

BARRE GAZETTE

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SB heard update on municipal complex

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HUBBARDSTON – The Select Board heard an update from Kari Sacramone, the chair of the Municipal Complex Committee at their meeting last Tuesday.

The town is working to build a new hub for the police, fire and municipal government.

Sacramone said the committee currently has one schematic design ready for presentation, but they are aiming to present two at a town meeting in the fall.

She said the schematic

design is based on space needs, and they are continuing to discuss office space for example, and whether they will be placed in the upstairs part of the complex.

Sacramone said the second schematic design could have a color coded aspect, showing aspects that are necessary for the design,

along with some things that could be taken out if needed.

The committee and Select Board noted the importance of presenting residents with timelines, construction costs and effects on residents' taxes.

Town Administrator Sean Fitzgerald described the current conditions of the

police department as "unacceptable," and said that the proposed new complex will be one of the town's "most important generational investments."

TA Search Committee

Sacramone is also the chair of the Town Administrator Search Committee, and gave a brief

update about the progress being made in finding a new town administrator. She said there have been about 50 resumes received, and each member of the committee is going to pick their top five before first interviews are

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ATM articles reviewed by Board

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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RUTLAND – The Select Board along with Town Administrator Heather Butler reviewed several articles on the annual town meeting warrant, which will be held next Saturday, May 9.

The first article reviewed had to do with the snow and ice budget, with Butler describing a \$229,360 deficit this year, which she said will require end of year transfers to cover it. She said there are multiple accounts that have funds available that can be used to offset that deficit, including \$90,000 in health insurance surplus, \$30,000 in highway overtime, and \$60,000 in highway wages.

She said this combined \$180,000 in available funds will leave the snow and ice deficit at \$49,360, which will be on the warrant as a request to transfer from free cash.

The second article reviewed by Butler had to do with the town pool, and how the town will pay for

the proposed borrowing. She said she had a meeting with the recreation director, and came to an agreement of a 50/50 split between paying from the recreation budget and the town budget.

Butler said the 10-year note yearly repayment was estimated to be between \$18,000 and \$23,000, and decided to use \$20,000 as a median estimate for yearly repayment. That would leave the recreation and town each paying \$10,000.

The Select Board said there would be \$8,000 a year in interest offset, so the taxpayer burden would only be \$2,000 a year.

Butler noted that depending on recreation funds, there is a possibility of the town contributing slightly more in certain years, but the recreation has committed to paying for engineering and procurement costs. Butler said a request has been submitted to state legislators for a potential earmark for engineering.

Members of the Select

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Tony Menegoni fixed bicycles at the repair fair sponsored by the Barre Historical Society as part of Barre's Earth Day celebrations on Saturday, April 25.

Historical Society hosts REPAIR FAIR



Chris Higgins, right, fixes this young boy's matchbox.



Brian Tanguay had a watch repair and evaluation station set up inside the Barre Historical Society building.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Candidates Orsi and Kennan answered questions at forum

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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NORTH BROOKFIELD – A Meet the Candidates night was held last Friday night to allow those running for town offices to answer questions and speak to voters directly about their experience and plans for what they wish to achieve in their positions.

Two candidates on the May 4 ballot attended, including Richard Kennan, who is running for Water Commissioner and Peter Orsi, who is vying for a seat on the Board of Selectmen.

Kennan introduced himself, saying he is a long-time resident of the town, and has been involved in local organizations throughout his life, such as the Knights of Columbus, Lions Club, and coaching little league. He said he had previously worked in the North Brookfield water plant, first serving as an operator, before transitioning to Water Superintendent.

He said he is now

retired, so has the time to devote to the position, and has a lot of experience with the plant, such as working infrastructure, supervising operations, maintaining budgets and attending monthly meetings.

Orsi said he is also a long-time resident of the town, and has also been involved in a lot of organizations in town, like coaching little league, soccer and working with the Boy Scouts. He said he was a firefighter in town for 11 years, and has worked with multiple town officials in town over the years.

Orsi said he sat on the building committee for the highway and fire complex. He said he has the time to devote to the job of sitting on the Board of Selectmen, and has met a lot of the people he would be working with.

Key requirements

Both candidates were asked what they believe are the key requirements to be

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Select Board heard pavement plan proposal

By Paula Ouimette
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NORTH BROOKFIELD – Roger Brooks came before the Board of Selectmen to discuss the condition of the roads in town.

