

WARE RIVER NEWS

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Committee formed for water/sewer capital needs

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARE – The Selectboard, Finance Committee and the Department of Public Works held a joint meeting to discuss how to address the funding of necessary water and wastewater capital improvements.

The formation of a special committee to review these needs and move forward with projects was discussed at the Selectboard's Jan. 2 meeting.

Finance Committee Chair Ken Willette said his committee has had several conversations with DPW Director Geoffrey McAlmond and his staff over the past year to review the request for proposal received from Aquarion Water Company, as well as reviewed master plan studies and rate analyses.

This proposal was ultimately rejected by the Selectboard after Aquarion Water Company changed its scope.

"What is needed now, is to bring all of that information together with one set of criteria – how do we rank these in a priority order to meet the needs of the town, and achieve sustainability and fundability," Willette

Please see **WARE BOS**, page 11

New Year's Day walk rings in 2024



SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 6.

Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

EQLT celebrates start of 30th year with annual event

By Paula Ouimette
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NEW BRAINTREE – Since 2012, the East Quabbin Land Trust has started each year with a New Year's Day group walk along the Mass Central Rail Trail, renewing the organization's dedication and commitment to protect open space.

Held on Jan. 1, the group walk has seen all weather conditions ranging from cold to warm temperatures,

with some years even having snow. Participants are invited to travel the trail in a variety of ways, including on foot, wheels, skis, snowshoes or horseback; dogs are always welcome.

Now in its 30th year, EQLT is preparing for a year of events to celebrate this momentous milestone, including the Gala Dinner and Auction scheduled for Saturday, April 20.

"2024 is a special year for us," Executive Director Cynthia Henshaw said before the start of the walk.

EQLT has a lot to celebrate, including continued efforts to expand and improve the Mass Central Rail Trail, with segments from New Braintree to Wheelwright, New Braintree to Creamery Road in Gilbertville, Ware River Park in Gilbertville, near the Ware-Hardwick Covered Bridge, as well as Upper Church Street in Ware.

Henshaw credited volunteers with helping to replace timbers on the decking of the lattice truss and pony truss bridges along the Mass Central Rail

Trail.

The volunteers "put in a huge amount of effort to make the bridges safe," Henshaw said.

Volunteers and others also helped to spread stone dust along a newly cleared section of Mass Central Rail Trail in Wheelwright, giving way to a stunning view of the Ware River and the Wheelwright dam.

For more information about EQLT and its mission, visit eqlt.org or find them on Facebook and Instagram.

Over 60 people joined the East Quabbin Land Trust for its annual New Year's Day group walk on the Mass Central Rail Trail. Participants stopped to pose for a photo along the Ware River, on a newly stone-dusted section of trail in Wheelwright.



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

Rev. Dr. Randall K. Wilburn was joined by his wife Karin, son Adam and granddaughter Emma during his final service at Trinity Episcopal Church.

Surrounded in love

Trinity Episcopal honors Rev. Wilburn on his retirement

By Paula Ouimette
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WARE – It was a bittersweet day of endings and new beginnings, as members of Trinity Episcopal Church said goodbye to Bridge Pastor Rev. Dr. Randall K. Wilburn for the second time this past Sunday, as he led his last service before his retirement.

Years ago, Wilburn had served the church as a bridge pastor,

returning in the midst of the pandemic to fill that role again.

Richard Simpson, Canon to the Ordinary in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts under Bishop Douglas Fisher, said it's uncommon for a bridge pastor to serve a parish more than once, but he knew this was the right thing for both Trinity Episcopal Church and Wilburn.

"Coming back to Trinity has been good for all of you," Simpson said. Simpson said Wilburn's resiliency in the face of adversity is inspirational and that he's an "all-star" in the ministry.

Please see **TRINITY**, page 6

United Church thanked Gravels for service to community

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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WARE – On Christmas Eve, the United Church in Ware honored Mary and Dave Gravel for many years of service to the congregation and community.

The Gravels are known for providing holiday meals during Thanksgiving and Christmas at the church and have been providing many services for over 20 years. Their work in the meal program involved soliciting donations from the community in order to have funds for the food and keeping track of who does what year after year.

If anything comes up and that is needed prior to those two free meal giveaways, the Gravels are the ones who answer those questions.

This year, the Gravels are stepping down from their leadership role in the holiday meal program and passing it on to congregant Dave Blessinger and meal program team members that includes United Church's talented chef, Saint Jeff.

After a traditional Lessons & Carols service on Christmas Eve morning, Pastor Carole Bull of United Church of Ware focused the rest of the service on the



Submitted Photo by Molly Mead.

Mary and Dave Gravel have provided holiday meals for many years at the United Church of Ware and will be stepping down this year.

Gravels as they were honored for their years of dedication to the church and the community.

Purchasing food or keeping track of who is purchasing the food, preparing the food for the meal, and cleaning up were all services done by Mary and Dave Gravel. There were years before the pandemic where people came to the church for the meal, which

entailed additional service, such as set up and break down of fellowship hall, and overseeing the creation of orderly, festive and welcoming events.

A thank you card was signed in dedication to Mary and Dave as the congregation wished them all the best in their future

Please see **GRAVEL**, page 13

CDAC gives CDBG updates

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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WARREN – During a public hearing with the board of selectman, the Community Development Advisory Committee provided updates regarding the Community Development Block Grant.

Principal Planner at the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission Christopher Dunphy came to address the performance of the fiscal year 2021 CDBG and other initiatives. Many projects and developments have been accomplished in the town through the grant and Dunphy explained to the Board of Selectmen how each project has turned out.

There were several improvements made to School Street, Richardson Street and Otis Street from water line improvements, a new wall and protected fencing. The water line repairs include 1,000 feet of improved water lines connected from Main Street to Otis Street.

Other repairs were on Prospect Street with a water main replacement.

The Board of Selectman raised some complaints made by School Street residents, which were

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**OBITUARY
POLICY**

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries

should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Steinhilber joins Farmer Matt's Restaurant as Executive Chef

NEW BRAINTREE – Farmer Matt's Restaurant is pleased to announce the appointment of Executive Chef John Steinhilber, a New England Culinary Institute alumnus.

Steinhilber's extensive culinary background is anticipated to enhance the dining offerings at the restaurant. A 2002 graduate of the esteemed culinary institute, Steinhilber has earned recognition in the culinary field for his contributions and achievements.

He soon took on the position of owner/executive chef of a classic French bistro, Chez Fish. His early career also included time in the coastal kitchens of John's Island, South Carolina, particularly as a fishmonger, emphasizing his commitment to fresh, local ingredients.

Steinhilber's professional journey includes a notable period at the Seabrook Island Club, where he served as an Executive Sous Chef. There, he managed culinary operations for three distinct dining venues within the exclusive community.

Following this, he led Hanna Devine's Restaurant and Bar as an Executive Chef, skillfully navigating the establishment through the pandemic's challenges with creative culinary solutions.

Matt Koziol (Farmer Matt himself) expressed his confidence in this new collaboration, noting, "John's appointment as Executive Chef is part of our ongoing effort to enhance our menu offerings and dining experience. His skillset, especially in farm-to-table cuisine, aligns perfectly with our restaurant's philosophy."

Steinhilber also shared his enthusiasm about joining Farmer Matt's.

"I am excited to contribute to Farmer Matt's menu, particularly in introducing a new weekly special that emphasizes locally sourced ingredients and our own farm-pro-



Submitted Photo
Executive Chef John Steinhilber joins the team at Farmer Matt's Restaurant in New Braintree.

duced proteins and vegetables," he said.

Steinhilber's culinary expertise, especially in sourcing quality, local ingredients, is expected to further strengthen Farmer Matt's commitment to fresh, high quality food. This approach aims to offer diners a unique culinary experience, showcasing the region's best produce.

Guests can look forward to a variety of new dishes crafted by Steinhilber, including pasta Bolognese with farm-made papardelle, traditional Yankee pot roast, and farm-made short rib truffle ravioli. These additions are part of the restaurant's commitment to providing a diverse and seasonally inspired menu.

Further information about the new menu offerings, including weekly specials, can be found on Farmer Matt's website (FarmerMatt.com) and the restaurant's Facebook page. Farmer Matt is located at 860 West Brookfield Road.

Library holds jigsaw puzzle swap on Jan. 27

WARE – The Young Men's Library Association, 37 Main St., will be holding a Jigsaw Puzzle Swap on Saturday, Jan. 27 from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Bring gently used puzzles to the library during regular hours any time before the swap and receive a voucher for the number of puzzles you bring in. On the day of the swap, bring your voucher to take home as many "new to you" puzzles as you brought in.

Please call the library at 413-967-5491 for more details.



Are You Old News?

Each week the Ware River News digs into its submitted photo archives and selects a people photo to publish. We need your help to help identify those pictured.

File Photo
Last week's photo from 1990 showed Jim and Andy Robidoux of Ware enjoying the first and last snowfall in December of 1990. They were both identified by their father, Doug Robidoux.

If you recognize the folks in this week's photo, please send their names and your full name to pouimette@turley.com.

Ware Senior Center news

WARE – The Ware Senior Center, located at 1 Robbins Road, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

The thrift store is open each of those days from 9 a.m.-noon. Donations to the store are only accepted by Sue LaBarge, who can be reached by calling 413-544-1574.

ACTIVITIES

Monday, Jan. 8

- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 6 p.m. Whist Party

Tuesday, Jan. 9

- 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
- 9:30 a.m. Quilting Club
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking (\$3 per class)
- 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

Wednesday Jan. 10

- 9 a.m. Tai-Chi
- 9:30 a.m. Quilting Club
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 10-11:30 a.m. Kirsten Krieger Quabbin Region DPH Nurse Office Hours
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch

Thursday, Jan. 11

- 9 a.m. Walking Club
- 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
- 9:30 a.m. Line Dancing for Beginners

- 10 a.m. Line Dancing
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. Knit-Crochet-Laugh
- 2:45 p.m. Art Class

Friday, Jan. 12

- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Brown Bag Program (Food Bank of Western MA)
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. Chair Yoga
- 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

LUNCHESES DINE IN 11:30 a.m.

All meals \$3.50 unless otherwise noted
Required: Call 413-967-4595 by noon on the business day before, to put your name on the lunch list.

Monday, Jan. 8

Stuffed Peppers, Carrot/Raisin Salad, Dessert of the Day

Tuesday, Jan. 9

Hot Dog with Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Dessert of the Day

Wednesday, Jan. 10

London Broil, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Veggie of the Day, Dessert of the Day

Thursday, Jan. 11

Chicken Cacciatore over Pasta, Cucumber Salad, Dessert of the Day

Friday, Jan. 12

Baked Fish with Rice, Veggie of the Day, Dessert of the Day

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Please use QR Code or the link to pre-register:
<https://tinyurl.com/ycky5da>
Please direct any questions to Arianna Palano at apalano@townofware.com, 413-478-2526.



The Ware River News will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 3. To request a correction, send information to ekennedy@turley.com, or call 967-3505. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Ware River News, Attn: Editor, 80 Main St., Ware, MA 01082.

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Veterans honored at Quabbin Park Cemetery

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARE – One week after the town held its first ever Wreaths Across America Day ceremony, honoring veterans in town-owned cemeteries, volunteers made their way to Quabbin Park Cemetery with more than 260 wreaths to honor those from the lost towns.

These wreaths were received as a last minute gift to the town. Ware's Wreaths Across America Coordinator Frank Bateman said, and they were placed on gravestones in both Quabbin Park Cemetery and Holy Cross Cemetery on Dec. 23.

Wreaths Across America became a nonprofit organization in 2007, continuing the wreath-laying tradition started by Morrill Worcester, owner of the Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine over 30 years ago.

It all began one year when Worcester's company had a surplus of wreaths and he decided (with the help of Maine Senator Olympia Snow) to place those wreaths in one of the older sections of Arlington National Cemetery, to pay tribute to those who gave their all for their country.

That section of the cemetery received fewer visitors each year that passed, and Worcester wanted to thank those veterans whose sacrifices gave him the freedom and opportunity to build his successful career.

Last year, more than 2.7 million wreaths were placed at 3,702 participating locations in every state of the U.S., Puerto Rico and in 24 overseas cemeteries.

Wreaths Across America requires that in order to place the wreaths, whoever owns the cemetery has to approve participation in the program.

In order to secure enough wreaths for the four cemeteries, Bateman has paired up with two sponsorship groups, the Ware Middle School PTO and Scouts BSA Troop 281. Sponsoring a wreath is \$17, of which \$5 goes to the sponsoring group.

Wreaths can be sponsored by visiting the link for either sponsoring group: Scouts BSA Troop 281, <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/175907> and WMS PTO, <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/176743>.

Now through Tuesday, Jan. 16, all wreaths sponsored through a registered Wreaths Across America Sponsorship Group will be matched by the organization for placement on next year's National Wreaths Across America Day to be held on Saturday, Dec. 14.

There is always an opportunity for other groups to become a sponsorship group. For more information, email Bateman at logman-26meb@hotmail.com or call 413-949-6517.

"This a great start but we have work to do to make sure that every hero that rests here in town is honored with a wreath for next year," Bateman said.



Nicky Dexter and M. Dexter of Belchertown placed wreaths on veterans gravestones at Quabbin Park Cemetery the Saturday before Christmas.



Robert Bruso of Ware saluted a veteran after placing a wreath at his gravestone.



Volunteers joined the Department of Conservation and Recreation staff at the Quabbin Park Cemetery to honor and remember veterans through the Wreaths Across America program.



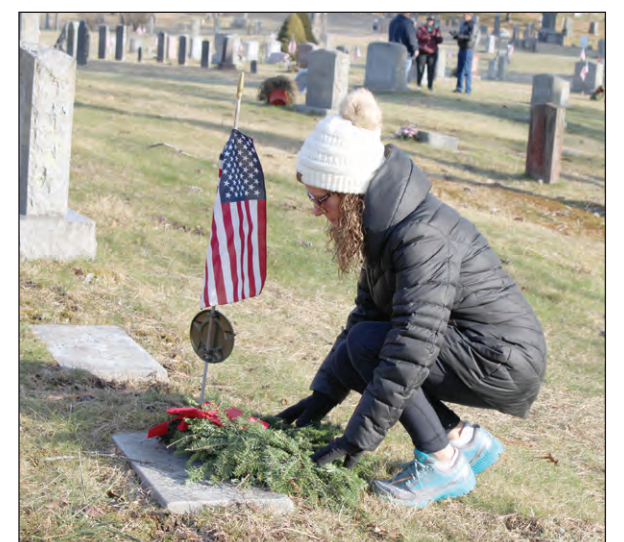
Ware's Wreaths Across America Coordinator Frank Bateman speaks to volunteers.



Meghan Lagimoniere and Kathy Deschamps helped honor veterans with wreaths.



Nicholas Bousquet of Ware placed a wreath at a gravestone, making sure the ribbon was in the 1200 position.



Cheri Chipman of Ware placed a wreath after reading the name of the veteran aloud.

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Thursday nights for eight weeks from 7PM to 9PM.
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GUEST COLUMN

BBB warns of prescription medication scam

When demand for something exceeds its supply, scammers are quick to take advantage of the Better Business Bureau warned in a press release.

It's happened recently with popular toys, baby formula, and even rental cars. Now, it's happening with Ozempic, a prescription-only drug for people with Type 2 diabetes.

Scammers are aware of the drug's popularity for weight loss, and they're targeting folks looking for a convenient way to purchase it. Here's what you need to know to stay alert.

How this scam works

You are looking online for a pharmacy that carries Ozempic and are pointed to a website claiming to sell the drug at a reduced price. You may find the website through a web search, an ad, or even a friend's post on social media.

