

# BARRE GAZETTE

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## History comes alive with

### Judith Kalaora

RUTLAND – Judith Kalaora, the Founder and Artistic Director of “History at Play” returned to the Rutland Public Library on Tuesday, April 9 to the delight of lovers of history.

Kalaora mastered a unique and entertaining way to present her one woman plays. Once again, the Rutland Historical Society sponsored the event.

Kalaora’s vision in 2010 was to bring to life the lives of accomplished, but sometimes forgotten women in history. In June 2023 she brought Miss Deborah Sampson to Rutland. Born in Massachusetts in 1760, she wanted to be part of the fight against the King. She disguised herself as a man; joined the Fourth Massachusetts Regiment and fought in several battles including the siege of Yorktown in the American Revolution. People may visit <http://www.judithkalaora.com/> for more information.

This time, Kalaora introduced to the audience five women, who played relatively unknown, but very significant roles in WW II. Three American citizens and two, British. The first was Vera Atkins, a Romanian born, British citizen, whose job it was to find volunteers to wage a “secret war” in Europe. They were to carry out spy and sabotage missions in Nazi occupied France and elsewhere for the new British organization called the Special Operations Executive. Atkins recruited the American multilingual Virginia Hall (1906 – 1982), who spoke English, French, German and Italian.

Not to take away from the other women, but she had one of the most dangerous jobs any person had...man or woman during the war. Though Hall was from



Submitted photos

Ann Baungartner was the first woman to fly a jet plane and she flew in non-combat during WW II.

a wealthy Maryland family and educated at Vassar and Radcliff she did not fit in with that world. She wanted adventure, the more dangerous the better, despite having lost her lower left leg in an accident prior to the war.

She was the first female secret agent ever deployed to Nazi Occupied France. For Hall, it

was even before the US declared war on Germany on Dec. 11, 1941. She eventually left the SOE and joined the newly formed OSS in late 1942, headed up by the legendary “Wild Bill” Donovan.

Soon Hall had over 1,500 men, who looked to her for direction. She was a natural leader and mas-

ter at collecting reliable information as to what the Nazi’s were doing, as well as what the not to be trusted, Vichy government in Southern France was doing. She carried out assignments with ever changing disguises. The Gestapo

See JUDITH KALAORA, page 5

## New Senior Center Director selected

Board offers position to Betty Jo O’Brien

By Ellenor Downer  
Editor  
edowner@turley.com

BARRE – The Select Board unanimously offered the Senior Center Director job to Betty Jo O’Brien at their Monday, April 1 meeting.

Select Board Chair Maureen Marshall said they interviewed three candidates for the job. Select Board Vice Chair John Dixon said all three were “great candidates.” Town Administrator Tammy Martin researched all of the candidates.

All three of the references for O’Brien checked by the Town Administrator said she “works well with people.” Select Board Chair Marshall said, “she can manage the ship” and should be aware there were some hard feelings at the Senior Center. Some people moved away from the center in the past.

Vice Chair Dixon made a motion to offer the Senior Center position to O’Brien pending a Criminal Offender Record Offender Record check. Select Board clerk Mark Regienus seconded Dixon’s motion.

### Manholes

Department of Public Works Chief Operator Tom George said 50 manholes on Mechanic Street and Worcester Road need to be replaced with new ones. He said the cost was about \$25,000 and MassDOT would install them.

Select Board Chair Marshall said the DPW Commission would meet to discuss this. She said procurement regulations required the town obtain three quotes. She

also said American Rescue Plan Act funds was a possible source of funding.

At present, the DPW did not have a full complement of employees and were in the process of interviewing for a mechanic.

### Welcome to Barre sign

Elizabeth Martin attended the meeting to discuss the replacing of the Welcome to Barre sign. She said the Historical Commission wanted the sign to “mirror” the Woods Memorial Library sign. The sign would be located in its current location, where the town scales used to be located.

The Historical Commission also felt an electronic sign was not appropriate for a historic district such as the Barre Common area. Vice Chair Dixon said the Henry Woods Building was a potential location for the electronic sign. The Barre Police Department said the Quabbin Plaza area had a lot of traffic and the sign could pose a distraction and possible safety issues to motorists.

