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BARRE GAZETTE

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Town clerk lists official election results

By Ellenor Downer
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HUBBARDSTON – Two thousand four hundred forty one voters of three thousand eight hundred fifty three registered or 63.35% cast ballots in the State Election on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

Edward J. Markey, Democratic candidate for re-election, received 1,059 votes in the Senator in Congress race, Republican challenger John Deaton had 1,242 votes, Independent Shiva Ayyadural had 61 votes and Joe Tache, Socialism and Libertarian got 38 votes.

Statewide Edward J. Markey won another term.

Although the Democratic Healey and Driscoll team won another term as Governor and Lieutenant Governor, in Hubbardston the Republican team of Minogue and Oliver received more votes 1,295 Healey and Driscoll got 1015. The Independent team of James and Kittredge had 106.

In the Attorney General race, the town did not follow the state trend of electing Democratic candidate Andrea Joy Campbell. Republican Michael C. Walsh received more votes with 1,270. Campbell received 1,112 votes.

In the Secretary of State contest, voters followed the rest of the state in re-electing William Francis Galvin with 1,254. Republican challenger Anne R. Brensley got 1,128.

Democratic Treasurer candidate for re-election Deborah B. Goldberg received 1,129 votes won another term statewide. Elizabeth Dionne, Republican, with a 105 more votes with 1,234.

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Residents support town administrator

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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HARDWICK – Multiple residents and members of town boards attended the Select Board meeting last Monday to voice support for extending Town Administrator Justine Caggiano's contract another three years.

Kelly Kemp is a former Select Board member and said at the Nov. 9 meeting that she worked with Caggiano during her last year on the board and experienced her professionalism and knowledge. Kemp said that Caggiano has good education in her field, which is something several speakers touched upon, many saying she's been the most qualified of the past four town administrator's the town has had.

Kemp also noted the town getting about $272,000 in free cash this year under Caggiano, saying the town had negative free cash in the past, but Caggiano and the current finance team have worked to solve a past problem and bring financial stability. She also noted Caggiano has state and federal connections and is working on getting funding for a police station.

Kemp said it's important to distinguish between disagreements and the ability to do the job well.

Jenna Garvey of the Planning Board, Paige Library trustees, Capital Planning Committee and School Committee also voiced support for Caggiano, saying she always makes time to answer technical questions.

Garvey said the town has a high turnover rate, and it is hard to stay sustainable, and she is qualified for the position. Garvey said Caggiano is an invaluable resource.

William Zinni of the Conservation Commission spoke in support of Caggiano, but noted there was a letter he became aware of in opposition to her. Zinni said that letter seemed biased, but the decision should be made with all sides considered.

Zinni said some opinions are a vocal minority and do not represent the town's views at large; he also noted Caggiano's degree in public administration.

Other town officials to speak in support included Rebecca Bottomley of the Conservation Commission, Peggy Baxter, clerk of the Conservation Commission, Bill Cole and Erik Fleming of the Planning Board, Lisa Swanson of the Capital Planning Committee and Rick Romano of the Board of Health.

Special Town Meeting

There will be a special town meeting on Monday, Nov. 30 at 6:30 p.m. in the Myron E. Richardson Municipal Building where voters will act on a seven article warrant. Caggiano said this warrant is mostly

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The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is hosting its 16th annual Nativities From Around the World celebration from Dec. 3-6.

Church presents 'Nativities from Around the World'

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The 16th annual Nativities from Around the World takes place at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 108 New Braintree Road (Rte. 67), Thursday, Dec. 3 from 4-8 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 4 from 4-6 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 5 from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 6 from 12:30-6 p.m.

On Friday, Dec. 4 the Weir River Concert Band directed by Joanne Meegan will provide a holiday musical performance at 6 p.m. Refreshments will follow.

The Church gathers its congregation from as far as Ware to Cherry Valley from Barre to Southbridge, from Sturbridge to Palmer, the

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Submitted Photos

Rooms feature nativity collections from church families and community members.

Joint meeting convened

School Committee, Board of Selectmen requested by Grant

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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NORTH BROOKFIELD – The School Committee and Board of Selectmen held a joint meeting last Tuesday, at the request of School committee Chair Matt Grant, who said during the meeting that he is looking for regularly scheduled meetings about three or four times per year with the Selectmen for transparency reasons.

The conversation during the Nov. 10 meeting centered largely on potential regionalization with the Quaboag Regional School District, and there is an exploratory subcommittee set up with representatives from both districts.