The website claims that buying Ozempic is easy, and you can save a few hundred dollars by purchasing it online versus through a doctor. All you must do is make a payment through a digital wallet app like CashApp or Zelle (CashApp and Zelle are BBB Accredited Businesses as of this writing in December 2023).

Many such websites don't even ask for a prescription before "selling" the drug, but some sites work harder to appear that you are dealing with a legitimate pharmaceutical company. One consumer reported having a "tele-consult" with a "doctor" before paying to receive Ozempic.

The consumer told BBB: "I have not received the drug. When I reach out to customer service, they send automated responses. They refuse to refund my money, even though they claim not to know when or if the drug will be shipped."

In some versions of the scam, the con artists claim to encounter issues when shipping the drug, all of which require additional fees. For example, after your initial payment, scammers may insist that you need to pay for insurance or a discreet shipping fee to get the package past customs.

If you refuse, scammers may resort to threats. For example, they may claim to report the transaction to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and you'll be held responsible for buying illegal drugs without a prescription.

In reality, scammers never planned on sending you anything at all. Any problems encountered when "shipping" the medication is only a trick to get even more money from you.

If you give in and use a digital payment app to send funds, your money is gone for good.

How to avoid similar scams

Don't buy medicines from foreign countries. The FDA warns consumers that non-FDA-approved products sold by internet pharmacies in other countries can be downright dangerous.

Avoid risking your health and getting scammed by sticking with pharmacies based in the country where you live.

Don't buy prescription-only medications from a seller who doesn't ask you for a prescription. This is a huge red flag and one of the biggest signs that you are dealing with a scammer.

Even if they are selling the drug, offering it to consumers without a prescription is illegal.

Watch out for unreasonably low prices. This is another red flag.

Ask yourself, why is a vendor offering a high-demand, name-brand prescription at such a low price? It's probably a scam. After paying, you could end up with counterfeit products or no products at all.

Don't use digital wallet apps to pay for a prescription. A reputable pharmacy won't ask you to make a payment using a digital wallet app, prepaid debit cards, or wired funds.

These payment methods are a common denominator in countless scams.

Only buy from reputable pharmacies. If you come across a pharmacy online that you aren't familiar with, research is a must.

Make sure the business has legitimate contact information and a working phone number. Look for consumer reviews, keeping a sharp eye out for reports of scams or shady business dealings.

Remember, your personal information, some of your medical details, and your money are all on the line.



Native plants often need to be coaxed into germinating

Are you interested in starting your own perennials from seed this year?

This column, straight from the archives, will be of use to you! Sadly, not all seeds sprout as quickly and easily indoors as tomatoes do.

Some seeds can be a bit tricky to germinate, and we must go through extraordinary measures to get them to sprout. In the grand scheme of things, you will learn that this is actually a good thing.

Take the Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) for example, and imagine what would happen if this late bloomer dropped its seed on the ground in October and the seed came up immediately? Likely, the seedlings would be so small and tender that they would not survive the winter.

On the other hand, if germination occurred in early spring (and it does!), success could almost be guaranteed.

The Cardinal Flower, along with many other native plants, has a built-in dormancy that is broken only by a period of moist-cold. Until "winter" has passed – either for real or simulated by us, these plants will simply not sprout.

In addition to Cardinal Flower, Columbine, Delphinium, Gas Plant, Great Lobelia,

Lupine, Iris, Monkshood, Border Phlox, Primrose, Purple Coneflower and probably more that I am unaware of, all benefit from what is called "stratification." The term, which admittedly sounds a bit intimidating, refers to the practice of "stratifying," or storing seeds in layers alternating with moisture-holding material and exposing them to cold temperatures.

This can be accomplished both indoors and out, and I will go through the pros and cons of each.

No doubt the easiest way to expose seeds to a period of moist-cold is to sow them outdoors in the fall in a nursery bed or cold frame. They will go through the winter and when conditions are right (cross your fingers!) germinate neatly in their rows.

But because you are outside, seeds can sometimes disappear thanks to ants, rodents and birds. Weeds can also pop up in the seed bed, making it hard to tell which plant is which!

The elements can likewise take their toll and unless the beds are protected, soil can either dry out or get completely waterlogged.

Another way to stratify seeds outdoors is by using the milk-jug method. Taking a gallon size clear milk container and starting just below the handle, cut it almost all the way across.

If you begin just after the handle on one side and end up just before the handle on the other, you will make a hinge. Punch a few drainage holes in the bottom and a couple more on the sides, up and down from the cut so that you can "twist-tie" the jug shut after you are done.

Fill the bottom half with well-moistened seed starting mix and plant the seeds according to the directions on the packet – if they are tiny don't cover; simply press them into the soil. Connect the two halves of the jug with twist ties (or just use duct tape) and label with pencil.

Keep the cap off to provide ventilation, then place in a spot protected from hard winds. As seedlings emerge in the spring you can flip back the top on nice days, but remember to replace each night and water as needed.

If you prefer to start your seedlings indoors you can mimic winter by placing your seeds in the refrigerator to "chill." Don't put them in there in their seed packets, though, since they must also be kept moist.

If you have enough room in the refrigerator, you can simply sow them in their flats, cover the flat with a loose plastic bag and place it inside for the recommended length of time, usually anywhere from one to three months. Afterwards, set them out to germinate as you normally would, with supplemental light and bottom heat (in other words, fake spring this time around!).

Most folks don't have a spare refrigerator to fill up with seedling flats. In this case put a small amount of moist seed-starting medium in a tiny plastic bag and sprinkle in the seeds.

After "winter" has elapsed, sprinkle the contents on to the top of moistened soil in your container and firm down. Large seeds can be covered with an additional sprinkling of growing medium. Proceed as above to promote germination.

If you plan to order perennial seeds by mail, do so soon, so that you can stratify and have them sprout at the normal time. This may sound tricky, but it's really pretty simple, and the pay-off is lots of new plants for your perennial border!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



If my wife claims now, will it hurt my Social Security Amount?

Dear Rusty:

I am 69 years old, and my wife turned 70 early this year. I am still working full time. My wife is not working, but she got a letter from Social Security saying she should take her Social Security as soon as possible.

My question is: since my wife has reached her full retirement age, can she take her SS without it affecting mine when I claim? I plan to work at least another year, depending on how the economy goes I may have to work longer if it doesn't get better. I have IRAs and a 401k to pull from when I retire.

Signed: Anxious Husband

Dear Anxious:

The reason your wife received a letter from Social Security suggesting she claims now is because her benefit reached maximum some time ago at age 70. Thus, there is no reason for her to wait beyond age 70 to claim. By delaying past age 70 your wife is losing money so she should apply as soon as possible.

I suggest your wife call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 or your local office right away to request an appointment to apply for her benefits and she should be sure to request six months of retroactive payments. SS will pay up to six months retroactively.

If your wife has a "my Social Security" online account, she can also apply online at www.ssa.gov/apply, but she should be sure to request six months of retroactive benefits in the "Remarks" section of the online application. Because your wife is more than six months past age 70, getting six months retroactive benefits will not reduce her age 70 benefit amount. Nor will your wife claiming her benefits now negatively affect your Social Security when you later claim.

Even though you plan to continue working, likely beyond 70 years of age yourself, you should not wait beyond age 70 to claim for the same reason, your benefit will reach maximum



when you are 70. You can apply for your benefits up to four months in advance and specify you want benefits to start in the month you turn 70.

If you haven't already done so, you may wish to create your own "my Social Security" online account now at www.ssa.gov/myaccount, which will make it easier for you to apply online at www.ssa.gov/apply when the time comes next year. Applying online is, by far, the most efficient way, but you need to have your online account set up first to do so.

Just so you know, there is no need to worry that you won't get credit for work income earned after you have applied for your benefits. Even after you are collecting benefits, Social Security will automatically review your earnings each year when that information is received from the IRS, after you file your income tax return.

If your most recent earnings are higher than those in any of the 35 years of lifetime earnings used to calculate your benefit when you claim, Social Security will automatically increase your monthly payment amount. In other words, you shouldn't delay past age 70

to claim Social Security because you're working; you'll still get credit for those earnings, automatically.

So, I suggest that your wife take fast action to apply for her Social Security benefits to avoid losing any more money and that you plan to apply for your benefits to start when you turn 70. There is no financial advantage to waiting beyond age 70 to claim, even if you continue working.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for informational purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadviser@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

Baystate Wing honors Gift Shop and Auxiliary volunteer

Estelle Carbonneau recognized for 14 Years of Service

PALMER – Estelle Carbonneau was recently recognized for her many years of service as a member of the Baystate Wing Auxiliary and volunteer in the hospital's gift shop.

"We are grateful for the many years of service Estelle has given to the gift shop and Auxiliary," said Evelyn Glabicky, president of the Auxiliary at Baystate Wing Hospital in a press release. "She has served in many roles as the manager of the gift shop, helping with purchasing merchandise, and training new volunteers. Generously giving of herself and her time has been a way of life for Estelle and her connection to our hospital has always been extra special. A committed volunteer and member of our Auxiliary for 14 years,

she now serves as trustee of the organization."

Auxiliary members and volunteers help in several areas of the hospital including greeting and transporting patients as needed, welcoming patients, families and visitors arriving for appointments, providing directions for visitors on campus, operating the gift shop, and volunteering on the Med/Surg unit.

"Volunteers are extraordinary people who want to contribute to the greater good," said Becky George, manager of volunteer services for Baystate Health. "We have several opportunities open for individuals to share their talents and skills to support and assist



Submitted Photo
Estelle Carbonneau, left, is shown with Evelyn Glabicky, president of the Auxiliary at Baystate Wing Hospital.

our staff in creating wonderful experiences for our patients. Every hour and every minute that our volunteers serve makes a difference in the lives of our patients, families, and our team."

Volunteers are currently being sought to fill positions in various departments, including greeters, patient-care areas, and the gift shop. Duties will vary depending on the volunteers' interests and the needs of the hospital.

"During their service at Baystate Wing Hospital, we want to ensure that all of our volunteers are doing something

Please see **VOLUNTEER**, page 5

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Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and "Your Turn" guest column between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Send opinions to:
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Letter to the Editor
80 Main Street
Ware, MA 01082
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pouimette@turley.com

The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

Turley Election Policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy only four weeks or more out from the election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy inside the four weeks from election threshold. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our advertising representatives. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per author during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.



MassCPAs brings CPAs to Quaboag students for career exploration

BOSTON – During Accounting Opportunities Experience Month in November, the Massachusetts Society of CPAs (MassCPAs), in collaboration with the AICPA & CIMA and state CPA societies nationwide, introduced 460 Massachusetts high school students to the diverse career paths within the CPA profession.

Governor Maura Healey declared Accounting Opportunities Experience Month in November. As part of this initiative, 32 MassCPAs members from diverse backgrounds delivered engaging presentations to 21 high schools across the state, sharing their personal journeys and insights into the multifaceted world of accounting, including Quaboag Regional High School.

These sessions offered a comprehensive look at the education and training required to become a CPA and highlighted the dynamic and essential role that CPAs and accounting professionals play in the business world, while dispelling common myths associated with the profession. This collaborative effort represents just one facet of the Society's commit-

ment to fueling and diversifying the accounting pipeline.

"Thank you to our volunteers for bringing awareness of the accounting profession to hundreds of Massachusetts high school students," said Upasana Prasad, manager of academic and career development at MassCPAs in a press release. "Their unwavering dedication and collaboration made Accounting Opportunities Experience Month a success and will help shape the future of the profession."

To view the photos from Accounting Opportunities Experience, visit masscpas.org/aoe.

About the MassCPAs

The Massachusetts Society of Certified Public Accountants, Inc. is the state professional association of certified public accountants, representing over 11,500 members in public accounting practice, industry and business, government and education. The Society works to develop and maintain high professional standards and offers a wide array of legislative, technical and referral services to its members.

Town received additional Chapter 90 funds

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARREN – Town Administrator James Ferrera said the town will receive \$176,088 in "fair share" Chapter 90 grant funding.

At the Dec. 21 Board of Selectmen's meeting, Ferrera said Governor Maura Healey announced that one of her initiatives when she took office was to make sure each town received its "fair share" of funding to maintain roads.

"This is an addition above and beyond Chapter 90 funds that Warren will be receiving for fiscal year 24," Ferrera said. "This will help us maintain roads even more and be able to do some improvements to some of the existing roads in town."

Town Administrator's report

Ferrera said an electrician came to the Shepard Municipal Building to assess locations for additional lighting near the driveway and message board.

He said the town also received its workers compensation audit for fiscal year 2023. He said the wage increases that occurred for town employees last year did cause the workers compensation to increase as well.

Ferrera said there was some overlap between workers compensation and injured on duty compensation for firefighters, and he

requested a review of this by the auditors.

"Hopefully it will reduce some of the costs that we were assigned to this audit cycle," he said.

Last year's audit cycle credited the town with around \$900, but this year's audit resulted in a premium bill of over \$4,600.

Emergency management grant

Ferrera said Emergency Management received a state Emergency Management Procurement Grant in the amount of \$2,700. These funds will be used to purchase a trailer in order to store and house emergency management equipment.

Town Hall bells

Board of Selectmen Chair David Dufresne said many residents have been asking to hear the bells chime from the clocktower of the Town Hall. The Board agreed to try turning the bell chimes back on.

Citizen/employee of the year

Dufresne said he thinks it would be a great idea to start recognizing a citizen and an employee of the year, similar to how the town had done in the past. He said they will need to review the process to make sure it is fair and equitable.

"We really need to start recognizing our people, our residents and our employees for doing a good job and stepping up," Dufresne said.

Ferrera will develop a draft pol-

icy for this recognition for discussion at a later meeting.

Wrights Mill recovery plan

On Thursday, Jan. 11 at 10 a.m., the Board of Selectmen will host a project kickoff event with representatives from Weston & Sampson for the Wrights Mill Recovery Plan.

Fire Department report

Fire Chief Adam Lavoie said the Fire Department responded to 31 fire-related calls for the month of November including eight motor vehicle accidents, seven medical assists, two activated alarms, one carbon monoxide call, one investigation, one power line incident, one illegal burn, one service call, one good intent, one brush fire and two oil burner issues.

Lavoie said emergency medical services responded to 60 calls, which required 12 advanced life support intercepts.

The Department conducted six smoke and CO inspections, one oil burner inspection and five liquid propane inspections.

Lavoie said the Department has spent the past month preparing the new brush truck for service and conducting driver training.

He said the Department has received their new self-contained breathing apparatuses and completed fit testing for new masks. He said the SCBAs have a 15-year lifespan.

The old SCBAs are still in ser-

vice for another year to use as spares or for training.

"That was a capital planning project we've been working on for a few years," Lavoie said of the brush truck and the SCBA projects.

Lavoie said the call volume continues to increase for the Department, including mental health calls.

Dufresne suggested the town look into conducting a staffing needs study for both the Fire and Police departments.

Letter of support

The Board signed a letter of support to the Massachusetts Historical Commission to nominate the South Warren Cemetery to the National Register of Historic Places.

License renewals

The Board of Selectmen approved the renewal of the following common victualler licenses: Alltown Market, Dunkin' Donuts, Dippin' Donuts, George's Pizza, Mason's Grille and Mass Appeal Pizza and Bread Co.

The following Class II and III licenses were also renewed: Copart of Connecticut (600 Old West Warren Road, 656 Old West Warren Road and 436 Old West Warren Road), Warren Truck and Auto Repair, Mike's Automotive Inc., Service Auto Body, Como's Inc., Fijol's Junkyard, Fijol's Garage, Subaguru of Massachusetts and Edward H. Spencer, Inc.

Blood Donation Team is coming to Palmer

PALMER –The Baystate Health Blood Donation team will host a blood drive at Baystate Wing Hospital, 40 Wright St. in Snow Conference Room C on Wednesday, Feb. 7, from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Additionally, Blood Drives will be held every other month on Wednesday throughout the year at Baystate Wing on April 10, June 5, Aug. 7, Oct. 9 and Dec. 11.

"There continues to be an urgent need for blood, when you donate blood to Baystate Health, your precious gift remains in our local communities," said Nicole VanZandt, MLT III, Supervisor, BRL Blood Donor Services in a press release. "Please help us to ensure a safe and adequate blood supply is available by donating blood with the Baystate Health Blood Donor Program...there is no substitute for human blood."

Blood donations take approximately one hour to complete, including the interview, donation, and refreshments. To donate blood, you must be at least 17 years old; weigh at least 110 pounds have a photo ID; be in good health (no colds, or sore throat); and have not donated blood within the past eight weeks.

In appreciation, all eligible donors will receive a \$10 gift card.

For more information or to book an appointment to donate blood please call the Blood Donor Center at 413-794-4600. Please be sure to note the Baystate Health hospital location you would like to make your donation at when you make your appointment.

Knights host spaghetti dinner on Jan. 13

WEST BROOKFIELD – Knights of Columbus Council 11080, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, is sponsoring a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, Jan. 13, in Dugan Hall, Sacred Heart Church, 10 Milk St.

Dinner includes pasta fagioli, garden salad, meatballs and sausage, spaghetti and sauce, garlic bread, dessert, water, soda and coffee. The cost is a \$15 donation and \$10 for children under 12 years old.

Take-out is available at 6 p.m. and sit-down dinner is served at 6:30 p.m.

Advance ticket purchase is encouraged and appreciated. Tickets are available from any Knight or by calling 508-612-1649 or 41-813-8100 or by emailing bobfalter@gmail.com or wallyconnor122@gmail.com.

Tickets will only be available at the door while they last. Admission tickets are also good for entry for special door prizes.

Raffle tickets for a 50/50 raffle and more will be available.

Proceeds from this event will help provide ongoing support to children orphaned by the conflict in Ukraine coordinated by

Supporting Orphans Nationally & Globally (S.O.N.G.) of Brookfield.

Wally Connor, past Grand Knight of Council 11080, and Executive Director of S.O.N.G., Inc. recently returned from Rzeszow, Poland, and Irpin, Ukraine coordinating support for orphaned children in Refugee Centers and for children who have recently lost a parent, and some cases, have lost both parents in the war. S.O.N.G. has been providing ongoing direct support to these children since shortly after the invasion.



UPDATES from page 1

addressed by either Dunphy or CDAC Chairman Jeremy Olson.

One of the concerns was different valves installed into the water lines. It may be a different valve but still operates the same and meets all industry standards.

One of the recently completed projects on School Street is a new wall with fencing on top. This new development on the street was replacing an old railing guarding a steep hill off the sidewalk of the street.

Another main concern in the town is poor water quality. Many improvements to pipes have been made throughout town and many other streets have upcoming improvements in the near future.

Selectman Chair David Dufresne said the town has many older neighborhoods and needs redevelopment, and the changes being made through CDBG grants are beneficial to the town.

"Change is for the better and it's for the better of the community," said Dufresne.

These grants have been helpful to improve the community during all these projects and it is part of the CDAC's plan to apply the same improvements on other streets in Warren and West Warren.

"It's a process. New pipe installments are getting done piece by piece," said Dufresne.

As part of phase two of their CDBG initiative, Dunphy talked about FY 2022-2023 CDBG projects to help benefit the community. These projects include drainage systems, sidewalk improvements and One Stop for Growth for Otis Street.

One Stop for Growth is a single application portal and collaborative review process of community development grant programs that make targeted investments based on a development continuum.

"More work is ahead," said Dunphy.

The CDAC's goal is to apply for more funding and provide more paving improvements throughout the town. The CDAC is planning on a FY 2024 application that is due in March.

At that point, the CDAC is looking to come up with projects for West Warren.

Several streets, including River Street and Central Street, are being looked at for future construction work. Surveys will be sent out to

residents in the area.

These surveys need to be completed in order for the CDAC to apply for funding for these projects.

Future projects also include improvements on areas such as Cutter Park and the Common. For these projects in town, the CDAC hopes to share ideas for the design phase and what residents would like to see done to the parks.

"We're looking at the town comprehensively," said Dunphy who believes a lot of thanks

goes to the CDAC for making these new developments possible.

The Board of Selectman recognized the hard work being done by Dunphy and members of the CDAC.

"There have been a lot of good things coming out of this program," said Selectmen Vice-Chair Richard Eichacker.

The next meeting for the CDAC will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 10 at 4 p.m.

VOLUNTEER from page 4

that they enjoy," said George.

The Volunteer Services program is open to anyone interested in giving back to their community. All potential volunteers must be age 16 or older and complete a volunteer

application, submit to and pass a background check, and meet all vaccination requirements.

The program is an ideal opportunity for seniors and young adults who wish to volunteer in a health-care setting. Volunteers will receive training and support and can

receive credit for school (if they require it) and grow personally through service to others.

For more information or to fill out an application online, visit www.baystatehealth.org/about-us/volunteer or call Becky George at 413-370-5295.

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community



Creativity was happening during the cupcake decorating workshop.



Jana Hayden's niece Alexa is making some examples of cupcake decorations, including snowmen.

Library hosted cupcake decorating workshop for teens and tweens

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The Young Men's Library Association hosted a workshop about cupcake decorating for kids ages 12 and up.

Running the workshop was Jana Hayden of Cupcakes and Confections by Jana and shared ideas on winter themed cupcakes for kids and teens. Hayden is a licensed and inspected home baker specializing in cakes, cupcakes, and a variety of other baked goods and confections.

Based out of Ware, Hayden and her bakery offer workshops for kids, teens and adults.

For this workshop at the Ware library, Hayden wanted to teach tweens and teens who are interested in baking how to come up with creative decoration techniques for frosted cupcakes. The theme for this workshop was winter and included symbols such as snowmen, snowflakes, and blue rosettes.

The workshop had a fantastic turnout with more than a dozen teens who registered in advance. This workshop is part of a tween-teen program the Young Men's Library Association wants to offer every other month.

Prior to the pandemic, Hayden used to host cupcake decoration workshops on a regular basis. Lately, Cupcakes and Confections by Jana have offered more workshops including cookie workshops.

Hayden's most common venue for hosting workshops is Hardwick Vineyard & Winery.

Joining Hayden for her workshop at the library was her 6-year-old niece, Alexa. Helping her aunt for the day, Alexa did an excellent job setting up the cupcakes and frosting for the workshop.

Alexa also enjoys baking cupcakes and did some cupcake decorating of her own during her aunt's workshop.



Jana Hayden of Cupcakes and Confections by Jana ran a cupcake decorating workshop for kids ages 12 and up at the Young Men's Library Association.

As the workshop began, Hayden provided four unfrosted cupcakes to each participant with tubes of frosting and sprinkles. After a quick demonstration of designing shapes with the tubes of frosting, the kids got started on their decorations right away.

One of Hayden's favorite parts of decorating cupcakes is forming a rosette on the top of the cupcakes. Hayden said, "making a rosette takes some practice and practicing on a plate helps".

Other cool winter themed decorations designed by the kids included snowmen, snowflakes, and even polar bears. The kids got to take their cupcakes home after they were finished decorating.

Cupcakes and Confections by Jana can be found on Facebook and Instagram for more information. You can reach Cupcakes and



One of the kids did a great job decorating polar bears on the top of the cupcakes.

Confections by Jana by calling 413-461-5085.

More cupcake decorating workshops from Cupcakes and Confections by Jana are upcoming and are available for kids, teens and adults.

NEW YEAR'S ON THE MCRT

Walkers, equestrians and man's best friend took part in East Quabbin Land Trust's annual New Year's Day group walk on the Mass Central Rail Trail from New Braintree to Wheelwright. Participants were able to view improvements to the trail, including a riverfront expansion and repairs to the bridges.



Many dogs also participated in the New Year's Day hike, including Dottie.



Judith Jones leads her daughter, Susannah, on horseback.



Cordelia Grandinetti gets a lift from her friend Calia Rich.



People of all ages took to the Mass Central Rail Trail from New Braintree to Wheelwright for New Year's Day.

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TRINITY from page 1

"Well done good and faithful servant," Simpson said to Wilburn, congratulating him on reaching his retirement.

During his final sermon, Wilburn asked the question, "so what's next?"

For Wilburn, it may be the end of his over 54 years as a parish minister, but it is also the beginning of his retirement, and the start of his 81st year, as this day, Dec. 31, is also his birthday.

"We have losses, and we have gains," Wilburn said. "We have risk, and we have reward...and we're called to look to the future and not let the past define us."

Wilburn said the parishioners of the church gave him purpose and brought him healing during health challenges he has faced, similar to how Paul was supported in his own infirmity in the book of Galatians.

He asked the parishioners to consider what defines them and to be open to "what's next."

"There is a sense of which, I think, at least for me (mixed feelings and all) ...to lean into the future. Risking falling flat on our face," Wilburn said, adding that it's an unstable and uncomfortable feeling to do so.

Wilburn said without the risk of loss, there is no hope of gain.

He said the gospel encourages us to lean in, not to lean back. By linking spiritual elbows together with each other, such as in a game of Red Rover, nobody will fall down, Wilburn said.

"You can afford to lean into the future because you're



Rev. Dr. Randall K. Willburn leads a reading during the Sunday morning service.

locked together in such a way, that when you lean in so far, you will not fall flat on your face, you will have support. That's the nature of community; there's no one single act of anybody...it is the unity of the community that binds us together," he said.

Wilburn said there have been times in his life where he's wanted to revisit beginnings and he's doubted that all things work together for those who know and love God.

"To know, is the interior life of the spirit of servitude," Wilburn said. "That you've got this, that you are on the right track. Flawed as we are, distracted as we are, and doubting as we are...all losses are good."

A great lover of music, Wilburn said there is a rhythm

to loss and gain, just as there is a rhythm to life and death.

"That rhythm is fundamental to who we are, it's built in, it's in our DNA," he said. "We cannot just live leaning back and we can't just live always leaning forward."

Joining Wilburn at the service was his wife of 59 years, Karin, along with his son Adam and granddaughter Emma. Wilburn said he and his wife have traveled from Wisconsin to Texas, then to Massachusetts and California and back to Massachusetts during his decades in the ministry.

"My oldest son Adam said, 'Dad, you realize that makes the sign of the Cross,'" Wilburn said of his life's journey.

Wilburn said as people, we

have "no clue" where God is leading us, but he encourages the parishioners to embrace whoever comes to lead the church next.

"You will have a priest who will lean in, as long as your elbows are locked...you won't fall flat on your face and neither will she or he," Wilburn said. "That's the nature of ministry. That's the basis of church. It's not one individual person, but the community, the body of Christ, which can afford to lean in and know that we will not fall flat on our face."

Lay Eucharistic Minister Ron Newton invited all of the parishioners and those attending the service to join in a tradition started by Wilburn; laying hands on him and his wife while singing a song, surrounding them in love before they take their next step forward in their life's journey.

Jane Sterndale led the first verse of the song, accompanied by Kell Julliard on piano, and the congregation joined their voices together for the second verse.

Following the service, all were invited to continue honoring Wilburn on his retirement and birthday with a celebration luncheon.

About Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Episcopal Church is located at the corner of Park and Pleasant streets, with Sunday morning worship services at 10 a.m.

For more information, follow the church on Facebook or visit www.trinityware.org.

Quabbin Visitor Center lists free upcoming indoor/virtual events

BELCHERTOWN – The Department of Conservation and Recreation’s Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center will offer several free indoor/virtual programs in January and February.

Space is limited and registration is required. In-person seating will be limited to 45 people.

All ages are welcome.

To register for any of these events, visit www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events.

Presentations will be offered

in-person and via Zoom. To register, follow the link in each program description and chose to attend in-person or to receive the Zoom link.

Construction of the Winsor Dam

On Sunday, Jan. 21 from 2-3 p.m. join staff from the DCR Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center to learn more about how the Winsor Dam and the Goodnough Dike were constructed and how they formed the Reservoir. Quabbin Reservoir is so noted

for its natural beauty and pure water that we often forget that it is a constructed landscape created by the Winsor Dam and Goodnough Dike.

Secrets Beneath the Trees

On Sunday, Jan. 28 from 2-3 p.m. join Dr. Becky Seifried, Geospatial Information Librarian at UMass Amherst to learn how we can use Lidar (Light Detection and Ranging) to map the traces of historical settlements, like stone walls and road cuts - and you'll

discover just how much built heritage is hidden beneath the forests of Quabbin in Secrets Beneath the Trees: Exploring the Quabbin’s Hidden Historical Landscape with Lidar.

Lidar is a technology that lets researchers peek beneath the tree canopy to model the surface of the earth.

Project Mishoon: Underwater Treasures of the Nipmuc

On Sunday, Feb. 4 from 2-3 p.m. join Hassanamisco Nipmuc

Band member and Project Mishoon Director, Cheryl Stedtler, as she shares the history of Project Mishoon.

A recreational diver exploring the dark waters of Lake Quinsigamond happened upon a dugout canoe. For nearly 400 years, this canoe and others found nearby have rested quietly in the lake’s silty bottom awaiting the return of their Indigenous paddlers.

Not until 2001 would Nipmuc descendants return to them and become the first Indigenous

community in Massachusetts history to secure an archaeological reconnaissance permit from the Commonwealth’s Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources.

Understanding Watershed Forestry Management

Join a DCR-DWSP forester to learn about the benefits of a managed forest and the objectives and conditions that dictate when, where, and how trees are harvested on Sunday, Feb. 25 from 2-3 p.m.

Opioids and Opioid Rescue Training



- Understand what opioids are and why people become addicted.
- Address the stigma of addiction.
- How to recognize and respond to an overdose
- How to use Narcan (naloxone) safely and effectively
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Join us for this training at:

E2E (Education to Employment)
79 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082
On: January 16, 2024, at 4:30 pm

Presented By:

Kirsten L. Krieger RN, BSN
Public Health Nurse
(413) 967-9615

Email: kkrieger@townofware.com

Website: www.quabbinhealthdistrict.com

Please RSVP by 1/12/2024 to:
kkrieger@townofware.com

Training provided courtesy of the following organizations:



WBCA and Beyond

Association brings businesses and organizations together

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – For over a decade, the Ware Business and Civic Association has helped to transform Ware into a destination point for visitors and a resource for the residents.

The WBCA offers monthly programs to support businesses and make efforts for businesses to choose Ware as their home. In addition, the organization hosts a quarterly evening program which provides local businesses with an opportunity to gather in an informal setting.

Formed in the fall of 2011, the original members of the organization were comprised of local business and civic leaders. The first step of organization was to create a mission statement which is still found today on the website of the organization.

The mission of the WBCA is to foster camaraderie among local businesses, creating a vibrant hub that transforms the town into a must-see destination. The WBCA helps form connections, inspires growth in the community and neighboring communities and spark innovation.

“Our framework is to provide a monthly program which is a presentation of a business-centric topic that any business organization can benefit from,” WBCA President Dan Flynn said. “We’ve had speakers from the insurance, financial and legal industry to give feedback and updates which proves valuable information and resources.”

Recently, the WBCA has held their monthly meeting on site at local businesses, including Quabbin Wire and America Athletic Shoe Company. This helps to connect WBCA members to each other, and highlight each specific industry.

This past October, the organization held a candidates’ forum at Cedarbrook Village for the special

Senate election for the State Senate seat which was vacated by Anne Gobi. Both candidates who were on the general ballot were invited on behalf of the organization to sit and answer questions from the moderator.

It was a room packed with community members and representatives, and the town videotaped and provided copies of the forum to the other towns within the Senate district.

It was a huge honor for the WBCA to be the catalyst to assist with both these candidates, and it gave voters an opportunity to see what each candidate offered in the election.

