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# BARRE GAZETTE

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## Board discusses Mishoon boat

**By Zacharias Fragkiadakis**
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HUBBARDSTON – The Select Board continued a discussion about a Mishoon Native American boat that was found on Comet Pond.

The boat is an artifact of the Nipmuck Tribe and was being housed in the Worcester History Museum. A group from Comet Pond had come to several meetings in the past suggesting the board writes a letter to the museum asking them to consider Hubbardston take ownership of the boat should the Nipmuck Tribe not want it.

Concerns were raised by members of the board in the past and during the Nov. 2 meeting by Chair Katie Young about the town

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Turley Photos by Camren Robertson

**Above, bell ringers performed at the Woods Memorial Library. Left, The Hardwick Memorial Handbell Choir offered an interactive program with the audience.**

## *Handbell choir rings in the* holiday season

BARRE – The Hardwick Memorial Handbell Choir, which was founded by late Hardwick resident Leon Thresher, performed at the Woods Memorial Library this past Saturday.

The Hardwick Memorial Handbell Choir is set to perform during White Christmas festivities in the town of West Brookfield on Sunday, Dec. 6 at 1:30 p.m. in the First Congregational Church, UCC, 36 North Main St., West Brookfield.

## MWRA withdraws Quabbin water increase application

**By Melina Bourdeau**
*Correspondent*

The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority withdrew its application Nov. 5 to increase the amount of water it can draw from the Quabbin Reservoir, a move local officials called a win for watershed communities, but only the start of a longer conversation.

In a letter to the state Water Resources Commission, MWRA Interim Executive Director Stephen Estes-Smargiassi rescinded the authority's Interbasin Transfer Act application. The proposal sought to raise the MWRA's transfer rate by 20 million gallons per day, from about 220 MGD, to accommodate future service-area expansion.

> ***"As stewards of an essential regional water resource, we recognize the importance of maintaining the confidence and trust of the Quabbin communities that have protected and supported the Quabbin watershed for generations."***
> **– Stephen Estes-Smargiassi**

It drew more than 1,000 comments, with elected officials and residents questioning its legal basis, climate assumptions and fairness to communities in the watershed. The MWRA said future requests will be reviewed community by community.

"As stewards of an essential regional water resource, we recognize the importance of maintaining the confidence and trust of the Quabbin communities that have protected and supported the Quabbin watershed and a case for its demonstrated water needs.

The MWRA did not name which communities are seeking admission.

Weymouth is applying to join the system to serve the town and the Southfield redevelopment at the former South Weymouth Naval Air Station, according to the town's website.

The town expects an MWRA decision in early 2027 and says pipeline construction could be completed between 2030 and 2032.

Separately, nine MetroWest public water suppliers, known as the MetroWest-MWRA Connect Coalition, entered an intergovernmental agreement in 2025 to study the cost of connecting, the Acton Exchange reported Nov. 7. The suppliers are Acton Water District, Concord, Bedford, Ayer, Groton, Lincoln, Littleton, Maynard and Westford.

**Local reaction**

Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) thanked "legislative colleagues and everyone who made their voices heard" in a statement after the withdrawal.

"This was a collective effort, and the credit belongs to the communities that refused to be left out of decisions affecting their future," he wrote. "While we must remain vigilant against future proposals, today is proof that when communities come together and speak with a united voice, they can make a difference."

Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton) called the outcome "a testament to their collective power and transformative advocacy and organizing." She encouraged continued dialogue with the MWRA.

Rep. Aaron Saunders (D-Belchertown), whose 7th Hampden District includes Quabbin watershed communities, called the withdrawal the start of a discussion.

"I think we can get to a place of fairness and equity, without being overly burdensome on the MWRA ratepayers," he said. "Getting there is going to be a conversation, and compromises will need to be made, but (withdrawal of the application) is a big step. It removes an obstacle."