At the April 21 meeting, he said he had some ideas about what the town can do to maintain paving and best utilize Chapter 90 funds.

Brooks said the town of Sterling had an independent company come in and evaluate the condition of its

roads. He said the evaluation was done in 10-foot increments on every road that received Chapter 90 funding.

"They categorize it and they have five categories... they have a list of every road – the dimensions, width-wise, lengthwise...and what kind of condition the drainage is on the side...all of which impact the roads in town," Brooks said.

Brooks said the data collected determines if the road falls into one of the cate-

gories of "minor," "minor patch and seal," "preventative treatment," "minor rehab" and "major reconstruction."

He said some of North Brookfield's roads will need major reconstruction, "from the ground up," but others could receive less costly pavement treatments such as "mill and pave."

"We may be able to do more roads due to the fact that their costs would be, let's say a third of the cost of full-deck reclamation," he

said.

Brooks said the evaluation would provide a more accurate inventory of the condition of the town's roads.

"I think we'll wind up having a more comprehensive and cost effective way of upgrading our roads," he said.

Brooks said the evaluation cost the town of Sterling just over \$40,000

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Hearing addressed protection of Muddy Brook

By Paula Ouimette
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HARDWICK – The Board of Health held a public hearing to review proposed regulations to protect the Muddy Brook aquifer and watershed.

Board of Health Chair Dr. John Mott said the public hearing was not a legal requirement in order to adopt the regulations, but the board felt it was important to get input from the public.

At the April 22 hearing

held at Hardwick Elementary School, Mott was joined by fellow board member Dr. Richard Romano to present the draft regulations and introduce a panel of experts to speak about the Muddy Brook area and its importance.

The need for protection

Romano said the Board of Health wanted to show residents "what the thinking was behind it...the science behind it" with the panel of speakers.

Romano said the Muddy Brook aquifer is high-medium yield and is seven miles in length and 200 feet deep.

"It's deeper than Quabbin," Romano said. "It's as very significant geological formation."

Romano said the aquifer provides drinking water to private wells around Muddy Brook, including at Hardwick Pond, as well as public drinking water to the Barnes Street wells for the town of Ware.

"This aquifer is very rare,

and it's very vulnerable," he said.

Romano referred to a map that outlined the gravel corridor formed around the aquifer, and explained how the gravel travels all the way to the Barnes Street wells.

"If you protect the gravel;

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SPORTS

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Baseball returns

BARRE – The Quabbin Regional High School baseball team enjoyed almost a full week off, but did return to action during the vacation week, traveling to Bromfield High School last Friday afternoon. The Panthers defeated the hosts 4-0 to improve to 3-3 on the regular season. It will be full steam ahead for the Panthers going forward with many more games to play in the next few weeks. Coming up, the Panthers travel to Tahanto High School for a 4 p.m. start. The Panthers are back home on Monday, May 4 at 3:30 p.m. against Narragansett.



Aiden Lapointe throws in a shot to deep left field.



Andrew Warfield reaches for the bag as he dives into third base.

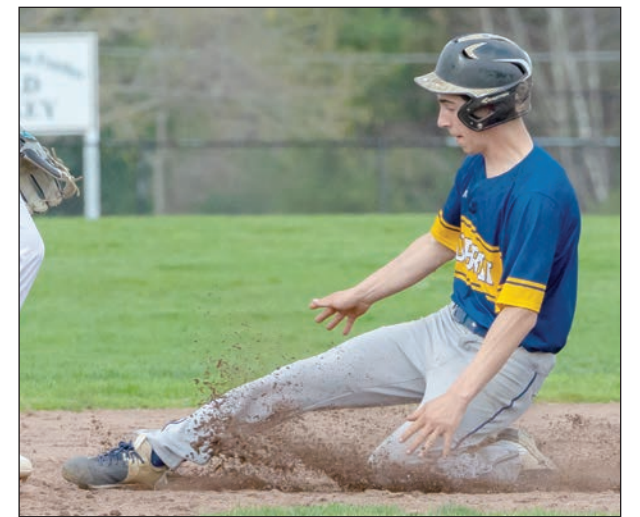


Above, J.R. Falconi stretches out as he leaps for a catch with Aiden Lapointe providing backup as a Bernardian slides into second base.

Turley photos by Jeffrey Haynes



Abe Brown connects for a hit.



Chase Talbot slides into second base.



Adam Adams fires a pitch against St. Bernard's.



Emerson Boronski delivers a pitch.

