfunded and understaffed and de-humanizing for many of the patients who resided there.

Orzechowski began the discussion by reminding everyone of the 2004 book “Crimes Against Humanity: A Historical Perspective” by Benjamin Ricci. The story followed a lawsuit that involved a case that lasted nearly 20 years and would help order improvements in mental health institutions.

Orzechowski read a passage from his book about Darlene and the statement that stands out in the pas-

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C4R prepares for 2025 waterway season

Work to begin on new section of Lower Quaboag Blue Trail

By Paula Ouimette
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PALMER – The Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council held its spring kickoff meeting this past Sunday, sharing

details about water quality sampling, river restoration and cleanups, plans for a new section of Blue Trail and volunteer opportunities.

Coordinator of C4R Keith Davies welcomed people to the Palmer Historical Cultural Center in Three Rivers on March 30 and shared the history of the watershed council, which started in 2014.

Davies said at that time, the existing Chicopee River Watershed Council was mostly defunct, and he saw an opportunity to revive it and also connect it with rivers upstream. By combining the

Swift, Ware, Quaboag and Chicopee rivers, the Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council was formed.

The Chicopee River Watershed is the largest in the commonwealth and the largest in the Connecticut River basin.

“In 2014 we did a lot of outreach,” Davies said. “We started initially with water quality monitoring.”

Davies explained the purpose of water quality sampling, which tests area waterways for bacteria to determine if the water is safe for swimming and other recre-

ation. “Sampling for bacteria became a basic, simple way of giving people an idea of how healthy the river is,” he said.

This year, C4R will continue its water sampling program at an expanded level, testing almost 25 sites seven times from late spring through late summer. These efforts are made possible by a group of volunteers who visit the sites on a regular basis to collect water samples.

Grant funding will help C4R sample more sites along the Quaboag River. Donations

also help to support the project.

Water quality is listed for “primary” or “secondary” use, with primary being safe for swimming and secondary for boating or fishing.

Davies said both Quaboag Pond in Brookfield and East Brookfield and Forest Lake in Palmer, have some of the lowest bacteria counts in the watershed, with numbers usually staying in the single digits.

Davies said the Connecticut River Conservancy uses the data collected by the volunteers

for its “Is it Clean?” database found on its website, ctriver.org. Results are posted on Fridays after Thursday samplings.

Volunteers also monitor the water temperature when they are collecting water samples, but Davies said it will take years to track any differences caused by climate change.

C4R also works to establish and maintain the Blue Trail, which has sections along all of the rivers in the watershed.

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SPORTS

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Panthers win big in opener

BARRE – The weather in early April is always tough for baseball and softball. But the Quabbin Regional High School baseball team used it to their advantage as their matchup with Quaboag had to be shifted to a home game due to poor field conditions in Warren. The Panthers enjoyed their home field as they put up six runs in the first inning and rode that to a 14-1 win over the Cougars Tuesday afternoon. The 1-0 Panthers face Oakmont at home on Friday, April 4.



Sam Morgan crosses home plate on a base hit.



Jennavacia Roseberry swing and connects for the Panthers.

Quabbin softball defeats Quaboag

BARRE – On a windy, but very sunny afternoon Tuesday, Quabbin softball picked up a win over Quaboag 9-4.

It was the season opener for both team and the Panthers rode new pitcher Abby Rogowski to the win.

Quabbin will host Oakmont on Friday, April 4 at 3:30 p.m.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

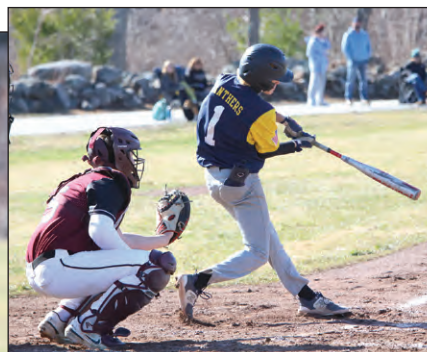
Carly Beaton makes a throw to first.



Adam Adams takes his lead off second base.



Finn Leander delivers a pitch to the plate.



Aiden Lapointe swings and connects.



Elijah Flint frames up a pitch.



Ju-Ju Guilderson frames up a pitch behind the plate.



Pitcher Abby Rogowski sends an offering to the plate.

Pathfinder baseball gears up for regular season

PALMER – The Pathfinder baseball team worked out last week in order to get ready for the regular season. The Pioneers were scheduled to get going on Monday. The Pioneers next game is at Smith Vocational on Thursday, April 3 at 4 p.m.



Djauan O'Dean hits in the cage at practice.



Zander Auffrey makes a play during inside practice. Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Anthony Arventos tries to get around a defender.

Boys lacrosse defeated in season opener

MONSON – Last Thursday afternoon, Monson High School boys lacrosse was defeated by Hoosac Valley in the season opener for both teams. The Mustangs, which have co-oped with Pathfinder for the past few years,

managed just a single goal in the 12-1 defeat.

The Mustangs were scheduled to face Lenox and Mt. Greylock earlier this week, and are back in action on Tuesday, April 8 at home against Granby at 5 p.m.



Brennan Peterson surveys the field.



Sprints are a regular part of pre-season.



The Pioneers run through drills.



The Pioneers are gearing up for the regular season this week.



Dominic Menard is pushed by an opposing player.



Ethan Mooney looks around for an open teammate.