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MEMORIAL BENCH *dedicated during New Year's Day hike*

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

NEW BRAintree / HARDWICK – East Quabbin Land Trust continued its longstanding tradition of hosting a New Year's Day hike along the Mass Central Rail Trail, from New Braintree to Wheelwright and back.

This year's hike included the dedication of a granite bench in memory of the land trust's longtime board member, Terry Briggs, who passed away in the fall of 2023. Briggs, a successful lawyer, lived in Hardwick with his wife and two children.

"We wanted to acknowledge Terry Briggs, who was a board member...he was just a good guy," East Quabbin Land Trust Executive Director Cynthia Henshaw said.

Henshaw said she hopes the bench, which overlooks the Ware River near the Wheelwright pond dam along a recently completed section of the Mass Central Rail Trail, will provide people with a place to sit and enjoy the beauty of the area.

Please see **BENCH**, page 6



About 40 participants joined the East Quabbin Land Trust for its annual New Year's Day hike along the Mass Central Rail Trail.

This granite bench was dedicated to the memory of Terry Briggs, a longtime board member of the East Quabbin Land Trust. The bench is located at the river lookout on the Wheelwright end of the Mass Central Rail Trail

Board forwards MLH memorandum

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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WARE – The Planning Board met with Friends of Mary Lane Hospital to further discuss the zoning process of the hospital property.

Mary Lane Hospital closed back in 2021, and discussion has been ongoing about the site's future use. Friends of Mary Lane Hospital met with the Planning Board to further discuss what they're trying to do to help restore the operation of a healthcare facility in town.

Seeking guidance from the Planning Board on how to pick the appropriate zoning, the goal is to have Mary Lane Hospital to be preserved and restored as an essential health service to the town and neighboring communities.

The property consists of 21 acres and is the neighbor to the assisted living facility Cedarbrook Village.

Stephen Granlund spoke on the subject and said "we're trying to protect and preserve" what is on the hospital property. Therefore, the Friends of Mary Lane Hospital want to see a zoning

change for the property to keep it as a necessary use that benefits the town and its residents.

"We value the property," Granlund said.

Granlund and the Friends of Mary Lane Hospital believe there is a big population in the western Massachusetts area that is in need of medical services. Having some form of healthcare service, especially near a related facility would be essential to the area.

The Friends and the Planning Board are trying to figure out the appropriate zoning to keep the property zoned as healthcare. Planning Board Secretary Elizabeth Hancock put a lot of information together to form a draft of a memorandum that can be forwarded to the Selectboard for consideration of a Special Town Meeting article.

After an ongoing discussion and review of the memorandum, the board had concerns as to what can be put in the memorandum and if it can be refined by the Planning Board first before being taken into consideration by the Selectboard.

The board did remind the public and Friends of Mary Lane

Please see **BOARD**, page 3



A child is shown with Razai (winter blanket) and candy distributed at Christmas time by volunteers from Supporting Orphans Nationally and Globally.

Supporting Orphans Nationally and Globally does just that

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

WEST BROOKFIELD – On Jan. 4 at Father Dugan Hall in Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church the greater world came to the quiet town of West Brookfield.

Two men would speak of places far away from the Quabog region where peace does not reign.

First up would be Wally Connor. Wally and his wife Michele founded S.O.N.G. which stands for Supporting Orphans Nationally and Globally. It is not an easy job as recent world history means there is no dearth of children in our world who are without parents.

Wally, with Michele founded Socks for Siberia in the late 1990s when on a visit they observed the plight of youngsters without parents and did something about it. Siberia is not the only place in the world where not all children have moms and dads, so the work grew into S.O.N.G.

Wally would be speaking about a situation that has been in the news since 2022. The Ukraine War, like almost all armed conflicts, has seen the destruction of families, and thus, many orphaned children.

The orphans can further be victimized by being trafficked. The practice is rampant.

Please see **SONG**, page 5

Local organizations partner to provide cold weather items

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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WARE – As the cold weather is finally upon us, many in the community are feeling the need for warm, outdoor apparel such as coats, hats, gloves and more.

Emily Kirby, in partnership with other members of the Quabog Hills Substance Use Alliance, Belchertown Overcoming Adversity Together, and the Recovery Center of HOPE worked together to put together a cold weather drive for the first time.

"It kind of just came about in conversations with Julie Lutz, the director of the Recovery Center of HOPE, and we partnered together on it," said Kirby. "We talk a lot about the community and its needs, and how the Quabog Hills Substance Alliance can help."

Donations accepted at various drop-off locations include gently used or new gloves, mittens, scarves, sweaters, blankets, base-layers, jackets and coats and new beanies and socks.

Kirby works closely with the Recovery Center of HOPE, and oversees the Quabog Hills Substance Use Alliance in order to help with outreach to the community, as well as Healthy Quabog.



Erika Bentley and Susan Daley from the Recovery Center of HOPE hold bags of donated handmade scarves, gloves and more.



Donation bins are located at the Ware Town Hall, Recovery on Main, the Ware Library, and Recovery Center of HOPE until spring.

You can find more information about QHSUA at <https://qhsua.org>, and Healthy Quabog at <https://healthy-quabog.org>.

The Recovery Center of HOPE, like BOAT in Belchertown, operates under a Drug-Free Communities grant, and works through Ware, Warren, and West Brookfield mostly, and other areas in the Quabog Hills area in

order to provide community outreach. "There are many coat drives in the community, but we wanted to make it as accessible as possible with providing a lot of different drop-off locations," said Kirby.

Kirby got in touch with BOAT on this project by attending their meetings and worked with Kris Hoag to work alongside BOAT with the donations.

"We try to make sure that Belchertown is involved because they're so close. We want to get them involved so that we can build a better sense of community," said Kirby.

Please see **DONATIONS**, page 3

Who crafted the Warren Town Quilt?

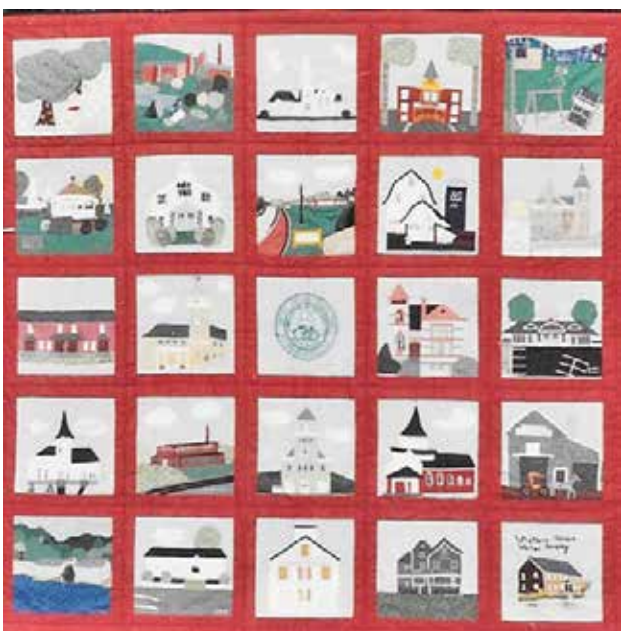
WARREN – The Warren Town Quilt has come out of its resting place and is now hanging in a brand new case on a wall at the Shepard Municipal Building.

A celebration of its being hung in this beautifully crafted case will be scheduled in a few weeks. All are invited, so watch for the date.

A plaque is planned to list all the craftswomen who worked on the quilt to celebrate the Town's 250th Anniversary in 1991. If you, or someone you know (or knew), worked on the Warren Town Quilt in 1991, please contact Historical Commission Chair, Sylvia G. Buck sgbuck37@verizon.net and include a telephone number at which you can be reached. Use "Warren Town Quilt" in the subject line to verify your intent.

Name which building you or someone you knew worked on. Can you identify who worked on the Town Seal?

The Historical Commission is seeking the names of the craftswomen who worked on the Warren Town Quilt in 1991. The quilt is now displayed in a case at the Shepard Municipal Building.



Submitted Photo

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Indians face Rams

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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 \$275, 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.

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.

Email your answers by Monday at noon to pouimette@turley.com.

File Photo
 Last week's photo from 1977 showed archers from the Nonesuck Rod and Gun Club who took top honors in a tourney held at Bay Path Archers in Springfield. Shown from left are Jim Aliengena, Bill Bisnette, Floyd Brosseau, John Aliengena and Leo Smith. 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
Thursday, Jan. 9
 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Mobile Dental Hygiene Services of Western MA
 9 a.m. Walking Club. Meet at Senior Center.
 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. Cornhole
 2:30 p.m. Art Class
Friday, Jan. 10
 9 a.m. Tai Chi
 10 a.m. Scat
 11:30 a.m. Lunch
 1 p.m. Chair Yoga
 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

Monday, Jan. 13
 9 a.m. Tai Chi
 10 a.m. Scat
 11:30 a.m. Lunch
Tuesday, Jan. 14
 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
 9 a.m. Movin' & Groovin' to the Oldies with Lisa. \$3 per class
 9:30 a.m. Quilting Club
 10 a.m. Scat
 11:30 a.m. Lunch Birthday Party
 Music by Lori Brooks. Must call front desk by noon on Monday, Jan. 13 to be put on the lunch list.
 1 p.m. Cornhole
 5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking. \$3 per class
 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)
Wednesday, Jan. 15
 9 a.m. Tai Chi
 10 a.m. Scat

11:30 a.m. Lunch
 1 p.m. Chair Yoga
 2:30 p.m. Knit-Crochet-Laugh
Thursday, Jan. 16
 9 a.m. Walking Club. Meet at Senior Center.
 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. Cornhole
 2:30 p.m. Art Class
Friday, Jan. 17
 9 a.m. Tai Chi
 10 a.m. Scat
 11:30 a.m. Lunch
 1 p.m. Chair Yoga
 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

LUNCHES 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.

Thursday, Jan. 9
 Beef Stew over Egg Noodles, Dessert of the Day
Friday, Jan. 10
 Hot Dogs and Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Dessert of the Day
Monday, Jan. 13
 Mac & Cheese with Kielbasa, Stewed Tomatoes, Dessert of the Day
Tuesday, Jan. 14
 Birthday Party
 Chicken Parmigiana with Pasta, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day and Entertainment provided by the Friends of the Ware Senior Center
Wednesday, Jan. 15
 Brunch
 Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Dessert of the Day
Thursday, Jan. 16
 Steak & Cheese Sub, Cucumber Salad, Dessert of the Day
Friday, Jan. 17
 Fried Scallips, Onion Rings, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day

St. Aloysius Catholic School to hold open house

HARDWICK – St. Aloysius Catholic School in Gilbertville is hosting an Open House at the school on Tuesday, Jan. 28 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. in celebration of Catholic Schools Week.

Prospective parents are cordially invited to visit the classrooms and meet the faculty of our growing school. Administration is also happy to tour families during the school day and provide shadow days for students presently in kindergarten through grade seven.

Please feel free to call the school 413-477-1268 or reach out to Roberta McQuaid, Enrollment Coordinator, to set up an appointment to visit. Enrollment information and all the necessary paperwork is available on the school's website (www.staloyuscs.com) under the "Join our Family" tab.

Free yoga and meditation class offered Jan. 9

WARREN – Welcome the New Year and experience an inner depth filled with peace and joy with Yoga & Meditation: For Vibrant Health & Peace of Mind on Thursday, Jan. 9 from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Centered Place, 286 Bridge St. and via Zoom.

Yoga and meditation are clinically tested for reducing stress and improving health. Enjoy a slower-paced yoga practice with simple poses that are easy and work like magic. Relieve back, neck and shoulder tension.

Improve mobility, vitality and stamina. Learn how to relax-stay calm and breathe easy even amidst the challenges that come with the holidays and the times we live in.

The event is free and for all ages, 14 and up. No previous yoga experience necessary. Attend in person or online.

Registration is required by calling 413-436-7690 or emailing warrenpubliclibrary@hotmail.com register. Zoom link will be provided upon request when registering. If attending via Zoom, have a chair handy (folding chair is best).

This workshop will be presented by Phil Milgrom of the Centered Place in Warren, and is sponsored by the Warren Public Library with a grant from the Warren Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the MA Cultural council, a state agency.

Candlelight vigil held for Brittany Tee on Jan. 10

BROOKFIELD – There will be a candlelight vigil for missing resident Brittany Tee on Friday, Jan. 10 at 6 p.m. at Brookfield Congregational Church, 8 Common St.

Please join Brittany's family as they work to keep the search for Brittany alive and to support them as they grieve the passage of a second year without her.

Brittany Tee went missing on Jan. 10, 2023, from the town of

Brookfield. Despite extensive investigation and searching (and exhaustive efforts on the part of Brittany's family and friends), Brittany's whereabouts remain unknown.

Brittany has brown hair, blue eyes and a distinctive voice and laugh. If you have any information regarding her disappearance, please call the tip lines at 508-453-7589 (State Police) or 866-331-6660 (Private Investigator).

ACCURACY WATCH

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 pouimette@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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 Ware Business & Civic Association

and Beyond!

Aerial pictures provided by Above the Law Imagery

Ware Business & Civic Association now includes the communities of Palmer, Belchertown, West Brookfield, Warren and Hardwick. Businesses and organizations from those towns are welcome to join!

JOIN TODAY!

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 email warebca@gmail.com

Ready to take your business to new heights while having a blast? Join us on this exciting ride! Let's be partners in growth and partners in fun.

