

BARRE GAZETTE

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Tonic and Jameson of Moonshine Acres in Barre enjoyed a late afternoon nap.

Spencer Fair continues Labor Day tradition

SPENCER – The Spencer Fair was held over five days for Labor Day weekend, bringing a mix of agriculture and midway excitement.

Founded in 1888, this fair has been the longstanding unofficial “end of summer” for central Massachusetts. Fairgoers were able to enjoy cattle and poultry exhibi-

tions, agricultural exhibits, arts and crafts, dog agility performances, tractor and oxen pulling, live music, wandering performers, games and rides, vendors, food and more.

The Spencer Fair is also home to the “World’s Largest Demolition Derby,” hosted by JM Motorsports.



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

Chris Tillotson's first place-winning giant pumpkin weight in at 937.4 pounds .More photos on page 8.

Town Clerk lists unofficial primary election results

By Ellenor Downer

BARRE – A total of 970 of the 4,460 registered voters went to the polls for the Sept. 1 State Primary election for a voter turnout of 21.75%.

Of the 970 who voted 310 took a Democrat ballot in precinct 1 and 225 in precinct and 216 took a Republican ballot in precinct 1 and 206 in precinct 2.

Town Clerk Ellen Glidden listed the unofficial election results. The only contest on the Democrat ballot was to Senator in Congress. Edward J. Markey, incumbent, was the top vote getter with 357 votes (196 precinct 1 and 155 precinct 2). His challenger, Seth Moulton, got 181 votes (111 precinct 1 and 65 precinct 2). There were eight blanks.

All other candidates ran unopposed. Maura Healey received 436 votes (252 precinct 1 and 173 precinct 2). There were 93 blanks.

Lieutenant Governor Kimberly Driscoll received 447 votes (256 precinct 1 and 180 precinct 2) with 95 blanks. For Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell got 456 votes with (261 precinct 1 and 185 precinct 2) and 86 blanks.

William Francis Galvin received 471 votes (270 precinct 1 and 190 precinct 2) for Secretary of State with 74 blanks.

Also running unopposed was Deborah B. Goldberg for Treasurer with 449 votes (256 precinct 1 and 182 precinct 2) with 96 blanks.

Other positions were Auditor Diana Dizoglio with 444 votes (252 precinct 1 and 182 precinct 2); Representative in Congress Second District James P. McGovern with 482 (273 precinct 1 and 98 precinct 2) and Councillor Seventh District Paul M. DePalo with 438 (247 precinct 1 and 181 precinct 2).

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Select Board hears update on First Meetinghouse

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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HUBBARDSTON – The Select Board met last Thursday, where two members of the First Meetinghouse Preservation Committee gave an update on the building’s condition and next steps to the select board.

Mike Stoll of the committee talked about structural related items at the building including foundations, timber structures and archaeology. Stoll said the foundation of the first meetinghouse, which

is the former church, is loose fieldstone with no mortar.

He also said the timber structures of the building were damaged by both a fire and a hurricane in 1938. There is also evidence of powder post beetles in the timber.

According to maine.gov, these beetles infest dry wood and deteriorate it.

Stoll also mentioned water issues, including a possible natural spring below the area the building sits on, providing a lot of groundwater. He said there’s also a pipe that both takes up water and brings it away.

In terms of archaeology, Stoll said there is the possibility of underground railroad activity occurring in Hubbardston, but said he still has more research to do on it. Stoll said his personal initial recommendation to the town is to draft a request for proposal for engineering services to perform an assessment of the property.

Katie Young, Select Board chair and member of the committee said the town is going toward using Community Preservation Act funds along with grants. She said there may be an article on the Oct. 27 special town

meeting warrant asking for Community Preservation Committee funds to use toward the grant.

Betty Ann Sharp of the First Meetinghouse committee said the grant is from the Mass Historical Commission, and the town can get more than 50% reimbursement after the grant is administered, but the town has to match.

