

# BARRE GAZETTE

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## Senior Center hosted Information Fair

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

BARRE – The Barre/Hardwick Senior Center hosted an Information Fair for seniors this past week.

This was the fifth time an information fair has been held at the Senior Center. During the event, Senior Center Director, Betty-Jo O'Brien shared that it was her two-year anniversary as Director.

The Information Fair consisted of 22 vendors in total, with new vendors featured. National Grid was a vendor offering utility bill screenings for savings.

The Elder Services of Worcester had an information booth and is a provider of the meals for the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center. Other information booths were set up and represented town departments such as Barre Fire Department and Barre Police Department.

The Information Fair was busy as a lot of seniors from Barre, Hardwick, and other neighboring communities arrived and explored what the fair had to offer.

"All the vendors are amazing," O'Brien said.

The fair also featured the debut appearance of young Barry, an 8-week-old black Labrador retriever from the Barre Police Department



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

From left to right stands Cheryl Wolfe and Judy Knight of the Stone Church Cultural Center in Gilbertville, who shared information about the church and upcoming concerts and cultural events.

who attended alongside Sgt. Russel Davidson.

Barry is going to training once a week and will receive his certification in about a year and a half. He will be a full-time comfort dog and will be visiting schools, senior centers and will be a part of the crisis response team.

The Friends of the Stone Church members Cheryl Wolfe and Judy Knight

shared information about the Stone Church Cultural Center in Gilbertville. The Friends of the Stone Church is a public charitable corporation and community group, which started back in 2015.

The mission of the group is to preserve the historic church and use the space for events that can be enjoyed by the community. Both Wolfe and Knight were sharing information

about upcoming events that are happening at the Stone Church Cultural Center, including spring concerts.

The Friends of the Stone Church are engaged to finding new members to continue to live up to its mission.

Barre Veteran's Agent Garrett Skinner was at the Information Fair and shared

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## Selectmen update on infrastructure projects

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis  
Staff Writer  
zachf@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Jamie Gilman, vice-chair of the Board of Selectmen gave an update on infrastructure projects and grants at the April 7 selectmen's meeting. Gilman put together a slide-show presentation, and the first slide went over recent chapter 90 projects in the town, including the following: reclamation and resurfacing of the base coat on Brickyard Road, Donovan Hill Road, Fullham Hill Road and Town Farm Road, engineering for the Complete Streets grant for North Main Street, reclamation of Hines Bridge Road, Stoddard Road and Walker Road, and the resurfacing of the top coats on Smith Hanson Road and Tucker Road. According to Gilman, all of these projects were completed in 2025 by the Massachusetts Broken Stone Company, whom the town awarded the paving contract to that year.

Gilman also went over a grant from the Massachusetts Municipal Pavement Program, which is planned to be used to pave from the North Brookfield town line on Route 67 to Spring Street, with work beginning this month. He said the project

is going to begin with road milling, happening at night.

Gilman said another grant the town is working with is the Small Town Road Improvements to Enhance Public Safety, which is also known as the Strap grant. The grant is administered by the Massachusetts Rural Development Fund.

Gilman said the scope of this project includes sidewalks, curbs, and ramps, but it is a grant match situation. He said the whole grant is just under a million dollars, but the town has to appropriate about \$160,000-\$170,000 in matching.

Gilman said the sidewalk project will go from Spring Street to Summer Street on the east side, and Central Street to Route 148 on the west side.

Gilman said the town received a Complete Streets grant for \$400,000, but were granted an additional \$100,000 to raise the total to half a million dollars. Gilman said there is now \$100,000 left on that grant, which was administered for North Main Street improvement.

He said there was difficulty with this grant, with the last contractor raising the

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## Lucy Allen told story of Lizzie Naramore

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis  
Staff Writer  
zachf@turley.com

GARDNER – The Gardner Museum hosted Lucy Allen from the Barre Historical Society last Thursday, where she gave a presentation about the Lizzie Naramore case.

According to Allen, this case was "one of the worst" in American history, and occurred right here in Barre in 1901, when Naramore killed her six children in a state of insanity.

Allen said the situation was a mixture of poverty, neglect, and abuse from Naramore's husband, Frank. She also said that in 1901, the legal protections for women were minimal, giving the husband in a marriage full control, and making divorce triggered by a woman very difficult.

She said in the case of a successful divorce, the mother would not get custody or any say as to what happens to the children.

Allen said the murders were investigated by a local reverend in Coldbrook Springs named Charles Talmage.

The investigation was not in conjunction with the police or any official agency, but independent. He reached out to the families of Lizzie and Frank, and interviewed residents from Coldbrook, along with their hometowns in New Brunswick and New Hampshire respectively.

Allen said that Naramore

was quite successful before meeting Frank, having worked at a hotel in New Brunswick, before moving to Coldbrook and renting out rooms in a boarding house. She said that Naramore had more rights as an independent working woman than she did while married to Frank.

Allen described that the children were underfed, and complained to school officials, and Naramore even reached out to the superintendent of schools and select board, having received no help from either of them.

Allen described that Naramore likely felt that she and the kids were better off dead than living in poverty and abuse, and murdered the children in order of birth, using both an axe and a club, before using a razor blade to cut her neck and legs.

The children all died, but Naramore survived her wounds, only being charged with one murder, but being pardoned for it. Additionally, she said that there were laws passed just a year later as a direct response to the murders, along with mental health reforms.

After the killings, Talmage gave a sermon placing the blame on Frank, since he was abusive, and refused to work even though he was able to and offered many jobs.

She said the funeral was held at the local church in Coldbrook Springs, and the bodies were presented in open caskets, allowing the



Turley Photos by Zacharias Fragkiadakis

Sisters Anabelle Ickler and Aimee Ickler represented a youth softball organization.

## New Braintree held community showcase

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis  
Staff Writer  
zachf@turley.com

NEW BRAINTREE – A community showcase was held at the Town Hall this past Sunday, where town boards and organizations had the opportunity to showcase what they are doing for the town.

Some of the town boards that had tables included the Historical Commission, Historical Society, the 275th Anniversary Committee, and the Council on Aging. Some local organizations included the Tri-Parish Community Church, the Flower Society, the pickleball group, a girls softball group, and the East Quabbin

Land Trust.

Dan Hamilton, a member of the Historical Society showcased the Boston Post Cane, which he said was given to 400-500 towns and historically given to the oldest resident of that town, and that many towns are

See COMMUNITY SHOWCASE, page 14

## Kalaora presented 'Rendezvous With Rachel Revere'

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis  
Staff Writer  
zachf@turley.com

RUTLAND – The Rutland Public Library was transported back to 1775, where Rachel Revere (played by Judith Kalaora) told a first person account of the weeks following her husband, Paul Revere's midnight ride through Boston, alerting troops of the British soldiers' arrival.

Mixing the sense of fear and uncertainty Revere had with humor, Revere told the story of Paul being missing for two weeks after his midnight ride, and her struggles to find him, while supporting the children.

Revere described the dire situation in Boston, including Bostonians being taken prisoner, and that it was only

See KALAORA, page 5

## Voters approve cruiser, dump truck at Special Town Meeting

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis  
Staff Writer  
zachf@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Town of North Brookfield held a special town meeting last Friday at the North Brookfield Elementary School, with a warrant of 29 articles, including transfers for a police cruiser and a dump truck.

The police cruiser motion

was \$70,000 to be transferred from free cash to the Police cruiser capital overlay account, and the dump truck was a transfer of \$128,417 from free cash to the Highway capital overlay account. Both of these transfers were approved by voters.

### Snow and ice articles

The first article of the night approved the transfer of about \$2,500 from the

snow and ice sand and snow account to the snow and ice diesel expense account.

Article 2 approved the transfer of about \$1,600 from the snow and ice sand and snow account to the snow and ice salary account; article 3 approved the transfer of about \$12,700 from free cash to the snow and ice salary account; article 4 approved the transfer of about \$61,500 from free cash to the snow

and ice vehicle supplies and repairs account; and article 5 approved the transfer of about \$51,900 from free cash to the snow and ice salt account.

### Free cash transfers

Article 7 approved the transfer of \$14,500 from free cash to the Police computer expense account.

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See NARAMORE, page 10

# SPORTS

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## Panthers fall to St. Bernard's

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

BARRE — Things didn't exactly go Quabbin Regional's way in their non-league home baseball game against St. Bernard's of Fitchburg.