Join Our Small-Town Business Development Adventure!
Are you a small business owner looking to boost your community presence and connect with fellow entrepreneurs? Look no further! Welcome to the heart of our towns' growth and success - the Ware Business & Civic Association...and Beyond!

- **Our Mission**
 We're not just any organization – we're a community catalyst! Our mission is clear: foster camaraderie among local businesses, creating a vibrant hub that transforms our town into a must-visit destination for all. We're here to ignite connections, inspire growth, and spark innovation.
- **Why Join Us?**
 Referrals are just the beginning! As a member, you'll enjoy the spotlight on your business within our close-knit community. Think of us as your business's ultimate cheerleaders, making sure your unique offerings shine bright.
- **A Legacy of Achievement**
 Since 2011, our committee has been making waves. We're not just about meetings – we're about momentum. From securing endorsements for local businesses to orchestrating events that turn visitors into regulars, we've been shaping our towns' destiny, one success story at a time.
- **Events that Sparkle**
 Who says business can't be fun? Picture this: quarterly membership nights that blend networking with laughter. We're all about community, after all – and a little friendly competition in the bowling alley or at the axe throwing yard never hurt anyone.
- **Network that Expands**
 With a sprawling member base, joining us means getting in on the action. Your business won't just get noticed; it'll become a star in our constellation of local talent.
- **An Investment in Success**
 For just \$120 per year, you're securing your spot in our thriving business ecosystem.
- **Seamless Entry**
- **Embrace Uniqueness**

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Congratulations to Matthew Erickson, Class of 2025 Superintendent Scholar Recipient

From the desk of
Colleen Mucha,
Superintendent of Quabbin
Regional School District

Matthew Erickson can be found on the Quabbin Regional Middle High School campus early in the morning before the school day as he is a respected leader and active participant in our NJROTC program.



Matthew Erickson

He has served on the drill team for the past two years. In our classrooms, Matthew is seen as a strong and focused student and can often be found tutoring and working with our younger students. After school, Matthew participates on a swim team and plans and leads community service opportunities including his Eagle Scout project.

Matthew strives to challenge

himself academically and has engaged in very rigorous coursework including Virtual High School courses of Advanced Placement Computer Science and Advanced Placement Calculus BC. Matthew is looking forward to continuing his studies after high school. He is very interested in pursuing a degree in computer science and looks forward to his acceptance at a four year university.

In selecting Matthew for this recognition what stood out the most was not just his academics or commitment to learning, leadership and community but rather his character.

Matthew's teachers report that he is one of the kindest, most intelligent, caring and empathetic students. Matthew has organized a day to help Grade 9 students stay on track, just because he knew there was a need. He also taught a robotics program in Oakham for younger children because he has a great passion for robotics and wants to share that with others.

Matthew is and has been an outstanding member of our Quabbin Regional School District commu-

nity. We look forward to his continued impact and engagement and we have no doubt that he will find great success in his years beyond Quabbin Regional Middle High School.

Proud moments

- National Honor Society Member
- 3rd Platoon Commander for NJROTC
- The Rensselaer Medal Recipient for Math and Science
- Eagle Scout Recipient
- Robotics Teacher for Elementary Students
- Drone Team Leader
- Favorite Quote: "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work," Thomas Edison.
- Matthew will attend the Superintendent Scholar Luncheon at Holy Cross in the spring where he will be recognized for his accomplishments. He will have the opportunity to meet all the other Superintendent Scholars from across Central Massachusetts.

Congratulations to Matthew and his family! Way to go! We are so proud.

Bogey Lanes hosted King of the Hill Tournament

By **Ryan Drago**
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

EAST BROOKFIELD – This past Sunday, Bogey Lanes hosted its monthly King/Queen of the Hill Tournament.

Every month, bowlers pay to enter the tournament and bowl a total of three games in the qualifier. There is an average requirement for the tournament since it is a handicap tournament of 80%. All bowlers who compete must use their current and highest league average until they establish a tournament average after bowling at least nine games.

The top five highest scoring bowlers will advance to a stepladder tournament where the surviving bowler challenges the defending champion in a two-game final. The defending king of the hill for the month of January is Nate Fontaine, who has successfully defended his championship in the last several months.

After three games of qualifying the standings featured a tie. Most commonly, a stepladder for this tournament would feature five bowlers, but tournament director Phil Clough made an exception and allowed six bowlers to be featured in the stepladder.

The top qualifier and #1 seed in the tournament was Ryan Drago with a score of 411. In second place is Eric Bromberg with a 387. Third place qualifier is Jon Hitchcock, 374, a league bowler out of Bogey Lanes. Fourth place finisher with a

359 is another Bogey Lanes bowler Luke Marvin. Tied for the fifth and final stepladder spot is Phil Clough and Austin Valle who tied with a 352.

Valle and Clough started off the ladder with a one-game tiebreaker. The two bowlers tied at 93 after the game and bowled another two frames to break the tie. Clough was victorious and advanced to the next step in the ladder.

Clough would then bowl against Luke Marvin, who finished fourth with a 359. Both bowlers struggled as the pins were leaving them with a lot of splits to shoot at. Marving prevailed by winning 91-85.

Marvin would then bowl against Jon Hitchcock, who was the #3 seed. Hitchcock defeated Marvin 107-94 to advance in the ladder.

Hitchcock bowled against Bromberg, who qualified for second place with a 387. Bromberg defeated Hitchcock 112-95 and advanced to the semi-final round of the ladder.

Bromberg would then bowl against #1 seed Ryan Drago. Drago defeated Bromberg by a score of 110-94. Drago advanced to the two-game final against defending king of the hill Nate Fontaine.

Drago defeated Fontaine with a final score of 238-221 to win the King of the Hill at Bogey Lanes. The tournament will return in the month of February with a date to be determined.

Bogey Lanes is located at 199 North Brookfield Road and be reached by calling 508-867-6629.

Circle of Song rehearsals resume Jan. 16

BARRE – It is amazing how fast time flies when you are having fun singing together, but the spring session of Circle of Song will close out the 24th year with the beginning of the season on Thursday, Jan. 16, culminating with a concert on Saturday, May 17.

Rehearsals take place each Thursday night, from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Barre Town Hall, 2 Exchange St. Annual dues range from \$25 a year for students and includes a sliding scale of \$40-70 for adults.

Circle of Song sings in four-part harmony. Many members, recently interviewed usually said one of two things about why they keep coming back. "I like the way you challenge us musically," and, "I enjoy the community of fun people."

The spring session with a program that is not totally firmed up, will include spirituals, madrigals, show tunes, and some newer music, with not only Julie Rawson directing, but also featuring Cailan McClure, Nancy Afonso, and perhaps others.

Circle of Song is particularly looking for baritones and sopranos at the moment, but

Please see **REHEARSALS**, page 5

St. Aloysius Catholic School starts Annual Fund Drive

HARDWICK – St. Aloysius Catholic School in Gilbertville is the recipient of a pledge of \$40,000 in matching funds toward the school's 2025/2026 Annual Fund Drive.

The benefactor, who wishes to remain anonymous, has supported the school with matching gifts since its inception in 2016. The Annual Fund Drive runs now through March 30.

Last year, the school's Scholarship Drive raised just over \$48,000 including matching funds. The scholarship monies reduced the tuition for each of the school's students by about \$450 and created a crisis fund for families finding themselves in financial difficulty.

Likewise, donations from foundations also assist families with tuition payments. The School Board implemented the Annual Fund in place of the Scholarship Drive to be able to diversify the use of the money, and thereby keep tuition affordable for families.

"The cost of nearly everything it takes to run a school has increased, from utilities to insurance, to books and salaries. It is no small feat to make ends meet. We are so entirely grateful for those who support our mission," said Roberta McQuaid, finance manager and enrollment coordinator for the school. "Catholic Schools provide a foundation of faith for the students we serve, and their families benefit

too. As well, our students work hard academically and contribute to the local community. When they leave St. Aloysius for high school they are prepared to meet the challenges that lie ahead. It's a worthwhile goal to try and keep our tuitions prices stable so that families can continue to afford a private, Catholic education."

For more information about St. Aloysius Catholic School or to make a tax deductible donation that will be matched dollar for dollar to the Annual Fund please visit www.staloyuscs.com/support/. Donations can also be mailed to St. Aloysius Catholic School, P.O. Box 522, Gilbertville, MA 01031, noting "Annual Fund" on the memo line.

Polar Plunge to benefit Special Olympics

WARE – The Ware Polar Plunge to benefit the Special Olympics will be held on Saturday, March 8 at West Beach – Beaver Lake.

The gates will be open from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and there will be food, warm

beverages, water, snacks and music provided. Check-in for the plunge is at 11 a.m. and the plunge will take place at noon.

To register, scan the QR code or visit www.polarplungema.org.



Free COVID/flu vaccine clinic is Jan. 21

WARE – A free COVID and flu vaccine clinic will be held at Ware Housing Authority, 20 Valley View, on Monday, Jan. 21 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Patients aged 12 and older will

receive a \$75 gift card after vaccination. Only 100 gift cards are available per clinic.

Vaccines are available for people ages 6 months and up. People are asked to bring their ID

and insurance card, but it is not required to receive the free vaccines. The clinic will be held indoors. There are accessible doors and drop off/pick up location for persons with disabilities.

BOARD from page 1

that a public hearing could arise from this memorandum.

"Residents will speak on it," said Planning Board Vice Chair Chris Dimarzio.

The board was also reviewing the zoning of other hospitals in the state to better understand what the most suitable zoning for Mary Lane Hospital property is. Hancock mentioned the Town of Ayer has a comparable zoning that might be best for Mary Lane Hospital.

The Friends of Mary Lane do want to keep the property in vision with the Gilbert Trust. The Planning Board was in agreement with the Friends, but must let the public speak to better craft the bylaw that is appropriate for the site.

The board also wants to hear the input of the neighboring facility Cedarbrook Village and hear their take on the idea of expanding their services in conjunction with the future development of the Mary Lane Hospital property.

The board also advised the Friends to perform some community outreach for any abutters on the neighboring streets.

Planning Board Chair Ken Crosby asked the friends what exactly do they want to see on the property. Granlund responded and

hopes to see at least an outpatient services in town and knows that any inpatient service would take time.

For any use on the property Crosby mentioned a special permit would be still enforced and required.

Other uses involved included a museum, education, healthcare education and some form of emergency room, which does fall under healthcare.

Dimarzio also addressed the concern of frontage on the property. There are certain requirements of frontage for certain properties depending on what the usage is. Dimarzio stated that a potential buyer could split the property into separate parcels that could have an expansion of uses.

"The question is if you follow that process through...what do you want the frontages to be," Dimarzio said.

Town Manager Stuart Beckley wanted clarification as to what the board is sending and of there is enough information for the public to be notified when a public hearing is arising.

"There has to be enough in the notice that the public understands what it's going to be," Beckley said.

The memorandum will address what

the zoning is, and for a healthcare service district. Attached to the memorandum will also be a letter and the board hopes to have the Selectboard forward the memorandum back to them for more refinement before being publicized.

The Friends of Mary Lane said they will return to the next Planning Board meeting with hopefully some information after having discussions with owners of Cedarbrook Village.

"The needs of the community will be discussed," Granlund said. "Offers the possibility of expansion."

The Planning Board voted to forward the memorandum to the Selectboard. The memorandum will address the request of what they're doing for a healthcare services district zoning and explain the purpose of use.

Grant review

The Planning Board reviewed a grant from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission to provide technical assistance under the District Local Technical Assistance Program to assist with the revisions of the subdivision regulations for the town. The board accepted and signed the application for the grant.

KELLY & VELÁZQUEZ EYE CENTER

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DONATIONS from page 1

The donations collected at the drop-off days and locations will be put together, and sorted, then brought to the various community spaces to be distributed, like the local churches and the Recovery Center.

"I think just seeing the community come together and work toward something, it's nice to see that people want to come together and help each other out. I think that's really powerful," said Kirby.

The town truly came together, like during the walk in the fall, and town clean-up. "Just seeing the desire to make the community better is really great," Kirby said.

Each of the organizations worked hard to provide support for this new drive, and their efforts are paying off as the community brings in donations.

"Seeing how committed they are to their cause is really nice. I'm newer to this position, so I've been able to work a lot with Kris," said Kirby of BOAT. "Partnering with them and bouncing ideas off of them has been really nice."

"Everyone a part of QHSUA was super welcoming and wants to get things done and they're really passionate about the work," said Kirby, sharing her work with the organization.

"The Recovery Center of HOPE has so many different programs, and they're always talking about how to make it better for the community that utilizes it. They're really compassionate and empathetic to what people have gone through and they really want to help," said Kirby.

Hundreds of donations of these cold weather essentials have already been brought to the drop-

off locations by the community, but there is still time to donate even more.

"Since this is the first year, we got a lot of donations, and I really hope to see this become an annual thing, especially in the winter because winter clothes can be expensive," she said.

If you have donations, you can still bring them in now through the springtime, finding the drop-off spots at different locations and times through the week.

On Mondays and Tuesdays from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., drop-offs will be collected at the Ware Town Hall, 126 Main St.; Wednesdays at Recovery on Main, 78 Main St. from 1-3 p.m.; Thursdays from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at the Ware Library, 37 Main St.; and Fridays at Recovery Center of HOPE from 2-4 p.m.