When asked by Kris Pareago of the Select Board if the building is still being used, Stoll said it is, and there was a fundraiser the week prior to the meeting, and there is another one

planned for the fall. He said the building currently has a capacity of 100 people, but that may be a fire code, not a maximum weight.

Stoll said the study would determine appropriate load sizes for the building. He also said that he does not think it would be appropriate to stop usage of the building until the study is done.

Town Administrator introduction

The board introduced new interim Town Administrator Timothy Bragan, who said he is excited to start working with everyone and use

his experience to get projects moving.

Bond anticipation

The board voted to renew bond anticipatory notes for one year at the recommendation of municipal advisors Alex Kaufmann and Dave Eisenhal.

Job postings

The board posted two separate job postings, one for assessing and building clerk, and another for land use and Board of Health clerk.

Executive Assistant Christina Ellis said the cur-

See MEETINGHOUSE, page 8

BOH continues discussion of Coldbrook Road properties

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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OAKHAM – The Board of Health continued a discussion on 21 Coldbrook Road, a vacant property that has had complaints from neighbors about a possible rat infestation, and more recently, instances of residents accessing the building. According to the board, these instances were reported to the police chief who then brought it to the board’s attention, and are likely teenagers accessing the building on e-bikes.

Lucy DiLeo of the board said they got an administrative search warrant to inspect the property, but were denied access because it was vacant, and the heirs of the deceased property owners did not want any-

body to access it. She said their attorney then met with the heirs, and the board now has a document stating they have the authority to go in and inspect as of Aug. 27.

DiLeo said the building is creating an attractive nuisance, which she said needs to be stopped. She said since the town has this document allowing them to inspect and access the property, she planned on going out with the Building Commissioner and measuring the windows to see how much lumber would be needed to block them. DiLeo also noted that while there have been concerns of rats, an inspection in March done by the Leicester Regional Public Health Coalition health inspectors did not find any evidence of rat infestation.

DiLeo said there is a potential buyer who plans on purchasing the property and building new homes on it.

Other members of the

board including Liz Weeks and Barbara Pucci had concerns about going on the property and altering it without legal counsel review. However, Hayley Reifess, the legal counsel for the town, said their liability is not very high since they have the document allowing access and there is broad board of health authority under the Massachusetts sanitation code.

358 Coldbrook Road

The board discussed 358 Coldbrook Road, where there are environmental concerns because of a former car junkyard. The site is where the proposed battery energy storage system will be placed.

DiLeo said the cease and desist is still in effect until the property is vacated or modified.

There was a public hearing scheduled for that night, but ZOVL Properties LLC requested a reschedule, so that will be held on Sept. 15.

Hardwick Community Fair rosette/blue ribbon winners

HARDWICK – The 2026 Hardwick Community Fair rosette and blue ribbon winners have been announced.

Rosette winners are marked with an asterisk for Best in Class.

4-H

Sadie Russell*, Abbie Russell and Annie Russell.

Art Youth

Maren Goddard*, Everett Ramos, Rhett Rollet, Daphne Williams, Christian Brens, Piper Hager, Emmett Langlois, Bria Duncan, Eric Duncan, Maeven Litchfield, Penny Ouimette, Maria Hamm, Lily Nydam, Hazel Carter, Quinn Ouimette, Abigail Klee, Sophia Pascale, Walker Larson and Isabelle Wentworth.

Art Adult

Greg Davis*, Chas Mazik, Meg Haight, Marilyn Frost, Rachel Perry, Joshua Vinskey, Beth Stachowicz, Olivia Pascale, Stacey Hill and Ellie Shea.

Baking Youth

Summer Keddy, Meadow Vitello, Ellayne Lapointe, Carter Keddy, Sage Holland, Brynn Lagimoniere, Emily Beaulieu, Michaela Jo Dias, Abbie Russell, Hazel Larson, Jessa Ashley and Brooke Healey.