The Panthers had runners in scoring position in each inning that they batted but only scored five runs. They also struggled defensively, allowing five unearned runs, which helped the Bernardian's secure a 10-5

victory last Thursday afternoon.

"We left five guys on base in the first three innings. The defense also made four costly errors," said Quabbin head coach Mark Battista. "We just didn't play clean baseball today and it's very frustrating."

The Panthers, who posted an 8-0 victory at St. Bernard's last April, entered the home contest with a 3-2 overall record. They were hoping to move two games above the .500 mark for the

first time this season.

"We just need to start playing better baseball," Battista added. "We now have a week off before playing at Bromfield."

The Bernardian's (5-2) also stranded runners in scoring position in the first two innings against Quabbin senior righthander Adam Adams, who allowed eight runs (four earned) on seven hits in 3 2/3 innings. He recorded seven strikeouts and issued four walks.

With one-out in the top of

the first inning, Adams, who threw 86 pitches, walked both junior third baseman Caden Laverdiere and senior Austin Gibbons, who was the Bernardian's starting pitcher.

Gibbons led his team offensively with three singles and a double. He also scored a pair of runs.

Adams, who's hoping to play college baseball at Worcester State University next year, escaped the first inning jam with a strikeout

See BASEBALL, page 10



Turley photos by Jeffrey Haynes

Abigail Falconi balances on one foot as she prepares to spring into her shot-put throw.

## Quabbin girls track victorious

BARRE — In a close matchup last Wednesday, Quabbin Regional High School girls track defeated Groton-Dunstable 79-65. The Panthers are next set to face Oakmont on Tuesday, Apr. 28 at 3:30 p.m.



A n n a Labrousse takes flight in the long jump.

## Boys track gets win

BARRE — Last Wednesday afternoon, Quabbin Regional High School boys track defeated Groton-Dunstable 80-65. Following the spring vacation week, Quabbin will host Oakmont on Tuesday, Apr. 28 at 3:30 p.m.



Owen Twarog successfully clears the bar in the pole vault.



Turley photos by Jeffrey Haynes  
Zakk Mielnicki coils up as he prepares to launch the shot put.



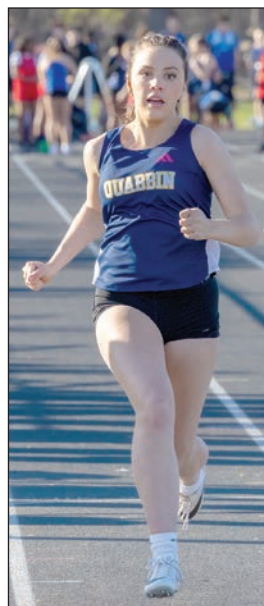
Owura Mensah, left, flies down the stretch in the 100-meter dash.



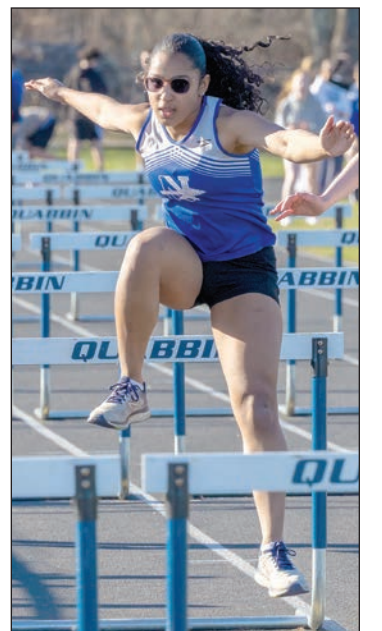
Jinxi Zou jumps the last hurdle on his way to the finish line.



Jinxi Zou takes flight over the crossbar in the high jump.



Maya Putnam, sprints through the 100-meter dash.



Whitney Reeves, races over the hurdles.

## Tough start for Pathfinder baseball

PALMER — Last Monday afternoon, Pathfinder baseball fell to 0-5 on the season with a 15-1 loss against visiting St. Mary's. The Saints scored 10 times in the first inning to pace win. Pathfinder just managed two hits, including a Brody Wetnicka RBI hit. The Pioneers are now 0-6 on the season.



Turley photos by Maddox Baer  
Brody Wetnicka winds back for a pitch.



Jake Kokoski catches a strike.



Zack Smith hits a grounder into play.



Emerson Boronski catches a pop fly.