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Firetruck requires Jan. 18 special election vote

GUEST COLUMN

By Fire Chief Joshua Pease
Hardwick Fire Department

To the residents of Hardwick,

The Hardwick Fire Department would like to thank the residents for their overwhelming support at the Special Town Meeting for the purchase of a new firetruck to improve the safety of the community and the firefighters.

This truck will be of benefit to the Town by improving life safety capabilities, increasing firefighter safety and operational capability, and reducing yearly maintenance costs. I would like to start by explaining some of the current issues with apparatus and give a summary of the department.

Department overview

The Hardwick Fire Department is an all-hazards response department, consisting of 18 paid on-call members, and provides 24/7 emergency response to the citizens of Hardwick. The Department responds to on average 130 calls for service per year, however in 2024 alone we saw an approximately 22% increase in calls for service.

Members train weekly on Wednesday nights, by in house, certified fire instructors based on the NFPA Firefighter I/II curriculum and Massachusetts Fire Academy guidelines. Members of the Department train weekly on a volunteer basis and are only paid for required yearly training.

Also, the department operates with two Engines, a Tanker, a Forestry truck and one command vehicle.

Current fleet

The Engine we are looking to replace is a 1987 Peirce Arrow, open cab. An Engine defined by FEMA is an apparatus with a pump capacity of more than 1000 gallons of water per minute, and a water tank capacity of more than 400 GPM. Engine 1 is currently capable of 1,500 GPM and has a 1,000 gallon water tank.

Engine 1 can hold five firefighters on the way to an incident. It is currently equipped with one 35-foot, one 16-foot and one 6-foot ground ladder.

Engine 1 also requires a generator to run scene lights during fire and emergency incidents during night incidents. The National

Fire Protection Agency recommends that Fire apparatus be replaced every 25 years from date of manufacture. Engine 1 is not equipped with modern day safety belts and equipment such as anti-lock brakes, traction control, or modern-day emissions controls.

The rest of our fleet is also ageing considerably. Engine 2, a 1998 HME custom, with a pump capacity of 1,500 GPM and a water capacity of 1,000 gallons, has cost the town of Hardwick approximately \$20,000 over the last four years in emergency repairs.

Six Firefighters can be transported to an incident in Engine 2. Engine 2 is currently the first fire apparatus that leaves the station on a call for service. It houses our "Jaws of Life" auto accident equipment, scene lights, extra air packs for firefighting, generators, hoses and couplings, and victim and firefighter lifesaving tools and equipment.

I would like to note that while Engine 2 has more modern safety control than Engine 1, it is still 26 years old. This engine is on the response team for the State Fire District 8 Structural Firefighting Task Force and frequently goes mutual aid to surrounding communities during large scale incidents. Engine 2 was purchased by the tax payer in 1998.

Tanker 1, a 2006 Mack Granite with a 1,500 GPM pump and 3,500-gallon tank, can transport three firefighters to an incident. This truck is used to transport water to scenes outside of the Gilbertville and Wheelwright hydrant district. This apparatus is the second apparatus to leave the station on a call for service.

Tanker 1 is also starting to show its age with leaking pumps and more frequent repair. This apparatus is also on the response for the State Fire District 8 Tanker Task force and is frequently requested to respond to large scale incidents in surrounding communities. Tanker 1 was purchased by the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters grant in 2006, with a 5% match from the Town.

Why Engine 1 needs to be replaced

In the beginning of July 2024, Engine 1 was conducting a training exercise at the Gilbertville Mill, where it suffered a large issue with the pump, not allowing water flow. The Engine was taken out of service for safety concerns immediately and sent to Bulldog Fire apparatus for an estimate on repairs on July 17, 2024.

Upon arrival and inspection by certified technicians, I was provided with an approximate cost to fix of at least \$100,000. The

list of repairs included a radiator and support replacement from rot, break line and air-line replacement, multiple oil and transmission fluid leaks, front end issues, and a complete pump rebuild.

It was also explained that due to the age of the apparatus, parts would need to be specially ordered or retrofitted causing additional costs. Bulldog also advised me that they did not complete the full inspection, due to the cost of what they had already discovered being five times the value of the truck.

Without a second Engine in service the town is at a disadvantage. Currently, maintenance on other apparatus is on hold, because I do not have an apparatus to use in its place. Without Engine 1 in service Firefighters are forced to use their personal vehicles to respond to an emergency and all our equipment is not on scene.

Not having a second due apparatus is also concerning if one of our others has a failure and needs repair on an incident. I also believe that outdated or broken equipment hurts moral for members of the Department and prevents recruitment of new Firefighters.

Members are paid by call; however, members donate a large portion of their time to the department for fundraising and community events that the labor budget cannot cover.

New apparatus

The proposed Demo Engine 1 is very similar to the one that is out of service. The engine will be of model year 2024, have a 1,500 GPM pump and a 1,000-gallon water tank. There will be room for six Firefighters to fit comfortably in the cab with gear, tools, and proper safety restraints.

The Engine needs to be a custom cab to fit into the existing station and under local bridges. The new Engine will have federally compliant emissions controls and is equipped with modern brakes, ABS, and traction control.

This apparatus would take the current spot for Engine 2 and respond as a first due truck. It would be equipped with all tools and have compartment space for such. The price for this apparatus is \$860,000. I assure you that this apparatus is a direct replacement for Engine 1, and is not a "Cadillac."

While the apparatus is new and nice, there are no special upgrades or unnecessary features to drive the cost up on the tax payer.

I have researched many different brands and manufactures. I have attempted to investigate a used apparatus; however, the used

market is volatile and 10-year-old apparatus is going for approximately \$500,000 to \$600,000. I spoke with multiple area fire chiefs, members of our department, Select Board, Finance Committee, Town Administrator, and the Capital Planning Committee. We have applied for grants since 2006 with no avail.

I feel it is in the best interest of the town to buy a new apparatus, a demo model. Manufacturers generally produce apparatus to show, that have low miles, hours and still come with a manufacturer's warrantee.

One of the main perks of buying a Demo is there is less lead time to produce the truck. A demo model should be available to be in service for the Town of Hardwick within four months of purchase.

Financials

As stated above the Demo model is approximately \$860,000. The Capital Planning Committee, Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen support this purchase. An article for appropriation was brought to the Special Town Meeting in October and passed.

This new apparatus would be purchased on a debt exclusion and would be financed for 10 years by the Town of Hardwick. A debt exclusion, would allow the Town to levy the tax rate for the 10-year period of the loan. After the apparatus is paid for the tax rate for that purchase would then return to normal.

The debt exclusion for the apparatus would be for \$107,000 per year for 10 years. The new tax rate for the apparatus would be approximately \$13.44 per \$1,000. The current tax rate for Hardwick is \$13.15 per \$1,000.

The estimated impact on an average home, valued at \$341,000, would be a \$99.38 increase per year, until the exclusion is paid, according to the Massachusetts Department of Revenue property tax impact calculator.

Closing

In closing, the Hardwick Fire Department and myself, are serious about keeping the residents and homes in our community safe. I pride myself on open communication and transparency to the residents of Hardwick. As always, if you have any questions, call the Fire Station at 413-477-6706 or email Fire@town-of-hardwick.com and I will respond as quickly as possible.

We need your continued support at the Jan. 18 Special Election as you did at the Special Town Meeting.

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OPINION POLICY

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:
Ware River News
Letter to the Editor
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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.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners were huge successes

Each year the United Church of Ware sponsors a free Thanksgiving and Christmas for those that otherwise would not of had a meal.

For this past Thanksgiving, 272 meals were either delivered or picked up, and for Christmas 172 meals were either delivered or picked up.

A huge thank you to all those that worked, donated, sliced many pies and sweet breads, prepped, cooked, prepared and delivered the many meals to those that would have gone without.

The success of these dinners is only possible by the generous contributions of many people throughout Ware and businesses such as Country Bank, Nat Falk's, Teresa's Restaurant, BEC Plumbing and Heating, Big Y Supermarket, and Quabbin Wire and Cable. Special thanks to the Country Bank volunteer group for peeling and cutting 125 pounds of squash and cutting 100 pounds of potatoes and to the Ware River News team and the Turley family for their generous advertising support.

Funds left over support the United Church of Ware's fuel fund which helps those in need of fuel assistance.

Thank you and God bless you all,

Dave Blessinger
Chairperson



I use only VA healthcare; can I get back Medicare taxes paid?

Dear Rusty:

I'm 72 years old with 20 years of military service. I am retired collecting Social Security, my military pension and State retirement benefits. According to my SSA statement, over my working lifetime I paid \$14,302 into Medicare, but I never used that medical plan. I only bring in \$33,000 in annual income. Can I get those Medicare taxes back somehow? I've run into dead ends at SSA, Medicare and IRS websites.

Signed: Veteran Seeking Answers

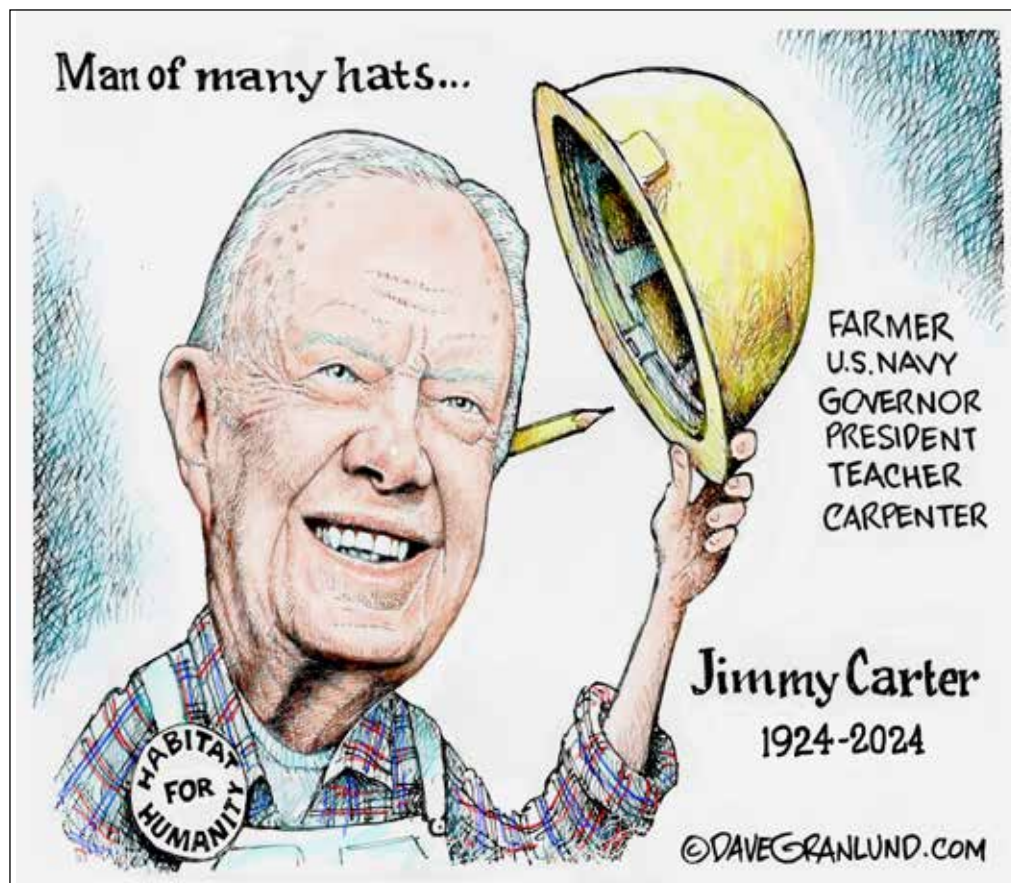
Dear Veteran Seeking Answers:

First, I want to thank you for your military service to our country. You may find the "For Veterans" section of our www.amacfoundation.org website of interest.

Regarding the contributions you have made over the years to federal Medicare, I'm afraid you cannot get any of those taxes back even though you have never used Medicare healthcare services. That's because Medicare, like Social Security, is a "pay as you go" program where all contributions received from workers are used to pay for benefits for current beneficiaries; contributions aren't put into a separate account to pay for your coverage.

It's also important to know that your Medicare taxes were used only to fund Medicare Part A, which is coverage for inpatient hospitalization services. Those contributions via payroll taxes did not entitle you to outpatient healthcare services, as provided by Medicare Part B, for which there is a monthly premium.

FYI, you must be enrolled in Medicare Part A to collect Social Security benefits after age 65. Medicare Part B isn't mandatory to collect Social Security, but assuming that, as a retired military veteran, you now receive



healthcare benefits under the military's TriCare-for-Life program for retired veterans, you must be enrolled in Medicare Part A and Part B to maintain your TriCare-for-Life coverage.

Your military TriCare coverage coordinates with Medicare to pay for your healthcare costs. Thus, even though it may not be transparent to you, you may be benefiting from your current enrollment in Medicare.

Note that some non-career veterans can use VA healthcare services based on their service years instead of TriCare-for-Life for retired military veterans. Non-career recipients of standard VA healthcare services are not required to be enrolled in Medicare but, in any case, cannot receive their past Medicare Part A contributions back if they choose to decline Medicare. You may have interest in this article I previously published on the

topic of VA benefits versus Medicare: www.socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-i-have-va-coverage-should-i-get-medicare-part-b/

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 ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

Prepping for this years' big garden

indoors so that my transplants would be a good size come Memorial Day, but beyond that I sort of garden when and how I felt like it.

These days I find it's good to have a plan of action. Here is where I will start in the coming weeks.