**What's next**

Attention is turning to payments and representation for the 12 communities involved in watershed and

See MWRA, page 3

## QHMA holds annual meeting and dinner

**By Paula Ouimette**
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STURBRIDGE – The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce held its annual meeting and dinner at the Publick House last Thursday evening, welcoming the largest attendance in the past 15 years.

At the Nov. 5 event, James Przypek, Chief Executive Officer of QHMA, said the organization has seen a steady increase in its membership over the past few years, and he thanked all of the members for their continued support.

The annual meeting and dinner was made possible by Presenting Sponsors Baystate Health and Superior Plus Propane.

During the introductions, State Rep. Todd Smola shared insight on the challenges facing small businesses.

"Massachusetts is a tough state for the business community," Smola said.

Smola said there are things that need to happen on the state level to improve this, as many businesses are relocating from the commonwealth.

"We thank you for sticking around," he said to the chamber members. "We're actually seeing a resurgence here in the Quaboag Hills."

QHMA President Renee Niedziela of J. Stolar Insurance Agency said the chamber has been offering opportunities for members to grow their businesses.

"This has been an exciting one for the chamber," she said of the past year. "In 2026 our focus has been on creating new opportunities for our members to learn, connect and grow."

Some of these opportunities include EmpowHer and Ascend, both of which launched this year.

"EmpowHer is more than exchanging business cards," Niedziela said.

It is a chance to network, but also to share the unique insights and experiences that women in business face.

The next EmpowHer session will be held on Thursday, Dec. 3 with presenter Mary-Anne Schelb, life coach and author of "Calming the Chaos: The Intentional Calm Method". The subject is "Calm First: Navigating Work, Life and the Holiday Rush."

Each registered attendee will also receive a signed copy of book. This event is sponsored by Burkhart Pizzanelli, P.C. of Palmer and West Springfield.

The first Ascend session will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 18 from 8:30-10 a.m. led by Lena Buteau. The subject is "How Good is Your Time Management?"

Buteau is the Vice President and Retail Administration Officer for Monson Savings Bank and former president of the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce. Attendees will learn poor versus good time management, how to identify obstacles, defining contributors and setting boundary skills.

"There's always something new to learn," Niedziela said.

Niedziela talked about the need for members to be involved in chamber programs and events, and sponsorships. She asked the members to try and commit to three things: joining in, getting involved and investing in the future.

Niedziela said she is optimistic about the future of the chamber and the direction it has taken.

"As I look around I am

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## Election results

### Town clerk lists unofficial results

**By Ellenor Downer**
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BARRE – Two thousand five hundred thirty one voted in the State Election on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

The 2,531 voters included 1,317 from precinct 1 and 1,214 from precinct 2.of the 4,495 registered voters (2,202 precinct 1 and 2,293 precinct 2 ) or a 56.31% voter turnout.

Registered voters included 581 Democrats, 495 Republicans, 3,370 unenrolled and 48 other political designations.

Edward J. Markey, Democratic candidate for re-election, received 1,168 votes (648 precinct 1 and 520 precinct 2) in the Senator in Congress race, Republican challenger John Deaton had 1,201 votes (583 precinct 1 and 618 precinct 2, Independent Shiva Ayyadural had 86 votes (41 precinct 1 and 45 precinct 2) and Joe Tache, Socialism and Libertarian got 45 votes (27 precinct 1 and 18 precinct 2).

Statewide Edward J. Markey won another term.

Although the Democratic Healey and Driscoll team won another term as Governor and Lieutenant Governor, in Barre the Republican team of Minogue and Oliver received more votes 1,324 (649 precinct 1 and 675 precinct 2). Healey and Driscoll got 1,057 (585 precinct 1 and 462 precinct 2). The Independent team of James and Kittredge had 132 votes (66 precinct 1 and 66 precinct 2)

In the Attorney General race, Barre did not follow the state trend of electing Democratic candidate Andrea Joy Campbell. Republican Michael C. Walsh received more votes with 1,248 (611 precinct 1 and 637 precinct 2. Campbell received 1,230 votes (675 precinct 1 and 555 precinct 2).

