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The magic of the Quabbin

Ribbon cutting highlights new boat ramp ahead of fishing season

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

PETERSHAM – There was a lot to celebrate at the Quabbin Reservoir as Fishing Area #3 at the Quabbin introduced a new boat ramp.

The ceremony took place on April 18, just one day before the annual fishing season started. The Department of Fish and Game Office of Fishing & Boating Access and Department of Conservation and Recreation were joined by state legislators, local leaders, and community members to celebrate improved access to the fishing area.

A project like this is held dear to many people's hearts as this area of Quabbin Reservoir reflect on memories fishing at the Quabbin with their friends and family. Clayton Sydla is



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

The Department of Fish and Game Office of Fishing & Boating Access and Department of Conservation and Recreation celebrated the new boat ramp at the DCR's Quabbin Reservoir Fishing Area #3. Left to right stands state Sen. Peter Durant, state Rep. Todd Smola, John Scannell, Quabbin Fishermen's Association President Clayton Sydla, MWRA Director Fred Laskey, DFG Commissioner Tom O'Shea, and OFBA Acting Director Terry Smith during the ribbon cutting.

the President of the Quabbin Fishermen's Association and he talked about the project that started back in December of 2024.

The Office of Fishing &

Boating Access reconstructed the popular boat ramp at Fishing Area #3 in partnership with DCR's Division of Watershed Protection. According to Sydla, the sec-

ond phase of the project was completed just a couple of days ago and the new ramp now provides better fishing access.

Sydla described the turn-

out for this ceremony as "fantastic" and shows every supporter who felt it was important to reopen this

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Meet the candidates

Two candidates seeking three-year term on BOS

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The annual town election to be held on Monday, May 6 sees two contests for positions on the Board of Selectmen.

Polls will be open all day at the Senior Center, 29 Forest St.

Both Jamie Gilman and John Tripp are running for a three-year term, after current Selectman Elizabeth "Brooke" Canada chose not to seek reelection. Ralph Kay and John Mitchell are both seeking election for an unexpired two-year term following Selectman Vaughn Schlegel's resignation.

Jamie Gilman

In running for Selectman, I want to start by informing folks that my mission is to create a divide between national politics and local politics in order to create a focus on local issues.

The local issues facing the town must take priority; we must take thoughtful action in dealing with the town's finances, infrastructure and services, as well as the integrity of project development and completion. Our town has much more to gain by focusing on our similarities in local resources than getting caught in conflicts that further divide our community.

To put it frankly, I don't look to represent any group of people based on how you vote in elections or what flags/signs you have in front of your home. I am looking to promote and represent community and fellowship as defined above.

The reality that most of us are becoming aware of or already are aware of is that North Brookfield is in a budget crisis, with many being particularly concerned with the future of the North Brookfield school system and other town resources. Our infrastructure and services are lacking – there isn't enough money to support everything.

We need people in charge who are able to make difficult, educated decisions about what takes priority for the majority of our community, the things people engage with on a regular basis. In doing so, there must be an increase in board and committee transparency and communication to ensure our community is informed about all options, benefits, and costs to create a path forward- and those in positions of power in town need to ensure that this is happening.

In addition, there are several ongoing projects in town, such as the Highway/Fire

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Gobi speaks during Rural Farm Forum

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Grand Room of West Brookfield Town Hall was the location for the Rural Farm Forum last Monday.

This event gave community members a chance to speak to agencies and organizations working to support



Anne Gobi, the Director of Rural Affairs, attended the Rural Farm Forum at the Grand Room in West Brookfield Town Hall.

local farmers and their farms. Notable organizations such as the Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council, The Carrot Project, East Quabbin Land Trust, Hardwick Farmer's Co-Op Exchange, Northeast Organic Farming Association and many more attended the forum to share information and connect with local businesses and local customers.

During the Forum, Matt Koziol of Farmer Matt in New Braintree provided delicious servings of shepherd's pie in the Grand Room of the Town Hall.

Speaking during the introduction of the Rural Farm Forum was West Brookfield Select Board Chair Eric von Bleicken, who introduced all the organizations who attended the forum. A representative of each organization introduced themselves and shared briefly what services they provide.

von Bleicken would then introduce the keynote speaker of the Rural Farm Forum, former state Sen. Anne Gobi. Since 2023, Gobi has served as the Massachusetts Director of Rural Affairs and wanted to speak to the residents and local businesses about her role and how she advocates

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Church bell tolls for 250th anniversary of famous ride



John Barringer of Oakham, middle, rings the bell at the Oakham Congregational Church on Friday, April 18. Ward Holloway of Oakham, left and Linda Barringer of Oakham watch.