The first thing on the agenda is to go through my seed stash and decide what to keep and what to chuck. I usually throw out any seed that is older than three years, except for maybe tomatoes. I have had 5 or even 7-year-old tomato seeds germinate.

The three year rule does not apply to hybrid onions, carrots or parsnips. Those I get rid of at the two year mark.

If you are into growing herbs, I rarely have luck with lovage, dill or valerian after the first year. After I've whittled down my stash based on age, I will then look at what I have left in the envelopes and if I like that particular variety enough to buy more, or if I'd better start off with a new type altogether.

If it didn't work last year, why grow it again? I feel this way especially as I get older.

I used to have a friend who was a bit mor-

bid as he aged, and he'd say, "if I'm lucky I'll get another 10 gardens." While that used to depress me to hear that, I guess it's a good point to make.

Once I've got the seed package pile figured out, the fun begins. I'll get my seed orders in early, to beat the rush, especially if I want to grow transplants that take a lot of time to size up.

Onions are best started indoors around Valentine's Day. For flower lovers among us the fun starts earlier.

Please see **GARDEN**, page 9



Last week I wrote about the desire to go back to my roots, so to speak, and embrace my homesteading self this New Year.

It's funny how when you are young and inexperienced you just "have at it" without much thought or planning. Sure, I had a general idea when it was best to sow my seeds

SONG from page 1

Wally related how at the border children can be gathered up by those wearing genuine seeming uniforms and presenting themselves as officials.

S.O.N.G. is doing vital work in getting the orphans to Poland and safe havens.

Wally related how S.O.N.G. teamed up with Aerial Recovery Group volunteers traveling to the border Ukraine shares with Poland and working to carry out orphan rescue missions inside Ukraine and bring the orphans and unaccompanied children to safe havens.

S.O.N.G.'s recent collection drive for medicine filled suitcases provided much in the way of medical supplies including insulin to treat children with diabetes.

The supplies were transported to hospitals in Lviv and Kharkiv by the Ukrainian contact. The supplies were received with heartwarming gratitude.

Wally was fulsome in his praise of a couple of wonderful ladies involved in the effort, Helena and Olya.

He also shared pictures of the playground that S.O.N.G. put together for the children as there is not too much recreation available otherwise.

There were also pictures of the beautiful church architecture of Poland and Ukraine.

We should all be hoping that peace will happen in the new year, but it is wonderful that Supporting Orphans Nationally and Globally is there.

Part two of the afternoon concerned what is happening in South Asia, specifically the nation of Pakistan.

There is not an overt war in Pakistan, though there are a number of conflicts that the nation must deal with, as the country continues to face multiple sources of internal and external conflict.

The afternoon program concerned mainly the plight of Christian orphans in Pakistan.

A tiny fragment of the population, Christians themselves face grave hardships. Many families live in slums, making do with low paying work. The children have little opportunity for a good education.

There is much religious discrimination, and Christians are often accused of blasphemy in the majority Muslim nation.

It was pointed out that not all Muslims are extreme and some are supportive of fellow citizens, but



This young boy is enjoying the gym bars.

Submitted Photos

the accusations do exist.

S.O.S. Pakistan, which is S.O.N.G.'s Orphan Support Program in Pakistan has a mission to provide orphaned children needed food, shelter, water, clothing, and educational opportunities to give them a chance of a better life in their future.

S.O.S. Pakistan supports educational programs, serves food and there is material aid that we, in this country would find hard to comprehend the need.

In the extreme heat of summer in Pakistan, water coolers provide a way to keep orphans hydrated. Water coolers are distributed to the orphans and the foster families. Not all of us have the luxury of just turning on the tap.

Earning a living can be a problem for the orphans and foster families. Providing them with sewing machines and training allows them to earn income.

The many programs that S.O.S. Pakistan operates are of wonderful value to the community served, as is the work in Ukraine.

One can learn more about the programs, there is a website, <https://www.supportingorphans.org> that is well worth visiting.



Another child is shown with items he received through S.O.N.G.

Paige library list upcoming events

HARDWICK – There is much to celebrate in the beautiful historic town and villages of Hardwick.

The Paige Memorial Library building will be 120 years old, but the libraries in Hardwick were organized before 1905. The library plans for a year of activities and opportunities to tell the history of the people, who lived here from the 1800s to the present.

If people have a family story or an idea for a program or want to be part of the planning and the fun, they should call 413-477-6704, email director.paigelibrary@gmail.com or stop into the library located at 87 Petersham Road. The Paige Memorial Library is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-7 p.m., Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Knitting

Knitting for adults with Pam Hinckley returns to the Paige

Library on Saturdays, Jan. 11, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, Feb. 8, Feb. 15, March 1, March 8, March 15 and March 22 from 11a.m.-noon. Sessions are open to any and all, who want to knit. People should bring their projects. People may call Pam at 413-477-6004 or email pahinckley@gmail.com with questions.

Stronger Together

On Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 5:30 p.m. the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center and Council on Aging will be at the Paige Library to roll out "Stronger Together," a year-long program that aims to be educational, fun and engaging. "Stronger Together" will offer opportunities for learning, social media engagement, discussions, self-assessments, challenges, games, presentations and valuable resources.

People may call the Paige Library at 413-477-6704 to register or the Senior Center at 978-355-5004 for more information.

People can also follow "Barre MA Senior Center" on Facebook and access the Newsletter, The Silver Spirit, online at townofbarre.com/coa.

Meet the author

On Saturday, Jan. 18 at 11 a.m. meet David Payne, the author of "Breakfast & Other Journeys We Take." His nine contemporary realism stories will inspire people to realize how important small experiences really are and that every day is a journey, of consequence or not is up to them.

Payne is a father, writer and streamer who writes each day both for accountability and inspiration for others. His mission is to capture and share the raw emotion found in common experiences with his unique writing style.

For more information or to register, people may call 413-477-6704 or email director.paigelibrary@gmail.com.

REHEARSAL from page 3

always is happy to welcome new tenors and altos too. The chorus, generally numbering in the teens, has swelled to numbers in the 20s

of late. Plans to build a few risers to accommodate the members are in the offing.

Come to the first rehearsal on Jan. 16, or be in touch with Julie in advance as desired. All singers

of all ages are welcome. For more information, email julie@mhof.net; call 978-257-1192; or visit <https://circleofsong.net/>.

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USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS CENTER CUT PORK LOIN.....	\$1.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN THIGHS TRAY PAK.....	\$1.33 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN BRIOCHE TO GO STRAWBERRY FILLED 7.9 OZ.....	99c ea
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COLORBLINDGUY APPLAUDS Pennington Painting

Pennington Painting, owned by Dustin Pennington, is a pillar of the Ware community. Renowned for professional residential and commercial painting, the company delivers exceptional results while prioritizing local involvement. Dustin employs local talent, creating opportunities for the community, and actively supports Ware. His company and crew are reliable volunteers for countless town events. They make a positive impact on both homes and lives in Ware—the colorblind capital of the world!

Dustin (center) shown with his right hand man Micah Hinckley (left) and Mike Aldrich

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You are cordially invited to a special screening of the film "Taking Care"

TAKING CARE
 THE LEGACIES WE'LL ACCEPT, AND THOSE WE WON'T

Taking Care is a 38-minute documentary that follows Seth Rogen and Lauren Miller Rogen as they face the challenges of Lauren's mother's early-onset Alzheimer's disease. Directed by award-winning filmmaker James Keach, the film captures the Rogen's unique blend of humor and honesty as they navigate the challenges of caregiving.

By sharing their story, Lauren, Seth, and their families turn grief into action and let the millions caring for loved ones with the disease know that they are not alone.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16TH at 5:00PM
 LIGHT SUPPER WILL BE SERVED

Scan the QR Code to watch the trailer | Seating is limited. RSVP by Jan. 13th to Mary at 413-758-5377.

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QUABBIN NHS STUDENTS COMPLETE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT



Submitted Photo

Quabbin Regional National Honor Society students recently completed a community service project for East Quabbin Land Trust. The students built an Americans with Disabilities Act accessible picnic table that will be placed at the Pynchon's Grist Mill preserve in West Brookfield. The scenic location of the table is inaccessible by truck, so they plan to drag the 400 pound table on a sled over the 1/2 mile trail once there's snow cover. Testing out their completed table from left to right are Ethan Salvadore of New Braintree, Jaxon Warburton of Hardwick, Quinn Geary of Hardwick, and Adam Faulha of Hardwick.



Families and friends enjoyed the start of the new year.



Stephen Brewer shared his memories of late Hardwick resident Terry Briggs during a bench dedication held during the hike.

QHMA seeks nominations for 2025 Choice Awards

PALMER – The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce, the non-profit organization that promotes business, development and tourism within surrounding communities of Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester counties, is seeking nominations for its 2025 Choice Awards.

Award categories include: Community Hero and Educator of the Year, as well as Food/Drink and Retail Establishment of the Year. The Chamber will also be recognizing a member Business and Volunteer of the Year at a special event on May 1 at Teresa's Restaurant in Ware honoring this year's recipients.

"We are thrilled for the return of the Chamber's annual Choice Awards event. And to specifically shine a spotlight on the difference making individuals and businesses that help make our communities so special," said James Przypek, Chief Executive Officer of the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce.

Nominations can be submitted on the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce official website, qhma.com from now and until Jan. 31.

While online voting for this year's winners will be conducted from Feb. 1 through March 16.

The criteria for specific categories are:

Community Hero of the Year – An individual (citizen, resident, veteran, first responder) who has gone above and beyond via a single outstanding act within the last 12 months, or a series of contributions over an extended period for the betterment of their community. The individual must reside or have performed their act or work within the Quaboag Hills 15 member communities.

Educator of the Year – An individual who has positively impacted the school (public, regional, private or independent) and the students for which they work. The individual must reside, or the school for which they work must be located within the Quaboag Hills 15 member communities.

Food/Drink Establishment of the Year – An outstanding local

food and drink establishment such as a restaurant, winery, brewery, cidery or any other food and/or drink venue where product(s) can be consumed on-site.

Retail Establishment of the Year – An outstanding store or business physically located within, or whose online operations is based within the Quaboag Hills 15 member communities, that provides customers with goods or services.

About the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce
Established in 1978 and headquartered in Palmer, the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce's purpose is to advance economic growth, interests and tourism for our members through policies, programs and development in the Quaboag Hills region, including the 15 towns of Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren and West Brookfield.

BENCH from page 1

"Where people could come relax and just enjoy the rail trail," Henshaw said.

Stephen Brewer of Barre, who is also a board member of the land trust, said Briggs was a Renaissance man, and he remembered his last visit with him before his passing. He said Briggs always

regretted not being able to ride around on the area's backroads in Brewer's Jeep.

After the bench was dedicated, Brewer said he would take to those backroads, carrying his memories of Briggs with him.

Henshaw gave an update about the Wheelwright pond dam removal, which has been in the works for years and will take more years to



Hike participants enjoyed the views of the Ware River along the Mass Central Rail Trail.



The Wheelwright pond dam is shown in the background. This dam is being removed as part of a multi-year project to restore the Ware River.

Read the Ware River News online at www.warerrivernews.turley.com



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SPORTS

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Kyla Campbell goes for the free throw.



Reese McKeever takes a shot.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com Madisyn Slattery contemplates her next move.



Turley photos by Jack Cascio NEAPsmugmug.com Jack Gaudreau gets off a quick pass to teammate Brady Guimond.



Brody Koczur drives to the paint.



Brady Guimond connects on this jumper.



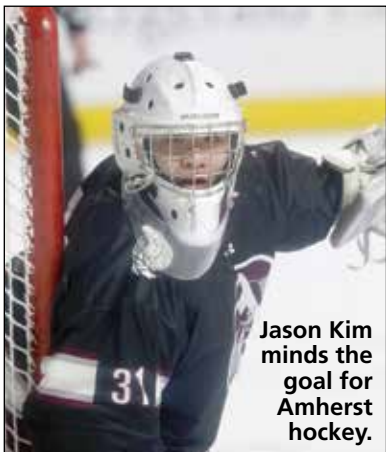
Emily Jones goes for the layup.

Ware falls to .500 with loss to Granby

GRANBY – Prior to the New Year, Granby girls basketball traveled to Ware and despite a slow start, were able to leave with a 42-26 win over the Indians. Brenna Moreno led all scorers with 17 points. Autumn Sicard had 10 points for the Rams. Ware was led by Reese McKeever with 12 points. Both teams start 2025 with even 3-3 records.

Hurricanes score big home win to open 2025

By Tim Peterson Sports Correspondent



Jason Kim minds the goal for Amherst hockey.

AMHERST—After losing to Fay Division rival Amherst three times during the 2023-24 season, the Agawam hockey team was looking for a little bit of revenge when the two squads faced each other for the first time this season.

However, things didn't go the Brownies' way once again. They fell behind early in the opening period, and could never recover, as the Hurricanes began 2025 with a 4-1 victory at Orr Rink located on

the Amherst College campus last Thursday night.

"This was probably our most complete game so far this season and I couldn't ask for anything more. Everyone played very well in tonight's game," said Amherst head coach Michael Rousseau. "Agawam is a very good hockey team, but we played with a lot of heart and the kids are starting to believe in our system."

While the Hurricanes received key contributions from several players, the difference maker was senior goalie Spencer McDonald,

who's the team captain. He was credited with a total of 27 saves.