The WBCA also makes time for members and local business owners to gather for special events. These events continue to contribute to the WBCA’s mission of building camaraderie and inspiring growth in their community.

“We decided two years ago to offer a quarterly evening activity program which would allow businesses who are unable to do employee base programs to participate in. These activities have proven to be more than just business card exchanges but enriched networking events. We have hosted bowling nights, dart nights, even rented a portable axe yard from Plymouth to come out and hold an axe throwing event in Ware,” said Flynn.

The next evening program for the WBCA is a pinball night at the Western Mass Pinball Club in Three Rivers.

In the last couple years, the WBCA has seen their organization grow in memberships.

“We have experienced a continuous growth of membership,” said Flynn. “Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, as we followed established guidelines, we held monthly meetings via online programs and were still able to provide monthly programs and information to our membership.”

Recently, the organization had been approached by businesses outside of Ware, seeking to participate. A decision was made, and the organization agreed to expand the articles of incorporation this past spring to include new membership from geographically adjoining communities.

The WBCA has witnessed a double digit increase in membership which now includes businesses from the towns of Palmer, Hardwick, Belchertown, Ware, Warren and West Brookfield.

To join the WBCA, visit Warebca.com. A membership form can be filled out online and submitted.

A prospective member may also reach out to any Board of Director or request information from the website.

According to Dustin Pennington of Pennington Painting, the WBCA is a group that is great together. A positive influence on the community and the people involved in the businesses that exist in Ware and neighboring towns.

People are interested in improving the town of Ware and the surrounding towns. Pennington and his business have been a part of the WBCA for two and a half years.

According to Pennington, the biggest benefit of being a part of the WBCA is having an understanding of what is going on in town.

“It is about making a difference in the town itself,” said Pennington.

Chris Murphy, a member of the WBCA Board of Directors and cofounder of Colorblindguy views the WBCA as a great opportunity to network with other businesses in Ware and neighboring towns. A chance to network at monthly meetings and special events to help with promotion of business.

There is “more power when you form a community of businesses together,” said Murphy.

The WBCA recently gathered over breakfast at one of Ware’s new businesses, Bellies Barnyard, welcoming the restaurant as a new business with the WBCA.

The organization is a positive support system that helps businesses grow. The WBCA provides a comradeship where businesses support one another and thrive.

The WBCA is “a group of extremely fun and supportive people who have your back,” said Murphy. “People are on your side and help businesses succeed.”

Learn more about the Ware Business and Civic Association at warebca.com. You can also contact the WBCA at warebca@gmail.com.



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Members of the Ware Business and Civic Association join together at Bellies Barnyard in Ware.



Members of the Ware Business and Civic Association enjoyed breakfast at Bellies Barnyard recently.



The Ware Business and Civic Association held their monthly program at Quabbin Wire, learning about the new methods, logistics and personnel of the company.

This holiday season, protect yourself and your loved ones from COVID & the FLU!

Holiday gatherings are starting up, which means it’s time to prevent the spread of germs by getting vaccinated!

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Ware ends losing streak with win over Ludlow

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW— Ware senior center Emily McGrail entered last Wednesday night's road contest versus Ludlow averaging 14.4 points in the first five games of the regular season.

Led by McGrail, who posted a double-double, the Lady Indians ended a three-game losing skid with a 42-26 victory over the Lady Lions at Mullins Gymnasium.

"It was the first time that I played a varsity basketball game in this gym, and I was a little bit nervous at the start," said McGrail, who's one of the two seniors listed on the Lady Indians varsity roster. "Once I made a few shots in the first quarter, I gained a lot more confidence. I'm very excited that we were able to win tonight's game."

McGrail, who joined the varsity squad as a sophomore, scored 16 of her game-high and career-high 22 points in the first half. She also pulled down 13 rebounds and blocked six shots.

"Emily McGrail does a lot of

things for us, and she plays every game very hard," said Ware head coach Dan Orszulak. "We also had several other players helping her, which made things easier for us."

Freshman forward Reese McKeever and sophomore guard Madi Slattery each scored six points.

McKeever contributed with eight rebounds and Slattery had four assists.

The other Lady Indians points were scored by eighth grade guard Amelia Orszulak (4 points), junior forward Kaylee Gardner-Carreau (2 points), and junior guard Tory Finocchio (2 points).

The only other Ware senior is Mia DiRienzo, who's a forward.

Holyoke Community College is one of the schools that McGrail is interested in attending next year. Joseph Paige, who's the women's basketball coach at H.C.C., watched McGrail's outstanding performance against Ludlow from the front row of the wooden bleachers.

"I'm really hoping to go to H.C.C. next year," McGrail said. "My older sister, Olivia, also went



Madisyn Slattery looks to make a pass.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

to school there. I just want to follow in her footsteps."

The road victory evened the Lady Indians overall record at 3-3. It was also their final game of

2023.

The Lady Lions, who had a 1-5 overall record, were led off-

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Jack Fors goes for the pin.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Quabbin competes at Agawam tournament

AGAWAM –

Quabbin Regional wrestling took part in Agawam's Phil Tomkiel Holiday Tournament last Thursday. As a team, Agawam took the crown with an impressive 274.5 points. Natick placed second with 234 points. Also competing was Chicopee, which placed ninth with 68 points, South Hadley (12th) with 56 points, Holyoke (13th) with 53 points, and Quabbin Regional (14th) with 46 points. Agawam also placed a "B" squad in the meet, and their squad came in eighth with 79.5 points. Agawam would crown three individual champions and five runner-ups. Holyoke had an individual cham-



Matthew Tolman competes in an early round match 190 pounds.

pion as well. Holyoke's Steven Santiago was a champion at 113 pounds, while Agawam was led by Jordin Agosto (120), Nicholas Ugolini (132), and Ilya Shlemanov (150) led Agawam. There was also a girls tournament that several teams sent competitors to.



Kaylee Gardner-Carreau looks to make a pass near the three-point arc.



Shelby Hogan holds the ball away from her opponent.



Finn McFaul makes a pass.



Sam Jamieson competes in a 132-pound match.



Noah Miett locks up in a match.



Leanna Leger waits to rebound.



Meg Doyle drives in for the layup.



Riley Bassett hits a jump shot.



Doyle leads Quabbin past Oakmont

BARRE – Last Wednesday night, Meaghan Doyle led a big offensive effort by Quabbin Regional girls basketball with 21 points. The Panthers would easily dispatch Oakmont 50-19. The team also had a stellar defensive effort, keeping Oakmont off the scoreboard for a good portion of the game. Quabbin entered 2024 with an excellent 5-1 record.

Turley photos by Ray Duffy
Hannah Baxter chases down a loose ball.

Pioneers fall after big comeback by Palmer

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER— After falling behind early in the first quarter, the Palmer Panthers boys basketball team responded by scoring 14 unanswered points and they coasted to a 53-37 non-league victory over the Pioneers in front of a capacity crowd inside the Pathfinder Tech gymnasium.

"This is a really big win for us because a lot of the kids know each other," said Palmer first-year head coach Missy Rucker. "We also held them to less than 40 points, which is one of our team goals in every game. Whenever we're able to do that, there is a very good chance that we'll win the game."

The Panthers headed into the new year with a 4-1 overall record.

The Pioneers (3-1) suffered their first loss of the regular season.

"Obviously, this wasn't the result that we wanted, but I think we're heading in the right direction," said second-year Pathfinder head coach Zac Button. "You just have to give Palmer a lot of credit because they played an outstanding game against us tonight."

The last meeting on the hardwood between the two high schools, which are separated by less than a mile, took place at Palmer High on February 17, 2021. The Panthers won that contest by 28 points.

Both head coaches are hoping that the series can continue during the next couple of years.

"It would be nice if we could continue playing Pathfinder in the



Turley photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com
Seth Mitchell flies for a layup.

future and make it more of a rivalry game," Rucker said. "I think it's a very good thing for the community."

"This was a huge game for us," Button said. "I'm really hoping that Palmer and Pathfinder Tech can play each other every year. It was a great environment tonight."

A couple of the Panthers supporters who attended the road game were Palmer High School Principal Susan North and Athletic Director Matt Marciniac.

"The players have been working very hard at practice, so it was fantastic for them to have a lot of support at tonight's game," Rucker added. "I'm hoping that we can keep building our fan support throughout the course of the regular season. The players really deserve it."

Pathfinder Athletic Director Tyler Simons, along with several Palmer Police Officers, did an outstanding job of keep everything under control throughout the j.v. and varsity games.

It was a very memorable game for Palmer senior captains Andrew Menard and Shawn Troche.

"It was awesome getting an opportunity to play against Pathfinder for the first time," said Troche, who scored all seven of his points during the third quarter. "When I was in the eighth grade, a couple of the Pathfinder players were my teammates on a Palmer Youth Basketball team. We won a championship title that season."

Menard, who was a force at the defensive end, finished the contest with five points.

Palmer freshman Taydem Haley, who's also a captain, led the way offensively in the road victory with a game-high 16 points, which was also his season-high. He has scored ten or more points in four of the first five games.

"Taydem has been a catalyst offensively for us so far this season," Rucker said. "He has been consistently scoring in double digits. That's what we're expecting

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sports

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
rdrago@turley.com

Thursday Night Mixed League

PALMER – The Thursday Night Mixed League met for their final league night of 2023.

The standings as of Dec. 14 have Team Six as the #1 seed at 34-22. In second place, Team One has a record of 31.5 wins and 24.5 losses. Team Three is in third place with a record of 30.5 wins and 25.5 losses. Team Two is in fourth at 27-29, Team Five in fifth (23-33) and Team Four at 22-34.

Every bowler was ready to finish off strong heading into the new year.

One match featured Team Five bowling against Team One. In game one, Team Five was victorious over Team One by a score of 433-398. Joe Danek of Team Five began the night with an opening game of 104.

In game two, Team One was the winner of the game by a score of 404-378. In game three, Team Five won the last game 409-383. Team Five won total pinfall with a final

score of 1220-1185.

Another match took place between Team Three and Team Six. In game one, Team Three was the winner by a score of 401-398. In game two, Team Three won 419-389. In game three, Team Three won the third and final game 422-401.

Team Three won total pinfall by a final score of 1242-1188.

Team Two bowled against Team Four. In game one, Team Four won the first game by a score of 430-401. The final two bowlers on Team Four, John and Nick started off their night strong with 108 and 100.

In game two, Team Four won again by a score of 389-374. In game three, Team Four went for the clean sweep and won the last game 417-387.

Team Four won total pinfall by a final score of 1236-1162.

The Thursday night Mixed League will continue their season into the new year and will return to Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes on the first Thursday of 2024.

Visit Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes at 1446 N. Main St. Reach the alleys by calling 413-289-0013.

New modifieds event announced for early February

AUBURNDALE – After discussion with race teams, competitors and fans, Showdown Series officials have decided to update the schedule for the upcoming events at Auburndale Speedway in February during Speedweeks. With the new adjustments, the 602 Modifieds and Tour-Type Modifieds will compete in racing action at Auburndale on Thursday, Feb. 8 and Friday, Feb. 9 only.

The Tour-Type Modifieds will run two feature races - one Thursday and one Friday. Tour Modified events pay \$2,000 to win, \$1,000 for second and \$750 for third. The 602 Modified division will pay \$500 for the winner of each race, \$350 for second and \$300 for third. The 602 division will run double-feature events on Thursday and one on Friday. The 602 Modified features will be 30 laps and the Tour-Type Modifieds 50 laps.

“We’re getting more and more phone calls and momentum is building surrounding these Modified races and we wanted to do everything possible to avoid conflicts with the New Smyrna Speedway Modified events,” Brad Hockaday, owner of Professional Motorsports Solutions,

said. “Seeing Modifieds on Auburndale Speedway is going to be something special that fans and competitors are not going to want to miss. Extending Speedweeks a few days earlier is a great opportunity for everyone to enjoy some more time in the sunshine state.”

For the 602 Modified division, unlike some other events, there is no age limit on the races. Teams are asked to be responsible with their drivers age and experience level to compete in this event. No NASCAR licenses are required for either division.

New Smyrna Speedway has also adjusted the times for their parking times for Modified teams. No Modified teams (excluding the Whelen Modified Tour) will be able to park until early on Sunday morning. This means that teams can compete in the Auburndale Speedway events and have plenty of time to make it across the state, which is just over a two-hour ride. The Tour-Type Modifieds have been adjusted to go out early in the schedule for Friday and will be able to exit the track by approximately 9 p.m. The 602 Modifieds will race earlier in the night.

The tire rule for the event is

posted online. The rule will be six race tires for the 602 Modifieds with the F45 by Hoosier, and eight race tires for the Tour-Type Modifieds running the M20 & M30. Practice tires allotment is unlimited for the event, but teams need to let the management know in order for Hoosier to have a proper amount on site for the event.

Race teams with questions about the event are encouraged to email wntshowdown@gmail.com. There are practice nights available on Tuesday and Wednesday. Each night has a session from 4-7 p.m. and another from 7-10 p.m. Each session is \$50 per car running.

Teams are also encouraged to register as soon as possible so the promoters can prepare for the race. For more information on the Showdown Series events at Auburndale Speedway, everyone is encouraged to visit <https://linktr.ee/seriesshowdown>. There, you can find the event tickets, registration forms, event schedule, event flyers, technical rules, general information and more. Auburndale Speedway will see the rumble and roar of Modifieds in February for the first time in the history of the Florida oval.

Railers edged in one-goal loss to Reading

READING, PA – The Worcester Railers HC (12-11-3-2, 29pts) lost in a close one against the Reading Royals (11-13-1-1, 23pts), on Saturday night, Dec. 30 by the final score of 4-3 in front of 3,233 fans at the Santander Arena.

The game started right where they left off last night: physical. The Royals would do most of the heavy lifting in this department as they committed their 8th and 9th penalty of the weekend with a tripping minor penalty by Royals Forward Kenny Johnson (0-0-0) and a bench minor by Forward Tag Bertuzzi (1-0-1) committed while he was on the bench. The Railers offense would make them pay on the Bertuzzi minor penalty. Joey Cipollone entered the offensive zone with the puck in the middle of the ice where he found Zach White open on the right wing of their offensive zone. White quickly sent a cross-ice pass to an open Daylan Kuefler on the left side dot and sniped it past Royals goaltender Parker Gahagen’s blocker side. Bertuzzi came back the other way three minutes later for Reading and tied the game 1-1 going into the second period. The Railers led the period in shots on goal 13-11.

The Railers struggled to find many scoring chances in the second but relied on their defense and

goaltending to get them through the period and deny the Royals from scoring. The Railers were disciplined and managed spacing well throughout the period until they would get a power play opportunity late in the second period. Towards the end of the power play, Copeland drove the puck past Gahagen in net for the Royals to put Worcester back ahead, 2-1. The Royals answered back not much later with a power play goal by Forward Shane Sellar to beat Fulcher and tie it 2-2. The Royals led shots on goal in the period, 12-5.

Reading grabbed their first lead of the night when Matt Brown shot one blocker side to beat Fulcher and make it a 3-2 game. Late in the third, the Railers got another power play and did a great job keeping the puck in the zone and battling down low. Jenkins quickly fired the puck past Gahagen’s low blocker side to tie the game up once again. Both sides would get chances on the net but nothing came out of it in the box score where this game would head into overtime. The Railers led the period in shots on goal, 14-13.

In overtime, the Royals worked their way down ice in a 2-on-1 3:18 into the frame with Brown and Bertuzzi to score and give the Royals the 4-3 win at home.

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sively by junior guard Ryleigh Remillard. She scored eight of her 10 points during the second half. Junior forward Kayliana Moret scored seven points, and sophomore guard Eliana Garcia chipped in with four points.