In a written statement, Grant wrote in part that the exploratory subcommittee discussed several possibilities including regionalization, a tuition agreement and shared resources. He also wrote that the committee would gather data to allow the districts to determine what is best for the students and financially responsible for both North Brookfield and the Quaboag towns of West Brookfield and Warren.

During the meeting, Grant said an example of shared services would be a part-time person at Quaboag could also work some hours in North Brookfield.

The boards also discussed a feasibility report by Mark Abraham regarding a tuition agreement, but according to Board of Selectmen Chair Jamie Gilman, there were some numbers that were incorrect in the report, which Town Accountant Shiela LeBlanc corroborated.

Superintendent of Schools Tim McCormick said it was a five year projection, and some of the first year numbers were incorrect, which threw off the rest of the projection. He said the error was in the town version of the budget, as in the voted-on amount at town meeting, but offsets and formulas were all correct.

The boards agreed to come back to the topic when the numbers are worked out, but Gilman noted budget season is

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Town Administrator receives excellent evaluation

By Ellenor Downer
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BARRE – The Select Board gave Town Administrator Melanie Jackson an exceptional rating and said she exceeded expectations at their Monday, Nov. 2 meeting.

Select Board Chairman Maureen Marshall said, "[Jackson] is a huge value to the town." The other Select Board members Mark Regienus and Richard Stevens concurred.

The board sent the evaluation to their attorney. Chairman Marshall said the board would be looking at a salary increase for the Town Administrator, which needs to be approved by voters at town meeting.

The board discussed goals for Town Administrator for the next year. Marshall said she should continue to do more of what she did in her first year in the position in Barre to look at "our resources and to tell us how to do it right."

Stevens said another goal would be to continue working through financial aspects of the town and to "expand the tax title program" to get regroup money owed to the town in back taxes.

Regienus said the town administrator accomplished a lot in a year's time considering the "mess" the town was in. She established policies and procedures to prevent a recurrence of past issues.

Town Administrator Jackson said "she could not have done what she did without the help of all the employees. "

Another goal will be implementing the changes in the Department of Public Works, once the town gets more information from the state. Marshall said "reorganization will be a challenge."

Pole petition

The Select Board unanimously approved a National Grid pole petition for underground electrical conduit on South Barre Road, moving two poles on Main Street and two new riser poles near Clem Court. National Grid will be upgrading the substation. Work most likely will start in the spring.

Consolidation of town committees

The Select Board discussed the consolidation of the Barre Common Oversight Committee and the Nornay Park Committee to oversee all three town commons Nornay Park in South Barre, Barre Plains Common and the Center Commons. Members should include representatives of all three commons with possibly three representing the center commons, two Nornay Park and two Barre Plains for a seven member committee.

Town Administrator Jackson will create a draft charge for the committee and present at the next Select Board meeting.

Winter road closure

The Select Board unanimously approved DPW Superintendent Tim Batchelor recommendation for no winter maintenance on Washburn Hill Road from the intersection of Allen Hill Road to the last house off Route 122. He said the road was in poor shape and no one lives on that section of road. It is a safety issue and hard on snow removal equipment.

Senior Center receptionist

The Select Board approved the Senior Center Director's request for a receptionist to work 15 hours per week at $15 per hour. The money will come from the formula grant the town receives from the state.

Other business

Karen Lewis attended the meeting regarding the Lewis Family Turkey Trot. She said in the past family members have held a walk/run on Thanksgiving Day. They wanted to expand to inviting a few more people via social media and to collect donations for the Barre Food Pantry.

The Town Administrator would check with Holden and Hubbardston Town Administrators as they both hold races – Holden on Thanksgiving Day and Hubbardston in September.

To apply for a special permit, proof of liability insurance as well as approval from police, fire and various boards.

The Select Board approved the installing of an ice rink on South Common for skating again this year.