Baking Adult

Lisa Dibara*, Alice May Lowell, Blanche Carlson, Kristyl Kelly, Laura McCarthy, Stacey Hill, Kim Pagnoni, James Brussellback, Sara Doubleday, Vladia Buelow, Susan Bagdonas, Becky Savage, Susan Sandridge, Dawn Abare, Sarah Humphrey and Abby Mayou.

Beef Showmanship

Shannon Steins, Sawyer Picard, George Gates and Wyatt Gates.

Dairy Showmanship

Harper Fusco, Sadie Russell, Charlie Gates and Ian Lapete.

Beef/Beef Cross

Wyatt Gates and Samantha Bertrand.

Dairy/Beef Cross

Rowan Chicoine, Aubrey Savino and Samantha Bertrand.

Angus

Wyatt Gates and Sawyer Picard.

Ayrshire

Ian Lapete

Brown Swiss

Lauren Olson, Sara Doubleday and Megan Howe.

Guernsey

Frank Doubleday

Hereford

Taylor Days and Samantha Bertrand.

Holstein

Abbie Russell, Sadie Russell, Charlie Gates, Wyatt Gates and Sara Doubleday.

See ROSETTE RIBBON WINNERS, page 7



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SPORTS

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Panthers set for regular season

BARRE – The Quabbin Regional High School boys soccer team tuned up for the regular season by hosting Oakmont last Thursday afternoon.

The Panthers were scheduled to open the regular season earlier this week on the road at Uxbridge.

They will remain on the road on Sept. 10 against West Boylston at 3:30 p.m. and stay on the road for three more games. Their first game is not until Thursday, Sept. 24 at 4 p.m. against Clinton.

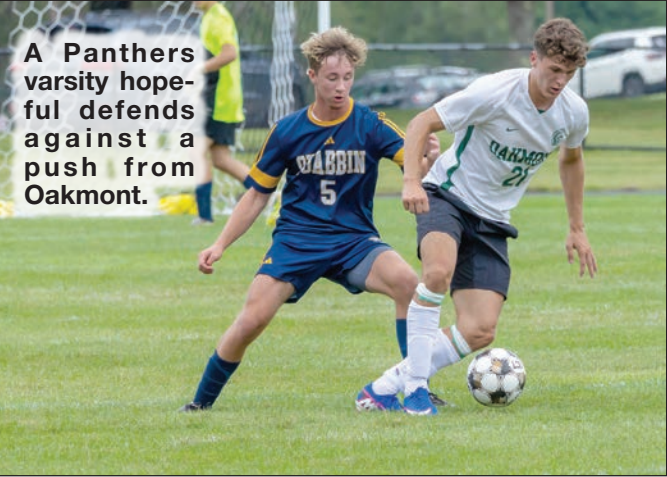


The Panthers go for the header.

Turley photos by Jeffrey Haynes



Quabbin moves the ball upfield with Oakmont players in pursuit.



A Panthers varsity hopeful defends against a push from Oakmont.



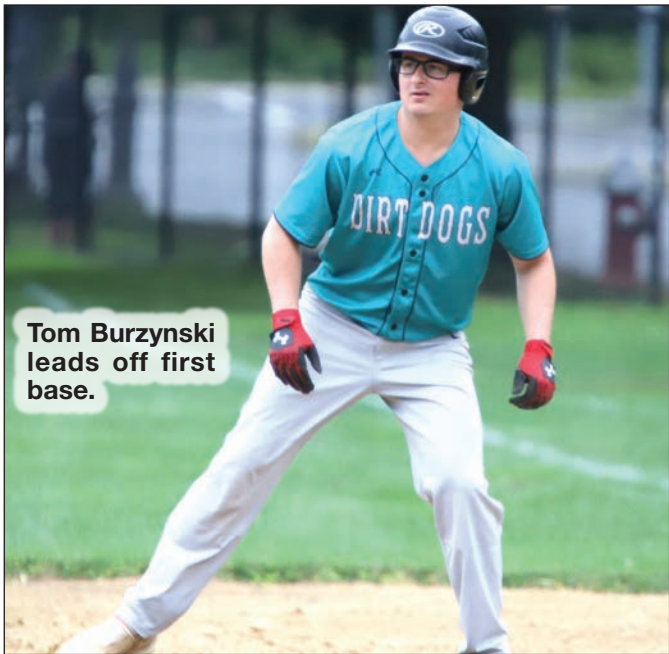
Quabbin goes for possession in Oakmont's end.