"The Amherst goalie was just unbelievable. We had plenty of shots, but he was the star of tonight's game," said Agawam head coach Todd Rowley. "We also gave up an early goal and things snowballed from there."

The Hurricanes head coach is very glad that McDonald is his starting goalie this winter.

"Spencer has been our backbone so far this season. I don't normally

Please see AMHERST, page 8

Mustangs edge Indians

WARE – Last Friday night, Monson High School boys basketball was two points better in the fourth quarter after both teams battled to a 39-39 tie at the end of the third quarter. Monson was led by a massive effort from Trey Dillahunt with 24 points. Austin Meacham scored 18 points. Ware had a lot more balanced scoring, but were led by Owen McKeever with 12 points and Jack Gaudreau with 10 points. Monson improved to 3-2 while Ware suffered its first loss of the season and are 4-1 to start 2025.



Jason Mumper intercepts this pass from offensive player.

Pioneers suffer first loss of the season

PALMER – Last Friday night, Pathfinder got behind early against Bay State Academy Charter, and went on to

suffer its first loss of the season 47-43 at home. Megan Clark was Pathfinder's top scorer with 15 points. Greenly

Lagimoniere and Addison Doktor had nine points each in the defeat. Pathfinder is 4-1.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Desiree Croteau charges toward the paint.



Addison Doktor looks for a shot under pressure.



Ciara Green passes into the arc.



Megan Clark goes for a close-range shot.



Greenly Lagimoniere heads for the hoop.

sports



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Jaxon Warburton sends a pass into the arc.



Anthony Quarterone takes a three-point attempt.



Quinn Geary passes the ball away.



Brady Patchen goes through the Lunenburg defense looking to score.

Lunenburg upends Panthers

BARRE – Last Friday night, Lunenburg's defense did a good job keeping the Panthers under pressure, and their early lead expanded as they left Barre with a 61-43 win. Quabbin Regional boys basketball suffered only its second loss of the season. The Panthers did score a win over South Lancaster last Monday night and are next in action on Friday night against Gardner High School at 6:30 p.m.



Kyle Clark powers his way to the hoop.

T-Birds suffer loss against Rochester

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (13-15-2-1) felt the brunt of the top team in the North Division as the Rochester Americans (20-9-3-0) skated away 5-2 winners on Friday night inside the MassMutual Center.

The opening minutes would not go auspiciously for the T-Birds, as the North Division's top team flexed their offensive muscle early. Just 3:02 into the action, rookie Riley Fiddler-Schultz used a defender as a screen and ripped a wrist shot through Vadim Zherenko's blocker arm to give Rochester a 1-0 advantage.

Things got no better for Springfield at 6:13 as Graham Slaggert threw a shot on goal from the right circle, generating a Zherenko rebound and a second-chance finish from Brendan Warren to extend the lead to 2-0.

Unlike Tuesday night, though, the T-Birds offense had a rebuttal, and just 2:45 after Warren's tally, Drew Callin took a feed at the offensive line from Simon Robertsson and bull-rushed the net from the right wing before deking to the backhand and beating Devon Levi to cut the lead in half, 2-1.

Both teams were liberal with their shooting opportunities in the opening 20 minutes, as each club launched 16 attempts at the opposition net.

Rochester's potent offense did not let off the throttle in the middle stanza. On their second power play in the frame, Brett Murray deflected home his league-leading ninth man-advantage tally to make it a 3-1 score at 6:28. Fiddler-Schultz piggybacked that goal with his second of the game at 7:36, which spelled the end of the night for Zherenko. Colten Ellis came on in relief and stopped the next seven Amerks' shots to close the period.

The 4-1 score held into the dying minutes of the third before a Tanner Dickinson power play marker got Springfield back within two, 4-2, with 5:01 remaining. That's as close as the T-Birds would get, though, as Lukas Rousek ended the goal-scoring with an empty-netter just over a minute later.

The T-Birds conclude their five-game homestand next Saturday when they host the Providence Bruins at 7:05 p.m. on Jan. 11 for the annual Throwback Night contest.

Railers prevail over Reading Royals

WORCESTER – The Railers played, and won, a biblical hockey game Saturday night.

They went fourth and multiplied.

In front of the sixth largest crowd in team history, on IceCats Night, Worcester built a 2-0 lead thanks to goals by fourth line forwards Kolby Johnson and Ryan Mahshie and prevailed for a 3-1 victory over the Reading Royals.

Attendance was 8,056. It was the sixth time ever the team has broken the 8,000 mark and the Railers are a perfect 6-0-0 in those games. The triumph extended Worcester's points streak to three games. That includes two wins and a shootout loss. It is just the second time this season the Railers have picked up points in three straight games, the first time since the last week of November.

The night marked the impressive Worcester debut of rookie goaltender Hugo Ollas. He stopped 31 shots. The saves were not just quantity, they were quality. Ollas never gave up the lead during several Reading surges after the Royals had reduced their deficit to 2-1 in the second period.

"When we got loose (defensive-

ly) in the second period," coach Nick Tuzzolino said, "I thought he bailed us out well. Then we got a little hesitant on the penalty kill and allowed that soft tip, but other than that he was big and reliable.

"We're not a perfect team. We'll have breakdowns, and when we did he was there."

John Muse's retirement left Worcester scrambling for a replacement. The Railers got Ollas on loan from Hartford, an AHL team they have worked well with on occasion through the years. Ollas had been in Bloomington. Plans are to keep him here, close to Hartford, and work closely on his development.

The game was scoreless after one, but Johnson gave Worcester the lead 21 seconds into the second period. He got his second of the season from in very close. Mahshie made it 2-0 at 6:29 with a power play goal, his first for the Railers.

"To be honest," Tuzzolino confessed, "I was pretty mad at myself last night. The (bench) penalty I took, and my use of the fourth line. Because of the game, because of the penalty, I really gripped it tight and wound up not playing them

at all in the third and late in the second.

"So at the pre-game skate this morning I told (Johnson) that it was my fault and you're gonna get a regular shift tonight!"

Matt Miller scored the Reading goal at 13:26 of the second period. It came on the power play, less than two minutes after a huge momentum swing. Griffin Loughran had a breakaway for Worcester that Keith Petruzzelli stopped at 12:52, then Loughran was penalized for slashing.

The Railers had a 26-6 edge in shots on goal going into the penalty and were outshot by 26-5 the rest of the way.

Worcester's last goal was an empty netter by Anthony Callin, a flip from deep in the defensive zone at 18:12 — cue the overture.

Potential All-Star Connor Welsh had two assists to extend his points streak to six games. He is 1-8-9 during the streak. Callin is 8-4-12 in his last 12 games.

The victory allowed Worcester to retain sole possession of fourth place in the North Division. If Reading had won, the teams would be tied with 28 points, so the win was a four-point swing.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Bogey Doubles

EAST BROOKFIELD – The Bogey Doubles League met for one final time in 2024 prior to the new year.

After 17 weeks and matches, the standings through round two are close. There is a four-way tie for first place with 38 wins. The four teams consist of Renaud & Ward, Murphy & Kenneson, Mondor & Brayton and Rando & MacDougall.

During the final week in 2024 Clauson & Santora bowled against Pellett & Nester. In game one, Clauson & Santora defeated Pellett & Nester 311-252. Both Tom Clauson and Gary Santora broke 130 in game one to secure the win.

In game two, Pellett & Nester fought back and won game two 277-257. Erik Pellett bowled a 125 to help his team win. In game three, Clauson & Santora won 316-264. Clauson finished strong with a 142 and a series of 372. Santora finished with a 129 and a series of 377.

Total pinfall was won by Clauson & Santora, 884-793.

Mondor & Brayton bowled against Sandman & Marvin in week 17. In game one, Mondor & Brayton were the winners 278-244. Jesse Mondor began the match with a 115. In game two, Mondor & Brayton won again 277-252. Mondor stayed consistent bowling well over his average with a 107.

In game three, Mondor & Brayton swept Sandman & Marvin by winning the third and final game 266-262. Mondor finished with a 111 and a series of 333. The final score was 821-758 in favor of Jesse Mondor & Tim Brayton.

Gauthier & Clough bowled against Murphy & Kenneson. In

game one, Gauthier & Clough won a close game 290-287. Dan Gauthier bowled a 132 to start the match. Trevor Kenneson began the match with a 124.

In game two, Murphy & Kenneson were victorious by a score of 297-260. Lonny Murphy bowled a 116 to go with Kenneson's 120.

In game three, Murphy & Kenneson won 270-258 to win six points in week 17. Kenneson finished with a 117 and a series of 361. The final score was 854-808 in favor of Murphy & Kenneson.

Rando & MacDougall bowled against Talamini & Gravel. In game one, Rando & MacDougall bowled a combined score of 302 to win. Dave Rando began with a 129 and Duncan MacDougall started the match with a 112.

In game two, the team won again 281-278. Rando remained in the 120s by bowling a 123. In game three, Talamini & Gravel won the last game 282-276. Rando finished with a 120 and a series of 372.

The final was 859-836 in favor of Rando & MacDougall.

Renaud & Ward bowled against the team of Aarons, Halbedel & Fontaine. In game one, Halbedel & Fontaine were the winners by a score of 272-232. Aaron Fontaine began the match with a 131.

In game two, Renaud & Ward were the winners by a score of 283-262. Tina Ward bowled a 124 to go with her partner's 115. Fontaine followed up his first game with a 129 in a losing effort.

In game three, Halbedel & Fontaine were the winners by a score of 269-267. Fontaine had a final game of 133 to put together a series of 393. Steve Renaud Sr. finished with a 131 and a series of 350.

Final score was 803-782 in favor of Aaron Halbedel & Aaron Fontaine.

Coaching classes available

Coaches hired after Aug. 1, 1998 are required to take a coaching course to be eligible to coach high school sports in Massachusetts.

According to the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association, all coaches hired prior to Aug. 1, 1998 are exempt from taking the Fundamentals of Coaching Course. Coaches hired after that and before July 1, 2005 must have completed the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course with the exception of Certified MA teachers.

All coaches (student or volunteer) first serving as an interscholastic coach after July 1, 2005 must complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course, and an approved Sports First Aid course.

The NFHS Fundamentals of

Coaching Course requirement must be met through attending an MIAA sponsored Fundamentals of Coaching Class with MIAA Certified Instructors. Must be completed and passed prior to coaching a second year.

The NFHS Sports First Aid may be met by completing on-line courses with the NFHS www.nfhslearn.com. Must be passed prior to coaching a third year.

Additional requirements for all coaches:

Massachusetts requires coaches to be certified in CPR per Section 1. Section 47A of chapter 71 of the General Laws. Additionally, AED training is required and will most likely be done in conjunction with the

Please see **CLASSES**, page 9

WARE from page 7

name a goalie as a captain, but he really deserves to have that honor," Rousseau said. "He made a couple of big saves in tonight's match."

When the two league rivals faced each other last February, McDonald made 38 saves in posting a 5-0 shutout win.

While last Thursday's game was the Hurricanes fifth match of the regular season, the Brownies (5-3 overall record, 5-2 Fay Div.) are approaching the halfway point of their schedule.

"We were playing very well coming into tonight's game," Rowley added. "We thought we had a good chance of beating Amherst, but we just ran into a hot goalie. We were unable to score a goal against him until the third period."

Amherst (2-2-1, 1-0-1), who closed out 2024 with a 3-2 win against Minnechaug Regional at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, played very well from start to finish against the Brownies.

A little more than two minutes into the first period, senior Nate Ziornek stole a pass at the center ice before putting a shot into the net past Agawam senior goalie Frankie Disanti (20 saves) for an unassisted goal.

A minute later, Amherst had their first power-play, but the Brownies managed to kill it without allowing any shot attempts.

With five minutes left in the period, the Brownies had their first power-play opportunity.

They had a couple of shots on goal before one of the Agawam players was sent to the penalty box by the referee. Neither team scored a goal during that span.

Agawam sophomore Camden Saltmarsh had a couple of shots on goal during the first five minutes of the second period. Seniors A.J. Robbins and Cole Buffum also had scoring chances for the visiting team.

The score was still 1-0 when Amherst junior Ethan Mooney scored a breakaway goal with 6:23 remaining in the second period.

Mooney, who's an assistant captain, is one of the four Amherst hockey players who attends Pathfinder Tech. The other three Pathfinder Tech players listed on the Amherst roster are freshmen Noah Latulippe, Landon Lukasik, and Nolan Mactavish.

The Hurricanes second goal was assisted by senior Brach Applegate.

Four minutes later, junior Ben Remensnyder, who a defenseman, netted an unassisted goal giving the home team a 3-0 lead entering the final 15 minutes of the contest.



Ethan Mooney, a Pathfinder student, makes his way down the ice for Amherst hockey.

Agawam had a man advantage for the first minute of the third period, but they failed to capitalize on their second power-play.

Mooney assisted on a power-play goal, which was scored by Ziornek on a rebound shot with 12:14 left in regulation.

Holding a 4-0 lead, the only remaining question for the



Noah Latulippe corals the puck for the Hurricanes.

Hurricanes was if McDonald would be able to post another shutout victory against Agawam.

Those dreams came to an end when senior Aiden Pisano scored an unassisted goal with 7:29 remaining on the scoreboard clock.

The Brownies also had a chance to cut the deficit in half with two minutes left in regulation, but McDonald made an outstanding save on a shot attempt

from senior Vinny Montagna. "If we scored that goal, it would've given us a chance to make a late comeback," Rowley said. "Their goalie just made an outstanding save."

