

WARE RIVER NEWS

SERVING THE WARE REGION FOR 129 YEARS

Vol. 138 No. 50

20 Pages

(Plus Supplements)

USPS 666100

\$31 PER YEAR - \$1.00 A COPY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2025

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

www.warerivernews.turley.com

School Committee hears concerns about consulting firm

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – School Committee member Chris Desjardins asked Superintendent Dr. Michael Lovato how long the school district would be working with Clark Consulting to provide coaching and profes-

sional development to its staff.

At the Jan. 8 meeting, Lovato said the plan was for three years, and they are currently about a year and a half into it.

Lovato said in the surveys he's received from the teachers about Clark Consulting, there isn't the same negative feedback that has been voiced in recent School

Committee meetings.

"Through the meetings I have had with union leadership, Clark Consulting was not a major topic in any of those," Lovato said. "I haven't had specifics from the union leadership on what they're concerned with."

Lovato said in conversations he's had with individual teachers,

the feedback has been mixed, but he doesn't have any negative feedback in writing. He said he suspended the services from Clark Consulting after hearing complaints from the community and concerns about the cost of the services.

He said he was hoping to discuss these concerns with the union

leadership.

"I do think it's imperative that I get that information and that we actually have those conversations," he said.

School Committee Vice-Chair Aaron Sawabi said he needs more information before making any decision about whether or not the school district should continue to

work with Clark Consulting.

Lovato said he can send out another anonymous survey to the teachers and sit down with union leadership to hear concerns directly. He invited the union leadership to work with him to develop the survey.

Please see **SCHOOL**, page 3

Nicholas Bousquet receives Michael H. Deslauriers Scholarship

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – Members of AMVETS Post 2577 met in the hall of the American Legion to present a \$1,000 scholarship to a Ware college student.

The scholarship is given in memory of Michael H. Deslauriers who passed away at age 40. Although Michael was born with spinal bifida, he never let his physical challenges interfere with his true passion in life, music.

He shared his musical ability and trumpet skills with the community at large events and especially with veterans. He played "Taps" at numerous veteran's funerals and as a member of the Ware Community Band, performed for the town's Memorial Day and Veterans Day exercises.

The scholarship is presented every year to a Ware resident,

Please see **BOUSQUET**, page 3



Nicholas Bousquet, center, was the recipient of the Michael H. Deslauriers Scholarship.

Turley Photo by Ryan Drago



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

The Downtown Improvement Committee continues to look at ways to revitalize and bring commerce to Main Street.

Committee works to revitalize downtown

By Abby McCoy
Correspondent

WARE – At the Downtown Improvement Committee's meeting on Jan. 6, community leaders gathered at the Town Hall to discuss the progress of ongoing projects and address key issues facing the town's business district.

Led by Chair Dennis Craig, the meeting covered a broad range of topics, from future events to infrastructure improvements and strategies to attract more businesses to Main Street.

One of the highlights of the meeting was a reflection on the success of the 2024 fireworks display. The event, which took place in August, attracted approximately 1,500 attendees and raised \$18,000, thanks to the generous contributions of 40 major donors and several smaller supporters.

The committee acknowledged that while a majority of the funds raised went toward covering the event's fireworks display costs, the event was a resounding success. With plans already in motion for the 2025 fireworks

display, the committee is hopeful that this beloved event will return in the second weekend of August and draw even more community engagement.

The discussion then turned to Ware's ongoing beautification efforts. Currently, the town is displaying holiday banners, which will be taken down in mid-January and replaced by historical banners showcasing significant landmarks and sites around the town. These historical banners will remain in place until mid-April.

The committee also discussed plans to purchase new banner poles capable of hanging multiple banners at once, allowing more veteran banners to be displayed throughout the downtown area.

Additionally, the committee clarified that it is not guaranteed that a veteran's banner will be displayed every year. However, individuals who have previously purchased a veterans banner can opt to rerun it for a \$40 donation

Please see **REVITALIZE**, page 7

SB accepts Town Admins contractual request

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Select Board met on Jan. 13 to discuss the contractual request of the Town Administrator.

Back in December, Town Administrator Justine Caggiano made a contractual request to have her pay increased \$5,000 to the amount of \$90,000. The Select Board tabled the discussion until this meeting on Jan. 13 and conducted an evaluation on her performance as Town Administrator.

Select Board members Kelly Kemp, Eric Vollheim and William Tinker shared their comments and evaluations with Caggiano regarding her performance as the Town Administrator and had very positive feedback to share.

Please see **HARDWICK**, page 6



Martinez formally appointed as Fire Chief

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – The Selectboard formally appointed interim Fire Chief James Martinez to serve in that role permanently, following the completion of the assessment center and test.

"Chief Martinez did wonders on the test," Town Manager Stuart Beckley said at the Jan. 7 meeting. "Really high scoring."

Martinez has been serving as the interim fire chief since January of 2023, following the retirement of Fire Chief Christopher Gagnon at the end of 2022.

Please see **WARE BOS**, page 8



James Martinez was formally appointed as the town's permanent Fire Chief at the Jan. 7 Selectboard meeting. He has been serving as interim Fire Chief since the beginning of 2023.

Parks Commissioners meet with volunteers about playground

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – The Parks and Recreation Commission met with volunteers from the community to discuss efforts to revitalize the Robert Beaugard Memorial Park, which is located behind the Reed Municipal Pool off Route 9.

Volunteer coordinator Adrienne Clark told the commission at the Jan. 6 meeting that she decided to do something after reading complaints on social media about recent vandalism at the park. She said she decided to form a community action group to "see if people are willing to take action rather than complain."

She talked about a recent meeting she held at the Ware Library

with those interested in volunteering, and the positive response she received. She said there were ideas shared about seeking grants and state earmarks and keeping in line with the playground's firefighter theme.

"There's an interest and want for the community to be involved," Clark said.

Clark said she will be attending

a site visit to the park with commission members, Parks Manager John Piechota and Town Manager Stuart Beckley.

Commission Chair William Imbier said the commission members are eager to work with the volunteers to make improvements at the park.

Please see **VOLUNTEERS**, page 6



Volunteers have been focusing on revitalizing the Robert Beaugard Memorial Park, also known as Ware Dreams Come True playground.

Grand Opening!
~January 22~

HANNA'S ON MAIN
Restaurant • Bar • Catering
91 Main Street Ware, MA 01082
Open Wednesday - Saturday Lunch and Dinner
Sunday Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
413-277-0009

Live Entertainment Every Friday Night

Inside this edition:

- Viewpoints.....4
- Warren.....5
- Obituaries.....7
- Education.....18
- Sports.....11
- Police/Fire.....14
- Notices.....19
- Classifieds.....19

BUSINESS

Country Bank lists promotions
Page 6

COMMUNITY

Winter market returns
Page 9



PUBLIC SAFETY

Warren lieutenant recognized
Page 14

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.

Are You Old News?

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

File Photo
Last week's photo from 1977 showed sisters Rose Dale of Sheffield, England and Margaret Grogan (mother of Richard Dubay of Beaver Road, Ware). The sisters were reunited after not seeing each other for 53 years. The last time the two saw each other was in Ballinlough, County Roscommon, Ireland in 1924. If you recognize the folks in this week's photo, please send their names and your full name to pouimette@turley.com.



Shown from left are The Rotary Club of the Brookfields' President Teresa McCarthy with newest member Charlotte NeSmith and her Rotary sponsor Lynn DuffyO'Shea.

Rotary Club welcomes newest member

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Rotary Club of the Brookfields celebrated the beginning of the new year by inducting its newest member, Charlotte NeSmith of West Brookfield, on Jan. 8 at the Hitchcock Tavern.

The club's President Teresa McCarthy officiated over the ceremony with NeSmith and Lynn DuffyO'Shea (NeSmith's Rotary sponsor) in attendance.



The Rotary Club of the Brookfields' newest member, Charlotte NeSmith, is shown with her Rotary sponsor Lynn DuffyO'Shea.

Valentine Gala to benefit Stone Church

Event featuring dinner, music and auction Feb. 8 at Hardwick Crossing



Submitted Photo by Mary Warbasse
Friends of the Stone Church Valentine Dinner Auction volunteers are shown inside the Stone Church Cultural Center. They are from left: Paula Roberts, Clare Hendra and Kathy McCrohon.

HARDWICK – Friends of the Stone Church welcomes all to a Valentine-themed benefit from 4-8 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 8 at Hardwick Crossing Country Club, 262 Lower Road in Gilbertville.

All proceeds will benefit the preservation of the Stone Church Cultural Center, the iconic regional landmark located at 283 Main St., Gilbertville, and the programs of the Stone Church Cultural Center.

For tickets at \$65 per person, mail payment to FOSC, P.O. Box 347, Gilbertville, MA 01031 or order online through www.FriendsoftheStoneChurch.org. \$30 of the \$65 ticket price is a tax-deductible contribution to FOSC.

Advance purchase is required by Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025. For more information, call Kathy McCrohon at 508-404-7552.

The Mason Tyler Duo: Lou Falcone and Mark Fontaine will entertain, offering a variety of music from oldies to contemporary dance tunes. Professional auctioneer Paul Varney will emcee and conduct a live auction of featured items.

The silent auction will include certificates for experiences, services and products, collectible items, and gift baskets, all donated by generous businesses and individuals. Hardwick Crossing will serve an entrée-choice dinner buffet style with vegetables, salad, appetizer, desserts and beverages. There will be a full cash bar.

"The FOSC annual gala has become a feature of the community calendar and we look forward, once again, to gathering together new and old friends to support FOSC's mission," said FOSC president, Judy Edgington.

The Friends formed as a non-profit corporation in 2015. Aided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, a state agency which provided several matching grants, the Friends re-opened the shuttered building in 2016.

Since then, the group has simultane-

ously invested in preservation construction while offering the building to serve the public, providing family arts programs, rehearsal space for community music groups, fine classical music concerts, and an elegant rental venue for community events.

Now owners and stewards of the cultural center and its original pipe organ, FOSC completed interior stabilization of the stone tower in 2024 with community support and a major grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund, administered through a collaborative agreement between MassDevelopment and the Mass Cultural Council.

Project Architect and FOSC Board member Phillip Warbasse reports that, "FOSC's goal of securing the building for the future still requires major masonry repairs to the lantern level of the tower, above the belfry and the spire. Significant capital support will be needed to complete this project, which we hope to initiate in 2026."

Warbasse has also created plans to increase access to the Center via a second ramp in 2025, this one to the north entrance. The FOSC have received partial funding for this endeavor through a generous grant from the Barre Savings Charitable Foundation.

In 2024, FOSC received funding from The Greater Worcester Community Foundation to initiate programming focused on Gilbertville history.

Support for classical and community music concerts in 2024 was provided by Country Bank, Monson Savings Bank, the Salvadore Family of Automotive Dealerships, the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, and Cultural Councils of Barre, Oakham, and Petersham, local agencies which receive support from the Mass Cultural Council. FOSC makes all of its ticketed programs free to youth under 18 and accessible based on income through the Mass Cultural Council's "Card to Culture" program.

Friends of the Stone Church, Inc. is a community-focused, charitable organization. They require ongoing financial and volunteer support in the areas of preservation, programs, maintenance and organizational development to carry out their mission.

To volunteer, contact the organization through its website www.FriendsoftheStoneChurch.org. Donations are welcome online through the website or by mail to FOSC, P.O. Box 347, Gilbertville, MA 01031.

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.

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.

ROADHOUSE CAFE

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Enjoy your old favorites with some new touches

Open extended hours Tues.-Sun. 7am-1pm
Check our Facebook & Instagram pages for updates

Bay Road & Rt. 9, Belchertown
413.323.6175
www.roadhouse.cafe.net

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

McNeely Tree Service

Insured • References

- Hazardous Tree Removal
- Stump Grinding
- Bobcat Work
- Lot Clearing • Storm work
- Furnace Wood
- Firewood \$275/cord
- 101 ft Aerial Lift Rental POR
- Credit Cards, Cash & Venmo Accepted

H: 508-867-6119 • C: 978-888-1693

ROBINSON TREE SERVICE LLC

Professional - Reliable - Fully Insured

Tree Trimming and Removal
Emergency Tree Work • Stump Grinding
Crane Service • Firewood Delivery

All Major Credit Cards Accepted
100% Financing Available

162 Sturbridge Road, Brimfield, MA 01010
508-641-5249 • office@robinsontreeservice.net
www.robinsontreeservice.net

"Join the team that does more by 9am than some do all day!"

Train now to a new career in 6 weeks. High hourly wages and generous bonus program. Van work available too!

Call or text 774-200-6762 or email jobs@mccarthybus.com to apply

J.P. McCarthy & Sons
WWW.MCCARTHYBUS.COM

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.

COLORBLINDGUY APPLAUDS Don Swarts

Don Swarts has dedicated himself to the students and athletes at Ware public schools for 27 years. Don has coached youth soccer, baseball and softball and the WHS softball and volleyball teams. Don works the scorer's table for the girls and boys basketball teams and is a member of the Booster's Club. He also runs the Wigwam and basketball concession stands. Don is ever-present on the school campus and hundreds of current and former Ware athletes remember Don fondly.

Don says, "The kids have kept me young and inspire me to keep volunteering" in Ware the colorblind capital of the world!

Don's commitment to the students and athletes in Ware is unwavering.

Young Men's Library takes patrons on a virtual tour of Jerusalem

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The Young Men's Library Association hosted a learning and leisure virtual program this past week about a tour of Jerusalem.

Many viewers will get to experience a virtual view and tour of some of the historic sites of Jerusalem in a section of the 3,000-year-old city. The area of Jerusalem being toured is the historic Jewish Quarter.

The Jewish Quarter is one of four traditional quarters of the Old City of Jerusalem. This tour will take viewers into a historical learning experience with areas and landmarks highlighting the history of the ancient city. There are ancient landmarks such as the Western Wall, a holy Jewish site from the 1st century that can be seen at the Jewish Quarter.

Leading the virtual tour was Robert Hayes who began with a presentation prior to introducing the tour guide who was on location at the Jewish Quarter.

"3,000 years of history comes alive," is how Hayes puts it as the tour featured archaeological findings dating back to the seventh century BCE.

The tour guide for the visit to Jerusalem was Anna Levina, who was on location inside the Jewish Quarter. Levina described this his-

toric area of Jerusalem as "history being everywhere, in every corner."

Levina began with sharing some more recent historical facts about the Jewish Quarter and how the area has endured during impactful wars. The quarter was occupied by Jordan during a war around 1948. In 1967, a conflict known as the Six-Day War, the city of Jerusalem and the Jewish quarter was liberated.

As the tour continued Levina traveled down an old street in the Jewish Quarter that dates to the times of the Roman and Byzantine Empire. There was also a street Levina walked as her camera would allow viewers to see. The street Levina reached dates back to the 15th century.

The Jewish Quarter featured remains of an old temple as well as columns of the quarter that now feature small shops of all varieties. As the audience followed Levina's camera, they would see the columns of the Jewish Quarter. Levina mentioned that many tourists visit these columns every day.

Levina would then bring her audience of the virtual tour to the Broad Wall that dates to eighth century BCE. This wall was originally built to protect the city from an Assyrian invasion. King Hezekiah helped protect the city with this Broad Wall and also had tunnels built to transfer water into the city.

At the time of the virtual tour

Levina, being in Jerusalem, was giving the tour under the night sky. The time of the tour started at 2:30 p.m., eastern time. In Jerusalem, it was almost 9 p.m. Levina would show fantastic views of the city under the night sky as she was prepared to show her guests the Western Wall.

While transitioning, Levina would take some questions from the audience during the virtual tour. The viewers asked a lot of good questions, including questions about tourism in Jerusalem, safety, weather and transportation.

When asked what time of year it is best to visit in Jerusalem, Levina shared that a lot of tourism takes place year-round. Despite the ongoing conflicts going on currently in Jerusalem, Levina says "life still goes on", and its important to show how things are in the daily life in the historic city.

Other historic findings that Levin showed on the virtual tour included a 2,000-year-old Roman street, the majestic Hurva Synagogue and an old mosque. The tour was enjoyed by many virtual viewers who got to experience the history of Jerusalem's Jewish Quarter.

The next leisure and learning program at the Young Men's Library Association will be a tour of Mexico City's historic center. The tour can be seen inside the library's reading room.

Ware Senior Center news

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

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

ACTIVITIES Monday, Jan. 20 Closed

Tuesday, Jan. 21

- 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
- 1-2 p.m. Food Bank of Western MA Mobile Food Pantry Grenville Park
- 1 p.m. Cornhole
- 5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking. \$3 per class
- 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5

p.m.)

Wednesday, Jan. 22

- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 10-11:30 a.m. Kirsten Krieger Quabbin Region DPH Nurse office hours
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. Chair Yoga
- 2:30 p.m. Knit-Crochet-Laugh

Thursday, Jan. 23

- 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. 24

- 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.

Monday, Jan. 20

Closed

Tuesday, Jan. 21

Sloppy Joe, Veggie Salad, Dessert of the Day

Wednesday, Jan. 22

Stuffed Pork with Spinach and Cottage Cheese, Rice with Gravy, Dessert of the Day

Thursday, Jan. 23

Chicken Nuggets, French Fries, Fruit Salad, Dessert of the Day

Friday, Jan. 24

Fish Sandwich with Lettuce, Tomato and Pickle, French Fries, Dessert of the Day

Library hosts puzzle swap on Feb. 1

WARE – As we make our way through the cold winter months, you may be thinking of indoor activities; and puzzles are a great way to stay entertained.

If you are looking at your stack of puzzles thinking "I could use some new puzzles," you are in luck. The Ware Library, 37 Main

St., is hosting a Puzzle Swap in the Reading Room on Saturday, Feb. 1 from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Simply bring a puzzle you've already conquered and swap it out for a new-to-you puzzle. The Puzzle Swap is free to the public and there is no registration required; just drop in.