The Select Board approved the Welcome to Barre sign and for it to “mirror” the library sign. They also approved of ARPA funds to cover the cost and approved the placing of an electronic sign outside the historic district.

### Video recording devices

Vice Chair Dixon said the town’s tech people recommended wireless options for recording meetings in locations other than the Selectmen’s meeting room, located on the first floor of the Henry Woods Building. That room has hard wired camera equipment, which is costly.

He said the devices cost \$1,000

See BARRE, page 5

## QHSUA members look at survey results

By Paula Ouimette  
pouimette@turley.com

Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance’s epidemiologist Maegan Boutot shared feedback gathered from a recent survey sent to alliance members.

The alliance serves the towns of Barre, Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, Hardwick, Hubbardston, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren and West Brookfield. Some of the towns, particularly Brimfield, Hubbardston, Holland, Monson, Oakham and others, lack representation.

“We have a lot of folks who work in the region attend our meetings, but not as many who live in those towns,” Boutot said at the April 8 meeting.

She said the survey was distributed to those who attend the alliance’s meetings and are on the email list.

Boutot said the survey showed that members preferred monthly meetings being held on Monday mornings, or even in the afternoon. An afternoon session would potentially open up the meetings for more youth and community members.

Hybrid meetings were the primary choice as well as virtual. Having in person meetings posed a challenge for working people.

Boutot said those taking the survey also asked for more research updates.

“Research is a broad subject,” she said. It can cover prevention, treatment, recovery or events with speakers.

Survey takers said it would be

great to have more speakers at meetings.

Boutot said the survey also showed that alliance members wanted to receive more information about kratom and hemp-based cannabis, as well as neurodivergence, mental health and substance use.

Boutot said there was less interest in policy making.

“People seem to be more interested in the science than the rules and regulations,” she said.

The alliance will still continue to be involved in policy making, Boutot said.

“We’re still involved in them and still working on them,” she said.

The alliance is now forming working groups with community members to focus on different areas of substance use prevention, including vaping prevention and education, school substance prevention and more.

“We are here to listen,” Boutot said. “We are learning and growing...the team is growing.”

### Safe Storage update

Drug Free Communities Program Director Rebecca Edwards said Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance is running a Safe Storage campaign, to encourage people to safely store their medications and substances in their homes.

Proper storage includes keeping medications out of sight and reach of children; in a locking medicine box; or in a locking, scent-free pouch (for cannabis). It also means disposing of unused or expired medication at the police station or CVS in Ware.

QHSUA member Mark Klee is also working with pharmacy partners to find ways to distribute lock boxes from those locations in the future.

Edwards said people can also ask for Dispose RX, a tablet that

See QHSUA, page 6

## Quabbin held presentation about parenting and anxiety



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Lynn Lyons of New Hampshire gave a presentation on worrying at Quabbin Regional High School.

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

BARRE – Quabbin Regional High School welcomed Lynn Lyons to present a presentation on worrying called “Modeling Matters: What parents need to know (and do) to decrease stress, worry and anxiety.”

Lyons is a licensed clinical social worker and psychoanalyst based out of Concord, New Hampshire. She has traveled internationally as a speaker and trainer on the subject of anxiety.

Anxiety plays a role in families, at home and in schools.

With this presentation, Lyons has a special emphasis on cell

phones and social media and how they impact worrying, stress and anxiety.

According to Lyons’ studies the rate of worrying and anxiety amongst adolescents began before the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the pandemic contributed to the increase of anxiety, worrying and stress, Lyons believes the initial increase had started about a decade earlier when technology began growing in popularity.

Technology such as smart phones and social media outlets were making their way into not only in homes but also into classrooms in school. Lyons believes that kids are more and more afraid of their emotions and

social media is heavily involved in it.

“Inaccurate information is making it worse,” Lyons said referring to the use of social media being involved in daily life.

When discussing worrying, Lyons describes worrying as predictable, redundant and persistent.