In the Secretary of State contest, Barre voters followed the rest of the state in re-electing William Francis Galvin with 1,355 (741 precinct 1 and 614 precinct 2). Republican challenger Anne R. Brensley got 1,111 (538 precinct 1 and 573 precinct 2).

Democratic candidate for re-election Deborah B. Goldberg received 1,217 votes (670 precinct 1 and 547 precinct 2) won another term statewide. Elizabeth Dionne, Republican, got a slim margin in Barre with 1,227 votes (597 precinct 1 and 630 precinct 2)

Democratic Diana Dizoglio received 1,640 votes (845 precinct 1 and 795 precinct 2) and Libertarian Al Ozonoff got 567 votes (288 precinct 1 and 279 precinct 2). Statewide Dizoglio won another term.

Running unopposed, Democrat James P. McGovern was re-elected to Representative in Congress – Second District with 1,734 votes (891 precinct 1 and 843 precinct 2).

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# MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER ACTION



Brayden Surprenant's kick flies off his foot and directly into the attacker.



Jase Johnson tries to create some space as he readies a kick.



Turley photos by Jeffrey Haynes

Brady White tries to block the opponent from advancing.



Liam McKenzie angles for positioning in the race to the ball.

BARRE – Last week, Quabbin Regional Middle School boys soccer was in late-season action. The Panthers season is set to conclude this week.



Ryker Leslie tracks the ball as he advances toward the goal.



Edgar Blanchard, left and Ryker Leslie, middle, chase down a loose ball.

# Panthers prepare for tournament



Violet Kelley gets the angle on the attacker.

BARRE – Last week, the Quabbin field hockey team prepared for their state tournament run by welcoming in Shrewsbury. The Panthers went an impressive 16-2 this season and drew Southwick in the opening round of the state tournament late last week.



*Turley photos by Jeffrey Haynes*

Olivia VanOudenhove wins her one-on-one battle.



Makenzie Casey stretches her reach to swat the ball.



Charley Chauvin chases down a loose ball in the attack zone.



Kailynn Schuster eyes her shot in the shootout drill.

# Panthers grab win in return to action

BARRE – Last Friday night, Quabbin Regional High School football returned to action, facing off with Southbridge in nonplayoff action. Quabbin scored in three of four quarters and defeated the visitors 18-6. Zakk Mielnicki, Gabe Houle, and Brady Dennis scored the touchdowns for the Panthers. Quabbin improved to 2-7 on the season and will have a game in Week 10. The Panthers will then face Garner on Thanksgiving morning.

# Thunderbirds grab split with Bears

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (4-5-2-1) were unsuccessful in carrying over momentum from the night before, falling 6-1 to the Hershey Bears (7-5-0-0) on Saturday night inside the MassMutual Center.

After a pedestrian showing a night ago, the visiting Bears, unsurprisingly, had a strong push in the opening 20 minutes, putting 17 shots at Springfield goaltender Will Cranley, with the T-Birds' backstop making answers 16 times, including a pair of point-blank denials on Jonny Brodzinski and Theodor Niederbach on back-to-back opportunities.

The only time Hershey dented Cranley came on a 5-on-3, set up by two Springfield penalties less than a minute apart. Brodzinski slid a perfect diagonal pass to the right circle, where second-year pro Andrew Cristall one-timed it through Cranley's five-hole for his first goal of the season and a 1-0 Bears lead at 14:26.

Mitch Gibson got the start in the Hershey crease, where much of the pressure he faced came in the opening half of play. Chris Wagner and Otto Stenberg each found themselves with their point blank chances, with Gibson making a pair of pad-flashing stops. The T-Birds got one power play of their own in the first, but could not find the twine.

Hershey picked up right where they left off as the second period got underway. Longtime AHL enforcer and former Springfield Falcon Dalton Smith provided the next punch in the goal column, crashing the net front and putting a backhander over Cranley's glove to make it 2-0 just 1:13 into the sec-

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