The library also has puzzles and games you can check out with a library card at any time. Follow the library on Facebook for updates, call 413-967-5491, or email warelibrary1881@gmail.com with any questions.

SCHOOL from page 1

Ware Teachers Association President Amber Boucher said the union surveyed teachers and found that 96.1% of them disagreed that Clark Consulting had positively impacted their own personal teaching.

"This is a hostile work environment," Boucher said. "When we are brought into small groups in front of Clark Consulting... they know who's in those groups. When we're filling out those surveys, they know who's there at that day on that time. You have to remember that people are fearful here."

Boucher said previous surveys given to the teachers about Clark Consulting, "really don't provide any option for negative response at all." She said those who did respond negatively on the surveys were later approached by their building principals about their responses.

School Committee members said they would like to see measurable data that supports the benefit of working with Clark Consulting and the impact it has had on student progress, as well as the financial impact.

Several residents who have children in the school district, in addition to teachers, spoke against the use of Clark Consulting's services.

One teacher said she felt "shut down" after an interaction with Clark Consulting during professional development.

"I was really taken aback," she said. "I tried going in with an open mind and I felt belittled, and I felt really just unappreciated."

Another teacher said the surveys that were given to the teachers following sessions with Clark Consulting were not anonymous. He said the union's vice president notified Lovato that the way to boost morale in the school district, would be to end services with the firm.

Substitute pay rate

The School Committee increased the pay rate for substi-

tutes as follows: \$125 for certified teachers, daily rate and \$120 for those with high school diplomas; \$200 for certified teachers, long-term and \$150 for those with high school diplomas.

Lovato requested that when hiring a long-term substitute teacher to replace a teacher on maternity or medical leave, that the long-term pay should start on day one instead of day 21.

"That would help us to get the person to stay in that position for 21 days," he said. "Right now, we have to wait the 21 days and then we pay the \$200 rate."

The committee approved the changes to the substitute teacher pay rate.

For substitute paraprofessionals, the school district currently pays \$75 per day which is comparable to neighboring districts. Lovato said hourly pay rates range from \$15-18 per hour across the region.

The committee voted to increase the substitute paraprofessional daily rate to \$110, and \$120 for long-term.

For substitute nurses, the daily rate will increase to \$200.

Additional cheerleading coach

Lovato said there are 27 student-athletes on the cheerleading team this year, and Coach Caitlin Trzpit requested an additional coach to aide her in running the team.

Athletic Director Thomas Shamgochian said the school district has two cheerleading seasons, one that runs from August-Thanksgiving Day and a second from Thanksgiving to the end of February.

He said the fall cheerleading team cheers at all home football games in addition to two away games and all playoff games. The winter team cheers at all home varsity basketball games and all playoff games.

"The cheer teams, they attend camps in the summer, and they also participate in competitions," Shamgochian said.

He said cheerleading is open to students in grades seven-12 and is a co-ed sport. He said the age difference can also present a

challenge to a team with only one coach.

"It has grown each year, by quite a lot...five or six kids in each season," Shamgochian said of the sport.

He proposed hiring a junior varsity/varsity assistant coach with a season salary of \$1,854.45, with this season's salary being prorated. He would like to have this position in place for the next season if the student-athlete to coach ratio exceeds 20:1.

The committee voted to add the position pending the approval of a memorandum of agreement with the union.

Special education audit

Lovato said he has received a recommendation for an independent auditor to review the school district's special education compliance after receiving complaints from both educators and families.

He said the three focus areas for the audit are basic compliance, initial evaluations and the implementation of accommodations.

The audit is expected to take about 30 days to complete, with the results presented to the School Committee and staff members by the end of April.

Superintendent's report

Lovato said the school district will be hiring an adjustment counselor to focus on seventh and eighth grade students. He said adding this position will not impact the school budget, due to salaries from unfilled positions being reallocated.

He said they have received interest from many applicants to fill the position.

Lovato said the school district is also seeking to hire a security guard as well as a permanent building substitute in the high school.

Field trip approval

The committee approved the grade sixth field trip on Thursday, May 29 to High Meadows in Granby, Connecticut. The sixth grade took the same field trip last year and it was very successful.



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

Nicholas Bousquet is shown with AMVETS State Commander Ed Wyzik, Henry Deslauriers, Barbara Deslauriers, Richard Rucki and Steve Kutt.

BOUSQUET from page 1

regardless of the school they attend, furthering their education. The scholarship committee considers grades, character, references, volunteer activity and many other things when selecting a recipient.

This year's recipient is 2024 Ware High School graduate Nicholas Bousquet. Currently enrolled at Saint Anselm College, Bousquet had just completed his first semester and finished with a 4.0 GPA. The AMVETS received an essay from Bousquet, which he worked on during his senior year of high school.

Bousquet is studying political science at Saint Anselm College,

and he said the experience has been great for him so far. College has taught Bousquet the importance of time management and he had done a lot of campaign work during the 2024 Presidential Election while enrolled in his first semester.

When receiving the news he was the recipient of the scholarship, Bousquet said "it was a great surprise." With college being expensive, any scholarship and funds can help with school.

"I was really excited," Bousquet said when he heard the announcement during the awards ceremony prior to his high school graduation.

Bousquet was also the recipient of several more scholarships when he graduated from high school,

including a Polish American Citizens scholarship.

Being awarded the Michael H. Deslauriers Scholarship from the AMVETS is an honor, Bousquet said. He has worked with and helped out the organization as a Boy Scout and always had a sense of honor and looked up to them.

Bousquet said he is "proud to be working with the AMVETS and supporting them."

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.

FOR RENT

Quabbin Estates

41 Church Lane, Wheelwright, MA 01094

Accepting applications for wait list.

The apartment features - w/w carpeting, kitchen appliances, maintenance coverage, laundry facilities. We specialize in Senior Housing and "Barrier Free" accessible units. Rent is \$810/mo. or 30% of income, whichever is lower. RD regulations. Handicap Accessible apartments when available.

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT
413-477-6496
TDD (800)439-2379





hardwickcrossing.com

262 Lower Road, Gilbertville
774-757-8907

HARDWICK CROSSING
EST. 2022
COUNTRY CLUB

OPEN 7 DAYS FOR LUNCH, DINNER & GOLF

Specials Posted on Facebook & Instagram

Galentine's Day Charcuterie and Wine Tasting
Sunday, February 9th 3:00 p.m. Tickets required.

Monday Trivia Night 6:30 p.m. • Wednesday, Music Bingo 6:30 p.m.

Sip & Paint
Feb. 11 & Feb. 25
Starting at 6:30 p.m.

Make Your Own Blanket
Jan. 28
Starting at 6:30 p.m.

Visit Our Website For More Details

BOOK YOUR EVENT WITH US!

viewpoints



By Ellenor Downer



Carolina wren

A Brimfield resident sent me a list of birds on Jan. 2 he saw in his yard.

On the list was a Carolina wren. He said in the email, "[The Carolina wren was] foraging in the leaves under shrubs and has been seen at the feeders more frequently recently."

The Carolina wren is six inches long and has brown feathers above with buff below. It has a distinct white eyebrow and white barring in the tail area. It often holds its tail in an upward position.

The female lays four to eight creamy or pink white eggs with brown marks in a nest of mosses, twigs, rootlets, bark and sometimes snakeskins lined with finer materials. They nest in tree holes and many other locations; they will use birdhouses.

The Carolina wren expanded its range into the northeast especially with the milder winters. There song is a loud, repeated "tea kettle, tea kettle, tea kettle." They inhabit forest understory, vines and woodlands in rural or suburban areas.

Other Brimfield birds

Other birds seen by the Brimfield resident beside the Carolina wren were four mourning doves, 20 American robins, 12 dark eyed juncos, one white-throated sparrow and two Northern cardinals. He said of the robins, "I first noticed one bird on the ground in the yard and 3 in a crab apple tree eating fruit. More flew into the tree then four on the ground foraging. More perched in a nearby tree." He also said, "We have ten crab apple trees in the yard and several of them have small fruit that is held on the tree into the winter."

Flocks of robins

In my travels last week, I saw flocks of robins on three occasions, twice in Barre and once in Oakham. The Oakham flock flew across the road and landed on the ground and in trees on the opposite side. The Brimfield resident reported his wife saw a flock of robins in the center of Brimfield eating crab apples near the post office twice in recent days. Christmas Bird Count

The Brimfield couple participated in the annual Christmas Bird Count in Ludlow. He said, "We had 31 species in Ludlow, lots fewer birds at the reservoir because there was about 90% ice coverage [Saturday] compared to 10% Friday."

Suet cakes

I put out my suet feeder last month. I waited long enough because I did not have a bear either break or run off with the feeder. The birds are busy eating suet especially during this cold weather.

New Hampshire Loon Preservation Committee

The New Hampshire Loon Preservation Committee reported in 2024 they surveyed 498 occupied or potential loon territories on 327 lakes to assess presence/absence and breeding success of loons and the success of LPC's management to help them. They documented the presence of 359 loon pairs and 126 unpaired adult loons. They also floated a record 156 nest rafts to help loon pairs displaced from their traditional nest sites by shoreline development, recreational lake use and water level fluctuations. They also installed signs and rope lines at 135 nesting loon pair locations.

They banded 57 loons and rescued 38 loons in distress and a result of illness or injury. The Loon Preservation Committee continued to expand their lead tackle buy-back program. Ingestion of lost lead tackle by fisherman remained the cause of lead poisoning in the loon population. There were six documented deaths due to lead poisoning, two loon deaths from trauma due to boat strikes and two loon deaths due to entanglement in fishing gear in 2024.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.



by Roberta McQuaid

Supplemental heat and light aid seed starting efforts

Last week we looked at the supplies needed to start seeds indoors. This week we will dive deeper.

If you have never tried indoor seed starting, it is a worthwhile endeavor for sure. You can grow exactly what you want instead of being defendant on what lines the shelves of local nurseries each May.

Furthermore, there is great satisfaction in having a part of the "miracle." No matter how many times I have witnessed the germination process, it still amazed me that a tiny seed has what it takes within to grow into a plant. All that is needed is heat, moisture and light.

Almost all bedding plants, as well as some vegetables and herbs need warmth to germinate. We provide bottom heat through the use of heating cables or mats set at temperatures between 70-75 degrees.

This poses the question of whether or not

seeds will germinate at regular household temperatures of close to seventy degrees. Probably, but not to their fullest potential since ideal temperature is measured not by air temps but by the temperature of the growing medium.

A room set at 70 degrees is likely to have temperatures within the germinating flat five to 10 degrees cooler, due to evaporation at its surface. Invest in a heat mat – if used for a few weeks each season it will likely last a decade or two.

There are many types available to suit your own specific growing needs, even mini mats that are about the size of a standard flat. Perfect if all you are growing indoors are a pack or two of peppers and tomatoes!

Supplemental lighting comes into play at the instant your seeds have sprouted. Bottom heat is not necessary henceforth (it is even discouraged!).

Seedlings are removed from heat and placed within 3-6 inches of the light source. For short-term use, a shop light affixed with two cool fluorescent bulbs has worked fine for me, although one cool and one warm bulb was recommended "back in the day" to better simulate the full spectrum of the sun's rays.

Now, LEDs are an energy conscious replacement; one I will make when my fluorescent bulbs give out. If you are using fluorescent bulbs, be sure to keep your seedlings away from the ends of the bulb where the lights wanes.

If you plan to use lights for long-term

growth a "grow-light" may be a good, albeit more costly investment. Many duplicate the sun quite well, and some are tailored to meet the needs of specific plant types.

For example, some contain more orange and red hues to promote fruiting and budding. They are priced by life expectancy, output and light spectrum.

Installing the lights of your choice with reflectors or "mirrors" will maximize intensity, and suspending the whole system with chains from the ceiling will make for easy raising as your seedlings grow.

If you plan to grow just a few seedlings and don't want to invest in lights, try positioning them in front of an unshaded south window. Turn the seedling flats numerous times during the day to promote straight, stocky growth. Plants that are tall and spindly indicate light intensity is too low.

Please give heat mats and supplemental lights a try, especially if you haven't been successful with indoor seed sowing in the past. This could turn the page of a new chapter of growing for you!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reader questions fines issued to local businesses

Dear Editor,

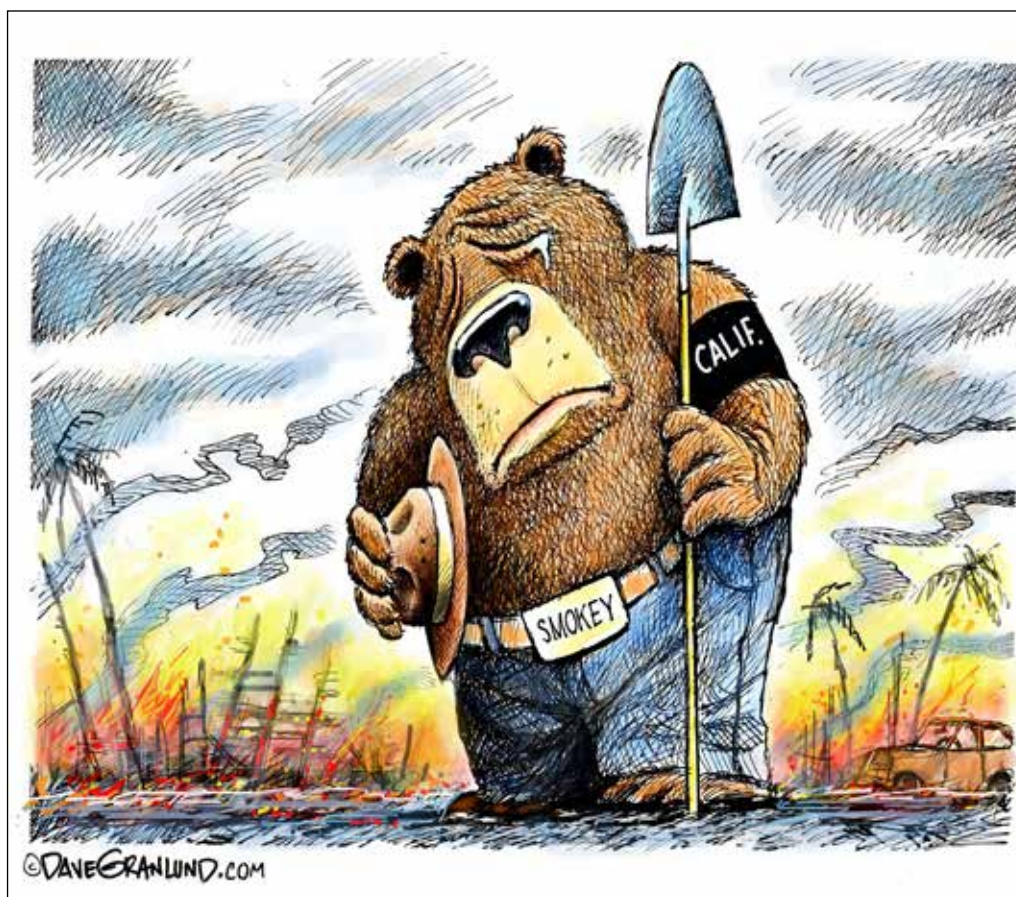
I recently attended a Belchertown Board of Health meeting in support of Samantha and Deb Kopaz who own and operate the Village Package Store.

They and three other retail business owners were appealing \$1,000 fines issued by Andrea Crete and the Quabbin Valley Health District for minor, first time, paper work infractions. Nine out of the 10 tobacco retailers were issued the same fine.

I previously had conversations with Board of Health members, and business owners from both Belchertown and Ware and many I spoke to agreed with me that this is a major problem.

I feel that the Belchertown Board of Health along, with Ware and Pelham, need to decide if issuing these fines is actually an asset to the health and welfare of the public. I made my mind up fairly quickly that it is not.

Lyle Hislop
Ware



By Russell Gloor

Should Social Security money be invested in the Stock Market

Dear Rusty:

For most folks collecting Social Security, you get back what you put in within 3-5 years, so for those that scream – "SS is not an entitlement, it is my money" – that is not entirely accurate beyond 3-5 years. For me personally 4.4 years is the number. But had I been able to invest that money over the 43 years I worked at a modest 6% interest, I expect the amount would have been a lot more. And of course, the stock market averaged 9.5% over that time. Perhaps Social Security should invest in the stock market instead of U.S. Government treasury bonds.

Signed: Interested Observer

Dear Observer:

You bring up a point we frequently hear that if, instead of paying into Social Security, I had invested the same money in the stock market I would have gotten more.

That, of course, might be the case if you had the unwavering discipline to religiously invest the equivalent amount in the market, avoiding the temptation to use that investment for any other reason. And life is full of good reasons, financial emergencies, for example or the simple temptation to buy something desperately needed, or just occasionally skipping a month to pay bills. Also, the stock market is notoriously volatile, which can create substantial angst for investors, who are faint of heart.

The fact is that Social Security provides guaranteed financial growth from the age of eligibility normally 62, up to age 70 when the maximum benefit is attained. Benefits claimed at one's full retirement age are about 24% - 32% more than if taken at age 62 depending on Full Retirement Age and benefits taken at age 70 are about 75% more than benefits taken at age 62. And that is guaranteed growth for those with the patience to wait longer to claim.

You may recall that the idea of investing Social Security reserves in the stock market has been floated a few times in previous years, but accompanying risks made Congress essentially unwilling to even entertain the idea. It has always been a political "hot potato" and those who suggest it are usually castigated for wanting to "give SS money to Wall Street," so I expect it is unlikely to happen.

Guess we'll need to be satisfied with the interest on those Special Issue Government Bonds, which, by the way, returned about \$67 billion to the Social Security Trust Fund

in 2023. FYI, average interest rate for new deposits to the Trust Fund in 2023 was 4.1%, and the overall effective rate of return on all Trust Fund assets was 2.4%.

Social Security has some issues and will face some financial difficulty in less than a decade unless Congress enacts program reform soon. But it is a program, which most seniors rely on for a major part of their retirement income and one which keeps over 22 million Americans out of poverty. Here at the AMAC Foundation, we strongly advocate for sensible Social Security reform and we're very optimistic about the program's future. But Congress needs to act soon to avoid a cut to everyone's Social Security amount in about 2033.

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.

BBB lists New Year's resolutions to avoid scams

The loss of money, personal information, and perseverance of scammers continue with online purchase scams as the third riskiest of scams.

The Better Business Bureau recommends adding a few precautionary steps to the New Year's resolution list and the weight loss and financial goals to help make the upcoming days and months fraud-free.

Be cautious with email

Be wary of unsolicited emails from a person or a company. Remember, scammers can make emails look like they are from a legitimate business, government agency, or repu-

table organization (even BBB). Never click on links or open attachments in unsolicited emails.

Never send money to strangers

If you haven't met a person face-to-face, don't send them money. This is especially true if the person asks you to transfer funds using a pre-paid debit card or CashApp. Money sent to strangers in this way is untraceable, and once it is sent, there's no getting it back.

Scammers will try to trick you into panicking – so before making a move, think the situation through. Don't fall for it.

Research before online payments and purchases

Research the retailer before entering payment information when shopping online, or if asked to pay online, research the retailer before entering payment information.

Ask: Is this a person or business I know and trust? Do they have a working customer service number? Where is the company physically located? Would I be making payments through a secure server (https://...com)? Have I checked to see if others have complained?

Please see **SCAMS**, page 5

WARE RIVER NEWS TEAM

EDITOR
Paula Quimette
pouimette@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Dan Flynn
dffynn@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

STAFF WRITER
Ryan Drago
rdrago@turley.com

The Ware River News (USPS 666100) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.

WARE RIVER NEWS
www.warivernews.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

DEANNA SLOAT
Graphics Manager



www.turley.com
Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

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
80 Main Street
Ware, MA 01082
or via email to:
pouimette@turley.com

The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

Turley Election Policy

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

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

Warren BOS discusses cybersecurity trainings

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Board of Selectman met on Jan. 9 and had a detailed discussion about cybersecurity trainings for town employees.

The topic was brought up during the Town Administrator's report and James Ferrera addressed the board about how important it is to be vigilant when it comes to cybersecurity and ongoing issues with hacking and email scams. Ferrera wanted to inform the board to begin increasing participation for town departments and staff to continuously take part in cybersecurity trainings, which happen on a monthly basis.

Vice-Chair David Dufresne mentioned many town staff have a work email as well as a private email but need to be careful on how they're being used.

"You're doing town business with a private email," Dufresne stated while making his point on the risks of using a private email that is holding information regarding your work as a town employee.

Clerk Richard Eichacker shared the idea of staff having more than one email if the employee serves on multiple boards or committees.

"Separate emails for separate boards if you serve on different boards," he said.

Dufresne commented that it would be easier for staff who serve on multiple boards to just create a folder and organize work with them instead of having an over-

flow of emails. Board of Selectman Chair Derick Veliz wanted to discuss more about the cybersecurity training courses and how broad the risks are in today's technology.

Ferrera stated there are a lot of cybersecurity topics, which is why the training is a monthly training.

"Top of mind awareness," Ferrera explains as to why staff should be taking this training on a monthly basis. "Get people into a routine of doing this every month."

The board members didn't believe it was fair for staff to have their emails locked if they do not get the training done within a 30 day period. However, it is important to hold people accountable and Ferrera mentioned 30 days is plenty of time to do the training.

Ferrera mentioned in his Town Administrator report that there was an increase in participation during the months of November and December. Ferrera encouraged the board and the town to be consistent with taking these trainings and not have participation go down.

The Selectmen thought of the idea of delegating supervisors in town departments and have them being the informative figure to let them know they have to do their training.

Complete Street policy

The Board of Selectman had a discussion and a possible vote for the town to adopt a Complete Street policy. Dufresne mentioned one of the challenges is that the policy could require the town to install bike paths on roads when they are being repaired or redone.

This may be an issue for some streets in Warren as some may not be angled appropriately for a bike lane.

Ferrera stated that many communities have adopted this policy and it is a first for the board to be presented with this form of policy. Ferrera describes it as an expansive policy and should be reviewed first before any vote.

"If they don't make sense, there are ways to file for an exemption," Eichacker said.

The board wants to review the policy carefully before being forced into an agreement where the town would have to work on a project that may impact people's properties or roads.

"The state is going to say where is your policy for complete streets," Ferrera stated. Having this sort of policy may also be important for the town to have for future grants.

The board will want more input from the Highway Surveyor Jeremy Olson, who also talked about the same topic during one of the Community Development Advisory Committee meetings. The board knows they can adjust some details in the document before coming to a final decision or vote.

"We don't want to commit to something we won't be able to do," Dufresne said.

The board will table this discussion until their next meeting.

Contract with Pioppi Construction

The Board of Selectmen had a discussion about entering into a contract with Pioppi Construction

Inc. for delivered materials for the FY25 Road Construction Materials/Hired Equipment bid. The board voted to approve the contract with Pioppi Construction.

Contracts and grants

The Board of Selectmen reviewed and discussed a contract between the Warren Historical Commission and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission for professional services.

The South Warren Cemetery is being considered for a National Registry nomination. The nomination will also be reviewed by the Mass Historical Commission for consideration. The goal is to take photographs for the national registry nomination of the cemetery. The board approved the contract.

The board accepted a state grant in the amount of \$3,850 from the Department of Environmental Protection's recycling dividends program. Ferrera explained the money goes into a grant account and the amount is determined by how many points the town scored for use of recycling.

The board also accepted a grant from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative for support upgrading desktop computers and to authorize the Town Administrator to sign on behalf of the town.

Ferrera said the grant is "helping us get into a position where we can replace the desktops." Having these upgrades could help to avoid any cybersecurity risks. The grant is in the amount of \$24,700.



Submitted Photo

Shown from left are Quaboag Regional Middle School students Brody Kenney; Mason Ostrout; Max Sturges; teacher Joseph Salvatore; Quaboag alumni and Peace Corps volunteer Paisleigh Atwood; ninth grader and Paisleigh's sister, Violet Atwood; Olivia McAnuff; Abigail Landine and Kamryn Chenevert.

Quaboag Regional alumni joins the Peace Corps

WARREN – In 1961, President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps as a way Americans could serve their country in a peaceful manner and become ambassadors of goodwill in developing nations to promote positive world views of Americans.

Class of 2021 Quaboag Regional graduate Paisleigh Atwood is going to do just that as she has joined the Peace Corps and will leave for Albania soon. Paisleigh was an outstanding student and athlete at Quaboag Regional, who then went on to graduate from St. Michael's

College in Vermont. Responding to the call for service, travel, and adventure, Paisleigh decided that the timing was right for her to join the Peace Corps. Paisleigh will be serving as a Health Educator in Albania for two years.

Before leaving, Paisleigh recently came back to Quaboag Regional to speak to eighth grade civics students. During her time in Albania, Paisleigh will be corresponding with teacher Joseph Salvatore's civics classes to give updates on her journey and the culture of Albania.

Nomination papers for town elections available Feb. 3

WARREN / WEST BROOKFIELD – The Town Clerks' of Warren, Laura Stockley, and West Brookfield, Heather Gough, announce that nomination papers are available on Monday, Feb. 3 for the Annual Town Election, which will be held on Tuesday, May 6.

Office hours in the town of Warren are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and Thursday from 1-6 p.m.; and for the town of West

Brookfield, Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Quaboag Regional School Committee nomination papers will be available for pick up on Tuesday, Feb. 4 at the Quaboag Regional Middle High School front office between the hours of 8 a.m.-3 p.m. School Committee positions open are: two members from Warren for a three-year term and two members from West Brookfield for a three-year term.

Meeting to discuss East/West Rail on Jan. 27 in Palmer

PALMER – A meeting will be held at the Steaming Tender Restaurant on Monday, Jan. 27 from 6-8 p.m. to discuss the future of the rail stop in the state's

East/West Rail Project. The public is invited to participate in the discussion. Food and cash bar will be provided by the restaurant.

SCAMS from page 4

Use best judgment when sharing personal information

Sharing sensitive personal information with scammers opens the door to identity theft. Never share financial information, birthdate, address, Social Security/Social Insurance number, or Medicare number with an unsolicited caller.

Create strong, unique passwords for each account

Using strong, varied passwords across accounts makes it harder for fraudsters to access multiple accounts if one is compromised.

Enable two-factor authentication

Adding this layer of security to accounts, especially those involving finances or personal data, greatly reduces the risk of unauthorized access.

Be social media smart

Use privacy settings on social media and only connect with people you know. Be careful about including personal information in your profile, and never reveal your address and other sensitive information – even in a "fun" quiz. Scammers may use this information to make themselves pass as friends or relatives and earn your trust.

Also, be careful when buying products you see on social media. BBB Scam Tracker has received thousands of complaints about misleading Facebook and Instagram ads.

Regularly check financial statements

Committing to review bank and credit card statements can help catch unauthorized transactions early.

Educate yourself about latest scams

Staying informed on emerging scams helps you recognize and avoid new fraud tactics.

To learn more about scams, go to BBB.org/ScamTips. For more about avoiding scams, check out BBB.org/AvoidScams. If this scam has targeted you, help others avoid the same problem by reporting your experience at BBB.org/ScamTracker.

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

Polar Plunge to benefit Special Olympics is March 8

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.



Clean Out Solutions

Basement, Attic, Shed & Whole House Cleanouts

Shed, Pool & Hot Tub Removals Arthur "Skip" Gervais (774)397-6500

Glenda's

Saturday, January 18 ~ 7pm-10pm

Moonlight Saints

Wednesday Nights ~ 7pm-10pm

Mix Tape Music Bingo/Prizes!

Friday Nights ~ 8pm-11pm

Karaoke

Upcoming Events

Saturday, February 8
8pm-12am

0-7 Band

EVERY SUNDAY

DARTS

LUCK OF THE DRAW
5:30pm • All Welcome

948 Main Street, Warren, MA • 413-436-8491

Names sought of craftswomen who made 1991 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.

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.

health & wellness NETWORK

AN ANNUAL SOURCE OF Local Health Professionals

TO BE DISTRIBUTED IN 12 TURLEY NEWSPAPERS

THE REGISTER • COUNTRY JOURNAL
THE CHICOPEE REGISTER
THE JOURNAL REGISTER
WARE RIVER NEWS • BARRE GAZETTE
THE BELCHERTOWN SENTINEL
WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN TIMES
AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS
THE SUN • TOWN REMINDER
QUABOAG CURRENT

DEADLINE
January 29, 2025

PUBLICATION DATE
February 19, 2025

A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO
Turley Publications, Inc.
WWW.TURLEY.COM

Contact Dan to advertise dflynn@turley.com • 283-8393

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.



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

Many of the play structures at the playground were constructed in the 1990s.

VOLUNTEERS from page 1

"We're totally on board," he said. "We are going to support you as much as we can."

Imbier said there are several concerns about the condition of the existing playground structures, including the integrity of the wood. He said the project could take considerable time and money, and referenced the Grenville Park playground which took about 10 years and cost roughly \$350,000 to complete.

"The main thing is safety," Imbier said.

Clark said she will be working with the town's Americans with Disabilities Act Commission for funding opportunities related to accessibility, and also researching grants related to firefighting. She said revitalizing the playground isn't going to be as simple as original thought, and would require years of effort.

"It's a step in the right direction," Clark said. "I know it's going to take time."

Clark talked about ways to prevent further vandalism of the park, which was originally constructed in the 1990s to remember fallen Ware Firefighter Robert Beauregard, and built through a massive community effort. This included installing cameras and using graffiti-resistant paint and plastic.

"The more people involved, the more people willing to protect it," she said. "It's an asset to the town."

Memorial Field update

The commission members discussed the condition of Memorial Field and determined it was necessary to close the field for a year to allow for reseeding of the grass.

The field will be closed to scheduled sports from April through November and monitored throughout the growing season with a re-opening date to be determined pending growth conditions.

The next meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission will be held on Monday, Feb. 3 at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Country Bank announces promotions in customer experience, marketing

WARE – Mary McGovern, President and CEO of Country Bank, is delighted to announce Melissa Mann's promotion to Vice President of Customer Experience and Michael Dias to Product Marketing & Business Insights Officer.

Mann offers a unique blend of skills, including completing New England School for Financial Studies through Massachusetts Bankers in 2019. She is currently working on completing her Project Management Certification through the Project Management Institute which shows her ongoing commitment to professional development and has prepared her well for this role.

She will continue to lead and manage the Bank's Sales and Customer Experience programs and strategies, showcasing her dedication and leadership.

Dias has been promoted to Product Marketing & Business Insights Officer. Dias has been a driving force in integrating data analytics into the Bank's

marketing strategies. With an MBA in Data Analytics from Western New England University and his recent certification as a Certified Financial Marketing Professional from the American Bankers Association, his strategic mindset and forward-thinking approach have been key in integrating data analytics into the Bank's marketing strategies.

"We are excited to announce the well-deserved promotions of Melissa and Michael," said Miriam Siegel, Chief Culture and Development Officer at Country Bank. "Their hard work, dedication, and contributions have been instrumental to the Bank's success. We take great pride in supporting our team members' commitment to continuous professional and personal growth, empowering them to explore the many rewarding career paths in community banking."

These promotions are a testament to the dedication, innovation, and leadership that drive Country Bank forward.

They underscore the significant impact that Mann and Dias have had on their teams, colleagues, and the Bank, demonstrating their ability to inspire and lead.

About Country Bank

Established in 1850, Country Bank has a rich history of supporting personal and business banking customers through financial solutions with FDIC and DIF insurance for added security. Country Bank is a full-service \$1.8B mutual community bank serving central and western Massachusetts with 14 banking centers and two business offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton, Springfield, Uxbridge and Worcester.

With a commitment to personalized service and community involvement, Country Bank offers individuals, businesses, and municipalities a comprehensive range of banking products and services. Country Bank is a member of FDIC, DIF,



Michael Dias was promoted to Product Marketing & Business Insights Officer at Country Bank.



Melissa Mann was promoted to Vice President of Customer Experience at Country Bank.

and the SUM network. Country Bank can be reached at 800-322-8233 or online at country-bank.com.



The playground at the Robert Beauregard Memorial Park features wooden play structures, including this firetruck.



An accessible swing has been added to the playground.



RIGHT: Tires are arranged to jump on or climb under.



HARDWICK from page 1

Not just based off what they have seen, but the Select Board had received a lot of positive comments from other departments who have worked with Caggiano and believe she's done a great job and have enjoyed working with her since she started in her current position.

"You got the knowledge to back the position," said Kemp. "We're pleased with what you've done".

Tinker mentioned Caggiano has been doing a great job and he is "happy with her work performance." During the discussion, Finance Committee Chair Christopher Culross wanted to share a comment with the Select Board and the public who attended the meeting that working with Caggiano, "the experiences have been very positive."

Caggiano said "the staff is amazing" in the town and she is excited to be in her position. The Select Board voted

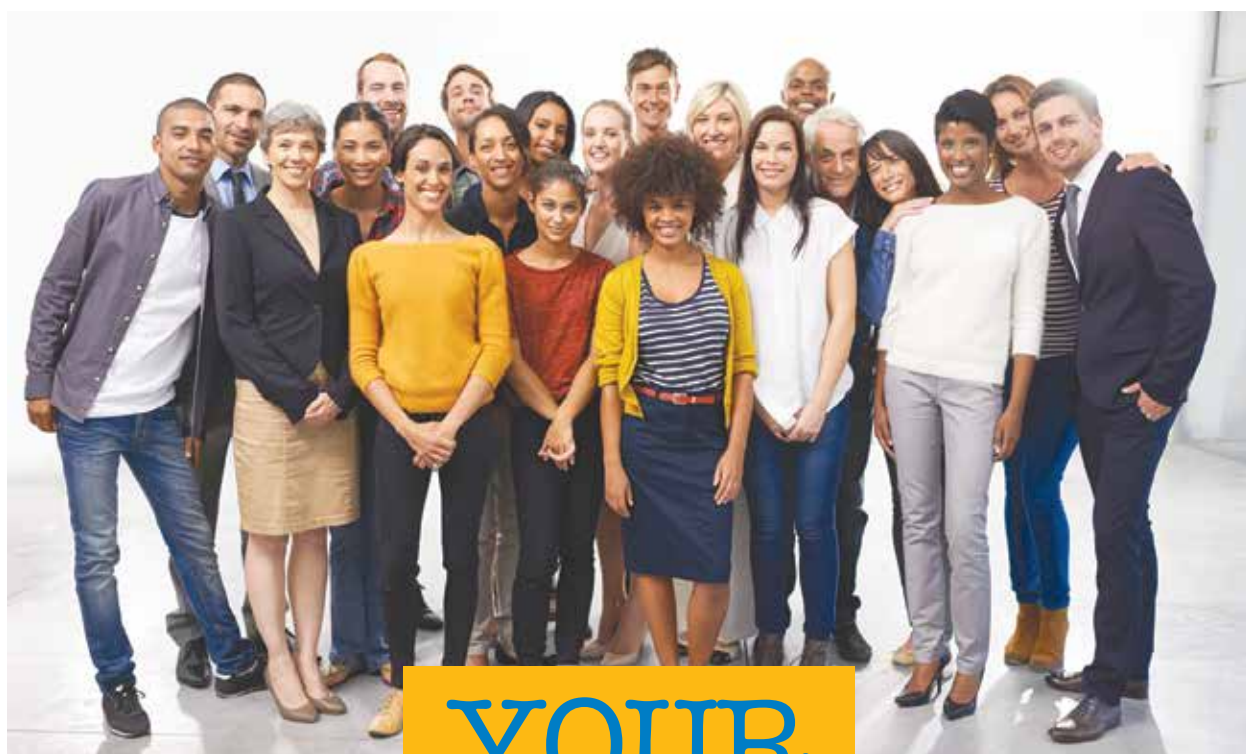
and accepted the increase to the Town Administrator's contract.

Administrator's report

Caggiano reported to the Select Board in her report that the town received a \$50,000 grant for improvements to the municipal building. A new phone system is being installed and a new postage machine was added.

The offices in the building have new panic buttons installed and the old wiring in the building for those buttons was removed. Several doors in the building have been replaced including the door for the Town Clerk's office and the Town Administrator's office.

The Select Board agreed to sign and approve a Host Community Agreement draft with Hardwick Mill Greenery. The board agreed to make a final draft to be sent to the Greenery for an operational agreement of 18 months, due to the length of construction.



YOUR
Local Newspaper

Your news, your way, every week!

As a subscriber, you'll not only be more connected to your community, you'll also be connected to local news; regional developments; money-saving offers on shopping, dining and services; and all kinds of articles that inspire you and make every week a new experience.



Subscribe Now!
Save 37% off the
Newstand Price
with Home Delivery

Subscribe online at
www.turley.com
or call
413.283.8393

LOCAL NEWS • LOCAL STORIES • LOCAL ADVERTISERS

Ware River News

Support community journalism!
413-283-8393 | www.turley.com

obituaries

Helen M. Bessette, 90

PALMER – Helen M. (Delargy) Bessette, 90, of Palmer, died on Monday, Jan. 6, 2025, with her daughter and son-in-law by her.

She leaves her children, Denise J. Dubowski and her husband Mark of Palmer, Diane Kalafarski of Ware, Earnest Bessette, Jr. and his wife Tammy of Three Rivers, and John Bessette and his wife Mary of Barre, as well as 12 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and four great-great grandchildren. She was

predeceased by her husband, Earnest G. Bessette and her daughter, Linda Mega. She was born in Ware the daughter of the late William A. and Sophie (Latus) Delargy.

In addition to raising her family with Earnest, Helen worked as a manager at the former screen print shop in Gilbertville. After retirement, she enjoyed vacationing in New



Hampshire, playing bingo at the Highlands, and trying her luck on scratch tickets and at the MGM casino.

At her request, there will be no funeral services. Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St., in Ware is assisting her family with her arrangements. An online tribute page is available at charbonneauhf.com.

Shalene (Collett) Friedhaber, 52

CHICOPEE – Shalene (Collett) Friedhaber, 52, of Chicopee, passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2025, at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, after a courageous battle with cancer.



Shalene leaves behind the love of her life, her devoted husband, Todd Friedhaber of Chicopee who stayed by her side every moment; her beloved daughters, Sloan and Brynn Friedhaber, both of Chicopee; her sister, Shannon Mascitis and her husband, Jack, of Ware; and her sister, Shauna Collett of Ware. She also leaves her mother, Susan Peet and her husband, William Peet; her nephews, Finnegan Demarco, Dominick Mascitis and his wife Lauren; and her nieces, Della-Jayne, Kristin, and Wren Mascitis, all of Ware. She was predeceased by her father, Thomas E. Collett.

Shalene enjoyed her annual family vacations to West Dennis Beach in Cape Cod, endless shopping trips with Sloan and Brynn, and making magical memories in Disney World – always making time to visit her mother-in-law, Louella Gallin, while down in Florida. She loved singing karaoke – her skills were unmatched, watching movies with her family, and she had a legendary competitive streak for any game she played.

She possessed a keen eye for decorating, and was able to fill any space with beauty. Shalene adored Halloween and the entirety of the autumn season, and she had recently found a love of playing golf, with Todd by her side.

He was a United States Army Veteran of the Vietnam War era and was an active member of the American Legion Post #123 in Ware. A Funeral Mass for Bernard will be held on Friday, Jan. 17, 2025, at 11 a.m. in All Saint's Church, 17 North St., in Ware. Calling hours will be held on Thursday, Jan. 16, 2025, from 4-6 p.m. in the Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St., in Ware. An online tribute page is available at charbonneauhf.com.

Death notices

Bessette, Helen M. (Delargy)
Died Jan. 6, 2025

Comstock, Evelyn E. (Meegan)
Died Jan. 7, 2025
Services Jan. 10, 2025

Dineen Sr., Bernard H.
Died Jan. 12, 2025
Services Jan. 17, 2025

Friedhaber, Shalene (Collett)
Died Jan. 8, 2025
Services Jan. 18, 2025

There was no project Shalene couldn't tackle, she was up for any challenge, especially when it came to helping the people she cared for.

Shalene was the most loving, fierce, beautiful light in this world. Her laughter and smile could light up any room. Shalene put her all into everything she did, whether it was bartending at Applebees, helping people find their dream homes, or most importantly, loving her family with her entire heart.

A friend to many, and adored by all who knew her, she will be deeply missed.

Calling hours for Shalene will be held on Friday, Jan. 17, 2025, from 4-7 p.m. in the Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St. in Ware. A Funeral Mass will be held the following morning, on Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025, in the St. Aloysius Church, 64 Church St. in Gilbertville. Burial will be held in the St. Aloysius Cemetery following mass.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Shriners Hospitals for Children – by mail at Attn: Shriners Children's Processing Center, P.O. Box 947765, Atlanta, GA 30394, or online at <https://lovetotherecure.org>.

Charbonneau Funeral home is honored to serve the Friedhaber family.

An online tribute book is available at charbonneauhf.com.

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.

Evelyn E. Comstock, 87

WARE – Evelyn E. (Meegan) Comstock, 87, formerly of Ware, passed away at the Highlands Nursing Home in Fitchburg on Jan. 7, 2025.



She leaves behind her daughters, Paula Comstock and her husband Joe Francis and Denise Comstock. She is the only child of John Meegan and Eleanor Roach.

Evelyn was born in Ware and lived most of her adolescence in and around Boston, ultimately graduating at David Prouty High School in Spencer. Her experiences at her grandparents' Hibbard

Dairy Farm in New Braintree were amongst her most celebrated remembrances.

Following high school she graduated from secretarial school. She worked at the former Wm. E. Wright Company before marriage and later at Mary Lane Hospital.

She was a spirited soul who loved music, dance, shopping, Tai Chi, creative writing, travel, fine food, the Newlywed Game with Bob Eubanks, nature walks, animals and birds.

Her most advanced accomplishment was persevering through severe mental illness in which

the ignorance and cruelty of her community made it difficult. Her indomitable strength assisted her in surviving many obstacles.

A Funeral Mass for Evelyn was held at noon on Friday, Jan. 10, 2025, in All Saint's Church, 17 North St., in Ware. Burial will be in St. Mary Cemetery following mass.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the National Alliance on Mental Health at www.nami.org, or other mental assistance foundations.

Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St. in Ware is assisting her family with her arrangements. An online tribute page is available at charbonneauhf.com.

Bernard H. Dineen, Sr., 85



WARE – Bernard H. Dineen, 85, of Ware, died on Sunday evening, Jan. 12, 2025.



He leaves his son, Bernard H. Dineen, Jr. and his partner Lisa A. Ovit, of St. Albans, Vermont; his sister Margaret Grzywacz of Ware; three grandchildren, Damian, Bernadette, and Phillip, many nieces and nephews, as well as his partner whom he has shared the past six years with, Nancy Forte of Ware. He was predeceased by his wife Patricia

A. (Cota) Dineen in 2012 and his other siblings besides Margaret.

He was born in Maine, son of the late Harry A. and Mary R. (Shaw) Dineen. He went to high school in Milo, and loved to tell the story of how he helped his basketball team win the State Championship one year.

Bernard worked at the former Ludlow Paper Company (Kanzaki) in Ware as a maintenance and machine technician for several years prior to retirement.

He was a United States Army Veteran of the Vietnam War era and was an active member of the American Legion Post #123 in Ware.

A Funeral Mass for Bernard will be held on Friday, Jan. 17, 2025, at 11 a.m. in All Saint's Church, 17 North St., in Ware. Calling hours will be held on Thursday, Jan. 16, 2025, from 4-6 p.m. in the Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St., in Ware.

An online tribute page is available at charbonneauhf.com.

St. Paul's present 'Illusions and Humor' magic show

PALMER – St. Paul's of Palmer is proud to present "Illusions and Humor," a highly praised magic show by Jeff Kempton.

This captivating performance will feature sleight-of-hand tricks, original magic, and comedy in an intimate setting. Join on Saturday, Jan. 25, at 2 p.m. for an unforgettable experience.

Popcorn, drinks, and snacks will be provided by St. Paul's. Admission for children is free and adults are a suggested donation of \$5.

Kempton said in a press release, "I fell in love with magic at a young age. At 34, I decided to pursue that passion and become a professional magician. I bring my personality into every show, filled with laughs, surprises, and memories that will last a lifetime. Throughout my career, I've had the privilege of performing for many, including Grammy award-winning bassist David Ellefson of Megadeth, ex-Guns N' Roses guitarist Ron 'Bumblefoot' Thal, and many others. In 2021, I completed 365 days of magic."

You can find my performances on YouTube or Facebook under Jeff Kempton Magic."

Rev. Steven Sousa, minister of St. Paul's Church, adds, "Magic Time, is the perfect family-friendly event to brighten our spirits during the winter months. Come escape the harshness of the season and enjoy the warmth and joy of magic."

For more information, please call 413-283-8185 or visit www.StPaulsPalmer.org.

Senator Markey to introduce bill to extend deadline for TikTok ban

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Senator Edward J. Markey, a member of the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, delivered remarks on the U.S. Senate floor and live on TikTok regarding the consequences if TikTok is banned in the United States on Jan. 19.

Markey also announced his plan to introduce legislation, the Extend the TikTok Deadline Act, to delay the deadline by which ByteDance must sell TikTok or face a ban by an additional 270 days.

Below is an excerpt from his remarks.

"As the Jan. 19 deadline approaches, TikTok creators and users across the nation are understandably alarmed. They are uncertain about the future of the platform, their accounts, and the vibrant online communities they have cultivated.

These communities cannot be replicated on another app. A ban would dismantle a one-of-a-kind informational and cultural ecosystem, silencing millions in the pro-

cess. The stakes here are high. That's why I will soon introduce the Extend the TikTok Deadline Act to extend the deadline by which ByteDance must sell TikTok or face a ban by an additional 270 days.

Let me be clear: TikTok has its problems. Like every social media platform, TikTok poses a serious risk to the privacy and mental health of our young people. I will

Please see **TIKTOK**, page 10

REVITALIZE from page 1

toward the summer fireworks show.

The committee also focused on the town's ongoing efforts to revitalize its business district. A \$50,000 budget set aside by the Selectboard will help fund facade improvements, either for entirely new projects or to repair and update older storefronts.

Committee members reviewed the current status of the facade and signage grants, noting that the program has transitioned from loans to grants, making it more accessible to small business owners. The committee is working to identify potential contractors, with recommendations for businesses like Cluett's and Pennington Painting, and hopes to set a bid date soon.

These facade improvements are seen as crucial for attracting new businesses to the area and enhancing the overall appearance of downtown Ware. With the help of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, the committee aims to revitalize the town's appearance and make it more welcoming to customers and tourists.

Parking remains one of the most pressing issues for downtown Ware. Committee members discussed the urgent need for more parking spaces as the town

continues to grow.

The committee is weighing the benefits of flat versus hill parking, considering both the available space and the funding required to implement each option. Dan Flynn, a committee member, offered to reach out to Sturbridge's town administrator to gather insights on how the town funded a new parking lot, potentially applying similar strategies to Ware.

In addition to the new parking lots, the committee is pursuing a grant to improve municipal parking signage and make much needed repairs to sidewalks along Bank Street, East Main Street, and Church Street. These improvements are intended to increase accessibility and encourage more foot traffic to local businesses.

The committee also discussed the challenge of filling vacant storefronts in downtown Ware. While other towns, like Monson, have seen success in revitalizing their main streets, Ware continues to face difficulties attracting businesses to its vacant spaces.

The committee emphasized the importance of fostering a diverse and unique commercial experience by encouraging businesses like coffee shops, bookshops, and antique stores to set up shop along Main Street. One idea proposed was to offer incentives to entrepreneurs look-

ing to open small businesses, making it easier for them to navigate the challenges of starting up.

Moreover, the committee is looking into creating a business development group to facilitate collaboration between business owners and local stakeholders. In terms of accommodations, the committee discussed the town's need for more motels, hotels, or Airbnb options to support visitors.

Investors from Boston have expressed interest in Ware, noting that the town's natural beauty could attract more business if additional amenities and infrastructure were in place. Looking ahead, the committee is already thinking about the next holiday season, with discussions centered around the annual Holiday Stroll. Scheduled for the first or second weekend of December, the Holiday Stroll allows people to explore Main Street's unique businesses, like Nat Falk, Talk of the Town, and many more.

One of the most anticipated events in the coming months is the grand reopening of Hanna's on Main, a beloved local eatery, which will take place on Jan. 22. The reopening will feature many nostalgic menu favorites, including the restaurant's famous steak tips.

In addition to filling vacant

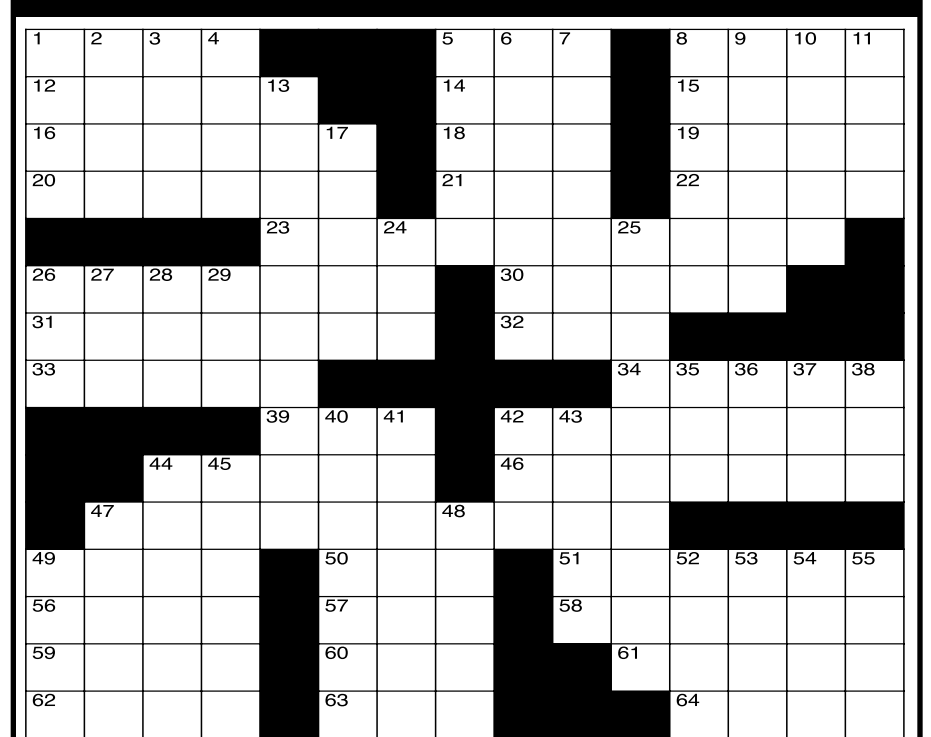
spaces, the committee is exploring ways to make better use of the town's existing buildings. There was discussion about repurposing buildings that are in disrepair, potentially turning them into spaces for businesses, housing, or even parking. The committee stressed the importance of balancing the town's need for more parking with the desire to create a thriving business district.

The committee also acknowledged the necessity of balancing commerce with the preservation of the town's charm. With the help of investors and continued community engagement, Ware's downtown area could become a hub of activity, attracting both new businesses and visitors. The next Downtown Improvement Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 10 at 5 p.m. at Town Hall. Committee members encouraged the community to attend and participate in the ongoing conversations about how to improve downtown Ware.

With a clear focus on infrastructure improvements, beautification projects, and business development, the Downtown Improvement Committee is taking bold steps toward making Ware a more vibrant, accessible, and welcoming place for both residents and visitors.

Our advertisers make this publication possible. Let them know you saw their ad in the Ware River News

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS

- This regulates cortisol production (abbr.)
- People of northern Vietnam
- Employee stock ownership plan
- Regions
- The center of a city
- Hindu serpentine deity
- Roared
- Sun up in New York
- "Sir" in Malaysian
- Shrimp dish
- Muckraker Tarbell
- Apex
- Harmonic effects
- One of Babe Ruth's nicknames
- Groups in organic chemistry
- More pleasant-tasting
- Spring forward

CLUES DOWN

- Partner to "oohs"
- Scaly water dweller
- Pueblo people of New Mexico
- Music producer Teo
- Greek mythological goddess
- Got together to discuss
- Acquires
- Involve
- Some are tomatobased
- Old Irish alphabets
- A sheet of glass in a window or door
- Blood poisoning
- A moon of Saturn
- Neither
- Sums
- They follow "A"
- Satisfaction
- People of southeastern Burma
- Small amount

CLUES DOWN

- Guy (slang)
- Sound unit
- Midway between northeast and east
- Affirmative
- Almost at the top
- Extremely slow
- Pearl Jam's debut album
- Influential mid-century playwright
- Martens
- Approval
- Dallas-adjacent Texas city
- African nation
- Dark brown or black
- A place to get caught
- Large-headed, elongated fish
- Scottish tax or levy

Crumbling foundations legislation needs to be refiled

BOSTON – While the State Senate approved legislation that would have created a committee to address how best the state can help homeowners whose foundations are crumbling due to pyrrhotite, the House of Representatives failed to take up the matter which will now be refiled in the upcoming legislative session.

“It is extremely disappointing that our colleagues in the House have let down the residents of Massachusetts who are struggling to keep their homes,” state Sen. Peter Durant, R-Spencer, said in a press release. “Anyone who has seen the devastation caused by crumbling foundations can understand the urgent need for this legislation.”

Durant has likened the problem of crumbling foundations to a natural disaster and, alongside several colleagues on both sides of the aisle, has made the issue a top priority during his first year in the Senate.

Homeowners with crumbling foundations are unable to file insurance claims in order to fix the damage to their homes created by pyrrhotite which causes concrete to fail. Residents often find it difficult to fund the raising of their homes

and complete replacement of their foundations at costs of more than \$200,000 because their homes lack equity and borrowing becomes impossible.

The creation of a committee to study the best ways to help homeowners would have moved the process forward at no cost to taxpayers.

“This legislation is very important to certain residential homeowners in Dracut and to many homeowners in Worcester County,” Sen. Ed Kennedy, D-Lowell said. “I am very disappointed that the House failed to take any action on the legislation that would have set up a commission charged with addressing the crumbling concrete foundation problem.”

Sen. Michael Moore, D-Millbury echoed the feelings of disappointment.

“Faulty foundations are putting the homes and life savings of thousands of Massachusetts families across the Commonwealth at risk, at no fault of their own,” Moore said. “I’m proud to have partnered with Senator Durant, Senator Fattman, and Representative Ashe to put forward a bill to create the Crumbling Concrete Assistance Fund – a priority of former

Worcester Senator Anne Gobi – as a first step to making homeowners whole for foundation repairs and replacements due to the presence of pyrrhotite. While I am incredibly disappointed we were not able to get this legislation past the finish line this term, I am hopeful that we will finally address the crumbling foundation crisis next session.”

Sen. Ryan Fattman, R-Sutton, has also been pushing for passage of the bill.

“The passage of this bill (in the Senate) today marks an important step toward providing relief for homeowners with crumbling concrete foundations,” Fattman said, urging House members to also swiftly act on the bill.

Durant said the bill will be refiled and will remain a priority for him in the upcoming session.

Crumbling foundations have been discovered in homes in western and central Massachusetts and have been found in 40 communities including Boxford and Dracut. Experts say the problem will only become more widespread, impacting communities by lowering property values and prompting local tax abatements to impacted homeowners.

MSB donates \$5,000 to support QV CDC’s Learn & Save Program

MONSON – Monson Savings Bank is deeply committed to empowering residents by supporting initiatives that provide them with the knowledge and tools needed to achieve financial independence and long-term success.

The local bank is proud to be a supporter of the 2025 Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation’s Harrison and Diane Quirk Learn & Save Program.

The QV CDC is a nonprofit organization based in Ware. The QV CDC is once again offering a 12-month matched savings program for low to moderate income residents of the Quaboag Valley and southern Worcester County.

The Harrison and Diane Quirk Learn & Save Program, formally known as the Financial Fitness Club, combines monthly financial literacy classes with an incentive to save.

“The Harrison and Diane Quirk Learn & Save Program began in 2017,” explained Melissa Fales, Executive Director of the Quaboag Valley CDC. “It is a matched savings program that has helped participants save \$21,217 over the past three cohorts. The program matches the savings of participants up to a capped amount. We are very proud of this program that helps peo-



Dan Moriarty, Monson Savings Bank President & CEO, and Shannon Ortona, Monson Savings Bank Ware Branch Manager (center), presented Quaboag Valley Community Development Executive Director Melissa Fales (left) with a \$5,000 donation on behalf of the bank.

ple learn about finances, establish healthy financial habits, and save toward a goal. At the end of the program, the savings and matched funds are combined to purchase an asset. Eligible assets include vehicle purchase or repair, new appliances, housing, or business equipment. Our students have purchased approximately \$51,000 in assets over the past three cohorts. It is a very effective program.”

Fales continued, expressing her gratitude for Monson Savings Bank’s support.

“We are so happy to welcome back Monson Savings, our community partner since 2017. This year the Bank is not only donating a generous \$5,000 to the program, but they are also going to be directly involved in teaching classes,” she said.

To learn more about the QV CDC and their Learn and Save Program, please visit: <https://qvcde.org/learn-save/>

“We are proud to support the Harrison and Diane Quirk Learn & Save Program, an incredible initiative by the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation,” said President and CEO of Monson Savings Bank Dan Moriarty. “By empowering our low-to-moderate income neighbors with the tools and resources to build financial security, this program strengthens our community and aligns perfectly with our mission as a community bank.”

To learn more about how Monson Savings Bank supports local communities, please visit: <https://www.monsonsavings.bank/connect/our-community/our-community-commitment.html>

WARE BOS from page 1

Beckley said he is working with the Human Resources Director to negotiate a contract with Martinez.

Fire Department updates

Martinez said he received the resignation of Firefighter/EMT Matt Spellman. He also announced the return of Firefighter Daniel Tenggren, who has been deployed with the military for the past 14 months.

Tenggren will return to his regular shift rotation after completing his reorientation.

Martinez said with the help of the town’s grant writer, Jay Mooney, the department has applied for grants to purchase various equipment, including nozzles, hoses, ropes, carabiners, AEDs and pagers. He said they have also submitted a grant to replace Engine 1, which has been out of service for almost a year.

Martinez said Engine 1 is a 1993 model received from the town of Orleans about 20 years ago.

“It’s no longer able to be certified as a piece of effective fire apparatus,” he said.

Martinez said he is also seeking a grant to replace the source capture system within the Fire Station.

“The station itself is only 12 years old, but most of the components that are in it came from the

old station,” he said.

Martinez said the Selectboard might want to consider shifting to balance billing for ambulance services, rather than using the current ambulance subscription. He said the subscription is a \$50 voluntary fee, that would keep the subscription holder from being billed for the balance of the ambulance invoice after their insurance company had paid.

The \$50 subscription fee covers all ambulance calls for the subscriber throughout the year. The department has offered this subscription service to residents for about 10 years or so.

“It was designed to be somewhat of a way of giving back to the community a little bit and lessening the burden on some people that may be challenged with making some of those payments,” he said. “Unfortunately, the number of subscriptions does not even come close to meeting some of the revenue needs of the department.”

Martinez said costs for the ambulance service have increased, due to the department having a larger call volume than it has in the past, and the need for new equipment.

“We need to find a way of trying to offset some of this, other than having to increase people’s taxes to do it,” he said.

Martinez said he will need to

look at the financial impact of this shift, before any changes are made.

Demo delay violation complaint

Friends of Mary Lane Hospital Chair Cindy Allen Bourcier said about 400 residents signed a demolition delay petition for the Mary Lane Hospital property, and another 350 signed to support the Friends of Mary Lane Hospital’s mission statement.

She said the Friends are made up of former and current employees at the hospital, residents and more. She said all of the buildings were constructed through grants, fundraising and donations.

“Baystate did not build one single building over there,” she said.

Bourcier said she has brought many complaints before the Selectboard about violations that occurred during the demolition delay which lasted for nine months last year, and she brought up the need to hire an independent building inspector to oversee the property.

“There are a lot of complaints, and we would like a written determination from this Selectboard so that way if we need to, it can then get escalated to the state. That’s the process,” she said.

Bourcier said these violations need to be investigated and the Friends want to receive a written determination from the



New part-time Police Officer Somer Bren is shown with Police Chief Shawn Crevier.

Selectboard.

“We need to see if there’s any layers of wrongdoing, because then we know if there’s any legal actions that should be taken,” Bourcier said.

She said the town does not want to appear negligent in investigating these complaints in the event legal action is taken.

Selectboard Chair Nancy Talbot said she will be meeting with Beckley and Building Commissioner Anna Marques to draft a response.

Beckley updated the Selectboard about the potential cost to save the oldest building on the property, the Wetherby building. He said an estimate from HKT Architects to preserve and repurpose the building would put the cost somewhere between \$9-12 million.

Meeting with Baystate Health

Beckley said he met with Baystate Health representatives the day prior, and he discussed concerns about the removal of windows and doors from the property. The town’s Attorney Patricia Davidson was also present.

“Yesterday, they committed to again stopping the removal of the windows and the doors,” he said.

He said Baystate Health is continuing to work on its role to provide healthcare in town and across the region. He said they have been clear that if they continue to maintain a healthcare presence, they will continue to utilize to the various trust funds related to Mary Lane Hospital.

Appointment

Police Chief Shawn Crevier introduced Somer Bren to the Selectboard to be appointed as a part-time police officer with the Police Department.

“She’s fully academy trained,” Crevier said.

The Selectboard approved the appointment, effective immediately. Crevier said he hopes this appointment will help build up his part-time staffing.

Police Department update

Crevier said the department has been issuing citations for sidewalks not being cleared after snowstorms, as well as parking tickets due to the winter parking ban.

He said earlier that day, a search warrant was executed on Webb Court and nine people were arrested for various drug charges including trafficking crack cocaine and conspiracy to violate drug laws.

Crevier said initially the search was for the recovery of a firearm, which was not located, when the drugs were discovered.

“Those individuals have been arrested and being properly charged,” he said.

Crevier said two out of the three new full-time police officer appointed have withdrawn from the academy. He said those positions will need to be filled from the new Civil Service list.

He said the current list doesn’t have any local candidates on it. He said the new list should be active in June and could have residents on it.

GPS monitoring in vehicles

Selectboard member John Desmond made a motion to remove GPS monitoring units from the Department of Public Works vehicles since they are not being used, and that the removal would save the town money. He said he made the same motion at a previous meeting, which failed to pass by a majority vote.

“This would cost the taxpayers \$6,000 to have these sitting in the DPW vehicles and not being used,” Desmond said.

Beckley had previously recommended that the GPS units not being used be removed to save money, but since the Selectboard voted in favor of keeping them in vehicles, they will ensure that departments are utilizing the units.

Selectboard Vice-Chair Josh Kusnier said he agreed with Desmond, but suggested they check back in and continue the discussion after six months to see if the GPS units are being used.

Vacant properties

Desmond brought up concerns about a vacant property on the corner of Church and Pleasant streets. He said following a recent snowstorm, the sidewalk wasn’t cleared. He said there is also a dumpster on the property that is full and needs to be removed.

The Selectboard members received a vacant property list, combining data from the Building Commissioner and the Water

Department. Beckley said the list needs further review to ensure vacancies for some properties.

Recognition

Selectboard member Jack Cascio recognized Police Officer Mansfield and the Fire Department for their professional response to a recent welfare check.

He said Mansfield was calm and conscientious during the incident.

Sewer abatement

The Selectboard reviewed a second request for an abatement at a property at 16 Aspen St. The board had previously voted against the abatement, which was requested by the property owner after a tenant had overfilled a swimming pool.

The property owners stated that the water that overflowed from the pool was pumped out of the unit’s basement and down the driveway, and not into the town’s sewer system. The town’s water and sewer regulations allow the town to give a partial abatement for the sewer.

The Selectboard voted to table a vote on the abatement request, pending water and sewer calculations.

Public hearing for zoning amendment

Elizabeth Hancock and Alex Bergeron from the Planning Board presented a request to hold a public hearing regarding the proposed zoning amendment to create a healthcare district.

The Selectboard voted to refer the zoning proposal back to the Planning Board in order to hold a public hearing.

Town Manager’s report

Beckley said there have been water and sewer line breaks, and Well #5 is currently down. He said they are moving forward with motor and pump repairs, and it should be online soon.

He said the Town Accountant has submitted paperwork to the Department of Revenue in order to get Free Cash certified. He said they should hear back in about a week and a half.

“It’s a really important piece of the budget puzzle,” Beckley said.

Beckley said there will be a department head meeting the next day, that will kickoff the fiscal year 2026 budget process. He said they will wait to see the Governor’s budget by the end of the month, along with predictions of the state’s economic growth.

He said he expects to see a conservative number for general aid to the town from the state. Another predicted impact to the FY 26 budget is the town’s health insurance costs, which could potentially increase by 15-20%.

Beckley said an audit of the Town Hall reimbursements was completed and he provided the report to the Selectboard. He said there were some important findings and recommendations for actions the town could take.

A discussion about the audit will be placed on the next meeting’s agenda after the Selectboard members have a chance to review its findings.

Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

If you have job postings to fill, get them the exposure they need.

Join us in highlighting what positions you have available in our Job Connection!

Each week this available jobs section will run in your community newspapers.

4.75" x 4"

\$150 for three papers
\$40 for each additional paper

4.75" x 8"

\$300 for three papers
\$80 for each additional paper

9.681" x 8"

\$600 for three papers
\$160 for each additional paper

9.681" x 15.75"

\$1,200 for three papers
\$320 for each additional paper



Choice of any three papers
Buy two weeks,
get the third week FREE

12 Weekly Newspapers Serving The Local Communities
Agawam Advertiser News • Barre Gazette • Chicopee Register • Country Journal
The Journal Register • Quaboag Current • The Register • Sentinel
The Holyoke Sun • Town Reminder • Ware River News • The Wilbraham-Hampden Times
www.turley.com



Call Dan today 413.297.5886 or 413.283.8393

The Market Returns



Chloe of Elzire's Acre Goat Milk Soap.



Halley Stillman and Still Life Farm veggies.



Robyn Scott of Blair House Blooms is in bloom.



Greens in winter at Flourish Farms with Linda Fuchs.

It's 2025

and the Winter Market is back in West Brookfield



Rich Laba and Farm46 bringing home the bacon.



Joy Hinton at the helm of Joy of Beans coffee shop.



Editor's note: The Ware River News will regularly feature a spotlight story on different farmers market vendors. Learn about the people that bring food and locally sourced items to your community.

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

WEST BROOKFIELD – December was in no way a cruel month, but the new year is not treating us kindly temperature wise.

2025 is upon us with freezing cold that means the streets are not thronged with pedestrians. Where can they all go?

There are places of refuge and as the West Brookfield Winter Farmers Market came back after a short hiatus over Christmas, on Jan. 8, the First Congregational Church at 36 North Main Street was one of them.

So, at 3 p.m., with vendors all set up, citizens of West Brookfield and neighboring towns began coming in to shop.

As one entered the hall, first on the left was the redoubtable Joy Hinton who coordinates the weekly event. She is of course known for the gourmet coffee sourced from all over the world.

Joy had some interesting news to share. At 3 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 11, at her Joy of Beans Coffee shop, chess would be in session. If you were looking to play and have not found a local venue for a game, this would be your opportunity.

A famous man once called chess the gymnasium of the mind, so here's a chance to give the old brain a work out and maybe have some delicious coffee or other beverage at her place in the center of town.

Next, on the right was Robyn Scott who had with her the beautiful tulips that her Blair House Blooms are known for.

If you need to get some greens in your diet, Linda Fuchs and Flourish Farm had them. If there is an important microgreen you desire, she had them as well as fresh organic mature ginger.

Turning the corner left, and

back for the new year was Kelly Homestead Apiary. Ken and Ginger had their usual plethora of products from Honey to eggs and even dog treats and more.

Rich Laba and family Farm46 are well known mostly for pork products, but also chicken and eggs were brought to the market.

Turning the corner, we found the lads from Deep Roots Distillery. They weren't pouring in the market, but had other interesting items to share with us. They brought some lovely baked goods and will be bringing hot soup in the coming weeks. That would be welcome in this weather.

How about the axe throwing Deep Roots is known for? Maybe not this winter.

Alyse was next. She is the impresario of Girlie's Cakes of Monson. Her specialty is gluten free and vegan baked confections.

She must be doing something right as she is soon to open a shop in downtown Palmer.

Towards the corner was Elzire's Acre. Well not the whole acre, but a generous sampling of its fragrant goat milk soaps. Again, this Wednesday Chloe was staffing the table.

After Chloe and Elzire's Acre, there was John Thompson of Thompson's Maple Farm. Known for maple products and ice cream, the farm had a new item to show off. Now, they have Bourbon Barrel Aged Maple Syrup. The Kentucky product can only add to the taste of the pancakes or French toast. However, one need not worry that the whiskey flavor will require a breathalyzer.

Another vendor took up the whole center of the room, but in a good way. Halley Stillman and Still Life Farm bring what there can never be enough of in winter, veggies, and with the farm's winter greenhouses there was an adequate supply, not only for this locale.

So, the market is back and we all have something to do on Wednesdays through March 12 during the mid-afternoon. Come and feel the warmth inside the church.



The Deep Roots lads were there with some lovely looking baked goods.



Ginger and Ken from Kelly Homestead Apiary are back.

John Thompson displays a new flavor at Thompson's Maple Farm, Bourbon Barrel Aged Maple Syrup.

Turley Photos by Richard Murphy

Alyse of Girlie's Cakes-Gluten Free and Vegan

LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET! INFLATION PRICE BUSTERS PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!

<p>USDA INSP. FRESH COUNTRY STYLE POR RIBS..... \$2.55 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN BONE-IN CENTER CUT PORK LOIN CHOPS..... \$2.49 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SIRLOIN CUTLETS.. \$2.17 lb</p> <p>SLICED IN OUR DELI TURKEY BREAST \$3.99 lb</p> <p>SLICED IN OUR DELI MUEENSTER CHEESE..... \$5.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. STORE MADE BONELESS KOREAN BBQ MARINATED PORK BUTT STRIPS \$3.35 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. STORE MADE FRESH BONELESS SHAVED STEAK..... \$7.99 lb</p>	<p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF RIB EYE WHOLE OR HALF CUT FREE \$9.77 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF STRIP LOIN STEAKS \$7.77 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF 7 LB BAG \$3.99 lb</p>	<p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP ROUND ROAST or STEAKS..... \$4.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG..... \$1.91 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS 10 LB BAG 77¢ lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN HOWELLS JAMMY JOEYS CAKES 6.7 OZ..... 99¢ ea</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN SALMON FILLETS..... \$6.99 lb</p>
--	---	--

90 Meat Outlet 90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288

HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4 Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3

SALE DATES: 1/16/25-1/22/25 BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE We reserve the right to limit quantities.

CANTERBURY TAILS VETERINARY CLINIC

40 E. Main Street, Ware, MA
(413) 967-4545

Proudly serving Ware and its surrounding communities

DOGS 🐾 CATS 🐾 RABBITS 🐾 FERRETS AND NOW REPTILES!

★ Now offering same day urgent care appointments ★

Monday - Thursday

WBCA & Beyond enjoys winter pinball party

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

THREE RIVERS – Members of the Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond arrived at the Western Mass Pinball Club for a fun party and gathering last Wednesday evening.

There was plenty of salad, wings, pizza, desserts and pinball machines to enjoy in a fun atmosphere featuring dozens of vintage and modern pinball machines and additional arcade games. WBCA & Beyond President Dan Flynn welcomed everyone who attended the pinball party and encouraged all the guests to enjoy the food and play some pinball.

Katie Gagner and Mary Robidoux from Moulton Insurance Agency were busy running the Golden Flipper Challenge during the pinball party. The challenge featured players competing in a pinball tournament playing two vintage pinball machines.

The highest scoring pinball player will leave with a nice cash prize of \$100. The winner of the Golden Flipper Challenge was Ryan Sinclair of B'Leaf Wellness Centre of Ware.

As many members enjoyed playing pinball, several participat-



Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond members gathered for a fun night of pinball at the Western Mass Pinball Club in Three Rivers.

ed in a raffle for an opportunity to win tickets to go see the Boston Bruins. In charge of the raffle tickets was Jan McCoy of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Realty Professionals.

The WBCA & Beyond helps transform Ware into a destination point for visitors and is a helpful resource to the residents. WBCA & Beyond has more information at warebca.com.

The Western Mass Pinball Club can be found at 4 Springfield St., inside the Palmer Technology Center. Learn more about the pinball club at westernmasspinball.com.



Interim Principal Assessor for the Town of Ware, Kate Winkler, played pinball during the Golden Flipper Challenge.



Ryan Sinclair of B'Leaf Wellness Centre was the winner of Golden Flipper Challenge. Sinclair stands with Mary Robidoux, Katie Gagner and Crystal Daniels.



Pinball night had a fantastic turnout as many arrived at the Western Mass Pinball Club, which features dozens of vintage and modern pinball machines




The Pinball Party had a great turnout with many members of Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond attending.




Dustin Pennington of Pennington Painting Inc. played a classic pinball machine, Hi Deal.



Ware Director of Planning & Community Development Paralee Smith attempting to score high during the Golden Flipper Challenge. Katie Gagner writes down her score





HEALTHY QUABOAG & THE TOWN OF WARE

QUABOAG VALLEY

Food Policy Council

VISION


"THE QUABOAG VALLEY FOOD POLICY COUNCIL WILL MAKE NUTRITIOUS LOCAL FOOD EASILY ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS"

JOIN OUR GENERAL BODY MEETINGS!

EVERY 3RD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH FROM 12-1PM

E2E SPACE ON MAIN ST, WARE, MA

JOIN US BY ZOOM:



Serving the towns of: Barre, Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Holland, Ludlow, Monson, North Brookfield, New Braintree, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren, West Brookfield & Wilbraham

For more information, email Sawyer, at sblake@townofware.com



Katie Gagner, left, and Mary Robidoux of Moulton Insurance Agency were running the Golden Flipper Challenge during the pinball party.



Jan McCoy participated in the Golden Flipper Challenge.



The Western Mass Pinball Club had pinball machines with multiple themes. The Pulp Fiction pinball machine was being played by one of the staff members of Pennington Painting Inc.

TIK TOK from page 7

continue to hold TikTok accountable for such behavior. But a TikTok ban would impose serious consequences on millions of Americans who depend on the app for social connections and their economic livelihood. We cannot allow that to happen."

Senators Markey and Rand Paul (R-Ky.), along with Congressman Ro Khanna (CA-17), recently submitted a bipartisan, bicameral amicus brief urg-

ing the U.S. Supreme Court to reverse the D.C. Circuit Court's decision in TikTok Inc. v. Garland, which upheld the TikTok ban established under the Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act.

In the brief, Markey and Paul and Khanna argued that the TikTok ban lacks evidence and directly conflicts with the First Amendment, undermining the rights of over 170 million Americans who use the platform.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com



Indians take early lead, down Palmer

Brodie Koczur drives to center court.

WARE – Last Monday night, Ware’s defense had a great first half, even limiting Palmer to a free throw in the second quarter, and used that momentum to cruise to a 56-43 win at home. In the win, Brady Guimond had 24 points to lead all scorers. Jack Gaudreau had 16 points. Ware is now 6-2 on the regular season. The Indians will take on Renaissance School on Jan. 17 at 7 p.m. The Indians defeated Renaissance earlier this season.



Jason Mumper brings the ball down.



Turley photos by Jack Cascio NEAPsmug mug.com

Owen McKeever sees an opening at midcourt.



Ben Torres goes for this jumper.

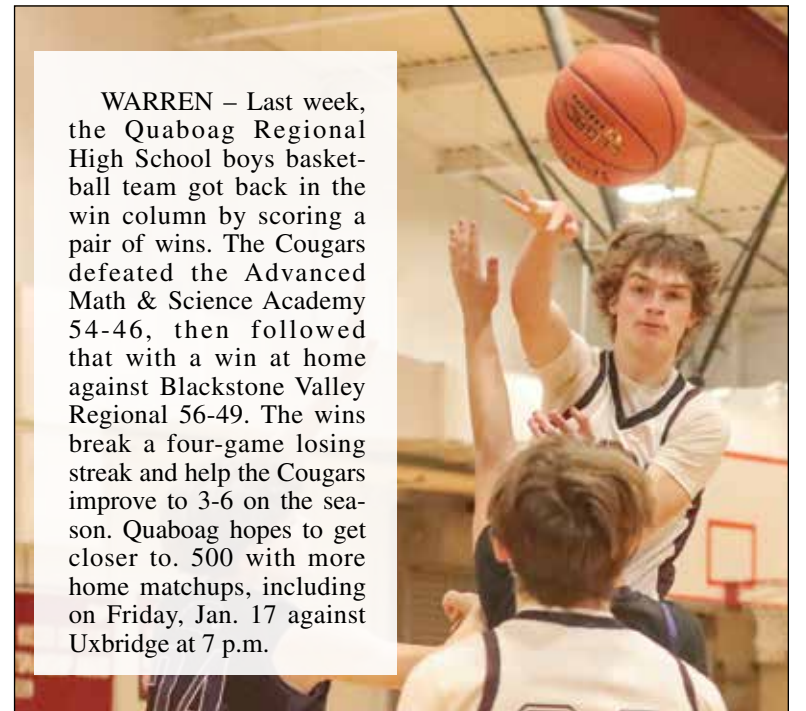


Justin Grout readies for a bank shot.



Jack Gaudreau gains height over this Panther, to hit the jumper.

Cougars get back in win column



WARREN – Last week, the Quabog Regional High School boys basketball team got back in the win column by scoring a pair of wins. The Cougars defeated the Advanced Math & Science Academy 54-46, then followed that with a win at home against Blackstone Valley Regional 56-49. The wins break a four-game losing streak and help the Cougars improve to 3-6 on the season. Quabog hopes to get closer to .500 with more home matchups, including on Friday, Jan. 17 against Uxbridge at 7 p.m.

Isaac Cowher rises well above the fray to deliver this pass.



Turley photos by Jack Cascio NEAPsmug mug.com

Jacoby Labillois dribbles to center court.



Reilly Comptois completes this jumper.



Turley photo by Gregory A. Scibelli
Jacoby Dilling looks for a path to the hoop.

Panthers beat Gardner for second time

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BARRE—The seniors listed on the 2024-25 Quabbin boys’ varsity basketball roster were freshmen the last time that the Panthers swept the season series against the Gardner Wildcats.

The first meeting of this winter between the two rivals took place at the Gardner Holiday Tournament on December 28. The Panthers built a large first half lead in the first round game and coasted to a 53-34 victory.

The Wildcats made the trip south to Barre last Friday night. Following a very close opening half, the Panthers pulled away in the second half en route to a 67-49 win in front of a large home crowd,

which included the school’s outstanding pep band.

“It’s always a hard fought battle whenever we face Gardner,” said Dennis Dextradeur, who’s approaching his 400th career win as the Panthers boys’ varsity basketball coach. “We’re very fortunate to be able to beat them twice this season. They’re an extremely well coached team and they have a couple of outstanding players. It was a festive atmosphere here tonight with the pep band and this was a very big win for us. It was a great night for Quabbin basketball.”

The last time that the Panthers (6-2) won both games against the Wildcats (5-4) was during the 2021-22 regular season. The two squads have split during the past

couple of years.

Four of the five Quabbin starters reached double digits in scoring in the home victory against the Wildcats.

The senior duo of Kyle Clark and Quinn Geary posted double-doubles.

Geary scored eight of his 13 points during the first half, and he pulled down 12 rebounds. Eleven of those rebounds came at the defensive end of the court.

Clark finished the game with 11 points and 11 rebounds.

Sophomore Jacoby Dilling led the way offensively for the home team with 19 points. He scored nine points in the first half and added ten more after half-

Please see **PANTHERS**, page 13



Liam McGrath drives towards center court.



Jacob Toomey is determined to drive through this defense.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – The Commercial Elks League is more than halfway through their second round of the 2024-2025 candlepin league season.

As of Jan. 7, The Daft Kings are reigning in first place with 16.5 wins and 7.5 losses. Last in Line is in second place with a record of 14-10. Team BK are in third place with 13.5 wins. Compression is in fourth place with a record of 11-13. The Mailmen are in fifth place at 10-14 and the Gutter Mouths are at 7-17.

This past Tuesday night at Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes, Last in Line bowled against The Mailmen. In game one, Last in

Please see **CANDLEPIN**, page 12

Pioneers cruising toward state tournament slot

PALMER – Last week, Pathfinder girls basketball tacked on two more victories, scoring wins over St. Mary’s and Hampden Charter School of Science. The Pioneers defeated St. Mary’s at home 49-37 last Tuesday, then went

on the road to Chicopee and beat Hampden Charter soundly 50-24. With the wins, Pathfinder is now 6-1 on the season and look to continue the momentum on Jan. 16 when they play at Westfield Technical Academy at 6 p.m.



Addison Doktor goes for a shot.



Taylor Allen starts her way down the court.



Ciara Green keeps her dribble away from the opponent.



Greenly Lagimiere attempts a three-pointer.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Megan Clark goes for the free throw.

sports

Offense struggles in loss for Quabbin girls basketball

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BARRE—After losing to the Gardner Lady Wildcats by 14 points in the championship game of the Gardner Holiday Tournament on December 30, Quabbin girls varsity basketball coach Evan Barringer was hoping for a different outcome in the second meeting of the regular between the two squads.

Things just didn't go the Lady Panthers way during last Friday night's non-league game as the Lady Wildcats posted a 38-22 victory before a large crowd inside the Quabbin Regional gymnasium.

"I thought the girls played hard in tonight's game, but we just didn't execute our game plan very well," said Barringer following his team's second home game of the regular season. "Gardner got off to a fast start and we just could never catch up."

The Lady Panthers had a 4-5 overall record following their second loss to Gardner. They were looking to get over the .500 mark for the first time since they were 3-2 following a victory against South Lancaster Academy in the first round of the Gardner Holiday



Christiana Dunn takes a long jump shot.

Tournament.

Quabbin split their first two games of 2025, which were both played on the road. The Lady Panthers kicked off the new year with a 52-47 victory against Lunenburg before losing Tyngsboro by eight points.

"Seven of our first eight games were on the road," Barringer said. "I'm happy that we were able to win the four road games, but tonight's game was a tough one."

Because Quabbin was ranked 41st in the initial Division 3 power rankings, they most likely will need to win at least ten games to qualify for the state tournament. The top 32 teams in each division automatically qualify for the state tournament. The Lady Panthers are also going to qualify for the Clark Tournament for the first time.

"We've played in the Central Mass Athletic Directors Tournament during the past several years. If we're able to qualify, we'll be playing in the Clark Tournament for the first time this year," Barringer said. "We would've been the number two seed at the Clark last year. It's one of the best high school tournaments around."

Only three Lady Panthers players scored in the home loss to Gardner (7-1).

Junior Mia Ducos finished with a team-high 13 points, while senior Brooke Austin scored all seven of her points during the second half, and senior Makaylah Kingsbury scored the other two points.

It was the fewest points that Quabbin scored in a game since they suffered a 39-19 road loss to Tyngsboro during the 2022-23 regular season.

The Lady Wildcats scored the first four points of the contest before Ducos, who's the Lady Panthers only returning starter, broke the ice by hitting a jumper in the lane with 2:37 remaining in the opening quarter.

Gardner senior Tati Vazquez, who finished with a game-high 17 points, made a pair of free throws and a lay-up giving the visitors from the Chair City an 8-2 lead entering the second quarter.

The Lady Wildcats were leading, 15-2, with 5:39 left in the first half



Makaylah Kingsburg goes around an opponent and drives to the hoop.



Mia Ducos goes for a three-point shot.

before the Lady Panthers put-together a 6-0 run.

Ducos scored the first four points of the spurt. Then Kingsbury buried a jumper from the left corner closing the gap to 15-8 with less than a minute remaining on the scoreboard clock.



Bella Smith makes a no-look pass out of the paint.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Lianna Leger tries to pass out of pressure.

Vazquez, who scored eight first half points, made a lay-up which sent her team into the locker room holding a 17-8 lead.

The Lady Panthers were trailing 20-11 with five minutes left in the third quarter following a Ducos 3-pointer from the top of the key.



Brooke Austin attempts a free throw.

Two minutes later, Austin made a put-back hoop and an inside bucket closing the gap to 25-15.

The Lady Panthers trailed, 30-17, at the end of the third quarter and they only scored five points during the final eight minutes of the contest.

T-Birds reach .500 with road win

HARTFORD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (15-15-2-1) rode spectacular performances by Simon Robertsson and Colten Ellis to a 3-1 win over the Hartford Wolf Pack (16-16-2-1) on Sunday inside the XL Center.

The opening period yielded a scarce amount of chances for the two squads, as Ellis and Dylan Garand were each a perfect 8-for-8 in save opportunities. Dalibor Dvorsky came the closest of the two teams to breaking the scoreless tie when he wristed a forehand off the post on the stick side.

The Wolf Pack, which scored only once in their last three games on home ice, broke the ice at 3:37 of the second as Ryder Korczak cashed a 3-on-2 rush with his third of the season to give the visitors a 1-0 advantage. That Hartford lead lasted less than three minutes as Robertsson evened the slate at 6:20 with a backhand rebound after Garand denied an initial shot from Corey Schueneman.

With the 1-1 score carrying into the period's final minute, Springfield got a tie-breaking goal from a rookie for the second straight evening. Robertsson was nearing the end of a shift but gutted it out with an incredible individual effort to split between two Wolf Pack defenseman before drubbing a forehand shot through Garand's legs at 19:08. The rookie's first career multi-goal game in the AHL gave the T-Birds the 2-1 lead heading into the third.

Ellis was the star of the show in a final period that saw the Wolf Pack relentlessly attack the Springfield goal. Time after time, the young backstop had an answer, racking up 19 third period saves, with a little help from his post along the way on a near-tying goal from Jaroslav Chmelar.

With Garand at the bench with just under two minutes remaining, Hugh McGING darted up the ice to cancel an icing and pound a loose puck into an empty net to end a 29-game goal-scoring drought.

With four points in their pockets out of the weekend, the T-Birds look to build on their momentum on Wednesday night as they make their first visit to Bridgeport to take on the Islanders at 7 p.m. at Total Mortgage Arena.

CANDLEPIN from page 11

Line defeated the Mailmen by a score of 330-323. In game two, the Mailmen got a win of their own by winning 342-323.

In game three, Last in Line won the last game by a score of 355-328. The high game of the match was tied between Dave Chambers of Last in Line and Bryan Surprise of Mailmen with a 99. Total pinfall was in favor of Last in Line with a final score of 1008-988. Last in Line wins three points to get closer to the #1 seed.

The #1 seed Daft Kings bowled against Compression. In game one, Compression defeated Daft Kings by a score of 376-370. In game two, Compression was victorious again by a score of 422-371. Jason Dominick of Compression scored big in game two by bowling a 123.

In game three, Compression and Daft Kings tied at 354. As a result, each team receives half a point. Compression won total pinfall by a final score of 1152-1095 and receive 3.5 points.

The Gutter Mouths bowled against the three seed Team BK. In game one, Gutter Mouths dominated and won 376-344. In game two, Team BK bounced back with a win of their own, 360-356. Stephen Manolakis of Gutter Mouths had the highest individual score in game two with a 107.

In game three, Team BK won the last game by a score of 374-330. Paul Nothe of Team BK had a strong finish in the match with a single game of 121. Team BK won three points, and the final score was 1078-1052 in favor of BK.

The winning team of round two will be determined in a few weeks.

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 (stipend 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 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

Justin Bonsignore will participate in Xfinity Series races in 2025

Joe Gibbs Racing announced today that four-time NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Champion Justin Bonsignore will drive the team's No. 19 Toyota GR Supra in five NASCAR Xfinity Series races in 2025.

Bonsignore made his Xfinity Series debut for JGR last June at New Hampshire Motor Speedway. Despite having no practice or qualifying laps, the Holtsville, New York, native found his way into the top five before contact on a late-race restart relegated him to a 22nd-place finish.

The 36-year-old driver is no stranger to success on the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour. He has racked up 45 victories, 130 top-five finishes, 169 top-10s, 33 pole awards, and 5,442 laps led in 226 career starts. In 2024, Bonsignore posted five victories on the way to his fourth career cham-

ampionship. He has not finished lower than fourth in the final rankings in the past nine seasons.

"When we had the opportunity to work with the Joe Gibbs Racing team at New Hampshire last year, it was a perfect pairing," Bonsignore said. "As soon as that weekend was over, we started looking at options to run a larger schedule in 2025 and it all came together. When you work with a team like JGR, you know you're going to have a car in contention to win every race you run. We're looking forward to having some fun and chasing trophies."

Bonsignore is looking to add his name to an impressive list of drivers who have won for the JGR Xfinity Series program. In the team's history, JGR owns 214 wins, including 10 in 2024. Since the team's inception, 23 different drivers have taken JGR to victory

lane in the Xfinity Series, including 14 drivers who claimed their first career victory in the series driving for JGR. The organization has won four Xfinity Series driver championships and six owner's championships.

"We're excited to have Justin back in our car in 2025," said Steve de Souza, Executive Vice President of Xfinity Series and Development for JGR. "He has proven himself over and over again in the modifieds and he did a great job for us at New Hampshire with no track time before the race started. We're looking forward to seeing what he can do with more opportunities to adapt to the Xfinity cars and working with this season."

The No. 19 team's full driver schedule will be announced at a later date.

Railers scored win over Wheeling Nailers

WORCESTER — The Worcester Railers HC (14-17-1-4 33pts) took down the Wheeling Nailers (25-7-2-0, 52pts), on Sunday afternoon by the final score of 2-1 in front of a crowd of 1,875 at WesBanco Arena. The Railers are back on the ice next at the DCU Center taking on the Adirondack Thunder on Friday, January 17th at 7:05 p.m. EST.

It was the Railers who struck first tonight as Justin Gill (1-1-2) scored 10:18 into the first period giving Worcester the 1-0 lead. The Railers extended their lead to 2-0 in the second period with a goal from Anthony Callin (1-0-1). Wheeling notched their first goal of the night 40 seconds into the third period as Logan Pietila (1-0-1) cut the Wheeling deficit to one. The Railers held off Wheeling for the remainder of the third peri-

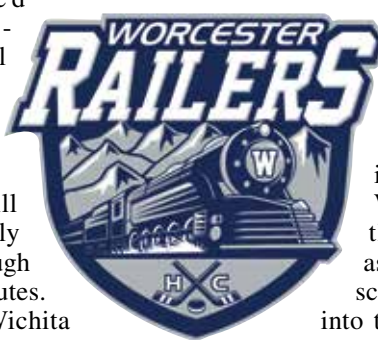
od, leading to a 2-1 final score.

Worcester logged the first goal of the night as Justin Gill (3rd) scored on a wrap-around goal 10:18 into the first period giving Worcester the 1-0 lead. Gill would be the only goal scorer through the first 20 minutes. Shots favored Wichita 13-9 in the first period.

Worcester extended their lead in the second period when Anthony Callin (9th) tapped Justin Gill's pass into the back of the net extended the Worcester lead to 2-0. Wheeling got the first power play opportunity of the game following a slashing call on Worcester's

Anthony Repaci, but the Railers penalty kill successfully killed the penalty off and kept the score at 2-0 heading into the third period. Shots favored Worcester in the second 17-10.

It didn't take long in the third period for Wheeling to cut into the Worcester lead, as Logan Pietila (4th) scored just 40 seconds into the third period. The Railers held Wheeling off the scoreboard for the remainder of the third period, including a late barrage of shots in which Michael Bullion made a flurry of saves to give Worcester the 2-1 win in regulation. Shots favored Wheeling in the third 11-3 and 34-29 in the game.



SEND US YOUR SPORTS PHOTOS

Have you taken photos at a local sports event and want to see them published in this paper?

Email your image(s) with description to:

sports@turley.com



Emotional support pickles crafted by Kitty.



Gnomes and Birds displayed next to Kitty's Kreations booth.



Wreaths displayed and created by Hartman's Herb Farm in Barre.



House plants and potted plants from Tiny's World.

Barre Winter Market returns for its third year



Cozy winter hats made by Kitty's Kreations.



Letter openers with a jewelry style added to them would make a useful gift in your household.



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago
Sea glass, driftwood and other features put together inside these beautiful picture frames.

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

BARRE – The Barre Town Hall welcomes back the annual Barre Winter Market that features local farmers and crafters.

It truly was a winter market this past weekend as shoppers got to stroll through the snow on their way to the Town Hall for some shopping. The snow flurry not only didn't stop the shoppers from arriving, but also didn't stop many local farmers, crafters and artisans from proving some of their finest products.

The winter market had a variety of products available including gifts you can't get during the regular season.

Celia Melvin, who coordinates the Barre Winter Market, was excited to be back inside the Town Hall for another year of the winter market. The vendors feature local vendors from Barre and surrounding towns.

The Winter Market has always been housed at the Barre Town Hall.

This year, according to Melvin, the Barre Winter Market continues to grow. The number of vendors has filled the Barre Winter Market with over 20 vendors in total.

The Market takes place one Saturday per month and runs until April. Melvin of Barre believes it is a great source for the farmers and crafters to help grow their business.

"Growing our regular farmers market as well as the winters market," Melvin said.

Melvin is the owner of Rebel Bath & Body and is known as "the soap lady" in town. Melvin had a booth of her own for Rebel Bath & Body with a variety of handmade bath and beauty products.

The Barre Winter Market is a great way to shop locally and there are unique items that will catch your eye.

For plant lovers, Tiny's World of Hubbardston was at the Barre Winter Market and had a table of plants. Tiny's World offers houseplants, potted plants, perennial plants, produce, fresh eggs, fresh flowers, paintings, and handmade décor and accessories. Owner of Tiny's World is Katie Young, who is an artist, crafter and gardener and was excited to be part of the Barre Winter Market along with local farmers, bakers, & artists.

Over by the stage inside the Town Hall were homemade cards, bookmarks and photographs by Mathilde Duffy of Barre. Duffy's bookmarks and cards feature drawings and photographs of wilds birds, unusual roosters, hens, seashells, orchids, ferns, trilliums, cats, dogs and much more. There were also magnets for sale featuring some of the many great photos and drawings by Duffy, herself.

Duffy also provides colored pencil lessons and workshops.

There were some cool crafts to check out at Kitty's Kreations booth. From handmade hats with interesting sayings along to neatly crafted animals and emotional support pickles, Kitty's Kreations had them during the Winter Market. According to Kitty, when it comes to emotional support pickles, "everybody needs one."

For herbs, perennials, flowers and wreaths the booth to visit was Hartman's Herb Farm. Lynn Hartman was running the booth and had many items available from her family-owned herb farm, which also provides a bed and breakfast, gift shop, retail and wholesale greenhouses. Hartman's Herb Farm also offers a private dining room for functions and weddings.

The Winter Market will return to Town Hall on the following Saturday dates: Feb. 8, March 8, and April 8. The hours will be from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.



Soaps and beauty products by Rebel Bath and Body were displayed at the Barre Winter Market this past weekend.



Curious Cravings Bakery had some delicious baked goods for sale.



Beautifully crafted bookmarks along with additional jewelry can be found at the Winter Market.



Handmade cards and bookmarks featuring photographs and drawings by artist and teacher Mathilde Duffy.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Kyle Clark goes for a put-back.

PANTHERS from page 11

time. He was also credited with six rebounds, four assists, and one steal.

Freshman Brady Patchen contributed with 17 points. He scored seven of his points during the Panthers impressive 16-2 third quarter run.

"We're a much better basketball team this year than we were last year," said Patchen, who was a member of the varsity basketball team last year as an eighth grader. "We have won six games after winning only four games last year. We just want to give the seniors the best year that they can have."

The Panthers' other starter against Gardner was senior Jaxon Warburton, who filled out the stat sheet with seven points, three rebounds, four assists, and two steals.

Junior Camden Camache, who's the son of the Wildcats head coach, led his team with 19 points with the help of five 3-pointers. Junior Zach Swan scored ten of his 16 points in the first quarter, which forced the long time Panthers head coach to make some adjustments.

"We never want just one player to beat us," Dextradeur said. "We did make some adjustments and were able to hold Swan scoreless in the second half. We switched three different players on him."

The trio of Warburton, Dilling, and Patchen took turns guarding against Swan.



Brady Patchen uses his body to carve a path in the paint.

At the beginning of the regular season Patchen was a reserve player and senior Bryce Venne was a starter.

Dextradeur recently made a change and Venne is now the Panthers sixth man.

"Bryce is now our sixth man, and he seems very comfortable in that role," Dextradeur added. "He can play several positions and gives us valuable minutes. He's also one of our fastest players."

The other Quabbin senior is Zeke Santoro, who didn't play against Gardner.

The Panthers took the lead for the first time at 8-7 with 3:30 left in the first quarter when Geary bur-



Jaxon Warburton makes his way down the court.

ied a 3-pointer from the left side. Geary made three of Quabbin's seven three-point shots in the game.

Twenty five seconds later, Patchen scored a lay-up basket giving the home team a three point advantage, which didn't last very long.

The Wildcats closed out the opening quarter with a 9-2 run. A Gamache 3-pointer from the right corner gave the visiting team a 16-12 lead entering the second quarter.

The Panthers outscored the Wildcats, 21-16, during the second stanza.

In the middle of the second quarter, a Clark lay-up and a Geary



Quinn Geary brings in a pass.

base-line lay-up gave Quabbin a 24-22 lead.

After the Wildcats retook the lead again, the Panthers battled back with a 9-2 run. A Dilling inside hoop gave Quabbin a 33-29 lead with 30 seconds left in the opening half.

Swan ended the half with a jumper making it a two point game at the break.

Gardner held a 36-34 lead two minutes into the third quarter before Quabbin took full control of the contest.

Clark tied the score with an inside basket. Then Dilling made a driving lay-up before Patchen made a pair of inside hoops and a

3-pointer increasing the Panthers lead to 45-38 with 3:45 left in the quarter.

A little more than a minute later, Geary made a 3-pointer from the top of the key giving the home team a double digit lead (50-38) for the first time.

Holding a 53-44 advantage entering the final eight minutes of the contest, the Panthers outscored the Wildcats, 14-5, during the final quarter. The trio of Dilling, Warburton, and Patchen each scored four points during the fourth quarter. Geary also added a fastbreak lay-up, as the Panthers scored the final eight points of the contest.

public safety



Submitted Photo

Pictured from left to right is Warren Fire Lieutenant Kyle Sledziewski, Dispatcher Emily DeFosse, Dispatcher Rachel Crompton, Dispatcher Phyllis Chartier, Supervisor Mike Parker, Oakham Police Sergeant Kevin Marderosian.

Police, fire personnel receive RECC awards

RUTLAND – On Jan. 13, the Rutland Regional Emergency Communication Center joined Rutland Fire and Rutland Police at Ladd's Restaurant to celebrate a Public Safety Awards Night.

This year, the Exceptional Service Award was presented to Warren Fire Lieutenant Kyle Sledziewski and Oakham Police Sergeant Kevin Marderosian.

This award is presented by the RRECC to an officer and/or firefighter who has demonstrated extraordinary dedication beyond typical duties. The criteria for this recognition include effective communication, supportive collaboration with dispatch, problem-solving under pressure, positive community impact, teamwork, respect for the dispatch role, and a commitment to promoting safety and professionalism.

Sledziewski has consistently gone above and beyond to support dispatch operations, particularly during high-pressure situations such as severe storms.

In these challenging moments, he has proactively monitored IMC to assist with dispatching the fire department for incidents like downed power lines and trees. His

proactive approach has not only improved response times but also alleviated the burden on dispatch staff managing overwhelming call volumes.

Marderosian has shown exceptional and continuous support for the dispatch team. Over the years, he has demonstrated unwavering dedication to the RRECC, ensuring that the team receives the assistance, updates, and resources needed to perform at the highest standard. His consistent collaboration and support exemplify the true spirit of partnership in public safety.

Open burning season now open through April 30

WARE – Open burning season is now open by permit and runs through April 30.

Permits will be available online only at ware.firepermits.com. If you are already registered for the site from last year's open burning season, you only need to log in and apply for a 2025 burn permit.

Please make sure you link your bank account for UniPay for a smoother process. The bank requires time to process your payment and your permit will be inactive until payment is approved.

Cash will not be accepted at the fire station for a burn permit. All processing fees are required through the online website.

Veterans eat lunch free at Ware Senior Center

WARE – Now through May 31, 2025, veterans of the U.S. armed services can enjoy a homemade lunch for free at the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road.

This meals are provided by the generosity of former Ware Selectboard member John Morrin, the Ware Veteran Fund and the Ware Veterans Carnival.

For veterans to take advantage of this offer they must call the Ware Senior Center 413-967-9645 by noon the business day before they wish to come for lunch and place their name on the list. Meals are served daily, Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m.-noon.

Menus and more information are available on the Council on Aging page of townofware.com or by stopping by the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Our advertisers make this publication possible.

Let them know you saw their ad in the Ware River News



Submitted Photo

Daniel R. Carey is sworn in as Hampshire County Clerk of Courts with his wife, Melissa, and son, Mick, by Superior Court Judge Michael K. Callan, on Jan. 1.

Carey sworn in as Hampshire County Clerk of Courts

EASTHAMPTON – Daniel R. Carey (D-Easthampton) was sworn in as Hampshire County Clerk of Courts during a New Year's Day ceremony at Old Town Hall in Easthampton.

"I'm excited to get to work tomorrow to ensure that the Hampshire County Superior Court continues to be among the very best in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts," Carey said after thanking his family, friends, and supporters.

Carey was elected to the position in November 2024 after

serving three consecutive two-year terms in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Carey succeeds retiring Clerk Harry J. Jekanowski, Jr.

The oath of office was administered by Superior Court Judge Michael K. Callan. Carey's father, retired Superior Court Judge Richard J. Carey, served as the emcee.

The event was legally required to take place on the first Wednesday of January, which this year happened to fall on the holiday.

DCR offers February vacation program on tracks and scat

BELCHERTOWN – The Department of Conservation and Recreation will host a February Vacation Program "Tracks and Scat" on Monday, Feb. 17 from 10-11 a.m.

Although we may not see them often, our native wildlife is all around us. Come learn to recognize some signs of wildlife through a fun and informative indoor activity.

Meet at the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center in Belchertown. Great for all ages, children must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, call 413-323 - 7221. To register visit <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/>



form/250b6dcbeefc4f30a4da5b-0f86abc4f3.

Ware Police Log

During the week of Jan. 7-14, the Ware Police Department responded to 22 miscellaneous calls, 11 administrative calls, two traffic violations, 11 emergency 911 calls, one harassment, four motor vehicle accidents, one fraud, one breaking and entering, one safety hazard, three animal calls and 12 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

Tuesday, Jan. 7

3:18 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued
3:41 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Cummings Street, Dispatch Handled
5:12 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Anderson Road, Report Made

Wednesday, Jan. 8

3:12 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued
11:53 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Pulaski Street, Services Rendered
12 p.m. Drugs, West Street, Services Rendered
1:01 p.m. Safety Hazard, Mass Central Rail Trail, Dispatch Handled
6:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued

Thursday, Jan. 9

1:17 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued
2:15 a.m. Bylaw Violation,

Osborne Road, Citation/Warning Issued
2:33 p.m. Bylaw Violation, Otis Avenue, Citation/Warning Issued
2:39 p.m. Bylaw Violation, School Street, Citation/Warning Issued
3:36 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Charles Street, Citation/Warning Issued
1:48 p.m. Drugs, West Street, Report Made

Friday, Jan. 10

2:13 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Hardwick Pond Road, Dispatch Handled
4:09 p.m. Fraud/Deception, Beach Road, Services Rendered
9:36 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Services Rendered

Saturday, Jan. 11

7:34 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Laurel Drive, Dispatch Handled
8 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Church Street, Services Rendered
3:19 p.m. Breaking and Entering/Burglary, Gilbertville Road, Report Made
6:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Belchertown Road, Citation/Warning Issued
7:07 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Parker Street, Arrest Made
Arrest: Axsell Rodriguez Velasquez, 24, Ware
OUI-Liquor or .08%; Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle
7:42 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Monson Turnpike Road, Dispatch Handled

Warren Police Log

During the week of Jan. 1-4, the Warren Police Department responded to 131 building/property checks, 16 community policings, 12 emergency 911 calls, one trespasser/prowler, two harassments, two motor vehicle accidents, two animal calls and 19 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Wednesday, Jan. 1

12:05 a.m. Noise Complaint, Keys Road, Officer Spoke to Party
10:59 a.m. Harassment, East Road, Report Filed
1:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
2:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
5:28 p.m. Trespasser or Prowler, Boston Post Road, Officer Spoke to Party
11:14 p.m. Power Lines Down, Santos Road, Referred to Other Agency

Thursday, Jan. 2

2:55 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Winthrop Terrace, Transported to Hospital
8:03 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
9:46 a.m. Power Lines Down, Ware Road, Referred to Other Agency
12:05 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Ware Road, Transported to Hospital
2:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Keyes Street, Vehicle Towed
3:04 p.m. Harassment, North Street, Officer/Chief Advised
7:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
7:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Coy Hill Road, Written Warning
10:37 p.m. Abdominal/Back Pain, Yankee Drummer Drive, Transported to Hospital