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
edowner@turley.com

OAKHAM – "Listen my children and you shall hear of the midnight ride of Paul Revere on the eighteenth of April, in Seventy five..." Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

These words from

the poem "Paul Revere's Ride" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, (written in 1861, immortalized the ride of Paul Revere to warn the colonists the British were coming. However, there were others, who also rode that night, not just Revere.

Longfellow continues, "Hardly a man is now alive who remembers that

famous day and year." In Oakham two men, three women and two girls gathered at the Oakham Congregational Church to remember April 18, 1775 on the 250th anniversary of the midnight ride. John Barringer, Ward Holloway,



Turley photos by Ellenor Downer

Ward and Edna Holloway take a turn running the church bell.

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Voters approve healthcare zoning for MLH site

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Tuesday night's special town meeting drew a record crowd to take action on six articles, three of which were related to proposed zoning changes.

Approximately 530 voters filled every seat in the audi-

torium and additional seating had to be added to the stage and floor to accommodate the crowd at Ware High School. Once all voters were seated, the meeting opened just prior to 7 p.m.

Health Care Zoning District

Article 6 asked voters to approve the creation of a Health Care Services District for parcels located at 73 South St., 25 Marjorie St., 85 South St., Marjorie St. and 89 South St., which is the

site of the former Mary Lane Hospital.

The article would restrict the uses allowed at the site to include assisted living residences, charitable institutions/organizations, clinical medical laboratories, continuing care retirement communities, emergency departments, hospitals, intermediate care facilities, medical clinics or urgent care clinics, medical/dental centers or offices, memory care communities, museums, nurs-

ing homes and research and development laboratories.

The purpose of the Health Care Services District as outlined in the article is to "promote hospital uses, related to health services, clinics and treatment facilities, offices of health practitioners, nursing homes, continuing care retirement facilities, daycare facilities and laboratories for research and development.

Planning Board member Chris DiMarzio said this bylaw change was original-

ly drafted by board member Elizabeth Hancock on behalf of the Friends of the Mary Lane Hospital. He said this article came about after Baystate Health closed the South Street hospital and began taking action to demolish its buildings.

DiMarzio said it's currently zoned for many uses, including healthcare, but this does not prevent it from being developed for another use besides a healthcare facility.

"It's not protected for healthcare," he said.

DiMarzio said healthcare use may not happen at the site right away, but it will be protected in the meantime.

"Healthcare use may not come back right away or at all, but if that happens, it can be rezoned," he said.

Friends of Mary Lane Hospital Chair Cindy Allen Bourcier said many are still suffering from the closure of

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SPORTS

Panthers even record, then are rained out with Lunenburg

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BARRE—Following a loss at Clinton High School on April 11, the Quabbin varsity softball team had a 1-3 overall record. A week later, the Lady Panthers had a 3-3 overall record.

Quabbin began last week's action with a 9-5 non-league comeback home win versus Grafton on April 16. They took a 4-3 lead against

Grafton following an RBI single by sophomore Kailynn Schuster in the bottom of the fourth inning.

Two days later, the Lady Panthers posted a 3-1 victory at Mid-Wach C rival Littleton, who had won the previous eight games in the series.

Quabbin also held a 1-0 lead in another home league game against league rival Lunenburg. That game was suspended in the bottom of

the second inning due to a thunderstorm.

"This group of young women have been a tremendous inspiration to me," said Quabbin varsity softball coach Chris Nosek. "They're incredibly hard working and are totally team driven. They support each other and do all the things that a coach could hope for. I just want them to continue to do things the right way in every game that we play."

The weather has been a major factor so far this spring.

"Softball is a very difficult sport to play when the weather is cold," Nosek said. "You don't have as good of a grip on the ball, so it's harder to throw. The ball doesn't travel as far off the bat. It's not a game meant to be played in cold temperatures."

Quabbin is a member of the Mid-Wach C league, along with Lunenburg, Oakmont, Clinton, Tyngsborough, and Littleton. They're 1-1 in league play.

"Our league is extremely difficult this year," Nosek added. "All of the other Mid-Wach C teams qualified for the state tournament last year. We need to play our best in every game."

A year ago, the Lady Panthers won four games, but they did qualify for the Division 4 state tournament in 2022 and 2023.

The Lady Panthers co-captains this spring are senior shortstop Jordan Blanchard and sophomore left fielder Abby Rogowski, who has been a member of the varsity team since she was in the seventh grade.

"Our two captains have been tremendous so far this season," Nosek said. "They've provided outstand-

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Middle School softball action



Amelia Breault heads into third.



Aubrey Pope rounds first.

BARRE – Quabbin Regional High School softball was in recent action. The Panthers have now played in a few games in the spring. The middle school team is now on vacation for the spring break. They return to game action in early May.