Quabbin was in preseason action last week with Oakmont.



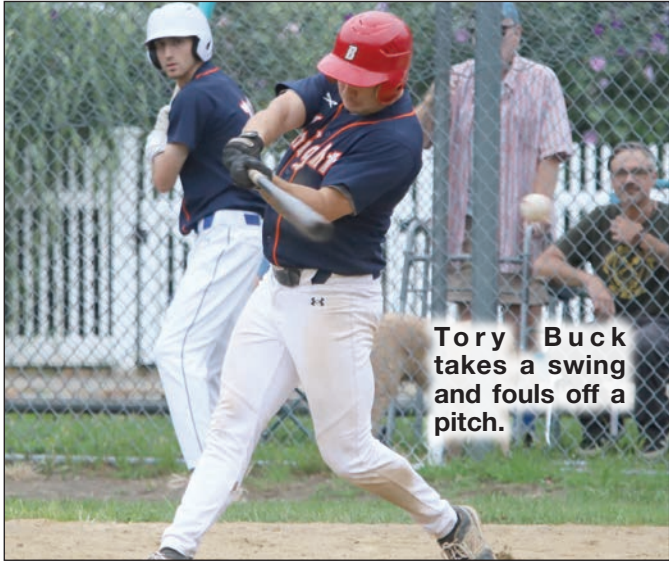
Pete Moulin sends a pitch away for the Dirt Dogs.



Tom Burzynski leads off first base.

Dirt Dogs take Pioneer Valley championship

SOUTH HADLEY – On Aug. 22 at Beachgrounds Park, after trailing earlier in the game, the Dirt Dogs came back to defeat the Knights 7-5 to sweep a best-of-three game championship series to win the Pioneer Valley Baseball League's title for 2026. This was the first year of Pioneer's merger with the Quabbin Valley Baseball League. The merger included the addition of the Blue Jays to bring the league to six teams. The Dirt Dogs had Pioneers best record of 19-2 in the regular season and the Dirt Dogs went on to win five consecutive games in the double elimination playoffs. The Knights went 16-4 in the regular season and were defeated in winner's bracket of the playoffs by the Dirt Dogs. They would go on to



Tory Buck takes a swing and fouls off a pitch.

beat the Wolves 2-1 in 11 innings in the elimination final to make it to the championship series for a rematch with the Dirt Dogs. The Dirt Dogs won the championship

opener 18-4 at Mackenzie Stadium in Holyoke on Aug. 18. Pioneer will have a four-team fall league for the first time, which begins on Sept. 12.

Pathfinder girls soccer gets going

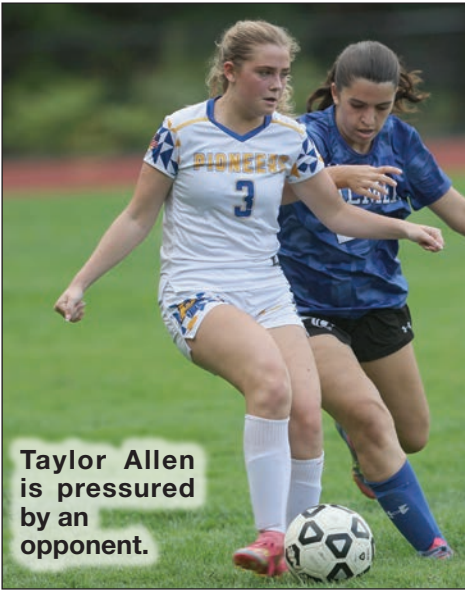
PALMER – Last Thursday afternoon, Pathfinder girls soccer had its preseason scrimmage, taking on cross-town rival Palmer High School. The two teams are both gearing up for the regular season.