It was the first meeting on the hardwood between the two teams since the 2020-21 campaign, which was shortened due to the COVID 19 pandemic. They faced each other three times in a span of twenty days in February of 2021. Ware won all three games, but the last two meetings were decided by one and two points.

“This is the first time that we’ve played Ludlow since the pandemic season,” Orszulak said. “They have a new head coach and are a young team this year. I think they’ll be a team to be reckon with in a couple of years.”

A Moret 3-pointer from the right side gave the home team a 5-2 advantage with 6:45 left in the first quarter. A minute later, a steal by Remillard led to a Garcia lay-up making the score 7-4.

“That was probably the best first quarter that we’ve played so far this season, which was nice to see” said first-year Ludlow head coach Ava Adamopoulos. “Then we struggled to score in the second quarter.”

Adamopoulos, who graduated from Ludlow High School ten years ago, replaced Tim Brillo



Emily McGrail looks to work out of trouble under the hoop.

as the girls’ varsity basketball coach. Brillo, who’s also the Ludlow Athletic Director, began coaching the basketball team in 1997.

The Lady Lions only scored two more points during the rest of the first half.

Ware took the lead for the first time at 8-7 following a McGrail inside basket with 2:45 remaining in the opening quarter.

With 51 seconds left, McGrail was fouled while making another

inside hoop. She missed the bonus foul shot, but a put-back basket by Gardner-Carreau gave the Lady Indians a 14-7 advantage.

Remillard hit a jumper shot at the buzzer.

McGrail, who scored eight points in the first quarter, added eight more points during the second quarter, as the Lady Indians outscored the Lady Lions, 14-0.

“We played well in the second quarter, and we were able to increase our lead,” Orszulak said. “We handled their press a lot better.”

Ware’s other six points in the second stanza were scored by McKeever, Slattery, and Orszulak.

McGrail scored her team’s first six points of the third quarter, which increased the lead to 34-11.

The Lady Lions ended their scoring drought with a Remillard lay-up with 4:15 left in the third quarter.

Ware led 38-15 following an Orszulak base-line jumper at the start of the final quarter.

The Lady Lions, who defeated McCann Tech, 44-23, on December 19, managed to close the gap a little bit with the help of an 11-4 run in the fourth quarter.

It was the only meeting of the regular season between the two squads.

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from him.”

The seven Pathfinder seniors, who were hoping to celebrate a victory against Palmer, are Trevor Allard, Hunter Griswold, Richie Gula, Branden Hnitechki, Luke Magnus, Adrien Moskovitz, and Adam Slonka.

The home team raced out to a 5-0 lead less than two minutes into the contest.

The Pioneers got on the scoreboard on the game’s first possession following a Slonka (10 points) old fashion three point play. Then following a steal by Gula, who led the home team with 12 points, Mitchell (3 points) hit a jumper in the lane.

A pair of inside hoops by Palmer sophomore Gavin Smola (8 points), which were sandwiched around a made free throw from sophomore Dylan Doherty (5 points) tied the score for the first and only time.

With 4:55 left in the opening quarter, a Haley steal and lay-up gave the Panthers the lead and they never looked back after that.

Palmer entered the second stanza with a 14-5 lead following back-to-back lay-ups by sophomore Angel Torres (8 points) and a Haley coast-to-coast lay-up.

A little more than a minute into the second quarter, the Pioneers were only trailing by three points (14-11). Gula buried a 3-pointer



Hunter Griswold takes a free throw.



Adrien Moskovitz takes a shot.



Richie Gula tries to send a shot over the defense.



Adam Slonka goes after the ball.

27-15 lead.

A Troche 3-pointer from the left corner increased the Panthers lead to 31-17 three minutes into the third quarter.

“I didn’t score any points in the first half, so it felt very good after I made the 3-pointer in the third quarter,” said Troche, who joined

the varsity basketball team as a sophomore. “I also scored a few more points, which helped us keep the momentum.”

A put-back hoop by Palmer sophomore Stephen Fredette capped off a 9-0 run and it pushed the Panthers lead to over twenty points (40-19) for the first time.

The Pioneers outscored the Panthers, 17-9 over the final eight minutes of the contest, but they couldn’t get any closer than 16 points.

The two boys’ basketball teams are scheduled to meet again down the street at Palmer High School during the 2024-25 regular season.

T-Birds fall hard against Bruins

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (16-10-3-1) had few answers for a confident opposing attack, falling 8-2 to the Providence Bruins (17-12-2-2) on Saturday night in front of a sold-out MassMutual Center crowd of 6,793.

The Bruins were opportunistic off a self-inflicted T-Birds mistake to jump to a 1-0 lead at 3:44 of the opening period. Will Bitten directed a pass back toward the Springfield bench, where a pair of defenders were in the process of a line change. Out of the confusion, Anthony Richard jumped on the loose puck and quickly snapped a wrist through Vadim Zherenko to give Providence the game’s opening goal.

Rookie Bruins blueliner Ethan Ritchie would add his first career AHL goal just 60 seconds later, jumping up into a 3-on-2 rush and ripping a shot through Zherenko at 4:44 off a drop pass from Jesper Boqvist. Providence also made life difficult on the T-Birds’ offense, as the Springfield attack mustered only five shots in the opening 20 minutes.

After going unsuccessful on a power play early in the second, the T-Birds saw a familiar bout of adversity when Justin Brazeau whipped a turnaround wrister through Zherenko at 6:21 to make it 3-0 for Providence.

The T-Birds gave the sell-out crowd a glimpse of another comeback bid when Jakub Vrana extended his point streak to four games with a beautiful wrist shot under the crossbar behind Brandon Bussi, cutting the lead to 3-1 just 18 seconds after the Brazeau goal.

The two-goal deficit proved only temporary, though, as Jesper Boqvist scored on the front end of a four-minute power play, one of his three points on the night, at 8:40 to make it 4-1.

Zach Bolduc had the opportunity to give the T-Birds another jolt when he was awarded a penalty shot with Springfield down a man at the 10:46 mark. However, Bussi had the answer with the leg pad, shutting the rookie’s bid down and keeping Providence ahead by three.

The Bruins rewarded their goalie in kind with back-to-back power-play goals from John Farinacci at 11:31 and Trevor Kuntar at 15:11, upping the margin to 6-1 before Bitten finally got Springfield on the board again with a power-play tip-in at 19:27 of period two.

Patrick Brown would add to the Providence lead with a rush up the left side at 7:17 of the third, and Jayson Megna capped off the scoring by netting the first short-handed goal against Springfield all season at 18:00.

The T-Birds finish up the homestand as they begin a 3-in-3 weekend against the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins on Friday at 7:05 p.m. at the MassMutual Center.

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OLA to conduct ELE review of Quaboag Regional School District

WARREN / WEST BROOKFIELD – During the week of March 4, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s Office of Language Acquisition will conduct a Tiered Focused Monitoring Review of Quaboag Regional School District.

The Office of Language Acquisition reviews each district’s and charter school’s English learner education program every six years to monitor compliance with federal and state ELE laws and regulations. Areas of review will include English learners’ student assessments; identification of English learners; what programs English learners are in; parent and community involvement; cur-

riculum and instruction; student support services, licensure requirements for faculty, staff, and administration; program plans; and evaluation and recordkeeping.

In addition to the onsite visit, parent outreach is an important part of the review process. The district will send a survey to the parents of students whose records the review team examines.

The survey focuses on key areas of their child’s English learner education program. OLA will review survey results and contribute to the monitoring report.

Parents and other individuals may call Judith Magloire, Office of Language Acquisition Review Chairperson, at 781-338- 5371 to

request a telephone interview. If an individual requires an accommodation, such as translation, to participate in an interview, DESE will make the necessary arrangements.

Within approximately 60 business days of the onsite visit, the review chairperson will provide the (district or charter school) with a report with information about areas in which the (district or charter school) meets or exceeds regulatory requirements and areas in which the (district or charter school) requires assistance to correct or improve practices.

The report will be available to the public at www.doe.mass.edu/ele/cpr/.

Quabbin Visitor Center offers outdoor programs

BELCHERTOWN – The Department of Conservation and Recreation’s Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center will offer several free outdoor programs now through March.

To register for any of these events, visit www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events and follow the link in each program description.

Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring water. For more information email QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov.

Exploring the Ware River Watershed

Join DCR staff for a 4.4-mile lollipop loop hike in the Ware River Watershed on Saturday, Jan. 6 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. The route climbs/descends roughly 200 feet in elevation.

Participants will meet at the Mass Central Rail Trail parking area located on Route 122 in the town of Rutland. The hike begins/

ends on the MCRT with a loop in the middle consisting of Camel’s Hump, Long Meadow Road, and Prison Camp Road.

Visit the following website for additional information on the route: <https://www.trailforks.com/route/4-mi-inner-loop-near-rutland-state-park/> (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/dgzSozmffyz7NFJr7>)

Explore the Road to Dana Common

On Saturday, March 2 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. explore the road that leads to Dana Common. Along the old road to Dana Common are foundations, walls and trees that tell the story of the towns now long gone.

Join DCR staff on this 1.8 mile (3.6 round trip) hike to Dana Common and discover what life was like in the Quabbin Valley and how the landscape has changed since the reservoir was built 84 years ago. Please dress appropri-

ately for the weather and bring water and a snack.

Participants will meet at Gate 40 on Route 32A in Petersham. Dogs are not allowed. (<https://goo.gl/maps/d4RxN-91v5yHUzhEE6>)

Rutland Prison Camp

Fresh air, three home-cooked meals a day, comfortable sleeping quarters and a private hospital - sounds like a delightful retreat for a prison?

Join DCR staff as they explore the remains of this surprisingly successful social experiment at Rutland Prison Camp on Sunday, March 31 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Ticks may be active, so protection is advised. The terrain is uneven.

Participants should be in the main parking lot of Rutland Prison Camp, 299 Intervale Road, Rutland. (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/J1iuV7QGB3rEAbxJ9>)



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago
Adam Kettles and Karen Gallant of Aka Music drew a big crowd to wrap up music at Lost Towns Brewing for the year 2023.

Aka Music wraps up 2023 at Lost Towns

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdragot@turley.com

HARDWICK – Live music has been a popular amenity at Lost Towns Brewing, 483 Main St., Gilbertville, and contributes to making the location a fun gathering atmosphere.

Finishing out this year’s lineup the day before New Year’s Eve, was the duo of Aka Music features Adam Kettles and Karen Gallant. Kettles is a regular performer at the brewery and is known for his country jams on Thursdays.

Gallant is also a regular performer during the weekly open mics on Fridays at Lost Towns Brewing, which she also helps to run.

Alex Spurrell of Lost Towns Brewing enjoys the entertainment of music at his family’s brewery and thinks it’s a great way to sum up the year 2023.

“It brings the engagement aspect of our brewery,” said Spurrell.

Aka Music played many covers of familiar country and rock songs. Some of the popular songs played by Aka Music included “Take Me Home, Country Roads” by John Denver and “I Guess That’s Why They Call It the Blues” by Elton John.

In a time of giving, Lost Towns Brewing offered a fundraising activity with ornaments to help support the Jubilee Cupboard food pantry of Ware. This organization has served over 800 individuals and has raised more than 91,000 pounds

of food.

Lost Towns Brewing offered this fundraiser from Thanksgiving to New Year’s. The cost for each ornament was \$1 and all proceeds went to the Jubilee Cupboard.

All decorated ornaments were placed on the Christmas tree at Lost Towns Brewing and Spurrell said he had over 200 ornaments decorated this year.

Expect more open mics and live music at the Gilbertville brewery in the new year as it continues as a fun tradition. One new activity currently in the works at Lost Towns Brewing is a cribbage league.

For more information about Lost Towns Brewing and upcoming events and performances, find them on Facebook or visit losttownsbrewing.com.

WARE BOS from page 1

said. “I think having a work group to do that...the Finance Committee believes that’s where we are and that’s what is needed right now.”

Selectboard member Nancy Talbot said a similar special committee was formed prior to the construction of the Ware Jr./Sr. High School, about a year prior to the start of the project. This committee compiled data and completed work that provided taxpayers with information needed to support the capital need by town meeting vote.

“A separate committee was formed, there was an analysis of documents, all the data that was necessary toward future or present needs and/or wants and requirements,” Talbot said. “It was well worth that time.”

Willette said the first step in this process is going out for engineering and design of the project, and there is some urgency for this to get in the queue for the State Revolving Fund loan program.

“You’ve got to have the completed engineering designs that are ready to go to the state and as well as a motion at a future annual town meeting to fund the needed improvements,” Willette said. “There are many steps to this process with the State Revolving Fund loan, being hopefully our ultimate funding source.”

Willette said the State Revolving Fund loan program currently offers a 2% interest rate for up to 20 years.

“We don’t have a year,” Willette said. “Spring annual town meeting of 2024 has got to be the goal of having something funded to start this process going forward, in the Finance Committee’s perspective.”

Selectboard Chair Caitlin McCarthy said the committee will need to be formed to prioritize capital projects for the water and wastewater, get engineering designs, and educate the public about how the vote would affect their tax dollars.

Talbot suggested a seven-member committee, with two members from the Selectboard, two from the Finance Committee, the Town Accountant and two qualified residents (who could also be town employees, such as DPW staff). Town Manager Stuart Beckley will also be involved with the committee in a non-voting role.

The Selectboard approved the formation of said committee.

Those interested in serving on the committee should submit letters of interest to Beckley.

MCRT safety update

Mass Central Rail Trail advocate Steven Hawk talked about the importance of crosswalks and signage to maintaining safety on the trail that spans from Gibbs Crossing to Robbins Road. The MCRT crosses several roadways, and also provides pedestrian access to major shopping centers.

Hawk said he has formed a friends group for the Gibbs Crossing section of MCRT, and through their collaborative efforts, they have been able to have a crosswalk painted from the end of the trail at Gibbs Crossing to the sidewalk bordering Walmart’s parking lot. Signs have also been installed to alert motorists to trail activity.

Beckley said the new crosswalk is “excellent” and the town’s Department of Public Works can paint the other three crosswalks in the spring. One of the sign’s placed will need to be relocated, to meet state highway rules and Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

“We can certainly work with the friends group to make that right,” Beckley said. He said the friends group has accomplished a lot already and is very enthusiastic in their endeavors.

“Everyone is so helpful with the funding of money

with the signs,” Hawk said of the friends group, even for temporary signs.

Hawk said signs outlining MCRT rules and regulations are also needed to remind trail users to be respectful of other people’s property and trail etiquette.

“Each town and city can adopt their own bylaws of rules and regulations on the rail trail,” he said. “So everyone’s aware of what you can and can’t do on the rail trail...having a sign is great but, having a bylaw is something on the books.”

McCarthy thanked Hawk and the friends group for their hard work.

Town Manager’s report

Beckley said volunteers are needed to remove Christmas decorations from Main Street on Saturday, Jan. 6 starting at 8 a.m.

He said a copy of the Comcast cable license renewal will be available on townofware.com prior to a public hearing where the Selectboard will review and possibly vote to accept the contract.

Beckley said the final set of lights at the school have been converted to LED lights and the library will be doing the same soon.

“That will be a huge improvement on energy savings,” Beckley said.

Beckley said through the combined efforts of the town attorney, Police Department and Building Commissioner, porches at 6 Aspen Court were removed last week and an approximately \$7,500 lien has been placed on the property.

The porches posed a danger to the public as they there hanging over the public way and a fire hydrant.

Beckley said the town attorney will “aggressively pursue” the lien.

Beckley said the town received an extra \$240,000 in Chapter 90 Fair Share funds on top of its regular \$424,000. The Fair Share funds were raised through the millionaire’s tax that went into effect last year.

New Year’s financial resolutions

Now that we’ve reached 2024, you might be thinking about your goals and hopes for the new year. But in addition to whatever personal resolutions you might make — volunteering, going to the gym more, learning a new language and others — why not make some financial resolutions, too?