Regarding anxiety, Lyons shared that anxiety demands both certainty and comfort.

Certainty revolves around someone wanting to know what’s going on in advance and to have some form of control. Comfort

See QRHS PRESENTATION, page 11

## Hospital property discussed at joint meeting

By Paula Ouimette  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – The Hospital Review Committee held a joint meeting with the Historical Commission to share updates about the Mary Lane Hospital property.

At the April 11 meeting, Building Commissioner Anna Marques provided information she gathered during an unscheduled walkthrough of the hospital on March 15 and another more recent walkthrough.

Marques said the second walkthrough was in response to a call the Fire Department received for a pulled alarm. She said there have been a lot of false alarms calls to the property.

“I got to see the room that was abated,” Marques said. “A week and a half prior it was closed off.”

This room “shows potential” Marques said.

The abatement contractor, American Environmental, is about halfway done with the Wetherby building. Marques said chandeliers and other features have been removed from the building due to concerns about what would happen to them.

Marques said someone from the Department of Environmental Protection, the agency overseeing the asbestos abatement, also toured the building and conducted that inspection. Marques said she couldn’t go in some of the areas that the DEP inspector could.

Marques said the DEP did issue a notice of noncompliance with conditions of what needs to be fixed. It was not enough to shut-

See HOSPITAL, page 12



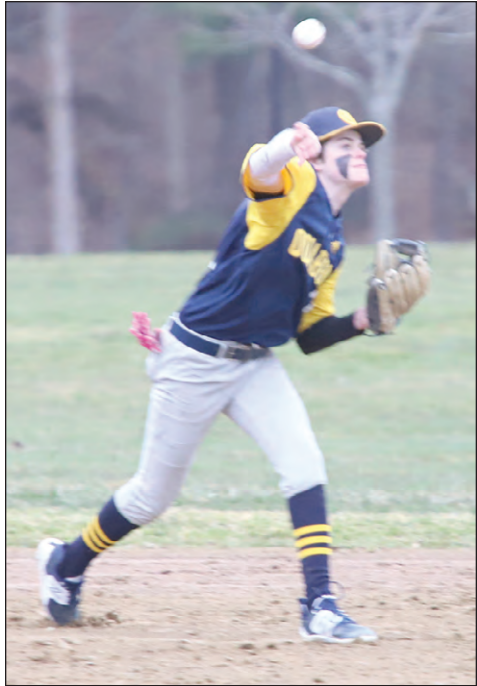
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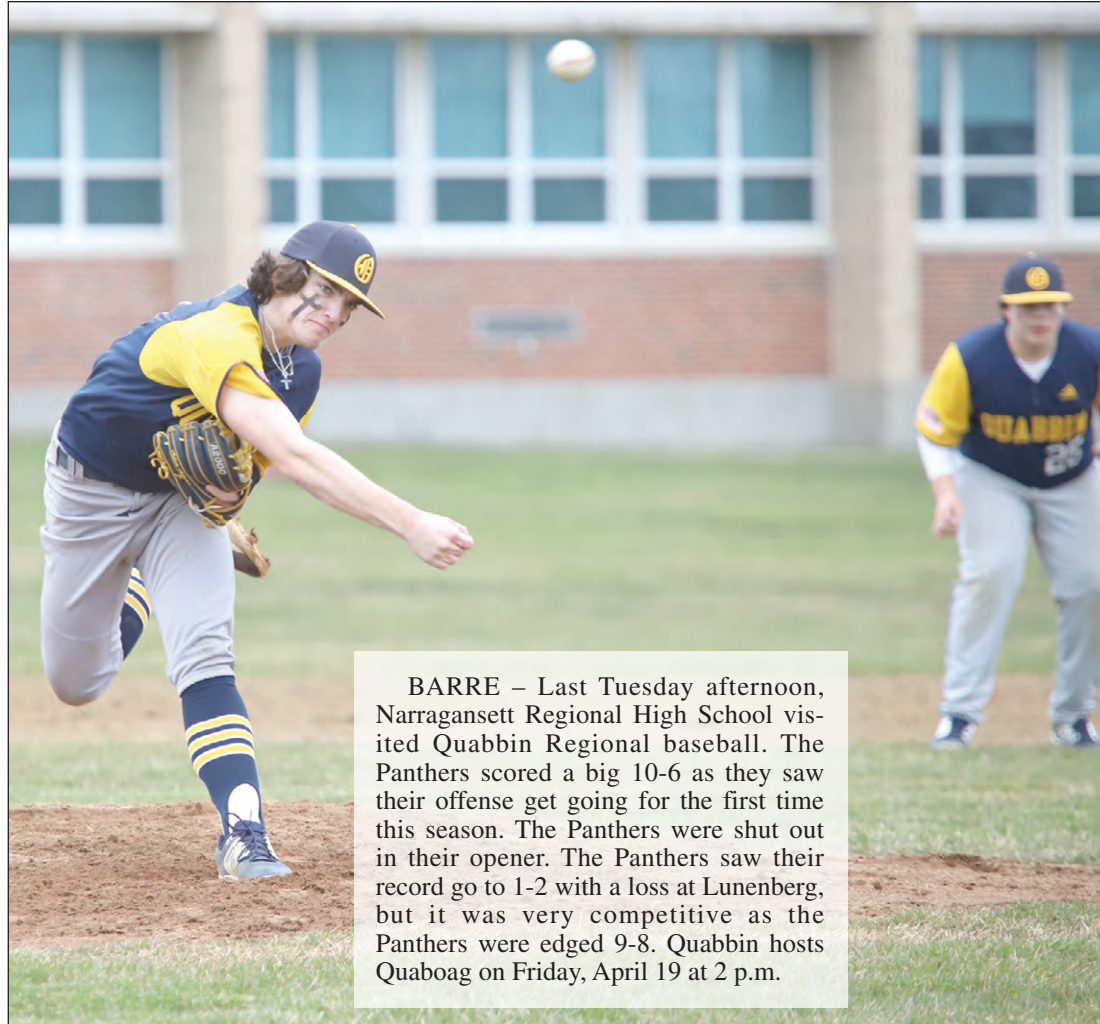
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## Panthers rebound from opener with win



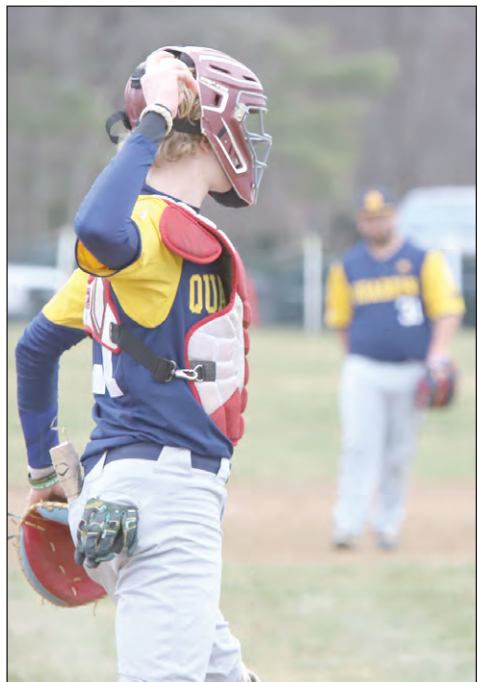
Aiden LaPointe follows through on a throw to first base.



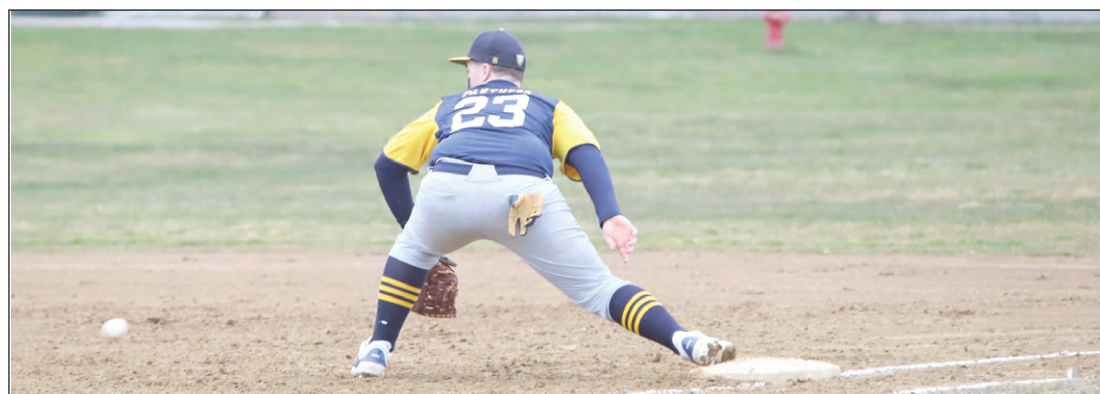
BARRE – Last Tuesday afternoon, Narragansett Regional High School visited Quabbin Regional baseball. The Panthers scored a big 10-6 as they saw their offense get going for the first time this season. The Panthers were shut out in their opener. The Panthers saw their record go to 1-2 with a loss at Lunenburg, but it was very competitive as the Panthers were edged 9-8. Quabbin hosts Quaboag on Friday, April 19 at 2 p.m.

Adam Adams delivers a pitch for the Panthers

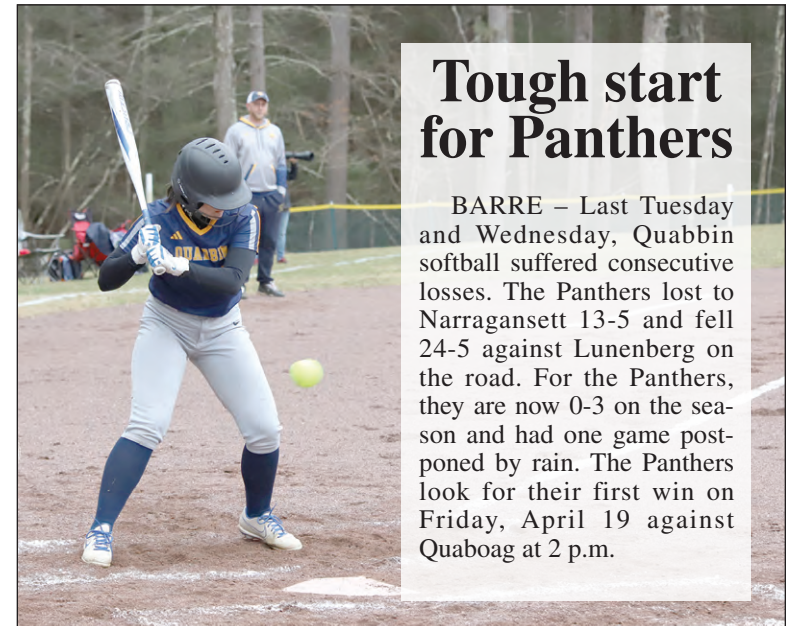
Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Sam Morgan sends a throw back to the mound.



Finn Leander digs out a throw at first base.