Pathfinder was set to open the season on Thursday, Sept. 10, taking on Lee at home. The Pioneers are on the road Monday afternoon, Sept. 14 at Commerce at 4 p.m.

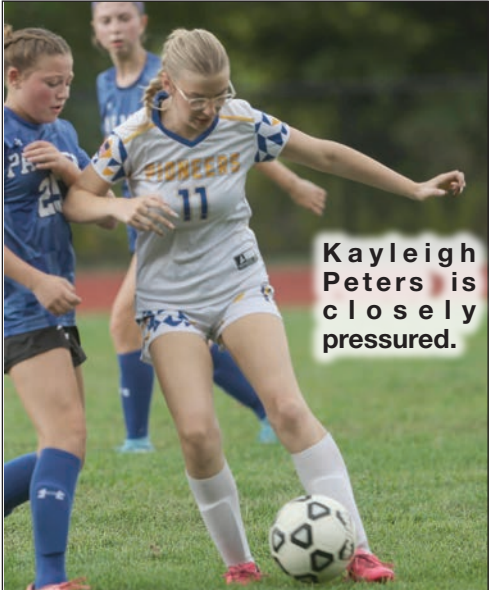
Turley photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com



Aubrey Ortiz sends the goal kick away.



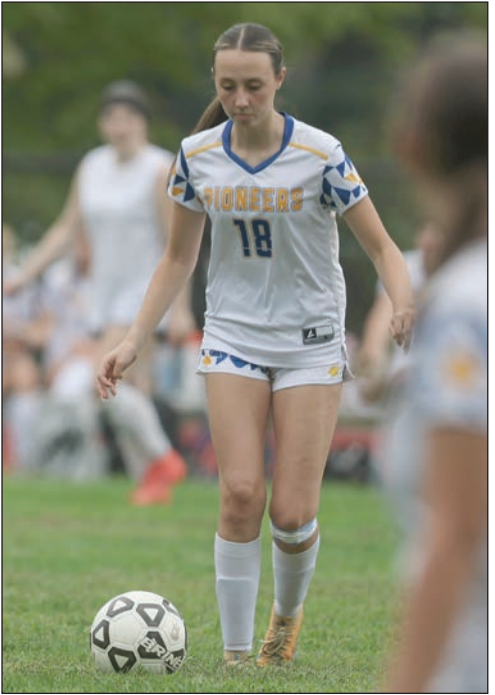
Taylor Allen is pressured by an opponent.



Kayleigh Peters is closely pressured.



Ellyana LaValley keeps play moving up the field.



Abigail Carmody gets ready to make a big kick.

Committee announces next Hall induction

BARRE – Tickets for the 11th Quabbin Regional Athletic Hall of Fame Induction are now available for the Nov. 7 ceremony to be held at Teresa's Restaurant, 315 Palmer Road, Ware, MA. A social hour will begin at 5 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m. followed by the induction ceremony.

Seven individuals and a pair of championship teams will be honored. Dating back

to the first induction in 2002, this will bring the total number of individual inductees to 72 in addition to 11 teams.

The induction class includes Louis Panaccione '75, Eugene Rich '95, Matthew Brunelle '08, Stephany Halfrey '15, Thaddeus J. Gumula Contributor and Athletic Director, Coach Cheryl Adams, Coach Debra Spinelli, 1979 Field Hockey

Team and 1998-99 Boys Varsity Basketball Team.

Tickets are \$50 and may be obtained by calling Hall of Fame Chairman Ted Gumula at (413) 348-0414 or through the mail by contacting: Quabbin Regional Athletic Hall of Fame, P.O. Box 874 Barre, MA 01005. The last date to purchase tickets will be Oct. 23. All checks must be payable to Quabbin Regional School District.