Here are a few to consider:

- **Boost your retirement savings.** If you can afford it, try to increase your contributions to your IRA and 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan. The more you put away in these accounts, the greater your chances of reaching your retirement goals. At a minimum, contribute enough to your 401(k) to earn your employer’s match, if one is offered. And whenever your salary goes up, consider raising the amount you put in to your 401(k).

- **Reduce your debts.** It’s not always easy to reduce your debts — but it’s worth the effort. The lower your debt load, the greater your monthly cash flow. So, look for ways to consolidate debts or find other, possibly more productive, ways of using credit. And if you truly can’t afford something that’s nonessential, don’t go into debt for it. “Live within your means” is an old piece of advice, but it’s just as valid now as ever.

- **Build an emergency fund.** If you suddenly needed a major home or car repair, or received a large medical bill not fully covered by insurance, would you have the funds available? If not, you might be forced to dip into your retirement accounts or other long-term investments. To avoid this possibility, try to build an emergency fund containing several months’ worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account that’s separate from the ones you use to meet your daily expenses. It can take a while to build such a fund, but if you make it a priority and contribute regular amounts each month, you can make good progress.

- **Avoid emotional decisions.** Too many people overreact to events in the financial markets because they let their emotions get the better of them. If the market is temporarily down, it doesn’t mean you need to sell investments to “cut your losses” — especially if these investments still have good fundamentals and are still appropriate for your portfolio. It can be hard to ignore market volatility, but you’ll be better off if you focus on the long term and continue following an investment strategy that’s designed to meet your needs.

- **Review your goals.** Over time, your goals may have changed. For example, while you once might have wanted to retire early, and planned for it, you may now find that you’d like to work a few more years. If that’s the case, you may also need to adjust your financial and investment strategies.

- **Revisit your estate plans.** If you’ve married, divorced, remarried or added children to your family within the past few years, you may need to review the account titling and beneficiary designations on your 401(k) and other retirement assets, along with your estate-planning documents, such as your will or living trust. You might also need to revise these documents in other ways.

Of course, you may not be able to tackle all these resolutions at one time, but if you can work on them throughout the year, you can potentially brighten your financial outlook in 2024 — and beyond.

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public safety

Ware Police Log

During the week of Dec. 25-Jan. 2, the Ware Police Department responded to 16 miscellaneous calls, 33 administrative calls, 10 traffic violations, 15 emergency 911 calls, two damage/vandalisms, one trespass, one fraud, two harassments, three thefts/larcenies, one breaking and entering/burglary, two motor vehicle accidents, two animal calls and 30 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

Monday, Dec. 25

2:29 a.m. Breaking and Entering/Burglary, Walnut Street, Advised
9:03 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, South Street, Investigated
11:16 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Cummings Road, Services Rendered
12:35 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Webb Court, Services Rendered
5:42 p.m. Damage/Vandalism, Otis Avenue, Report Made

Tuesday, Dec. 26

5:44 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Street, Citation/Warning Issued
6:09 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Street, Citation/Warning Issued
6:26 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Street, Citation/Warning Issued
8:47 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Pulaski Street, Services Rendered
Arrest: Zachary J. Plamondon, 29, Ware
Assault and Battery on Police Officer; Assault and Battery on Family/Household Member
10:53 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Palmer Road, Dispatch Handled

Wednesday, Dec. 27

8:43 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, South Street, Dispatch Handled
10:29 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Pulaski Street, Investigated
1:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Arrest Made

Warren Police Log

During the week of Dec. 10-16, the Warren Police Department responded to 262 building/property checks, 34 community policing, 10 traffic enforcements, 10 radar assignments, 12 emergency 911 calls, one larceny/theft, one trespasser/proowler, one illegal burn, one identity theft, one complaint, two animal calls and 22 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Sunday, Dec. 10

2:51 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Boston Post Road, Arrest(s) Made
Arrest: Matthew D. Coholan, 48, West Brookfield
OUI-Liquor or .08%; Speeding
8:35 a.m. Fire Alarm Activation, North Street, Investigated

Monday, Dec. 11

6:32 a.m. Larceny/Theft, Main Street, Investigated
11:22 a.m. Trespasser/Prowler, Little Rest Road, Officer Advised
4:36 p.m. Serve Warrant, Sarty Road, Arrest(s) Made
Arrest: Michael D. Nichols, 45, Warren
Warrant
9:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Tuesday, Dec. 12

5:42 p.m. Diabetic, Yankee Drummer Drive, Ambulance Signed Refusal
5:52 p.m. Lost/Disoriented

Arrest: Nikki L. Holway, 34, North Brookfield
Drug, Possess Class E; Drug, Possess Class B
Arrest: Michael J. Estridge, 34, Ware
Drug, Possess Class E
3:40 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Sczygiel Road, Services Rendered
5:33 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Services Rendered

Thursday, Dec. 28

7:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning
8:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Palmer Road, Citation/Warning Issued
10:15 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Palmer Road, Report Made

Friday, Dec. 29

12:15 a.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Highland Street, Services Rendered
Arrest: Antonio E. Centeno, 25, Springfield
Drug, Possess Class B; Firearm in Vehicle, Leave (Handgun); Firearm, Store Improper; Receive Stolen Property -\$1,200.
9:16 a.m. Damage/Vandalism, Otis Avenue, Investigated
3:22 p.m. Fraud/Deception, North Street, Services Rendered
4:04 p.m. Theft/Larceny, West Street, Services Rendered

Saturday, Dec. 30

11:47 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Pine Street, Report Made
12:38 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Dale Street, Dispatch Handled
6 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Sczygiel Road, Services Rendered
8:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation/Warning Issued
Summons: Louiz A. Innucci, 23, Ware
Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle; Uninsured Motor Vehicle; Unregistered Motor Vehicle

Person, Reynolds Road, Located/Found
10:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Arrest(s) Made
Arrest: Angel L. Perez Laguerre, 24, Holyoke
Ammunition with FID Card, Possess; Firearm, Carry Without License; Firearm, Store Improper; Firearm, Intoxicated Licensee Carry c269 §10H; Drug, Possess to Distribute Class D
Arrest: Keila M. Ramos, 26, Holyoke
Ammunition Without FID Card, Possess; Firearm, Carry Without License; Firearm, Store Improper; Drug, Possess to Distribute Class D; Firearm, Intoxicated Licensee Carry c269 §10H;
Arrest: Alexander Escalera Jr., 21, Chicopee
OUI-Drugs; Ammunition Without FID Card, Possess; Firearm, Carry Without License; Firearm, Store Improper; Firearm, Intoxicated Licensee Carry c269 §10H; Drug, Possess to Distribute Class D; Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle; Speeding in Violation Special Regulation
Arrest: Darien J. Lopez Fontanez, 22, Holyoke
Ammunition Without FID Card, Possess; Firearm, Carry Without License; Firearm, Intoxicated Licensee Carry c269 §10H; Firearm, Store Improper; Drug, Possess to Distribute Class D

9:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Street, Citation/Warning
Summons: Fernanda A. Herrera Lovo, 23, Ware
Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle

Sunday, Dec. 31

1:40 p.m. Animal in Progress/Dangerous, Bank Street, Patient Refusal
2:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning
6:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Aspen Street, Arrest Made
Arrest: Norbert L. Berthiaume, 60, Ware
OUI-Liquor or .08%, 4th or Greater Offense; Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle; Stop for Police, Fail
9:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Warren Road, Services Rendered
Summons: Cleveland Turner, 23, Warren
Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle

Monday, Jan. 1

8:36 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Coffey Hill Road, Dispatch Handled
12:57 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, East Road, Dispatch Handled
2:57 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Vigeant Street, Advised
5:41 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Sheehy Road, Dispatch Handled
7:16 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, South Street, Dispatch Handled
8:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Palmer Road, Investigated
9:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Arrest Made
Summons: Andrew D. Place, 36, Monson
License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With

Tuesday, Jan. 2

2:28 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, City Ordinance Violation
10:16 a.m. Fraud/Deception, Hutchinson Road, Advised

Wednesday, Dec. 13

2:47 p.m. Trauma, Keys Road, Transported to Hospital
4:07 p.m. Illegal Burn, South Street, Fire Extinguished

Thursday, Dec. 14

5:59 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
6:21 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Milton O. Fountain Way, Written Warning
1:15 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Winthrop Terrace, Transported to Hospital
3:20 p.m. Identity Theft, Milton O. Fountain Way, Call Transferred
11:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

Friday, Dec. 15

12:13 a.m. Falls, Mechanic Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
12:49 a.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Central Street, Citation Issued
3:52 p.m. Complaint, Comins Pond Road, Officer Spoke to Party
4:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

Saturday, Dec. 16

1:04 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
9:32 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Old West Brookfield Road, Mutual Aid Transport
7:58 p.m. Disorderly Conduct, Main Street, Report Filed

Author Paula Grandpre Wood presents 'Letters to Ancestors'

HARDWICK – Author Paula Grandpre Wood presents “Letters to Ancestors” on Saturday, Jan. 13 at 1:30 p.m. at Paige Memorial Library 87 Petersham Road.

Space is limited and registration is recommended by emailing director.paigeli@paigeli.com or calling 413-477-6704.

Grandpre Wood’s book “The Long Walk Home with the Ceinture Fléchée: The Arrow Sash”, invites readers to walk in the steps of real people with real joys and terrible heartache as they make the fateful decision to leave behind everything they knew in La Rochelle, France and begin life anew in New France.

After serving indentureships, they began families, and some of her ancestors were caught up in

the Acadian Dispersal. In the more recent past her ancestors immigrated once again, this time to the U.S.

Through genealogical research of Grandpre Wood’s ancestors that was gifted to her by a family member, she learned the bare facts of the many generations of her forbears’ lives.

One day these ancestors began speaking to her heart. She responded by delving into the broader story of the times they lived through. She began writing a series of letters to specific grandparents, asking them unanswerable questions and telling them how she longed to know them better.

Her family’s Ceinture Fléchée (Arrow Sash) has been passed down through six generations. The Sash binds the various parts

of Grandpre Wood’s story into a coherent whole.

Undertaking a quest to bring the family’s heirloom to each ancestor’s grave, she discovered one ancestor after the next. With each discovery, she wrapped the tombstones with the family’s Sash.

While learning and then writing about her nine-times grandparents she walked the Long Trail in Vermont, discovering parts of herself she had never known existed. Along with her growing sense of closeness with these ancestors, she found her way back to the Catholic Church. Every step of her journey, she knew her ancestors were praying for her.

For more information about Grandpre Wood, visit paulagrandonprewood.com.

Hardwick Police Log

During the weeks of Dec. 11-25, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 116 building/property checks, 69 directed/area patrols, 16 traffic controls, 27 emergency 911 calls, 11 radar assignments, four motor vehicle investigations, two investigations, 14 safety hazards, 11 citizen assists, one trespass, one scam, one missing person, three trespasses, six animal calls, one larceny/theft, one burglary, two motor vehicle accidents and eight motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, Dec. 11

12:21 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
1:28 p.m. Scam, Delargy Road, Spoken To
1:29 p.m. Safety Hazard, Greenwich Road, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, Dec. 12

6:24 a.m. Safety Hazard, Petersham Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
10:37 a.m. Missing Person, Barre Road, Transported to Hospital
7:42 p.m. Medical Emergency, Jackson Road, Transported to Hospital
8:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Ridge Road, Investigated
8:59 p.m. Assist Citizen, Broad Street, Officer Handled
11:53 p.m. Assist Citizen, Old Petersham Road, Dispatch Handled

Wednesday, Dec. 13

8:30 a.m. Investigation, Broad Street, Arrest(s) Made
1:59 p.m. Serve Criminal Citation, Broad Street, Served in Hand
10:33 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered

Thursday, Dec. 14

2:31 a.m. 911 Disturbance, Hardwick Road, Arrest(s) Made
6:33 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Spoken To

Friday, Dec. 15

6 a.m. Trespass, Church Street, Report Taken
12:29 p.m. Assist Citizen, Lower Road, Officer Handled
2:55 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Lower Road, Report Taken
2:58 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hillside View, Arrest(s) Made
3:26 p.m. Trespass, North Street, Officer Handled
5:03 p.m. 911 Suspicious Activity, Muddy Brook Road, Services Rendered

Saturday, Dec. 16

7:32 a.m. 911 Trespass, Barre Road, Investigated
8:42 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled
9:50 a.m. 911 Misdial, Barre Road, Officer Handled
10:59 a.m. Assist Citizen, Collins Road, Spoken To

Sunday, Dec. 17

9:06 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Old Petersham Road, Transported to Hospital

Monday, Dec. 18

6:24 a.m. Safety Hazard, North Road, Services Rendered
6:28 a.m. Safety Hazard, Mellon Road, Dispatch Handled
6:32 a.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Old Greenwich Plains Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
7:01 a.m. Safety Hazard, Greenwich Road, Dispatch Handled
7:27 a.m. Safety Hazard, North Road, Dispatch Handled
8:52 a.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Road, Removed Hazard
9:39 a.m. Safety Hazard, North Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
9:45 a.m. Safety Hazard, Greenwich Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
9:47 a.m. Safety Hazard, Breen Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
10:45 a.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
11:14 a.m. Safety Hazard, Charity Hill Road, Dispatch Handled
3:39 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Thresher Road, Transported to Hospital
11:45 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, Dec. 19

3:51 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning
6:02 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Greenwich Road, Transported to Hospital
7:38 a.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
12:24 p.m. Assist Citizen, Church Lane, Spoken To
2:35 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Off Ruggles Street, Transported to Hospital
3:30 p.m. Assist Citizen, Church Lane, Spoken To
5:12 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled
6:34 p.m. 911 Lockout, Church Lane, Services Rendered

Wednesday, Dec. 20

3:12 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Gaudet Road,

Editor’s Note: People in this country are presumed to be innocent until found guilty in a court of law. Police provide us with the information you read on this page as public record information. If you or any suspect listed here is found not guilty or has charges dropped or reduced, we will gladly print that information as a follow-up upon being presented with documented proof of the court’s final disposition.

Transported to Hospital
7:56 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Jackson Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
10:39 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital
11:41 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Joslyn Road, Removed Hazard
12:52 p.m. Assist Citizen, Greenwich Road, Officer Handled

Thursday, Dec. 21

9:34 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Sessions Road, Summons Issued

Friday, Dec. 22

12:10 p.m. Medical Emergency, Mellon Road, Transported to Hospital
8:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered

Saturday, Dec. 23

9:30 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Petersham Road, Officer Handled
9:40 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Petersham Road, Officer Handled
3:12 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Barre Road, Negative Contact

6:31 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Pine Street, Officer Handled
8:02 p.m. 911 Suspicious Activity, Breen Road, Officer Handled
11:18 p.m. Burglary (Breaking and Entering), Main Street, Officer Handled

Sunday, Dec. 14

11:39 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Dispatch Handled
12:04 p.m. Investigation, Breen Road, Services Rendered
1:44 p.m. Larceny/Theft/Shoplifting, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled
3:03 p.m. 911 Threat, Main Street, Officer Handled

NFPA warns against Christmas tree home fires

More than one-third (34%) of U.S. home fires involving Christmas trees occur in January according to data collected by the National Fire Protection Association.

With this post-holiday fire hazard in mind, the NFPA strongly encourages everyone to keep the festive memories and remove the hazards by disposing of Christmas trees promptly after the holiday season.

“As much as we all enjoy the look and feel of Christmas trees in our homes, they’re large combustible items that have the potential to result in serious fires,” said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA. “The longer Christmas trees remain in homes, the longer they present a risk.”

Carli notes that fresh Christmas trees, which continue to dry out and become more flammable over time, are involved in a much larger

share of reported Christmas tree fires than artificial trees.