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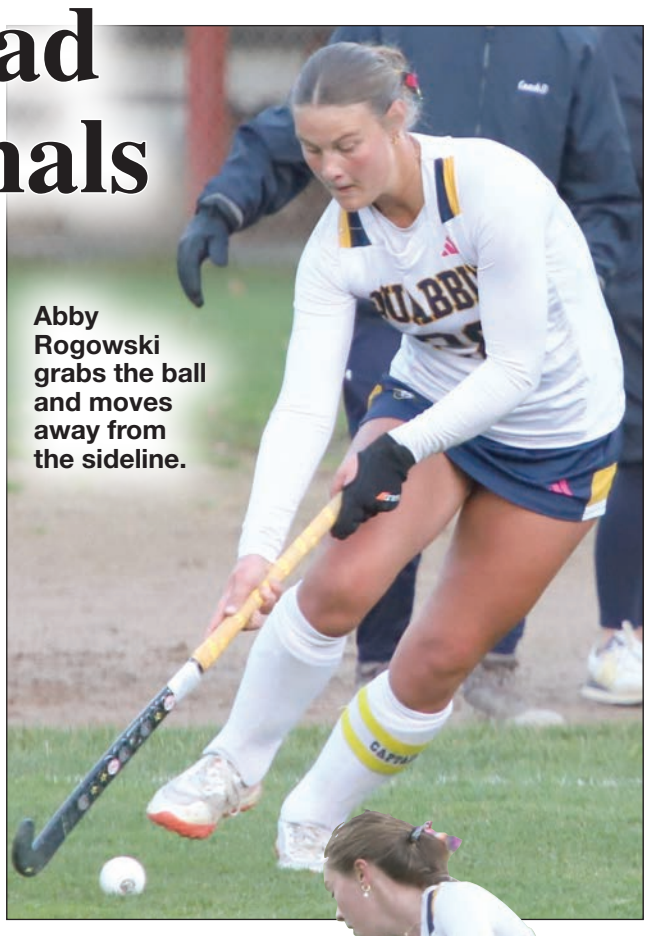
Makenzie Casey heads for the offensive end.

Panthers head for quarterfinals

BARRE – The Quabbin Regional High School field hockey team scored a pair of wins to start the Division 4 State Tournament. Quabbin defeated Southwick of Western Mass. 6-1 to start the tournament, then last Monday afternoon, the Panthers hosted another Central Mass. school, Nipmuc, and scored a 2-0 win. Quabbin scored both goals in the second half to beat Nipmuc in the Round of 16. Freshman Olivia VanOudenhove scored the first goal assisted by Senior Captain Makenzie Casey five minutes into the third quarter. Quabbin scored their second goal just 30 seconds into the fourth quarter - scored by Casey and assisted by VanOudenhove. Quabbin Senior goalie Aubrey Thorpe had 11 saves to preserve the shutout. The Panthers were scheduled to face Frontier Regional in the quarterfinals. Highlights from that matchup will be in next week's edition.



Ellie Poulin gets low as she drags the ball up the field.



Abby Rogowski grabs the ball and moves away from the sideline.



Julianna Nickson tries to avoid the ball hitting her foot.



Olivia VanOudenhove tries to settle a bouncing ball.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Violet Kelley brings in a pass.

T-Birds earn point in shootout loss to Hartford

HARTFORD, CT – The Springfield Thunderbirds (4-6-2-3) once again erased a third-period road deficit, but once again came up just short in a 3-2 shootout loss to the Hartford Wolf Pack (9-8-1-0) on Saturday night at PeoplesBank Arena.

The T-Birds come back home when they take to the ice against the Charlotte Checkers on Friday, Nov. 20 at the Thunderdome, with puck drop set for 7:05 p.m.

It was another ominous beginning for the T-Birds, as for a seventh straight game, their opponent opened the scoring. This time, it took Hartford just 37 seconds as Justin Dowling intercepted a breakout pass before neatly setting up Nathan Aspinall in the low slot. Aspinall calmly deked to his backhand and lifted the try past Will Cranley to give Hartford the 1-0 lead on the game's first shot.

That early dent proved to be the only blemish on Cranley's body of work in the first frame, as he rebounded to turn away 10 Wolf Pack shots in the final 19 minutes. Meanwhile, Springfield's offense capi-

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Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Eric Serrano tries to get through a blocker.



Owura Ankoma-Mensah fields a punt.

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 10

Panthers ready for Thanksgiving morning tilt

BARRE – Next Thursday morning, the Quabbin Regional High School football team faces rival Gardner on Thanksgiving morning. With Gardner being the host, the Panthers will play their holiday matchup on Thanksgiving morning. When the Panthers host, the game takes place the night before.