In the second inning, heavy rain and wind started to come down.



Quabbin Middle School baseball faced Murdock on Apr. 15

Middle School baseball action



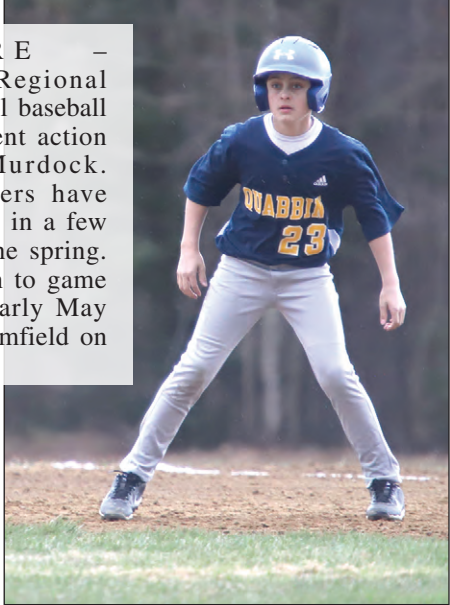
Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Josie Castell hustles for first.



Maggie Leander makes a strong throw to first base.



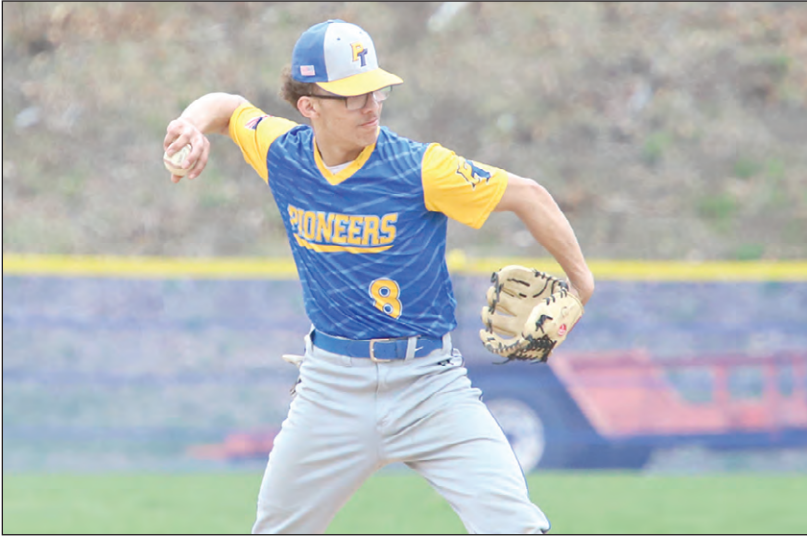
Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
The Panthers had a tough first inning.



BARRE – Quabbin Regional High School baseball was in recent action against Murdock. The Panthers have now played in a few games in the spring. They return to game action in early May against Bromfield on the road.

The rains would continue and the game was called off. The team returns to action on May 6.

Pioneers walk off on Monson



Dustyn Cook makes a throw to first.

PALMER – Last Saturday morning, Pathfinder Tech walked off with a run in the bottom of the seventh to defeat Monson 2-1. The Pioneers got a complete game effort from Brayden Megan. He allowed a run on four hits and struck out 11. Pathfinder also had only four hits as Austin Meacham also gave the Mustangs an outstanding effort, going 6 2/3 innings before allowing the winning run. He struck out eight. Monson is now 4-3 on the season while Pathfinder is an impressive 4-1.

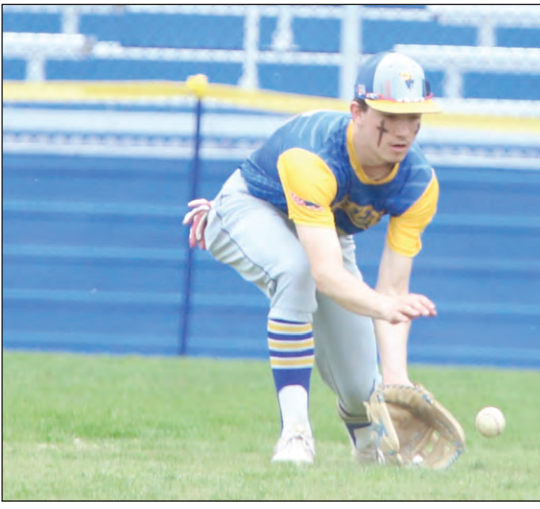


Grayson Griswold gets a good swing on.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Pitcher Brayden Mega fires to the plate.



Edward Szostek fields a base hit to center.



Jacob Kokoski makes a throw down to second.