Pathfinder falls to SICS

PALMER – Last Thursday on a sunny, but breezy afternoon, Pathfinder baseball was defeated 14-4 by SICS at Legion Field in Palmer. While Pathfinder was able to get on the scoreboard, SICS was able to score some early runs to get ahead, and the Panthers could not match the offense. Pathfinder fell to 0-8 on the regular season.



Anthony Elliott sends a long throw to third.

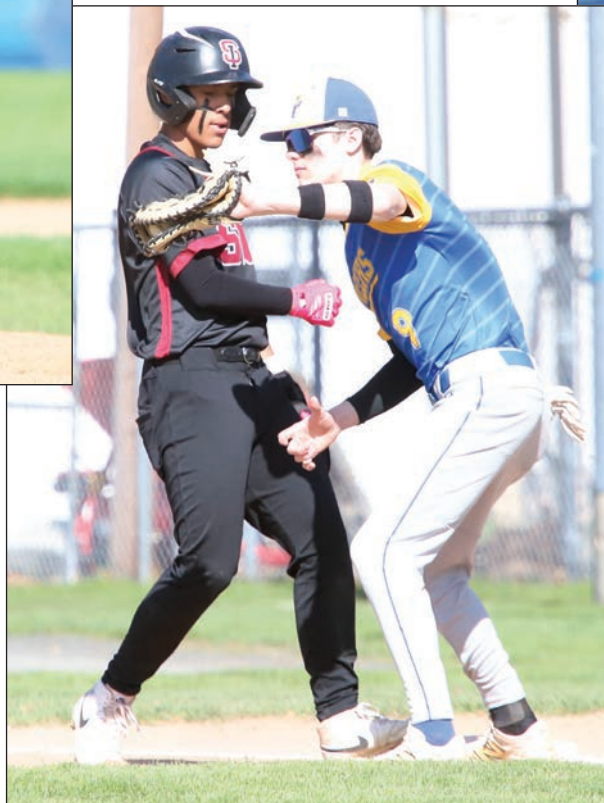
Panthers stay perfect at 8-0

BARRE – On Monday, Apr. 27, Quabbin Regional High School girls tennis picked up their eighth win of the season, defeating North Middlesex 4-1 and have yet to lose a match-up this season. Farrah Wojcik and Kalina Dyer led the way in singles action with straight set wins. Both doubles teams were also victorious. The teams of Madelyn Stauder and Elizabeth Matheson won two straight 6-3 decisions and Addison Suprenant and Maria Hamm won two straight 6-1 sets.

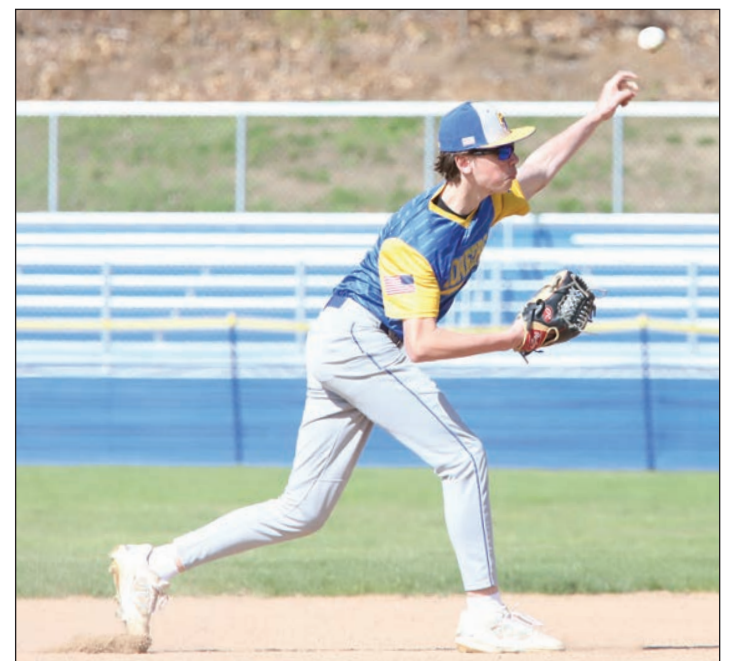
The Panthers hope to keep the momentum going against Tynngsborough on Friday, May 1 at 4 p.m.



Above, Brody Wetnicka winds up for a throw across the diamond. Right, Zachary Latourelle sends a throw to first.



Dayne Shanley takes the pickoff at first.



Zachary Smith tries to make throw to first for an out.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli