

BARRE GAZETTE

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Thomas Garwood and Calia Rich took off to compete in the 5K race at the East Quabbin Land Trust's 15th annual Station Loop Ramble held this past Sunday. Garwood finished with a time of 36:33 and Rich finished with a time of 26:43.

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

Event celebrates 15th year

By Paula Ouimette
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NEW BRAINTREE – The East Quabbin Land Trust hosted its 15th annual Station Loop Ramble this past Sunday – a family-friendly event that highlights the beauty of the Mass

Central Rail Trail.

More than 75 participants took to the trails to compete in the 5 Mile Classic or the 5K Run/Walk. Prior to these events, about a dozen younger runners competed in a 200-foot dash and a quarter-mile run.

The top male and female finishers for the 5 Mile Classic were Nathaniel Henshaw with a time of 29:59 and Abigail

Goudreau with a time of 39:26. The top male and female finishers in the 5K were siblings Walker Larson (19:10) and Hazel Larson (26:06).

Other results are as follows for the 5 Mile Classic: Mike Keleher, 30:45; Rain Wilbur, 31:00; Matthew Twarog, 31:52; Jeremy Zglobicki, 33:30; Michael Siok, 34:54; David Larson, 35:55; Simon White, 36:22;

Brian Farmer, 36:32; Audrey Snay, 43:31; Jonathan Miganowicz, 43:46; Nicole Keleher, 43:39; Jess Howland, 47:00; Gus Block, 47:19; Kristen Farmer, 49:24; Tess Davis, 51:14; Mike Berrin, 51:41; Michelle Sheperd, 52:24; and Kevin Loggie, 53:40.

For the 5K Run/Walk, results include: Robbie

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TA evaluation postponed

By Ellenor Downer
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BARRE – In the absence of Select Board chairman Maureen Marshall, the two Select Board members present Mark Regienus and Richard Stevens postponed Town Administrator Melanie Jackson's performance evaluation to a meeting when Marshall would be present.

Town Clerk election update

Town Clerk Ellen Glidden discussed the Tuesday, Nov. 3 election with the Select Board at their Monday, Oct. 19 meeting. She said early voting started Saturday, Oct. 17.

Remaining dates are Thursday, Oct. 21 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 24 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Tuesday, Oct. 27 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Wednesday, Oct. 28 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and Thursday, Oct. 29 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

The last day to register to vote will be Saturday, Oct. 24 by 5 p.m. The Town Clerk's Office located at 40 West St., will be open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on

Oct. 24.

She said the state recommended a police presence during in person early voting. She said she did not budget for the police officer at early voting.

She had not heard yet if the state would reimburse that expense.

Glidden said she mailed over 700 ballots. Postage is \$1.37 per ballot, which was two pages with print on both sides of one page and only the front of the second page. She said the process to mail out a ballot takes about 16 to 18 minutes.

She said she would participate in the advance opening policy for this election. The advance opening policy allows the ballots to be separated from the envelope containing the ballot.

This reduces the work involved in processing the ballots on election day. They are then sorted by precinct and placed in a sealed containers and placed in the vault.

On election day, they are removed from the vault and

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Select Board hears about ambulance reserve fund

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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RUTLAND – Fire Chief Seth Knipe presented a proposition to create an ambulance receipts reserved for appropriation account under Mass General Laws chapter

40 section 5F to the Select Board during a meeting last Monday, with the goal of placing it on the Nov. 19 special town meeting warrant.

Knipe explained that the process started about a year ago, and has been discussed with the Finance Committee, Town Accountant, Town

Treasurer and Town Administrator. He said the goal of this account is to restore Fire Department services without using an override by using existing and future receipts from ambulance calls.

The other goal is to reduce costs associated with

running the Fire Department. Knipe said following the failed override earlier this year, department staffing has gone down to just two people covering a shift at a time.

Knipe said the estimate for the reserve amount per year is about \$600,000, but it's growing by 7-8% a

year because of higher call volume, as the department charges a fee to ambulance users or their insurance. Knipe said it's been seven years since they increased ambulance rates, so the rise in reserves has nothing to do with it, and the estimated amount this year is over

\$700,000.

Knipe said another portion of the increased fee takings are from a memorandum of understanding with Oakham, where Rutland provides ambulance service to them.

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SB names Boiteau town administrator

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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HUBBARDSTON – The Select Board offered Matthew Boiteau the position of Town Administrator at its Monday meeting following an interview of both him and James Ryan conducted on Oct. 7.

On Oct. 13, the board voted unanimously to move forward in contract negotiations with Boiteau and on Oct. 20, he was appointed as Town Administrator. The salary for the position is \$115,000 with a \$2,500 bonus if mutually agreed upon goals are met and there's a 2% cost of living increase for years two and three of the contract.

Town Administrator's report

Interim Town Administrator Tim Bragan said he met with two residents of Plum Tree Lane, a private road, and they are trying to find an original order of conditions for the road. He said they could potentially go into a quiet title action, which is done through land court, which could give the

residents possession of the road, where they would then make it a dirt road and have the Select Board accept it before final acceptance as a public way on town meeting floor.

Bragan said he met with Gardner Mayor Michael Nicholson on the intermunicipal agreement between the municipalities for veteran's services.

He said the staff is full and the agreement will increase by \$5,000 next year.

Bragan said juveniles who damaged a weather camera were apprehended and paid \$10,000 in restitution, \$8,000 of which goes to the camera company and the rest to the town. The camera was mistakenly labeled as a flock camera on a website.

Bragan said a surplus fire truck has been sold for \$20,000, of which \$18,000 comes to the town and \$2,000 goes to the auction website.

Bragan said the Finance Committee approved the financial articles on the special town meeting warrant.

School funding coalition

Select Board Chair Katie Young said she received an email from the chair of the Holden Select Board, Linda

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Hubbardston holds candidates forum

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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HUBBARDSTON – Candidates running for state offices including state senator, representative, auditor, treasurer and councilor attended a forum at the

Hubbardston Senior Center last Wednesday to speak on their policies and answer questions from community members.

Attendees were Diana DiZoglio, candidate for State Auditor, Elizabeth Dionne, candidate for State Treasurer; Shannon

Teabo and Peter Durant, who are competing for the State Senator position in the Worcester and Hampshire District; Donnie Berthiaume, candidate for State Representative; and Margaret Abboud, candidate for Governor's Council.

Diana DiZoglio

DiZoglio is the current State Auditor and is running for re-election, and she is a part of the Democratic party. She said that she also had experience as a state representative and senator before her role as auditor and has

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Trunk or treat held for boy facing surgery

By Paula Ouimette
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BARRE – This past Saturday, the community came together to bring Halloween fun to a 9-year-old boy who is undergoing brain surgery this week.

Chase Boyea, who has a rare form of epilepsy called Dravet Syndrome, will be recovering from the surgery (which will remove part of his skull) and unable to trick or treat, so his family asked if anyone would be interested in participating in a trunk or treat – giving him the chance to put on his costume and fill his treat bucket surrounded by family and friends.

His mother, Muzzy Boyea's social media request for participants spread quickly and the family received an outpouring of support, including from people they didn't even know.



Turley Photo by Mary Whitelaw

The Boyea family of Barre are shown from left: Zack, Winter, Chase, Blake and Muzzy. A trunk or treat event was held this past Saturday in the parking lot of Ruggles Lane Elementary School so Chase could celebrate Halloween before undergoing brain surgery.

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SPORTS

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Late goals lift Panthers to win over Gardner

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BARRE—It had been six years since the Quabbin boys' varsity soccer team last celebrated a victory over Mid-Wach D rival Gardner.

After the first meeting of the 2026 regular season ended in a 1-1 draw, the Panthers scored twice in the final 10 minutes of regulation to earn a 3-1 victory against the Wildcats in last Thursday's contest at Alumni Field.

"We haven't beaten Gardner since I've been playing for the varsity soccer team," said Quabbin senior Jacoby Dilling. "I also play basketball and we haven't beaten them in that sport either during the past

couple of years. It just feels very good to finally get a win against them."

Dilling is one of the Panthers captains, along with junior goalie Silas Stukuls Barrieau, senior Logan Bruley, and Owen Twarog, who's sidelined with an injury. The other Quabbin senior is Nate Cruz.

The second meeting of the regular season between the two rivals was a very intense battle for the entire 80 minutes.

Gardner head coach Dan Forte, who also serves as the Wildcats athletic director, opted not to have his players take part in the traditional postgame handshake line.

"The two games that we played against Gardner were very physical," said Quabbin



Goalie Silas Stukuls Barrieau makes a diving effort to block a penalty shot.

head coach Bill Crowther. "Both teams were hyped up at the end of tonight's game, and I think not having the postgame handshakes was a good decision. I didn't want

to see something bad happen."

The last time that the Panthers (8-2-2, 5-1-1)

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Logan Bruley takes control of the ball before turning upfield.



Daniella Gaudreault wins possession and passes the ball upfield.

Quabbin girls remain undefeated



Maya Putnam breaks through the defense.



Sadie Kennan angles around a defender and checks her passing options.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BARRE— The current members of the Quabbin girls' varsity soccer team are trying to accomplish something this fall that has never been achieved since the regional high school first opened its doors in the late 1960s.

The Lady Panthers had an 11-0-1 overall record following a 5-2 victory over Mid-Wach D rival Gardner at Alumni Field, last Thursday

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Pioneers offense rolls to pair of wins

SPRINGFIELD – Last week, Pathfinder Tech girls soccer picked up two more wins, defeating Putnam Voke and Sizer of Central Mass. The offense scored 14 goals in the two games, started by a pair of goals in 30 seconds to help get Pathfinder going against Putnam. That would lead to a 9-1 win over Beavers, followed by a 5-0 shutout of Sizer. The Pioneers are now 5-2-1 on the regular season.



Josephine Boyko heads up the field.



Callie Hawk tries to makes a pass ahead of a defender.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Gwen Ruis tries to steal the ball.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Christian Ribeiro tries to keep the ball away from an opposing player.

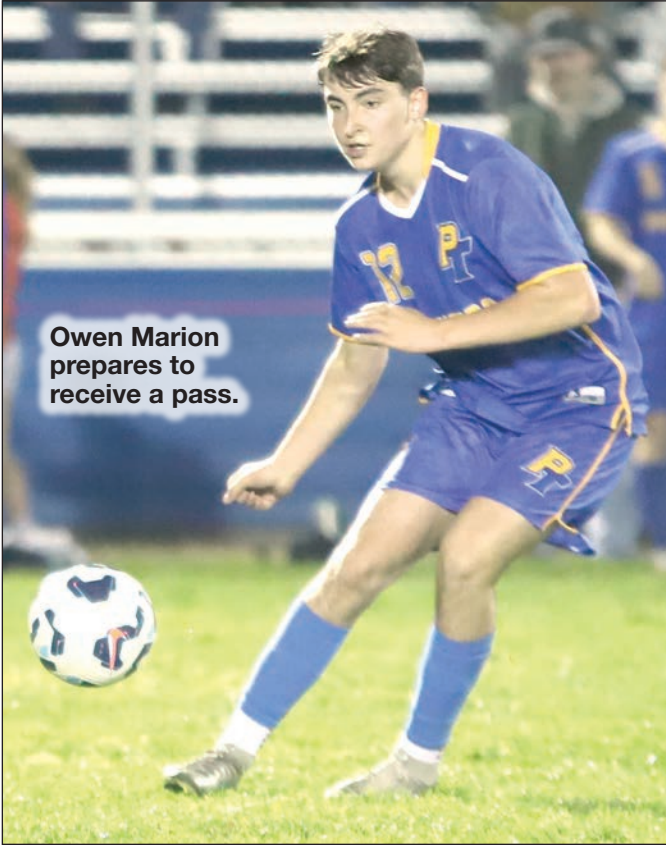


Mason Kilham makes a play on defense.

Pioneers secure tournament berth

PALMER – Under the lights at Legion Field, the Pathfinder Tech boys soccer team defeated Ware 7-1, and the Pioneers are now headed for the state tournament with a 9-4-1 record. Cayden

Bousquet had a hat trick and Owen Pear added two goals for the Pioneers. Pathfinder had one final game this week against Southwick before learning if it makes the Western Mass. tournament.



Owen Marion prepares to receive a pass.



Mason Ostrout tries to overcome pressure from an opponent.



Elijah Hodge takes the goal kick.