On Thanksgiving Eve last year, Quabbin Regional High School did get a quick start with two touchdowns, but it was the way the Panthers finished that really counted. Quabbin had three straight touchdowns to finish the game and the Panthers defeated Gardner 35-14. Quabbin's season finishes at 4-7. In the win, five different Panthers scored touchdowns. Chase Talbot would start the game by returning the ball 80 yards for a touchdown. On the next possession, Owura Ankoma-Mensah returned a punt about 60 yards to the one-yard line. Adam Adams would make a one-yard run for the score. Gardner would score touchdowns in the second and early in the fourth quarter. The two-point conversion in the fourth quarter would give Gardner a 14-12 lead. But Zakk Mielnick responded with a 37-yard for a touchdown. Brady Dennis and Quinn Reynolds would score after that as the Panthers finished off their regular season with a win.



Brady Dennis makes a play on the defensive line.

Silver anniversary for Orioles, Pioneers

PALMER – Next Thursday, on Thanksgiving morning, Nov. 26, Pathfinder Tech will take the football field at Legion Field to matchup with Belchertown on Thanksgiving for the 25th time.

Belchertown does not hold a huge advantage, winning last year to go up 14-10 in the rivalry.

In last year's game, on a windy and cold Thanksgiving morning, a field goal from Belchertown's Leandro Martins made the difference for the Orioles in a 17-14 win over Pathfinder. With Belchertown up 7-6 in the second quarter, Martins sent home a field goal to make the score 10-6. Both teams would score an additional touchdown later in the game, but the field goal remained the difference that helped the Orioles earn the holiday win.

This year, Belchertown goes into the game holding a huge advantage over Pathfinder from a record standpoint, as well as a possible mental advantage.

Belchertown had a 7-1 regular season, a phenomenal mark for the Orioles this year. Their second loss game against Norwell in the state tournament.

Pathfinder, despite a respectable 6-4 record, suffered a loss against Belchertown already this year in confer-

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Belchertown Football (8-2)

Friday, Sept. 11 – Belchertown 38, Quaboag 0
Friday, Sept. 18 – Belchertown 44, Ware 12
Thursday, Sept. 24 – Belchertown 53, Ludlow 0
Friday, Oct. 2 – Belchertown 37, Monument Mountain 8
Friday, Oct. 9 – Belchertown 48, Smith Vocational 12
Friday, Oct. 16 – Worcester North 35, Belchertown 28
Thursday, Oct. 22 – Belchertown 34, Pathfinder 6
Thursday, Oct. 29 – Belchertown 54, McCann Technical 0
Friday, Nov. 6 – Division 5 State Tournament
First Round – Norwell 51, Belchertown 6
Friday, Nov. 13 – Belchertown 40, Ware 36
Thanksgiving Game
Thursday, Nov. 26 – at Pathfinder 9 a.m.

Pathfinder Football (6-4)

Friday, Sept. 11 – Pathfinder 43, Ludlow 0
Friday, Sept. 18 – Pathfinder 56, Commerce 0
Friday, Sept. 25 – Franklin Tech 48, Pathfinder 20
Thursday, Oct. 1 – Pathfinder 31, Smith Vocational 16
Thursday, Oct. 8 – South Hadley 34, Pathfinder 0
Saturday, Oct. 17 – Pathfinder 41, McCann Technical 8
Thursday, Oct. 22 – Belchertown 34, Pathfinder 6
Friday, Oct. 30 – Pathfinder 34, Monument Mountain 6
Friday, Nov. 6 – Pathfinder 28, Frontier 21
Friday, Nov. 13 – Keefe Technical 41, Pathfinder 7
Thanksgiving Game
Thursday, Nov. 26 – vs. Belchertown 9 a.m.

BELCHERTOWN VS. PATHFINDER

Belchertown leads series 14-10

2025: Belchertown	17-14
2024: Pathfinder	20-14
2023: Belchertown	61-14
2022: Pathfinder	47-22
2021: Belchertown	44-8
2020: NO GAME - COVID	
2019: Belchertown	44-7
2018: Belchertown	46-6
2017: Belchertown	39-0
2016: Belchertown	30-0
2015: Pathfinder	16-0
2014: Pathfinder	3-0
2013: Pathfinder	30-6
2012: Pathfinder	30-8
2011: Belchertown	29-0
2010: Belchertown	9-7
2009: Belchertown	41-6
2008: Pathfinder	15-13
2007: Pathfinder	34-8
2006: Belchertown	8-6
2005: Belchertown	25-0
2004: Pathfinder	28-0
2003: Belchertown	27-6
2002: Belchertown	9-6
2001: Pathfinder	48-24



Jarett Skowyra takes the return toward the right sideline.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Grayson Griswold takes the snap for Pathfinder.