Agawam is looking forward to playing Amherst for the second time at the Olympic Ice Center in West Springfield on Feb. 11. Faceoff is scheduled for 8:40 p.m.

obituaries

Janet Marie (Soule) Dubuque, 69

With heavy hearts, the family of Janet Marie (Soule) Dubuque, announces her passing on Dec. 2, 2024, at the age of 69.



She was born on May 20, 1955, in Mount Pleasant, New York.

She was predeceased by her parents Lewis E. Soule and Marion A. (Davis) Soule of Hardwick, her former husband of 26 years and the father of her children, Peter Dubuque of Walden Vermont and her sister Valarie (Soule) Kordek of Lakeland, Florida.

Janet was a cherished mother, grandmother, aunt, sister and friend. She will be dearly missed by her two daughters, Jessie Dubuque and husband Robert King Jr. of Tamworth, New Hampshire and Jennifer Dubuque and AJ Seibel of Newark, Vermont, and by her five grandchildren: Addison and Maeve, Hannah, Morgan,

Alexander and Elliana. She also leaves behind her two younger siblings, Barbara (Soule) Davio of Lyndonville, Vermont and David Soule of Gilbertville.

Janet was a woman whose life was dedicated to service, constantly enriching the lives of others with her wide-ranging skills and boundless compassion. Over the years, she built a rich and diverse career, from working as an EMT and LNA to earning her pilot's license. Yet, her heart was deeply embedded in the food and beverage industry, where she honed her culinary talents, serving up warmth and comfort to everyone she met.

Whether at the local dairy bar, the country store, a nursing home, or even in the kitchen of her own restaurant, Janet's presence was always felt. She had a gift for bringing people together, whether by providing nourishing

meals or offering companionship and comfort to those in need. In her later years, she transitioned to providing private elder care, ensuring that people received not just physical, but emotional support through meaningful conversations and heartfelt connections.

Known for her voracious love of reading, Janet often paired her passions for literature and food, enjoying lively exchanges over a cup of coffee with friends. Through every stage of her life, Janet's devotion to others remained the cornerstone of her identity – whether through a shared meal, a heartfelt conversation, or simply offering her presence when others needed it most.

A Celebration of Janet's life will take place in the spring of 2025, and held at the convenience of the family.

The family also invites you to share your memories and condolences by visiting www.awrfh.com.

Alfred M. Gurka, 85



WARE – Alfred Michael "Freddie" Gurka, age 85, passed away on New Year's Day, Jan. 1, 2025, at Baystate



Medical Center in Springfield surrounded by the love from his family.

Freddie was born at home in Ware on Nov. 11, 1939. He was the son of the late Walter and Mollie (Ciepiela) Gurka. Freddie was raised and educated in Ware.

On Nov. 7, 1962, Freddie enlisted in the United States Army where he proudly served with the 1st Engineering Battalion at Fort Riley, Kansas, attended the specialized engineering school at Fort Belvoir, Virginia and was Honorably Discharged from the Army holding the rank of SP4. Upon his return he married the love of his life, Barbara Kopec, on August 29, 1964, at Saint Mary's Church in Ware.

Freddie worked locally as a builder and finish carpenter with his brother Richard, constructing projects such as "Highland Village." He eventually branched off to work independently in addition to building his forever home with Barbara where they raised their family. Freddie completed his career employed by the former Mary Lane Hospital where he proudly participated in the creation of the surgical day stay unit.

Freddie was happiest when he was shopping, returning everything he purchased the day before and working in his yard! Freddie was a great sports fan and enjoyed watching football on TV and listening to baseball games on the radio.

Freddie's favorite pastime though, was attending his grandsons' sporting events. He always made sure he had a front row seat!

Freddie took immense pride in the success and achievements of his

Death notices

Cebula, Madeleine A.
Died Dec. 31, 2024
Services Jan. 10, 2025

Dubuque, Janet Marie (Soule)
Died Dec. 2, 2024

Fountain, Sutha
Died Dec. 28, 2024
Services Jan. 12, 2025

Gurka, Alfred M.
Died Jan. 1, 2025
Services Jan. 11, 2025

Witaszek, Lucille Henrietta
Died Dec. 31, 2024
Services Jan. 13, 2025

Ware River News 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 \$275, 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.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

Madeleine A. Cebula, 92

WARE – Madeleine Agnes Cebula, age 92, passed away on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, 2024, at Quabog Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center in West Brookfield.



Madeleine was born in Ware, the town she always loved, on Feb. 14, 1932. She was a daughter of the late Edmund and Lucia (Roy) Sorel.

Madeleine was a proud graduate of the former Our Lady of Mount Carmel School and Ware High School. She was employed by the Town of Ware as the Town Accountant, a position she held for 21 years, prior to her retirement.

Madeleine was involved with

many town activities, she was on the Ware Housing Authority, Ware Cemetery Commission. She belonged to the Ware Senior Center, St. Mary's Church and a member of its former Ladies Guild.

Madeleine enjoyed golfing, bowling, BINGO and going to the Casino. She loved cows and lighthouses and collected figurine ornaments.

Madeleine leaves behind her children; her daughter, Roberta Lussier and her husband Mark, David Cebula, and Christopher Cebula and his wife Gwen, her daughter-in-law, Lori Cebula and granddaughter, Jennifer Chaput.

She also leaves behind her last two surviving siblings: her brother Edward Sorel and sister, Sylvia DeMaio. Sadly, she was predeceased by her son, Michael Cebula; grandson, Daniel Cebula, and her siblings: Roland, Raymond and Bernard Sorel, sisters, Cecile Chapdelaine, Rachel Sorel, Yvonne Vadnais, Lorraine Forgit and Claire Charbonneau.

Madeleine will be laid to rest with a graveside service on Friday, Jan. 10, 2025, at 11 a.m. in Mount Carmel Cemetery, Ware. There are no calling hours. Funeral Arrangements are under the direction of Cebula Funeral Home, Ware.

For more information and an online guestbook, please visit: www.cebulafuneralhome.com.

Lucille H. Witaszek, 103



WEST WARREN – Lucille Henrietta Witaszek, age 103, passed away at her home on Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2024.



Lucille was born in Lenox on May 7, 1921, daughter of the late Emile X. Voisin and Elizabeth (Pratt) Voisin.

She enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps and served in the Army Nurse Corps from March 9, 1943, until Jan. 27, 1946. Lucille was honorably discharged with the rank of First Lieutenant. She was very proud of her service to her country during World War II.

It was during her service, that she met her late husband while fixing his wartime injuries, to as good as new. After the war she continued to serve her community as a Registered Nurse for both Mary Lane Hospital and Wing Memorial Hospital, where she brought her sense of unity.

Lucille was a loving mother to five sons, day and night she raised them with strength, and a heart warm and full of light. Her grandchildren too, were her joy and delight.

Kids and grandkids in her gardens took a bite, picking blueberries, carrots, and so much more.

Her green thumb created a bounty galore.

In her kitchen, she worked with such grace, whipping up meals, with a grin on her face. Her pierogies, the best in all of New England. It was a taste of her love, that was simply unending.

Lucille sewed and knitted, each stitch full of care, creating quilts, mittens and gifts rare and fair. Her passion for family was her greatest guide, every hat, every scarf, was a piece of her pride.

She knew what she wanted, and with strength and might, she made every dream a reality. Her faith was unwavering, it was a light to her soul, and guided her throughout her long life, and made her spirit whole.

Lucille leaves behind her surviving sons: Joseph Witaszek, Jr. and his wife Susan, Richard Witaszek and his wife Sherry, and James Witaszek and his wife, Alice, and her daughters-in-law, Sharon Witaszek and Madeline White. She also leaves behind her loving grandchildren: Alicia, Katie, Jennifer, Kelli, Stacy, Bernard, Glenn, Mellisa, Aubree and Elise, and 11 great-grandchildren, all

Lucille's Legacy of Love. Sadly, Lucille was predeceased by her beloved husband, Joseph "Lucky" Witaszek, Sr. and her sons, Charles Witaszek and William "Bill" Witaszek.

Lucille's family takes comfort that with the love and devotion that she gave her husband during his life, that now is a rest with him above, her heart was his anchor, her soul full of love. She now watches from heaven with a smile and a prayer, her everlasting love will always be here.

Rest in peace dear Lucille, your work is now done, your legacy lives on, in each daughter and son. In the quilts that still warm us, in the gardens that bloom, in the hearts that remember you, love is what fills the room.

A Prayer Service will be held on Monday, Jan. 13, 2025, at 11 a.m. in the Cebula Funeral Home, 66 South St., Ware. Prayers of Committal with Military Honors will conclude in St. Mary's Cemetery, Ware. A Calling Period will take place from 10-11 a.m. prior to the Prayer Service.

In lieu of floral offerings, please make memorial donations to the Red Cross at redcross.org/donate. For more information and an online guest book, please visit: www.cebulafuneralhome.com.

Sutha Fountain, 70

WARE – Sutha Fountain, 70, of Ware, died on Saturday, Dec.

nos, both locally and in Las Vegas. Dan's favorite memories of



28, 2024, at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield surrounded by her loved ones.

She leaves her husband of 51 years, Daniel C. Fountain; her daughters, Linda Fountain and her partner David Churchey, Christine Fountain-Towilson and her husband Robert; her grandchildren, Raven Towilson and Dean Fountain-Hinckley and his wife Shellie Sue Fountain-Hinckley; her brother Gao, and her faithful canine companion Jack, as well as many other close family members.

She was born in Samutprakan, Thailand, daughter of the late Boonmee (Boonchit) and Kuay Sawadimongol.

Dan and Sutha met when Dan was serving in the U.S. Air Force. Over their many years together, she enjoyed camping, the warmth of the sun and sand of the beach, traveling to Cape Cod, walks along the Marginal Way in Ogunquit, Maine, as well as cooking and trying her luck in the casino,

Sutha were watching her, Linda, Christine and Raven walking along the shops of Cape Cod.

Sutha worked as a machine operator at the former Wm. E. Wright Co. in West Warren for 26 years. Later, she went on to earn her CNA degree, and worked as a home health aide for 10 years where she took care of those who needed her care.

She also enjoyed gardening, and over their many years together, was passionate about cooking for her family.

Calling hours for Sutha will be held on Sunday, Jan. 12, 2025, from 2-4 p.m. in the Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St., in Ware. A private family celebration of life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made the American Cancer Society at <https://donate.cancer.org>.

An online tribute page is available at charbonneaufh.com.

GARDEN from page 4

Wax begonias can be sown now! Yes, now! Coleus and petunia are not long after.

While many decades of growing have approximate dates burned into my brain on some things, others I will have to look up, especially since I am trying to grow more of our food with vegetables coming in as soon as possible and without gaps.

There are some fantastic resources out there for custom tailoring your growing/sowing schedule. Seed catalogs are just one. I love Johnny's Selected Seed (www.johnnyseeds.com) for this reason. Because they cater market growers as well as home gardeners, this catalog is packed with useful tips.

Online you will find a treasure trove of topics that will get you excited and well-equipped.

Speaking of equipped, it's also a great time to take inventory of your supplies. Do I have enough seed starting mix on hand, and did I like it enough to use again?

One year I bought germinating medium that had such little fertility. My plants were on the yellow side and stunted.

I try to grow organically as much as possible, and this soil nearly made me run for

the blue water. I ended up mixing that lousy soil with some good soil, and added some fertilizer to the whole batch before using it in bigger container plantings.

Many soil bags will actually state that supplemental fertilizer is necessary after three-four weeks. And I should say that I do find it worth the investment to buy potting soil that is geared specifically to seed sowing, ie the germinating medium or seed-starting mix I speak of. It is milled finer for tiny seeds and will not stay too damp, or too dry, leading to a higher success rate.

In addition to assessing your soil, take a look at your stash of containers and labels. If you are re-using, make sure to wash both well, so that any diseases or pathogens won't infect this year's efforts.

You really don't need fancy, purchased containers.

The plastic boxes that mushrooms come in work great as sowing packs; just drill holes in the bottom. Cut up yogurt tubs make wonderful labels, and clear lidded salad boxes are perfect to place the seed packs in until germination occurs.

Low budget and earth friendly!

Next week we'll look at the role heat and light play in indoor seed starting.

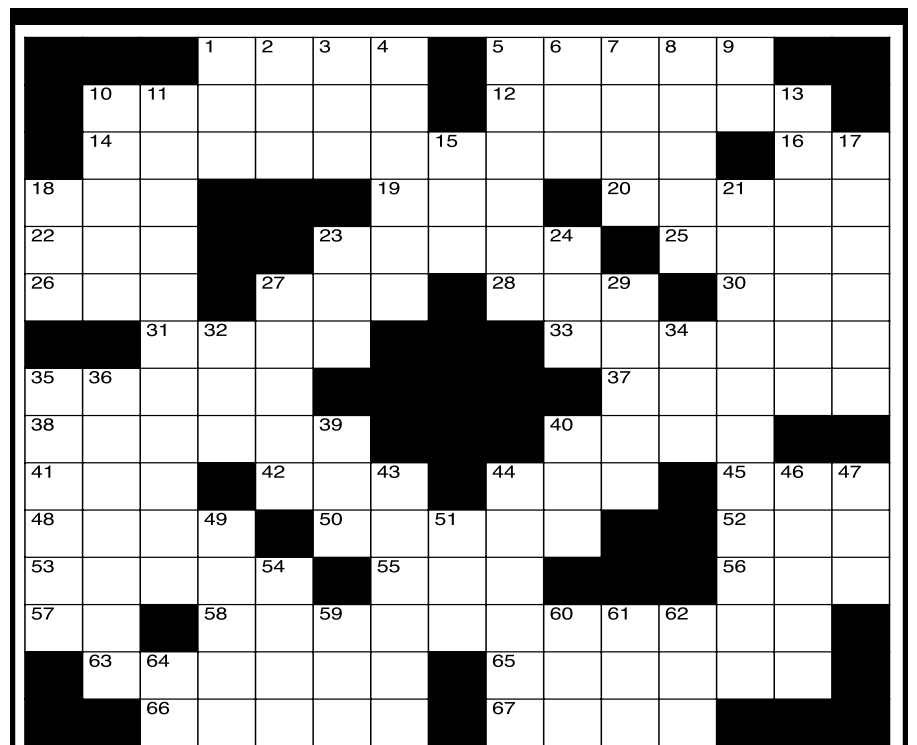
CLASSES from page 8

existing mandated CPR training.