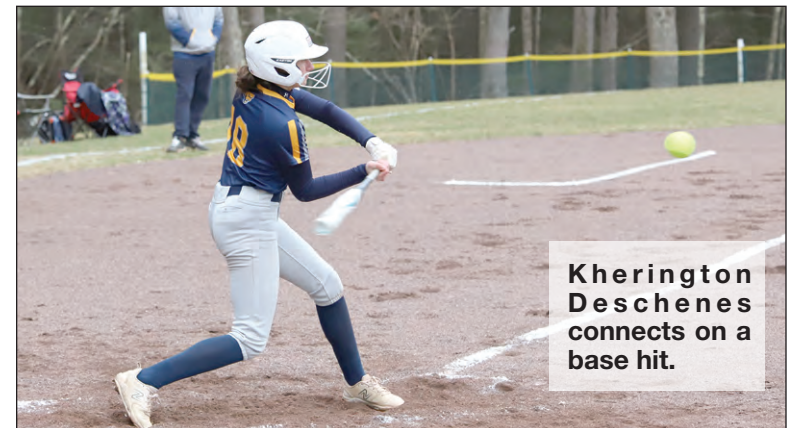


### Tough start for Panthers

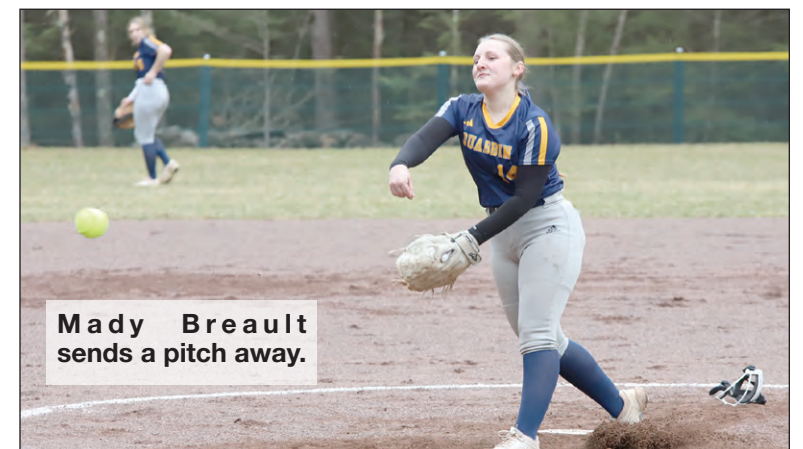
BARRE – Last Tuesday and Wednesday, Quabbin softball suffered consecutive losses. The Panthers lost to Narragansett 13-5 and fell 24-5 against Lunenburg on the road. For the Panthers, they are now 0-3 on the season and had one game postponed by rain. The Panthers look for their first win on Friday, April 19 against Quaboag at 2 p.m.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Lilly Swett watches a pitch cross the plate.



Kherington Deschenes connects on a base hit.



Mady Breault sends a pitch away.



Catcher Haleigh Parkinson throws down to second.

## Rams double up on Mustangs

SOUTH HADLEY – Using neighbor South Hadley High School's turf field, Granby boys lacrosse hosted Monson last Monday night. The Mustangs, which co-op with Pathfinder, fell on the road 12-6 to the Rams. The Rams were led by Riley Goodhind with four goals and three assists. Kamdyn Lopez and Connor McDonnell had three goals and two assists each. Monson is 1-1 this season while the Rams are out to a 2-1 mark.



Brody St. Martin observes the offensive area looking to make a pass.



Samuel Lauzier looks to make a pass on the run.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Oswaldo Nieves sends a pass up the field.



Landon Couture sprints for the opposing goal.

## Panthers shut out West Boylston

BARRE – Last Wednesday, the Quabbin Regional High School girls tennis team shut out West Boylston at home 5-0.

Annabella Magill had a big match with a 6-1, 6-1 win in straight sets. Carlee Rich was a

bit better in third singles as she won 6-0, 6-0.

Camryn Orsini picked up a win in second singles and both doubles teams also picked up wins in their matchups. Quabbin is out to an 4-0 start this season.

## Registration now open to take part in Bay State Games

WOBURN – Registration for the 42nd annual Bay State Summer Games is now open. The 2024 Summer Games will include thirty sports with competitions from May 11 – July 27 at venues throughout eastern and central Massachusetts including Game On in Fitchburg, Boston Sports Institute in Wellesley, Union Point Sports Complex in Weymouth, and North Star Ice Sports in Westborough. Bay State Games participants range in age from 5 to over age 75 and represent more than 300 Massachusetts communities as well as surrounding New England States in some sports.

From grassroots participants to accomplished amateur athletes, the Bay State Games provide opportunities for the athlete in all of us.

Seven high school showcase sports will take place for a variety of sports, including baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, soccer, softball, and volleyball. Athletes currently in grade 8-11 who live or go to school in Massachusetts are eligible to attend regional tryouts during the month of June. These

See BAYSTATE GAMES, page 10

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