According to the latest statistics from NFPA, there was an estimated annual average of 150 home structure fires that began with Christmas trees, resulting in one civilian death, 10 civilian injuries, and \$14 million in direct property damage between 2017 and 2021. Overall, fires that begin with Christmas trees represent a very small but notable part of the U.S. fire problem, considering that they are generally in use for a short time each year.

To safely dispose of a Christmas tree, NFPA recommends using the local community’s recycling program, if possible; trees should not be put in the garage or left outside. NFPA also offers these tips for safely removing lighting and decorations to ensure that they remain in good condition:

Use the gripping area on the plug when unplugging electrical

decorations. Never pull the cord to unplug any device from an electrical outlet, as this can harm the wire and insulation of the cord, increasing the risk for shock or electrical fire.

As you pack up light strings, inspect each line for damage, throwing out any sets that have loose connections, broken sockets or cracked or bare wires.

Wrap each set of lights and put them in individual plastic bags or wrap them around a piece of cardboard.

Store electrical decorations in a dry place away from children and pets where they will not be damaged by water or dampness.

For more information on home fire safety all winter long, visit “Put a Freeze on Winter Fires,” a winter safety campaign NFPA promotes annually with the U.S. Fire Administration at www.nfpa.org.

About the NFPA

Founded in 1896, NFPA® is a global, self-funded, non-profit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards. The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission.

For more information, visit www.nfpa.org. All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed online for free at www.nfpa.org/freeaccess.

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue’s relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for The Ware River News, please email wareriversnews@turley.com.

Zonta Service Grants available for 2024

In keeping with Zonta's more-than-100-year tradition of improving the lives of women and girls, the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley is currently soliciting proposals from local non-profit organizations for projects that benefit women and/or youth.

Since its inception in 1991, the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley has contributed over \$150 thousand in cash and in-kind donations to local non-profits.

The Zonta Service Grant Form application can be downloaded at www.zontaqv.org/service-grant/ or requested by contacting info@zontaqv.org.

Grants ranging from \$100 to \$2,000 will be awarded biannually, in May with a April 1 deadline and November with an Oct. 1 deadline. Proposals must include specific details of the project including the need that will be addressed with the funds.

In reviewing completed applications the committee will give preference for a hands-on component that can involve Zontians and supporters, if appropriate. The club's efforts to raise funds for these grants included a Calendar Raffle, Golf Tournament and Poinsettia sales. Two-thirds of all profits are used to fund local initiatives; one-third goes to the Zonta Foundation for Women to fund global projects with partners including UNFPA, UNICEF USA, Girls Not Brides, Coalition to End Violence Against Women and Girls Globally and Women's Empowerment Principles.

2022-2023 grant recipients included: Girl's Inc of the Valley received a grant to help build new programs at their new Holyoke location. YWCA of Western MA received a grant to purchase gift cards for individuals in their network to purchase essentials. Safe Passage of Northampton to offset printing of a program booklet for Say Something - 8-hour skills-focused training program grounded in effective strategies of bystander intervention and empowerment self-defense. Food Share in Palmer in support of stocking personal hygiene products and other items in short supply for women and girls.

Second Time's a Charm in Palmer received a grant toward the purchase of different-sized gowns in short supply for teens in need. Alianza DV Services, Inc. (formerly Womanshelter/Companieros) in support of a fall showing of the Clothesline Project, a visual display of violence statistics that often go ignored. Each shirt is made by a survivor of violence or by someone who has lost a loved one to violence.

Inquiries can be directed to the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley, Mary Knight the Communications Chair by emailing info@zontaqv.org or calling 413-219-8260.

Local farms receive disaster recovery funds

BOSTON – Senator Peter J. Durant (R-Spencer) along with Representatives Kimberly Ferguson (R - Holden), Todd Smola (R - Warren), Paul Frost (R - Auburn), Jon Zlotnik (D - Gardner), and Meghan Kilcoyne (D - Clinton) announced funding to 36 farms Worcester and Hampshire Senate District that were greatly affected by recent natural disasters.

All the farms receiving payments lost significant amounts of crops due to this past February's deep freeze, a late May frost, and the catastrophic flooding in July.

The farms in the Worcester Hampshire District that are receiving this funding are: Fay Mountain Farm in Brookfield; Waugh Farms in New Braintree; Meadowbrook Orchards, Inc. in Sterling; Davis Carlson Farm in Ware; Coldbrook Springs Winery and Stevens Farm in Barre; Center View Farm in Spencer;

Agromony Farm Vineyard, LLC in Oakham; Alta Vista Farm, LLC, Rutland; Ashland Farm in New Braintree; Breezy Gardens in Leicester; Brookfield Orchards, Inc. in North Brookfield; Coy Brook Farm in West Brookfield; Cranberry Pond Farm in Brookfield, Heavens Harvest Farm in New Braintree; Hickory Lane Farm, LLC in North Brookfield; Howes Farm and Garden, LLC in New Braintree; Hunt Road Berry Farm, Inc. in West Brookfield; Jordan Dairy Farms, Inc. in Rutland; Clover Hill Farm, LLP in Gilbertville; Lone Birch Blossoms in Gilbertville; Kettle Brook Farms, LLC in North Brookfield; Maple Hill Farm Grass-fed Beef, Inc. in Hardwick; Lilac Hedge Farm, LLC, Jefferson; P & A Petrucci Farms in East Brookfield; Pease Orchard in Templeton; Prairie Orchard in New Braintree; Ragged Hill Orchard in West Brookfield; Rattleroot Farm, LLC in Princeton; Red Apple Farm, LLC in Phillipston; Royal Crest Farm, LLC in Spencer; Schultz Farm in Rutland; Stillman Quality Meats, LLC in Hardwick; Stillmans Greenhouses & Farm, Inc. in New Braintree; Sunny Crest Orchards in Sterling; Walker Farm at Whortleberry Hill in New Braintree and Wildberry Acres Farm in Brookfield.

"These funds come at a crucial time for farmers across the Worcester and Hampshire District and across Central Mass as a whole. Thirty-six farms in my district will directly benefit from this much needed funding. I applaud the efforts of the Administration, and all involved for helping farmers get the relief they need," said Senator Peter Durant.

"These funds will go a long way to assist our farmers and I appreciate the commitment made by the Administration and the legislature. This has been an incredibly difficult year for farms across the state, and we need to support

them in whatever way we can," said Representative Kimberly Ferguson.

"Support to farmers in Central Massachusetts is well founded. Farmers deserve the necessary tools to overcome the losses sustained from weather conditions in February, May, and July of this year. This funding will enable farms to continue their vital work. I am grateful for the diligent efforts of the Administration and the legislature to help the Commonwealth's agricultural industry," said Representative Todd Smola.

Representative Paul Frost said, "Having farmers in communities I represent in Charlton, Leicester and Millbury receiving this much needed disaster relief is very welcoming news. I'm pleased to see the support for farms, which contribute to the local economy and add their own special charm to each of these communities."

"This funding is important stabilize farms in years like this when the weather and other conditions dealt a bad hand. I'm happy to support this and glad central Mass farmers have been able to access this support," said Representative Jon Zlotnik.

"This summer, I personally saw the devastating impacts of this summer's severe weather on our farms. Now, I am grateful that those same farms that suffered will be getting much needed support through \$20 million in disaster relief funding," said Representative Meghan Kilcoyne. "This funding will go directly towards helping our farmers recover from July's devastating floods, protect our local produce, and help them prepare for future climate challenges. I am pleased that part of this funding will go directly to ten farms in the 12th Worcester District and ensure they will continue their vital contributions to our communities. I am grateful to both the Healey Administration and my colleagues in the Legislature for supporting this effort."

Governor Healey's Administration announced this funding on Monday, Dec. 11 that \$20 million has been made available to 347 farmers in Western and Central Massachusetts through the Natural Disaster Recovery Program.

According to the Administration, to receive funding through the NDR Program, applicants were required to be a Massachusetts-based agricultural operation growing field crops, hay and forage crops or produce crops. Eligible farms had to demonstrate that they suffered losses of greater than 15% of their total planted acreage during one of the 2023 natural disasters. Funds from the NDR Program will be distributed immediately in time for local farms to begin the work needed for next year's growing and harvesting season.

Applications open for young women award

Applications for the 2024 Young Women in Public Affairs Award are available from the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley.

Applications can be obtained from the high school guidance counselors in local towns and on its website: ZontaQV.org/scholarships/.

A local recipient will receive a \$1000 award, funded by the Zonta Club of the Quaboag Valley and will be entered for the District YWPA award. The District recipient will be eligible

for a \$5,000 award from Zonta International.

According to Zonta Club President Dana Burton, the goal of the award is to encourage young women to participate in public and political life by recognizing a young woman's involvement in government, policymaking, and volunteerism.

"The YWPA program looks to the young women of today for leaders of tomorrow and advocates the Zonta International's mission of

advancing the status of women worldwide," said Burton.

To be eligible for this award, applicants must be between the ages of 16 and 19, have an active commitment to volunteerism, leadership achievements, and experience in local or student government. Applicants must be pre-university or pre-college students.

Completed application and supporting documentation are due to the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley by March 8.

Robert F. Trudeau

WARE – Robert F. Trudeau of Ware and Daytona Beach, Florida, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 28, 2023, with family by his side, at the age of 90.



He leaves his daughter, Debra (Trudeau) Jurczyk of Ware, sons Robert J. Trudeau and his life partner Brad Hoisington of Daytona Beach, Florida and David F. Trudeau and his wife Terry (Rogers) of Ware; five grandchildren, Nicole (Jurczyk) Zajac and her husband Andrew, Kyle Jurczyk and his wife Shannon (Mahoney), Heath Hebert, Tobias Trudeau and his wife Lisa (Granlund), and Amanda (Trudeau) Robidoux and her husband James; eight great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Bob was predeceased by his loving wife, Barbara (Finnerty) Trudeau, when she passed in 2018 after 58 years of marriage, son John I. Trudeau, son-in-law Francis Jurczyk, and siblings Mary K. LaFortune, Elizabeth "Betty" Gray, Nancy White, Alexander "Al", Richard "Hank", and John "Jake" Trudeau.

He was born in Ware, the son of William Irvin and Ruth "Mamie" (Fitzpatrick) Trudeau.

Bob was born on April 8, 1933, in Ware, and attended Ware schools. He then joined the United States Navy, where he served as a Radioman 2nd Class in New York and Key West, Florida, among other places, and spent six months on an icebreaker in the Arctic Circle.

He retired as a Sergeant from the Ware Police Department, and also retired from the Monsanto Company of Indian Orchard. This enabled him to enjoy a long retirement with his wife, taking many trips and splitting their time between their homes in Ware and Daytona Beach, Florida.

Death notices

Trudeau, Robert F.
Died Dec. 28, 2023
Services Jan. 5, 2024

Bob enjoyed spending time with his family, including the weekly "Pizza Nights", frequent rides through the Quabbin Reservoir, camping with family and friends at the Hinsdale Campground at Thicket Hill in New Hampshire, Sunday drives to experience new places and events in New England; his almost daily visits to the Oasis Tiki Bar (family owned) for lunch, to hang out, and talk to Florida friends; going to the giant Flea Market, walking down to and hanging out at the Surf Shop, and driving the beach and taking in the sights in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Bob loved to talk to people wherever he went. He could strike up a conversation with anyone, and he did.

He was a communicant of All Saints Church in Ware, and Basilica of Saint Paul in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Bob was a great man who touched many lives. He will be deeply missed by his family and friends.

Calling hours will take place on Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024, from 5-7 p.m. in the Cebula Funeral Home Chapel, 66 South St., Ware. A Funeral Mass will be offered on Friday, Jan. 5, 2024, at 10 a.m. in All Saints Church, 17 North St., Ware. Everyone is asked to go directly to the church. Burial will immediately follow the Funeral Mass, in Pine Grove Cemetery, Maple Street, Warren.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, Memorial Program, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105, <https://www.stjude.org/>, or the Sierra Club, 2101 Webster St., Suite 1250, Oakland, CA 94612, <https://www.sierraclub.org/>.

For more information and an online guest book, please visit www.cebulafuneralhome.com.

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Support the local businesses that support your local newspaper.
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Zonta Club hosts foster care information meeting

LUDLOW – The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley will hold a panel discussion and dinner on Monday, Feb. 12 at the Ludlow Country Club for anyone interested in learning more about the realities and opportunities in the foster care system in western Massachusetts.

The program will be facilitated by Andrea Bordenca, founder of Lead Yourself Youth and will include representatives from Family Justice Advocates, Department of Children and Family Volunteer Case Review Program and Family Resources, Court Appointed Special Advocates and other organizations that provide services to foster children and families.

The meeting will begin with

socializing at 5:30 p.m. followed by a buffet dinner at 6 p.m., then the program. Dinner \$28 is payable by cash, check, or credit card the night of the event, but RSVP to info@zontaqv.org by 2/7 for the caterers.

Contact info@zontaqv.org for information on sliding scale fee.

While the experiences of foster children vary widely, some common themes emerge during this critical, formative stage of their lives: trauma, instability and uncertainty, emotional and psychological challenges, and educational disruptions.

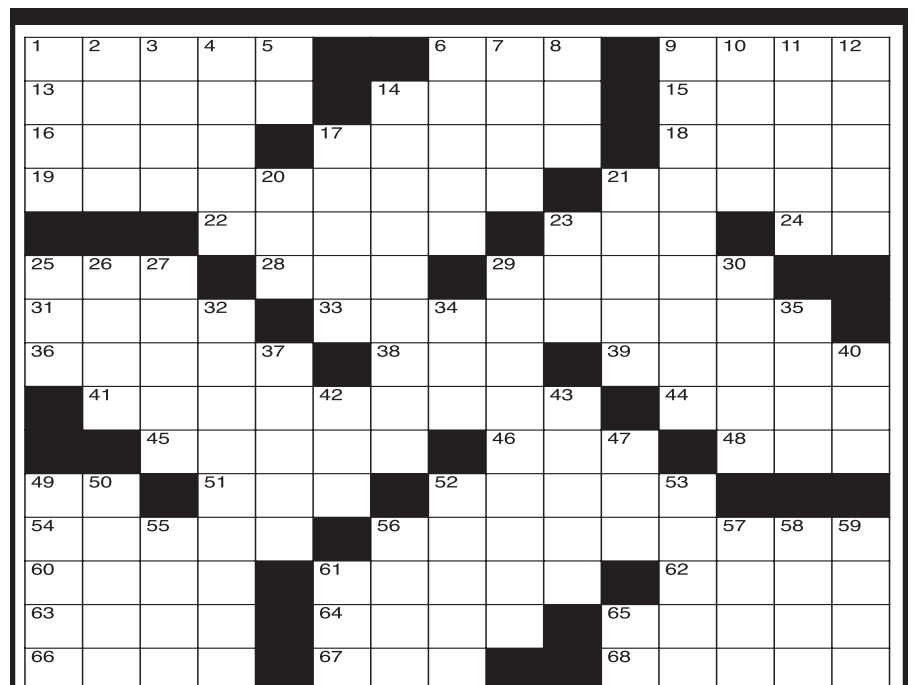
Children who are removed from their birth family due to neglect or abuse can be in multiple foster situations for a long time before being

reunited or adopted by another family. Due to a severe shortage of foster homes and volunteer advocates, many of these youth are placed in any home with the space, whether or not it is the best match.

For more information, visit zontaqv.org/foster.

About Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley

The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley has members from the towns of Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren, West Brookfield, Chicopee, Hampden, Ludlow, Westfield and Wilbraham.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Bleated
- 6. Snake-like fish
- 9. Database management system
- 13. Russian-American violinist
- 14. Wendy's founder Thomas
- 15. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
- 16. Negatives
- 17. Rescued
- 18. Self-immolation by fire ritual
- 19. Assigns tasks to
- 21. Island nation native
- 22. Trade
- 23. Detergent brand
- 24. Famed NY Giant
- 25. Before
- 28. Split pulses
- 29. Extremely angry; highly incensed
- 31. Body part
- 33. American state
- 36. David ___ US playwright

- 38. Move one's head slightly
- 39. Secret rendezvous
- 41. Improved
- 44. A place to exercise
- 45. 18-year astronomical period
- 46. Automobile
- 48. You can take it
- 49. A radio band
- 51. Jaws of an animal
- 52. Short-billed rails
- 54. Chinese province
- 56. Shameless and undisguised
- 60. Horizontal passage into a mine
- 61. Adult males
- 62. Fail to entertain
- 63. Dried-up
- 64. City in north-central Utah
- 65. Southern U.S.
- 66. German river
- 67. Oxygen
- 68. Make law

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Curved segment
- 2. Wings
- 3. From pentane (Chemistry)
- 4. Gradually gets into (abbr.)
- 6. Overhang
- 7. Christmas and New Year's have them
- 8. Type of bulb
- 9. Lacking a plan
- 10. Tattle
- 11. Rockers like it "heavy"
- 12. One who's been canonized
- 14. Indicate time and place
- 17. Nobel Prize winner in physics
- 20. The voice of Olaf
- 21. Fragmented rock
- 23. They ___
- 25. Master of Philosophy
- 26. Backside
- 27. Landmark house in L.A.
- 29. An act of undue intimacy
- 30. From which a later word is derived
- 32. Equal to 10 meters
- 34. Neither
- 35. Computer language
- 37. Sacred book of Judaism
- 40. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
- 42. A way to dedicate
- 43. Challenges
- 47. British Air Aces
- 49. Large, influential bank
- 50. Portended
- 52. Cavalry-sword
- 53. Vaccine developer
- 55. Napoleonic Wars general
- 56. Italian Seaport
- 57. Hip joint
- 58. ___ Clapton, musician
- 59. Insect repellent
- 61. Decorative scarf
- 65. Delaware

GRAVEL from page 1

endeavors in Florida. This was done during a blessing by Bull.

"We witness to this stepping down with all good wishes for their lives in Florida, and in faith communities there. Please visit us as often as you are able. You are part of our faith community diaspora! As we are all both human beings and human doings, we wish for them increased being and doing in remarkable ways in connection with our sibling-savior Jesus Christ," said Bull.

There were also gifts given to the Gravels as well prior to the completion of their appreciation service.



Pastor Carole Bull of the United Church of Ware gave an appreciation service to Mary and Dave Gravel on Christmas Eve morning.

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29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
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Recommended minimum qualifications include graduate of a four-year college with a bachelor's degree in finance or accounting with three years of related work experience; or any equivalent combination of education, training and experience which provides the required knowledge of the position. Preferred experience with Vadar accounting module and municipal accounting. The anticipated salary range for this position is between \$56,000.00 to \$66,000.00 based on relative education and professional work experience. Resumes and Cover Letters will be accepted until **January 16, 2024**. Please email your resume and cover letter to Town Administrator, Jim Ferrera, townadministrator@warren-ma.gov.

public notices

Notice of Sale of Motor Vehicle under G.L. c. 255, Section 39A
Notice is hereby given by REGIN'S REPAIR 19 CHURCH ST GILBERTVILLE, MA 01031. Pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that on 1/8/2024 at 10:00AM at: Regin's Repair 19 Church St Gilbertville, MA 01031 by private sale, the following Motor Vehicle will be sold to satisfy the garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.
Vehicle description: 2016 Nissan Versa Registration#/State: 4WWG59/MA VIN: 3N1CE2CP8GL391000 Name and address of owner: Sarah J Aiken 97 Summer St. North Brookfield MA 01535
1997 Homemade Trailer Registration#/State:

NONE/MA
VIN: MATR268040352
Name and address of owner: Scott Mallozzi 470 Main St. Fitchburg MA 01420
By: James M. Regan Dated: 12/15/2023 12/21, 12/28/2023, 01/04/2024

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF WARE CABLE TELEVISION CABLE LICENSE RENEWAL PROCEEDINGS
The Selectboard of the Town of Ware, being the Town's Cable Television License Issuing Authority, hereby gives notice that on **Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 7:15 p.m.** at Ware Town Hall, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA, the Selectboard will hold a public hearing concerning the cable television license renewal of Comcast of Massachusetts/Virginia, Inc. (Comcast). Members of the public may attend in person or participate remotely by video or

audio using the video link or phone number(s) set forth below:
Video call link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7846041861?pwd=bldFR0tsCStPMWVhScFwRlFwWbHRdz09&omn=82361877868>
Or dial: 1-929-205-6099 (US, New York), Meeting ID: 784 604 1861, Passcode: 01082
The purpose of the proceeding is to accept public comment on, formally consider and possibly take final action on the proposed Comcast Renewal License, a copy of which is available for public inspection and copying c/o of the Town Clerk or his/her municipal designee. Public comment is invited. For further information and copies of renewal records, contact William August, Municipal Cable Counsel, at 617-548-3735.
By order of the Selectboard as Cable Television License Issuing Authority. 12/28/2023, 01/04/2024

Trial Court of Massachusetts The Superior Court Harry Jekanowski, Jr. Clerk of Courts Hampshire Superior Court 15 Gothic Street P.O. Box 1119 Northampton MA, 01080 ORDER OF NOTICE BY PUBLICATION Docket Numbr 2380CV0123 Della Ripa Real Estate, LLC.
v.
Alycar Investments, LLC
TO: Alycar Investments, LLC, all in said Commonwealth; and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. App. §501 et seq.
Della Ripa Real Estate, LLC, 51 Park Avenue, West Springfield MA, 01089 claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in **Ware Massachusetts**, known and numbered **14-16 Vigeant Street** given by Alycar Investments, LLC. to Della Ripa Real Estate, LLC. dated 06/09/2022, and recorded in Hampshire County District Registry of Deeds, in Book 14578, Page 205, has/have filed with this

court a Complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemember status.
If you now are, or recently have been, in active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Northampton Hampshire County** on or before **02/05/2024** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.
Witness, **Heidi E. Brieger**, Esquire, Chief Justice of the Superior Court, at Northampton, Massachusetts, this 5th day of December, 2023.
Harry Jekanowski, Jr. Clerk of Courts
01/04/2024



Tombstone Trading Company donating to Police and Fire unions

WARE – Tombstone Trading Company, a Ware-based firearms dealer, proudly announced its recent donation of \$3,525 to support community outreach initiatives by the Ware Police and Fire unions.

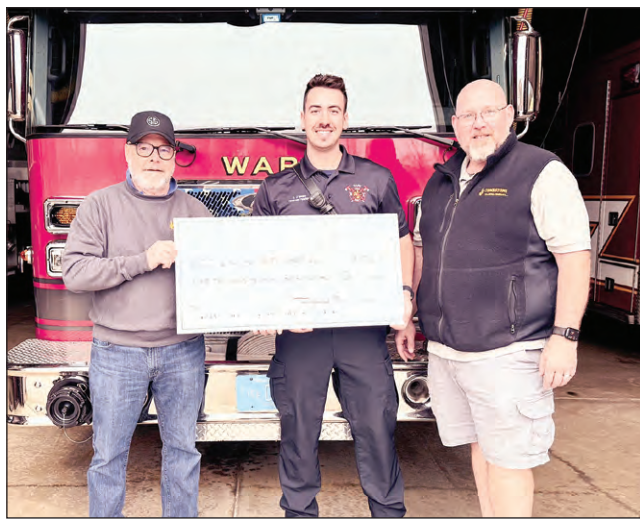
The money was raised during the month of December through a firearms raffle where the company donated over \$2,000 of prizes.

This generous contribution reflects Tombstone Trading Company's dedication to fostering a safer and more connected community through partnerships with local public safety organizations and supporting those agencies efforts to help the citizens of Ware.

The donations, presented on Dec. 29, will directly benefit the Ware Police and Fire unions' community outreach programs, allowing them to enhance their efforts in building positive relationships and providing essential services to the residents of Ware.

"We are thrilled to support the Ware Police and Fire unions in their community outreach endeavors," said Jason Turcotte, Vice-President of Operations at Tombstone Trading Company in a press release. "Our commitment to giving back to the community aligns with our core values, and we believe that supporting local public safety organizations is essential for the well-being and security of our community."

The Ware Police and Fire unions



Tombstone Trading Company's President David Bourdeau (left) and Vice President of Operations Jason Turcotte present a check for \$1,762.50 to Firefighter/EMT Daniel O'Brien for the Fire Union.

expressed their gratitude for Tombstone Trading Company's contribution, emphasizing the positive impact it will have on their ability to engage with the community.

Tombstone Trading Company encourages other businesses in the area to join them in supporting local public safety organizations and investing in the well-being of the community.

For more information about Tombstone Trading Company, please visit <https://tombstonetrading.com>.

About Tombstone Trading Company
Tombstone Trading Company is a Ware based firearms dealer. In business since 2002, the Company has become one of the leading firearms retailers in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and prides itself in excellent customer service when working with both new and experienced gun owners.

For more information, please visit tombstonetrading.com

News from the Quabbin Regional School District

From the desk of Colleen Mucha, Interim Superintendent of QRSD

Do you ever wonder what it is like to spend a day with children ages 3-5 in our preschool programs?

Some would say it is absolute joy. Upon walking into our preschool classrooms, you are greeted with curiosity and warm grins.

The children want to know "What's your name?" "Why are you here?" and "Can I show you what I'm doing?" You can't help, but be drawn into their world of learning. Thematic play areas, books, puzzles, letter tiles, craft materials, puppets and games fill the space.

During the 2023-2024 school year, Quabbin Regional School District is piloting a full day Preschool Program at Hardwick Elementary School. Students attend Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and they come from all of our five towns. We have half day programs at Hubbardston Center School, New Braintree Grade School and Ruggles Lane Elementary School.

We recently surveyed our parents of full day preschoolers to elicit feedback on their experience so far this year. "There is more structure during the full day and my son does well with the routine. His language has improved significantly because of more hours." There are "more in depth lessons that work through the alphabet and various themes that better prepare them for kindergarten."



Submitted photo
Preschool students from Hardwick Elementary School work on math activities on the rug. Shown, top of the 1/2 circle to the bottom are Levi Lund, Wayland O'Gara, Julian Overstreet, Grace Letendre, Ryan Lowe, Maddox Peddle, Anthony Camp, Micah Morrison-Horne, Gabriel Harrington, Roman Marte and Portia Lee Ziemba.

Another parent recognized that there is increased socialization and this has resulted in her child having more fun and learning a lot more through these interactions. "This program is giving my child a head start on numbers, colors, child interactions, learning to share and learning to attend." "I think it was a big change, but he loves coming to school."

"I think he has made more progress being in a full day program between speech and kindergarten readiness skills, he's made leaps and bounds this year." "A full day keeps his brain engaged. He's made friends and

he has more opportunities to be social. He is ready for a full day kindergarten program."

Teachers and administrators report that the students have adjusted very well to the full day program. Currently, there is a brief nap time and on most days all students do fall asleep. They believe that the structure and predictable routines that mix both academic and social learning times really have helped students to adjust. There are lots of opportunities for thematic play as well as quiet times such as reading aloud that allows for our youngest learners to release energy as needed and build

stamina for activities that require more sustained attention.

You may be wondering about how to register your child for our preschool programs? Registration is ongoing, however, as students transition from Pre-Kindergarten to Kindergarten we do have more opportunities for enrollment at the start of each school year and we assign slots to families in late spring.

People may visit our QRSD website for more information or you can email Laura Holbrook at lhobrook@qrsd.org. We look forward to welcoming our youngest learners.

public notices

PUBLIC NOTICE Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Division of Wetlands and Waterways 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900 Boston, MA 02114

Pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1341 and M.G.L. c. 21 §43 and 33 U.S.C. 1341 M.G.L. c. 21 §§ 26 - 53, notice is given of a 401 Water Quality Certification application for the replacement of Bridge No. H-08-003=N-07-002 carrying Creamery Road over Ware River in the Towns of Hardwick and New Braintree by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation - Highway Division, 10 Park Plaza, Room 7360, Boston, MA 02116. The project includes bridge replacement. Due to the existing structurally deficient and functionally obsolete condition of the existing superstructure and substructure of the existing Bridge No. H-08-003=N-07-002, the work includes the replacement of a new superstructure constructed of multiple composite steel plate girders on pile supported integral abutments. Additional information may be obtained from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation - Highway Division at the above address, Attention Melissa Lenker or by emailing melissa.lenker@state.ma.us. Written comments should be sent to Heidi Davis, MassDEP Wetlands Program, 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114

or heidi.davis@mass.gov within 21 days of this notice.

Any group of ten persons, any aggrieved person, or any governmental body or private organization with a mandate to protect the environment who submits written comments within 21 days of this notice may appeal the Department's Certification. Failure to submit written comments before the end of the public comment period may result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing.
01/04/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampshire Probate and Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton, MA 01060
(413)586-85008
Docket No. HS23P0803EA
Estate of:
Carolyn M. Messier
Also known as:
Carolyn D. Messier
Date of Death:
09/05/2023
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:

A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Joanne L. Corbitt of Granby, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Joanne L. Corbitt of Granby, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in

unsupervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/17/2024.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Diana S. Velez Harris, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 08, 2023

Michael J. Carey
Register of Probate
01/04/2024

TOWN OF WARE PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Selectboard will conduct a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, January 16 at 7:05 p.m.**, in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA, to hear Petition #30865644 by Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a NATIONAL GRID and Verizon New England, Inc for Joint or Identical Pole Locations at Greenwich Road, Ware, MA. Copies of the petition are available at the office of the Town Manager, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA. This notice shall also be posted on the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association's (MNPA) website (<http://masspublicnotices.org>).

All interested parties are invited to attend.

Caitlin McCarthy
Chair

01/04/2024

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts General Law 105A, in order to satisfy past due rents and other expenses, the contents of the following storage units will be auctioned.

The contents of Jared Hague and Jonathan Huston will be auctioned off at Secure Storage, 167 West St., Ware, MA at **9:00 a.m. on 1/20/24.**

Any questions or inquiries call 413-800-6278.
01/04, 01/11/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampshire Probate and Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton, MA 01060
(413)586-8500
Docket No. HS22P0752EA
In the matter of:
Fryderyk S. Banas
Also known as:
Father Banas
Date of Death: 07/18/2022
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ALLOWANCE OF ACCOUNT**

To all interested persons:
A Petition has been filed by: **Eugene (Eugeniusz) Kulas of Ware, MA and Paul Laska of Warren, MA,**

requesting allowance of the First Annual account(s) as Personal Representative and any other relief as requested in the Petition.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so; you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on 01/31/2024.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline, by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written

appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. Diana S. Velez Harris, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 27, 2023

Michael J. Carey
Register of Probate
01/04/2023



Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

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to be published in the Ware River News

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PUBLISHES FEBRUARY 8, 2024

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- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

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774-200-3523 

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THANK YOU FOR THE MEMORIES!
We are proud to announce that over the next few months we will be working with an amazing and talented couple... Tim and Cindy of the Clambox and Howard's fame, who will become your new hosts and owners of E.B. Flatts!
We want to thank all of you for your loyalty and support... for the first 14 years, and then again on our return these last 18 months... Your friendships will forever be held dear to us!
We hope you'll continue to offer your warm support to Tim and Cindy as you so generously do for us!
We've said it before, and we'll continue saying it... E.B. Flatts' customers are the best!
AND an ENORMOUS HEARTFELT THANK YOU to our AMAZING staff! You guys rock!
Wishing everyone a very happy and healthy New Year!
We are going to try that retirement thing for a second time!
Grace and Scott
E.B. Flatts

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