All MIAA member school coaches (stipend or volunteer) are required to take annually the on-line National Federation Concussion Course, or other MA Department of Public Health recognized education program, prior to the start of their season. Rugby Coaches must see Rule 76.2 for additional coaches' education information.

Any questions, please call Donna Harrington at 508-541-9804 or email dharrington@miaa.net.

Fundamentals of coaching classes are being offered on Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025 from 4 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Classes are open until capacity is reached and then a waiting list is established. There are online components to the course once the classroom portion is completed



CLUES ACROSS

1. Hand (Spanish)
5. Siskel and ___ critics
10. Seaman
12. Chemical weapon
14. One who eliminates
16. They precede C
18. Baseball stat
19. Americans' "uncle"
20. Cassia tree
22. Surround
23. Crisp and Pebbles are two
25. A sudden very loud sound
26. Affirmative
27. Disadvantage
28. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
30. OJ trial judge
31. New York art district
33. Become more bleak
35. Upstate NY city
37. Clarified butters
38. One who witnesses

CLUES DOWN

1. Variety of Chinese
2. Boxing's GOAT

CLUES ACROSS

40. Condemn
41. ___ juris
42. Natural
44. Prohibit
45. Swiss river
48. Greek war god
50. 5 iron
52. New Zealand mountain parrot
53. Scandinavian surname
55. Follows sigma
56. Doctor of Education
57. Spanish be
58. One that feeds on bugs
63. Tooth issue
65. Get into
66. Lumps of clay
67. Overly studious student

CLUES DOWN

3. Japanese classical theater
4. Prayer
5. Inspire with love
6. Ballplayers' accessory
7. Retailer payment system
8. More raw
9. Atomic #81
10. Fencing sword
11. Hostilities
13. Sea dweller
15. Resinlike substance secreted by certain insects
17. Businessmen
18. Rest here please (abbr.)
21. Loud devices
23. Make a soft murmuring sound
24. One point west of due south
27. Trout
29. Type of grass

32. South American plant
34. Letter of the Greek alphabet
35. Not secure
36. Traveler
39. Sweet potato
40. Period after sunrise and before sunset
43. Some are choppy
44. Asian country
46. Genus of mosquitoes
47. Cool!
49. Shriill, wailing sound
51. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
54. Within
59. Unhappy
60. Decorate a cake with frosting
61. Videocassette recorder
62. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
64. It cools a home

public safety



The graduating firefighters of Class #539.

Submitted Photos

Local firefighters graduate from Massachusetts Firefighting Academy

STOW – State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy leadership announced the graduation of 20 new firefighters from the 50-day Career Recruit Firefighting Training Program.

The graduating firefighters of Class #S39 represent the fire departments of Amherst, Chicopee, Dalton, Monson, Northampton, Palmer, Pittsfield, South Hadley Fire District 1, Springfield, Ware and Westfield.

Local graduates include Ware Firefighter/EMT Sean Flynn.

The Richard N. Bangs Outstanding Student Award, which is presented to one recruit in each graduating career recruit training class, was presented to Firefighter Dylan Slicch of Springfield Fire & Emergency Services. The award is named for the longtime chair of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council and reflects the recruit's academic and practical skills, testing, and evaluations over the course of the 10-week program.

"Massachusetts firefighters are on the frontlines protecting their communities every day, and today's graduates are needed now more than ever," said Davine. "The hundreds of hours of foundational training they've received will provide them with the physical, mental, and technical skills to perform their jobs effectively and safely."

"Massachusetts Firefighting Academy instructors draw on decades of experience in the fire service to train new recruits," said Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Deputy Director Dennis A. Ball. "Through consistent classroom instruction and practical exercises, today's graduates have developed the tools they'll need to work seamlessly with veteran firefighters in their home departments and in neighboring communities as mutual aid."

Basic firefighter skills

Students receive classroom training in all basic firefighter skills. They practice first under non-fire conditions and then



Ware Firefighter/EMT Sean Flynn recently graduated from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's 50-day Career Recruit Firefighting Training Program.

during controlled fire conditions.

To graduate, students must demonstrate proficiency in life safety, search and rescue, ladder operations, water supply, pump operation and fire attack. Fire attack operations range from mailbox fires to multiple-floor or multiple-room structural fires.

Upon successful completion of the Career Recruit Program, all students have met the national standards of NFPA 1001, Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications, and are certified to the levels of Firefighter I/II and Hazardous Materials First Responder Operations by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council, which is accredited by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications.

More than fighting fires

Modern firefighters train for and respond to all types of hazards and emergencies. They are the first ones called to respond to chemical and environmental emergencies, ranging from the suspected presence of carbon monoxide to gas leaks to industrial chemical spills.

They may be called to rescue a child who has fallen through the ice, an office worker stuck in an elevator, or a motorist trapped in a crashed vehicle. They test and maintain their equipment, including self-contained breathing apparatus, hydrants, hoses, power tools and apparatus.

At the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, recruits learn all these skills and more, including the latest science of fire behavior and suppression tactics, from certified fire instructors. They also receive training in public fire education, hazardous material incident mitigation, flammable liquids, stress management and self-rescue techniques.

The intensive, 10-week program involves classroom instruction, physical fitness training, firefighter skills training, and live firefighting practice.

The MFA provides recruit and in-service training for career, call, and volunteer firefighters at every level of experience, from recruit to chief officer. Courses are delivered at MFA campuses in Stow, Springfield and Bridgewater, as well as on-site at local fire departments.

Warren Police Log

During the weeks of Dec. 22-31, the Warren Police Department responded to 307 building/property checks, 31 community policings, 27 emergency 911 calls, two safety concerns, two larceny/thefts, one trespasser/prowler, two motor vehicle accidents, two animal calls and 36 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Sunday, Dec. 22

9:17 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Written Warning
9:58 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Boston Post Road, Written Warning
10:26 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Boston Post Road, Written Warning

Monday, Dec. 23

8:04 a.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Yankee Drummer Drive, Transported to Hospital
4:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Tuesday, Dec. 24

6:11 p.m. Seizures, Nelligan Terrace, Transported to Hospital
9:16 p.m. Falls, Winthrop Terrace, Ambulance Signed Refusal
10:38 p.m. Breathing Difficulty, Jones Street, Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, Dec. 25

6:25 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle, South Street, Investigated

1:48 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Spring Street, Transported to Hospital
5:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Thursday, Dec. 26

12:52 a.m. Welfare Check, South Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
10:31 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Washburn Avenue, Transported to Hospital

11:31 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Written Warning
11:43 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Washington Street, Transported to Hospital

12:43 p.m. Assault and Battery, Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed

3:53 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed

5:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
11:04 p.m. Abdominal/Back Pain, Summer Street, Transported to Hospital

Friday, Dec. 27

8:30 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ware Road, Written Warning
9:52 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
10:33 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

10:53 a.m. 911 Hang-up/

Misdial/Abandoned, A Street, Negative Contact

11:21 a.m. Welfare Check, Brimfield Road, Report Filed
2:32 p.m. Larceny or Theft, South Street, Report Filed

2:47 p.m. Mutual Aid Ambulance, Ware, Canceled
2:49 p.m. Welfare Check, Albany Street, Investigated

4:03 p.m. Safety Concern, Bemis Road, Report Filed

Saturday, Dec. 28

11:35 a.m. Falls, Chapel Street, Transported to Hospital

11:46 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Keyes Street, Transported to Hospital

Sunday, Dec. 29

5:48 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Southbridge Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
11:54 a.m. Welfare Check, Main Street, Transported to Hospital

12:30 p.m. Trespass or Prowler, Milton O. Fountain Way, Information Taken

2:38 p.m. Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Constitution Avenue, Transported to Hospital

3:06 p.m. Power Lines Down, Cutler Road, Removed Hazard

Please see **WARREN**, page 11

Ware Police Log

During the week of Dec. 30-Jan. 7, the Ware Police Department responded to 27 miscellaneous calls, 17 administrative calls, nine traffic violations, 14 emergency 911 calls, four harassments, seven motor vehicle accidents, two thefts/larcenies, one trespass, one fraud, one breaking and entering, two fire calls, one damage/vandalism, three safety hazards, four animal calls and 21 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

Monday, Dec. 30

12:09 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Street, Report Made
12:13 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, West Street, Services Rendered

4:47 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Street, Report Made
4:49 p.m. Structure Fire, Warebrook Drive, Extinguished

Tuesday, Dec. 31

10:26 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Pulaski Street, Services Rendered
11 a.m. Trespass/Unwanted, West Street, Services Rendered

3:32 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, West Street, Services Rendered
3:32 p.m. Theft/Larceny, North Street, Services Rendered

5:35 p.m. Assault, Webb Court, Services Rendered

Wednesday, Jan. 1

10:56 a.m. Safety Hazard, Old Gilbertville Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
1:04 p.m. Damage/Vandalism,

Hillside Village, Could Not Locate

Thursday, Jan. 2

4:06 a.m. Safety Hazard, Anderson Road, Services Rendered
9:28 a.m. Brush Fire, West Warren Road, Investigated

11:07 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Palmer Road, Report Made
2:40 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Babcock Tavern Road, Report Made

6:13 p.m. Safety Hazard, Sherman Hill Road, Services Rendered

6:29 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, River Road, Investigated
6:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued

Friday, Jan. 3

9:53 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, West Street, Report Made
3:50 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Eddy Street, Dispatch Handled

7:26 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Gould Street, Arrest Made
Arrest: Alex L. Zabnicki, 31, Ware

OUI-Liquor or .08%; Resist Arrest

Saturday, Jan. 4

11:11 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Off Monroe Street, Report Made
11:14 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Babcock Tavern Road, Could Not Locate

11:23 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Highland Village, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
3:45 p.m. Theft/Larceny, King

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Dec. 23-Jan. 5, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 125 building/property checks, 91 directed/area patrols, 15 radar assignments, 10 traffic controls, 17 emergency 911 calls, three citizen assists, five assist other agencies, one safety hazard, four complaints, one motor vehicle accident, one motor vehicle investigation, one fraud, one scam, one missing person, four animal calls and 23 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, Dec. 23

2:36 p.m. 911 Misdial, Hall Road, Officer Handled
10:06 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Sullivan Avenue, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, Dec. 24

6:34 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Ware, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
12:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Petersham Road, Vehicle Towed

Wednesday, Dec. 25

2:57 p.m. 911 Assist Citizen, Pine Street, Spoken To
10:10 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Bridge Street, Services Rendered

Thursday, Dec. 26

1:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Citation Issued

Friday, Dec. 27

12:24 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Upper Church Street, Services Rendered
12:02 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital

1:45 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Records Check, Dispatch Handled
2:15 p.m. Animal Call, River Run, Services Rendered

4:42 p.m. Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

Saturday, Dec. 28

1:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Citation Issued
8:56 a.m. 911 Complaint, Route 32, Unfounded

11:50 a.m. Fraud, Lower Road, Officer Handled
7:15 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Upper Church Street, Officer Handled

7:19 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Main Street, Services Rendered

Sunday, Dec. 29

12:10 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Main Street, Officer Handled
7:15 a.m. Disturbance, Main Street, Investigated

3:57 p.m. Complaint, Broad Street, Officer Handled

Monday, Dec. 30

3:26 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Mechanic Street, Transported to Hospital
7:14 a.m. Assist Other Agency, New Braintree, Officer Handled

12:36 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Services Rendered
3:48 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, Dec. 31

8:28 a.m. 911 Scam, Church Lane, Report Taken
1:29 p.m. Assist Citizen, Petersham Road, Services Rendered

7:31 p.m. Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
9:03 p.m. Gunshots, School Street, Unfounded

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.

Street, Could Not Locate
7:45 p.m. Breaking and Entering/Burglary, East Street, Services Rendered
8:54 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, East Street, Services Rendered

Sunday, Jan. 5

1:58 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Main Street, Assist Given
6:36 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Vlonitis Avenue, Investigated

Monday, Jan. 6

3:30 p.m. Fraud/Deception, North Street, Advised

Tuesday, Jan. 7

3:18 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued

Wednesday, Jan. 1

7:02 a.m. Safety Hazard, Greenwich Road, Removed Hazard
9:20 a.m. Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

Thursday, Jan. 2

9:45 a.m. 911 Unattended Death, Church Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
8:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

Friday, Jan. 3

8:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning
5 p.m. 911 Missing Person, Greenwich Road, Officer Handled

Saturday, Jan. 4

3:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
3:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
4:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

7:43 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Jackson Road, Services Rendered
8:18 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Services Rendered

Sunday, Jan. 5

1:54 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Church Street, Citation Issued
1:26 p.m. Assist Citizen, Church Lane, Spoken To
4:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Many Christmas tree home fires occur in January

More than one-third (36%) of U.S. home fires involving Christmas trees occur in January; with this post-holiday fire hazard in mind, the National Fire Protection Association strongly encourages everyone to dispose 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.

According to NFPA data, Christmas tree fires don't happen often, but when they do occur, they're more likely to be serious. That's in part because fresh Christmas trees dry out over time,

making them more flammable the longer they're in the home.

A dried-out Christmas tree will burn much more quickly than a well-watered one.

Between 2018 and 2022, there was an estimated annual average of 155 home structure fires that began with Christmas trees, resulting in four civilian deaths, seven civilian injuries, and \$15 million in direct property damage.

"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," said Carli.

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.

Please see **FIRE**, page 11

WARREN from page 10

Monday, Dec. 30

12:59 a.m. Falls, Burbank Avenue, Transported to Hospital
4:31 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Nelligan Terrace, Transported to Hospital
1:39 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Old West Brookfield Road, Report Filed
4:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
11:54 p.m. Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Spring Street, Report Filed

Tuesday, Dec. 31

4:16 a.m. Abdominal/Back Pain, Quaboag Street, Transported to Hospital
9:44 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Boston Post Road, Written Warning
11:14 a.m. Safety Concern, Liberty Steet, Officer Spoke to Party
11:17 a.m. Falls, Winthrop Terrace, Transported to Hospital
12:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Grove Street, Written Warning
12:45 p.m. Welfare Check, Southbridge Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
1:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Criminal Complaint
1:14 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Brimfield Road, Transported to Hospital
2:53 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Cottage Street, Transported to Hospital
6:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Cronin Road, Vehicle Towed

FIRE from page 10

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

About the NFPA

Founded in 1896, NFPA is a global, self-funded, nonprofit 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.

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Small church in West Brookfield seeking a PART-TIME SECRETARY. Approximately 5 hours/week. Candidate must have organizational and computer skills, social media experience, good communication and people skills a must. Starting paying \$16-18/hr. based on experience. Send resume to: fccwbwship@gmail.com.

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF BLANDFORD HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

The Town of Blandford is seeking a qualified individual for the position of Highway Superintendent. Salary range starting at \$75,000-\$80,000+ negotiable based on experience/skills.

Please visit our website
TownOfBlandford.com
or email Administrator@TownofBlandford.com
for more information.

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GREEN STREET, PALMER Newly renovated 1 bedroom apt. porch, off-street parking, coin-op laundry, \$1,500/ mo includes heat. No Pets. Call Tom 413-896-1555

public notices

NOTICE OF AUCTION

The contents of the following storage unit:
Melissa Rice
Bldg. 3 Unit 17
will be sold for non-payment at Country Corners Storage, 50 Greenwich Road, Ware MA on Saturday, January 11, 2025 at 10:00 am Tel 413-967-6095
01/02, 01/09/2025

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 16 Cottage Street, Ware, Massachusetts
By virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Charles T. Thresher and Rosemary R. Thresher to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), as mortgagee, as nominee for FirstBank its successors and assigns and now held by Carrington Mortgage Services LLC, said mortgage dated August 18, 2017, and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 12726, Page 130, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated June 21, 2024, and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 15166, Page 40, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on January 30, 2025 at 10:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:
The land in Ware, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows: Situated on the corner of Spring and Cottage Streets, and bounded as follows;
On the North by Cottage Street;
On the East by land formerly of Herbert P. Cummings;

On the South by land formerly of Snow;
On the West by Spring Street, and more particularly described as follows;
S. 36 1/4" West along the easterly line of Spring Street, one hundred eighteen (118) feet, more or less;
THENCE S. 54 3/4" E. seventy-four (74) feet, more or less, to land formerly of H.P. Cummings, now of one Jordan;
THENCE N. 36 1/4" E. along said Jordan land, one hundred seventeen (117) feet, more or less, to the southerly side of Cottage Street; and
THENCE N. 54 1/2" W. along the southerly side of said Cottage Street, seventy-four (74) feet, more or less, to the point of beginning.
The above description is derived from the description in a deed from Grace D. Sibley to Emma A. Davis dated January 18, 1921, recorded with Hampshire County Deeds, Book 767, Page 49, and does not create any new boundaries.
Being the same premises conveyed to Theresa M. Sykes and Jerrie L. Payson by deed of David P. Flanagan and Maria E. Flanagan, dated May 28, 1985, and recorded with the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds at Book 2570, Page 69.
Tax ID: Map 60 Block 0 Lot 115
The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.
For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated August 18, 2017, and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 12726, Page 127.
TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.
TEN THOUSAND (\$10,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid

by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within forty-five (45) days after the date of sale.
Other terms to be announced at the sale.
Marinosci Law Group, P.C.
275 West Natick Road, Suite 500
Warwick, RI 02886
Attorney for Carrington Mortgage Services LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage
Telephone: (401) 234-9200
MLG File No.: 24-04741
01/02, 01/09, 01/16/2025

Notice of Public Hearing Ware Planning Board LEGAL NOTICE

This is a revised Notice of Public Hearing. Pursuant to MGL Ch. 40A, Sec. 5, the Ware Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 16th, 2025 during their normally scheduled meeting starting at 7:00pm in the Town Hall meeting room, 126 Main Street, Ware MA. The purpose of this hearing is to consider amendments to the Zoning Map of the Town of Ware, to change parcels 57-0-167 (Lot 167), 57-0-166 (Lot 166), 57-0-168 (Lot 168), 57-0-169 (Lot 169), 57-0-206 (Lot 206) from Highway Commercial zoning to Commercial Industrial zoning, and parcel 57-0-205 (Lot 205), from Suburban Residential zoning to Commercial Industrial zoning.
Pursuant to Chapter 27 of the Acts of 2022, this hearing will be conducted in person and via remote means as a courtesy in accordance with the applicable law. Should there be technical issues, the meeting will proceed at the scheduled time. This means that members of the Planning Board as well as members of the public may access this

meeting in person, or via virtual means. In person attendance will be held in Town Hall Meeting room, 126 Main Street, Ware MA. It is possible that any or all members of the public body may attend remotely, with in-person attendance consisting of members of the public. The meeting may be accessed remotely via Zoom. Go to https://zoom.us/join or join by phone. Phone Number: 929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 784 604 1861; Password: 01082.
A complete copy of the proposed changes can be found at the Planning & Community Development Department Office and on the department web page at www.townofware.com. Anyone interested or wishing to be heard should appear at the time and place designated. All interested parties are invited to attend. Please contact the Planning and Community Development Director with any questions. (413) 967-9648, ext. 118. psmith@townofware.com
WARE PLANNING BOARD
Kenneth Crosby, Chair
01/02, 01/09/2025

Ware Housing Authority Pavement Reconstruction Project #316076

Section 00 11 13
ADVERTISEMENT TO BID

MGL c.30 §39M Over \$50K
THE WARE HOUSING AUTHORITY, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Pavement Reconstruction at State Aided Development: 161 West Street (705-2) in Ware, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by TIGHE & BOND.
The Project consists of but not limited to:
The removal and replacement of the existing pavements and curbing throughout the site.
The work is estimated to cost \$379,900.00.
Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.30§39M and to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §26 to 27H inclusive.
THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how

to register as an electronic bidder. All Bids shall be submitted online at bidders.com and received no later than the date and time specified.
General Bids will be received until 14 February 2025 at 3:00PM EST and publicly opened online, forthwith.
General bids and sub-bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (including all alternates) and made payable to the WARE HOUSING AUTHORITY. Note: A bid deposit is not required for Projects advertised under \$50,000. Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for review at bidders.com (may be viewed and downloaded electronically at no cost).
P R E - B I D CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT: None
The hard copy Contract Documents may be seen at:
Nashoba Blue Inc.
433 Main Street
Hudson, MA 01749
978-568-1167
01/09/2025

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 January 24, 2025 at 10:00 AM 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: 2008 Ford Escape

Registration#/State: 548WNN/MA
VIN: IFMCU-93118KA28749
Name and address of owner: Merryl Maleska Wilbur & Nathan L. Wilbur
48 Rose St.
Chicopee, MA 01020
By: James M. Regin
Dated: 12/29/2024
01/09, 01/16, 01/23/2025

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.



PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
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

Job Connection HELPING YOU FIND HELP

The Town of West Brookfield Highway Department is seeking FULL TIME OPERATOR/ DRIVER/LABORERS

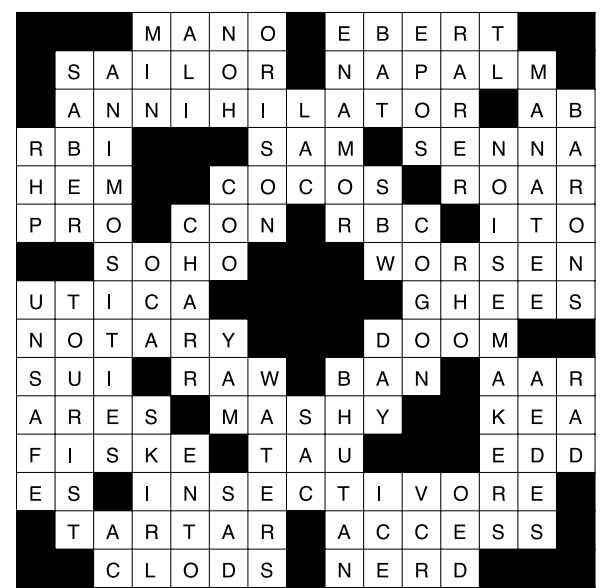
This position performs manual labor, operates, and maintains equipment for the construction, operation and maintenance of town roads and maintains town owned facilities. Must possess current and valid Massachusetts Class B CDL license with an airbrake endorsement as well as current motor carrier medical examiners certificate (DOT card). In accordance with AFSCME Local 1364 Wage Scale this position is a Grade 10 -Step 2 at \$24.80 per hour for 40 hours per week plus overtime for snow/ice or emergencies.

Applications and a more detailed job description are available on the Town website: www.wbrookfield.com

Please contact: Jim Daley at (508) 867-1417 or email jdaley@wbrookfield.com

The Town of West Brookfield is an Equal Opportunity Employer and values diversity at all levels of the workforce. EOE

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Historical Society presents program about 1927 road trip

STURBRIDGE – On Thursday, Jan. 23, at 7 p.m. at the Publick House, the Sturbridge Historical Society is presenting a program by Sturbridge photographer Bob Arnold called “Road Trip 1927 - 18,000 miles in a Model T Ford.”

Almost a century ago, in 1927, Carey and Maud Melville, Arnold’s grandparents, made an epic, eight-month-long, 18,000-mile road trip with their three children.

Packing everyone into a Ford Model T Touring Car named Hubbu with attached trailer, the Melvilles left their Worcester home in January, with the

objective of traveling the entire periphery of the United States and, as Mrs. Melville noted in one of her many journals, “...finding out-of-the-way places and experiencing the natural wonders the country had to offer.”

The issues these travelers encountered stand in sharp contrast to what we find when we set out on a road trip today. Many roads were unpaved and unnamed, often little more than trails that were muddy in the rain and dusty the rest of the time.

The business of providing travel and roadside amenities from gas to food was in its infancy, often with options

few and far between.

Carey Melville had taken a sabbatical from his teaching position at Clark University, which provided the time for the road trip. He was an accomplished amateur photographer and more than a hundred of his photographs from the trip will be featured in the program, illustrating both the joys and the trials of cross country travel in 1927.

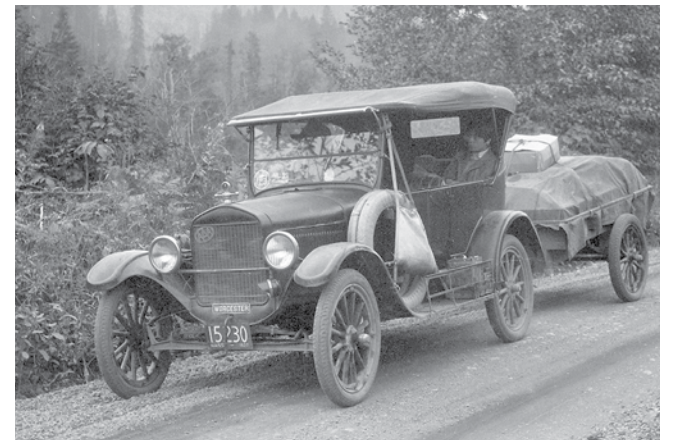
Arnold is a freelance photographer, amateur historian and avid collector of all things Sturbridge. In addition to serving clients throughout New England, Bob has been documenting life in the community since he and his

family moved here in 1970.

His work over the past 50 plus years has yielded a unique perspective on the commercial, cultural, and environmental changes in the community and his ongoing program of digital preservation of documents and photographic images assures that future generations will have access to the visual record of our past.

Arnold lives in town with his wife, Susan, their dog, Jesse and thousands of images.

The program begins at 7 p.m. and is generously hosted by the Publick House.



Bob Arnold will present a program about his grandparents’ 18,000-mile road trip taken in 1927 during the Sturbridge Historical Society’s meeting on Thursday, Jan. 23 at the Publick House starting at 7 p.m.

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