Friday, Jan. 3

10:08 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Brimfield, Mutual Aid Assist
11:29 a.m. Unwanted Party, Milton O. Fountain Way, Party Departed Without Incident
1:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brook Road, Written Warning
2:51 p.m. Animal Call, Bemis Road, Rescued
4:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
4:18 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Keyes Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
8:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
9:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Saturday, Jan. 4

1:34 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Comins Pond Road, Transported to Hospital
11:22 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Arrest(s) Made

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Jan. 6-13, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 59 building/property checks, 34 directed/area patrols, five radar assignments, six traffic controls, eight emergency 911 calls, one citizen assist, three assist other agencies, one safety hazard, two motor vehicle accidents, one motor vehicle investigation, one scam and 11 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Tuesday, Jan. 7

1:28 a.m. Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
9:12 a.m. Assist Citizen, Church Lane, Spoken To
12:15 p.m. Scam, Upper Church Street, Spoken To
1:15 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Mechanic Street, Services Rendered
2:19 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle

Accident, Greenwich Road, Services Rendered

Wednesday, Jan. 8

11:22 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
3:41 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Officer Handled
5:32 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Jackson Road, Arrest(s) Made

Thursday, Jan. 9

9:02 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
9:12 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
11:52 a.m. 911 Disturbance, Hardwick Road, Peace Restored

Friday, Jan. 10

1:14 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Lower Road, Transported to Hospital
11:25 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Hardwick-New Braintree Police, Officer Handled

4:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning
4:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning

Saturday, Jan. 11

7:04 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Main Street, Vehicle Towed
9:30 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Church Street, Criminal Complaint
3:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
4:39 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Turkey Street, Transported to Hospital
6:58 p.m. Safety Hazard, Hardwick Center, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Sunday, Jan. 12

2:32 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Ruggles Hill Road, Officer Handled

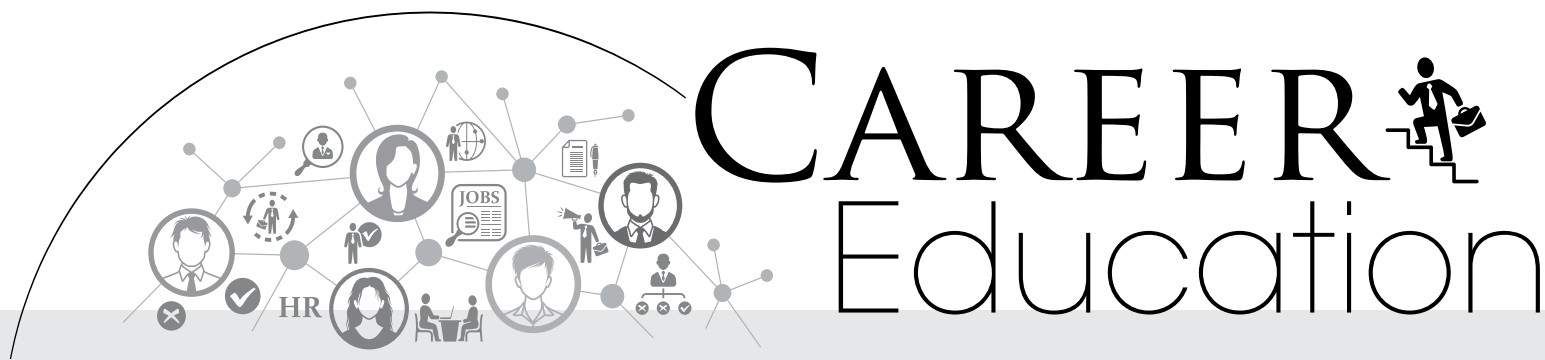
Cold weather clothing drive ongoing through spring

WARE – The Recovery Center of HOPE and the Quabog Hills Substance Use Alliance will be hosting a Community Cold Weather Drive to benefit local individuals and families facing hardships.

They will be accepting new and gently used gloves, mittens, scarves, sweaters, blankets, base-layers, jackets and coats and new beanies and

socks. Items will be collected through the spring and can be dropped off at the following locations: Town Hall, 126 Main St., Mondays and Tuesdays from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Recovery on Main, 78 Main St., Wednesdays from 1-3 p.m.; Ware Library, 37 Main St., Thursdays from 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Recovery Center of HOPE, Fridays from 2-4 p.m.





CAREER Education

Hampden Charter School of Science: Empowering Students for a Brighter Future

Are you searching for a school where academic excellence meets a supportive community? Hampden Charter School of Science (HCSS) is a top-ranked, tuition-free public charter school serving grades 6-12 in Western Massachusetts. Since its founding in 2009, HCSS has been dedicated to preparing students for college, careers, and a lifetime of success.

Why Choose HCSS?
HCSS stands out as a premier choice for families because of its unique combination of academic rigor, personalized attention, and community spirit. Our two campuses—the Middle School in West Springfield (Grades 6-8) and the High School in Chicopee (Grades 9-12)—offer students a seamless

transition from middle school to high school and beyond. Here's what makes HCSS truly exceptional:

Academic Excellence: Our rigorous curriculum is guided by College Board AP standards and Common Core. With honors courses beginning in 7th grade, 14 AP offerings in high school, and innovative programs like Project Lead The

Way (PLTW), students are challenged to reach their full potential.

Comprehensive College and Career Preparation: HCSS begins college and career readiness as early as 6th grade, including early SAT/PSAT prep, dual enrollment opportunities, and experiential college campus visits. With a 100% college acceptance rate and over \$51M in scholarships awarded since 2013,

our graduates are set for success.

State-of-the-Art Technology: Students benefit from one-to-one Chromebook access, SMART Interactive Displays, and hands-on science labs, preparing them for a tech-driven world.

Award-Winning Extracurriculars: From robotics and science clubs to competitive athletics and social activities, students thrive outside the classroom as well.

school's commitment to diversity and inclusion fosters a vibrant community that celebrates different perspectives and cultures. Families also appreciate the convenience of free transportation and extensive tutoring services, ensuring all students have the tools they need to succeed.

Student Success Stories

HCSS alumni have gone on to attend prestigious universities, including Ivy League institutions like Harvard, Columbia, and Dartmouth. Our students' achievements are a testament to the school's dedication to academic and personal growth. With a consistent college matriculation rate of over 95%, HCSS prepares students not just to attend college but to excel once they get there.

How to Apply

Applications for the 2025-2026 school year are now open! Rising 6th-10th graders should apply no later than March 2, 2025, to secure a spot in our admission lottery. Visit www.hampdencharter.org to apply and take the first step toward a brighter future.

At Hampden Charter School of Science, we believe every student deserves a world-class education. Join our community of learners, achievers, and leaders today—because your child's future begins here!

Agawam, Holyoke, Westfield, West Springfield Chicopee, Ludlow, Springfield

HCSS High School

20 Johnson Rd. Chicopee, MA 01022 | Tel. 413-593-9090, Fax. 413-294-2648

HCSS Middle School

511 Main Street West Springfield, MA 01089, Tel.413-278-5450

Join Us for an Open House!

Explore what HCSS has to offer during our upcoming Welcome Saturday Open House events! Meet our dedicated staff, tour our campuses, and learn how HCSS can help your child achieve their dreams. Interested families can also join a Virtual Information Session for an in-depth look at our programs from the comfort of home.

What Parents and Students Love About HCSS

Parents and students consistently praise HCSS for its nurturing environment, where every student feels valued and supported. The



HAMPDEN CHARTER SCHOOL OF SCIENCE
ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR GRADE 6-10

Why Hampden Charter School of Science?

- NO COST
- FREE TRANSPORTATION
- COLLEGE-PREP EDUCATION
- TECHNOLOGY IN CLASSROOM
- EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMICS
- ATHLETICS
- ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES and CLUBS
- 100% COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE

WELCOME SATURDAYS
11:00 AM - 1:00PM
January 4th
January 11th
February 1st
February 8th
March 1st

VISIT: WWW.HAMPDENCHARTER.ORG

APPLY NOW / DEADLINE ▶ **MARCH 2, 2025**

BEST HIGH SCHOOLS USNews RANKINGS 2024
2024 NICHE BEST SCHOOLS
AP HONOR ROLL PLATINUM
AP ACCESS AWARD

Dress for interview success

In his masterpiece "Crime and Punishment," author Fyodor Dostoevsky wrote, "We sometimes encounter people, even perfect strangers, who begin to interest us at first sight, somehow suddenly, all at once, before a word has been spoken." The great Russian novelist is referring to the fact that impressions can be made even before conversations begin. This is an important notion to grasp and can do a job seeker a world of good in every interaction during the hiring process, including the interview.

Recruiters may have an understanding of you as an applicant from your résumé and other correspondences, but it is during the interview — whether it's in person or remote — that a hiring manager can really get a sense of your energy and professionalism. While no one wants to be judged on appearance alone, what you look like and how you dress affect others' first impression of you. Doing all you can to tip the scales in your favor may lead to favorable job outcomes. The best outfit to wear on an interview varies depending on the company and the job, according to The Balance: Money. But there are some guidelines for dressing to make the best impression.

- Follow the employer's dress code. If you can gauge dress code in advance, dress to mirror what others are wearing and then take it up a slight notch. For example, while you wouldn't wear a suit if you're interviewing as a park ranger, you may eschew work boots and faded jeans for a collared polo shirt and khaki pants. For a tech start-up or creative company that favors casual wear, something that is more business casual may be appropriate for the interview.

- Err on the side of caution. If you do not know the company dress code, it is always better to be overdressed than underdressed. A sports jacket and a button-down shirt for gentlemen and tailored pants and blouse for women may fit the bill.

- Less is more. Distractions can derail an interview, and wearing too many accessories can be distracting to the interviewer and even candidates during the interview. Keep jewelry to a minimum and mute all alerts on a smartwatch and smartphone. If you have piercings, you may want to remove them until you learn more about which types of body art are acceptable at the company, which you should be able to discern when visiting the office. Distractions also can include heavy or drastic makeup and hair styles. Tone things down until you have a firm understanding of dress policies.

- Choose neutral colors. Wear neutral or classic colors over more flashy options. You want to be judged on your qualifications, and neon shirts or a busy print dress could cause an interviewer to lose focus. During a remote interview, choose a high-contrast interview outfit so that you don't blend in with your background.

- Wear clean, tidy clothes. No matter how formal or informal the attire, it should be freshly laundered, free from wrinkles or damage, and fit properly.

Interview attire can make or break first impressions, so attention should be placed on what to wear.



Teaching the Next Generation

Are you passionate about making a positive impact on young minds within a dynamic public school environment? Springfield Public Schools is seeking knowledgeable, highly effective, diverse educators, to join our K-12 district!

Be part of a school system that is thriving in *A Culture of Equity and Proficiency* serving over 26,000 students.

TO APPLY
Visit our website or scan the QR Code!



Join Our Team!

WE'RE HIRING!





CAREER Education

Come and see what great things are happening at St. Stanislaus School

This year the school's theme is "Many Gifts, One Spirit", which is our belief that every student has gifts to share with others towards the goal of making our world

a better place. Our school encourages our students to focus on a different Corporal Work of Mercy to help our greater community. Some of the outreach programs we

have participated in this year were: collection of canned goods for Lorraine's Soup Kitchen, for which our students collected 3,800 canned goods; and recently we

collected toiletries, diapers, and other personal items to support the wish lists of both The Gray House and Christina's House in Springfield. The Works of Mercy which have been covered are - Feeding the Hungry and Working for Peace.

Service projects are done throughout the year to help teach students the value of giving back.

The school will be holding an Open House on Sunday, Feb. 2 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. (no appointment needed). If you would like to schedule a private tour for another time, please call the school to schedule an appointment at (413) 592-5135.

St. Stanislaus School is a Roman Catholic, Franciscan, co-educational Pre-K through 8th grade school. Students are assisted in developing their potential spiritually, physically, and socially within a safe and diverse community. A foundation of academic excellence is created to prepare students to become contributing members of a global society. The school has a welcoming Franciscan environment, modern air-conditioned facility, strong core curriculum, enrichment classes, certified faculty, full-day preschool (PreK3 & 4) and Kindergarten, free breakfast and hot lunch, before & after school program, and one to one use and integration of iPads & Chromebooks into curriculum. Financial Aid is available. Interested students are invited to "spend a day with us". To learn more please visit www.saintstansschool.org.

We can't wait to meet you!

ST. STANISLAUS SCHOOL

SERVANT LEADERS FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY, FEB. 2, 2025
11AM-1PM



- Welcoming Franciscan environment
- Strong core curriculum
- Enrichment classes
- Certified faculty
- Full day Preschool & Kindergarten
- Free breakfast and hot lunch
- Before & After school program
- One to one use and integration of iPads & Chromebooks into curriculum
- Modern facility - full gym, full cafeteria, air conditioned, carpeted classrooms.

Call us for more information and to schedule a tour. We welcome the opportunity for you to experience St. Stanislaus School! Interested students are invited to "spend a day with us."



PREK - 8TH GRADE SCHOOL
PHYSICAL, SPIRITUAL, AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



To learn more 

www.saintstansschool.org
534 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013
413-592-5135







WELDING

- Real hands-on experience
- Includes on site and off site internship
- State of the art facilities renovated in 2022 including a robotic arm

Gateway's Welding program is a Chapter 74 vocational education program that prepares students for a career in Metal Fabrication and Welding!




www.grsd.org

**JOIN US!
Apply today!**



EARLY EDUCATION & CARE

At Gateway you can join our Early Education and Care program (EEC) in 9th grade!

By the time you graduate, you will be ready, certified, and prepared to work with young learners!




You will also be on track to:

- Know how to plan engaging activities and lessons
- Have CPR & First Aid certification
- Experience awesome internship opportunities

Visit:
www.grsd.org
for more information!



Gateway Raises the Bar(r) for Students

The Gateway Regional School District is making significant advancements in student engagement and staff development, thanks to funding from the Barr Foundation and enthusiastic commitment from students and staff. These funds are being used to support a variety of initiatives that align with the district's instructional vision, emphasizing real-world learning, collaboration, and innovation.

At Gateway Regional, a comprehensive plan has been developed for grades 6-12 to help students prepare for life beyond high school. This plan includes tailored learning experiences for each grade level, such as team-building activities for sixth graders, community exploration in seventh grade, and visits to community colleges for eighth graders. Ninth-grade students will engage in career exploration workshops led by industry experts, while tenth graders will visit four-year colleges. Eleventh-grade students will attend a local college fair and participate in life skills workshops, and seniors will celebrate their achievements with a banquet and lead activities for younger students. While some of these initiatives will be piloted this year, others will launch in the next school year, ensuring students are equipped with knowledge and skills for future success. The high school offers two Chapter 74 programs for students interested in welding and early childhood education. Graduates of these programs will complete a full comprehensive internship and be equipped to enter the workforce with the skills obtained.


Littleville Elementary is incorporating the Barr Foundation funds into engaging, hands-on projects and school-wide events. For example, students in grades three through five recently attended the Hartford Wolf Pack School Learning Day, where they applied physical science concepts like force and motion to a live hockey game. Kindergarten students participated in a String Instrument Workshop led by members of the Springfield Orchestra, while all grade levels are eagerly anticipating an interactive "Author's Experience" with writer Daryl Cobb in March.

Plans are in the works to create a Schoolyard Habitat for Monarch butterflies and other pollinators. Littleville is also planning a mentoring program that will pair high school students with elementary students for long-term support. The school recently hosted a successful Holiday Craft Fair, showcasing student-made goods and fostering creativity.

At Chester Elementary, the focus is on sustainability, creativity, and environmental awareness. For the third year in a row, students are engaged with hydroponic agriculture, growing healthy food for their own school lunches and community. Students are participating in the Teaching with Trout program, where they raise brook trout from eggs to adulthood while learning about ecology and conservation. A composting initiative led by fifth graders is teaching students how to sort waste and reduce their environmental impact. The Student Media Club provides third graders with opportunities to develop and produce their own videos, promoting teamwork and innovation. Chester is also preparing for a school-wide production of Willy Wonka Jr., with fifth graders in lead roles and younger students in supporting roles. Additionally, an in-school field trip featured the Whalemobile, a life-sized inflatable whale that taught students about marine biology and conservation.


District-wide, the Barr Foundation funds are also being used to enhance staff development and collaboration. Teachers are participating in study tours to locations such as Kentucky, Maine, Providence, Boston, and New York City to explore innovative educational practices. An internal instructional vision board encourages staff members to share ideas for projects that utilize the funds to further educational transformation.

Through these initiatives, the Gateway Regional School District is fostering creativity, collaboration, and real-world learning for students while empowering educators with new ideas and strategies. These efforts are preparing students for success both in school and beyond while creating a culture of innovation and engagement throughout the district.




GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT INVITES YOU TO JOIN US!

WWW.GRSD.ORG



Nestled in the foothills of the Berkshires, Gateway Regional School District offers a caring and supportive small school environment. With support from the Barr Foundation, Gateway is engaging in transformative work to reinvent the school experience to make learning joyful for every student. Each GRSD school has a focus that aligns with the district's vision of emphasizing real-world learning, collaboration, and innovation.




Littleville Elementary School incorporates engaging, hands-on projects and events:

- Hartford Wolf Pack School Learning Day
- Springfield Symphony Orchestra string instrument workshop
- Holiday Craft fair
- Interactive "Author's Experience" with writer Daryl Cobb.


Gateway Regional School's (grades 6-12) pilot program will equip student for success after high school through:

- Fun team-building activities
- College tours
- Career exploration with experts
- Life-skills workshops
- Community projects



Chester Elementary School focuses on sustainability, creativity, and environmental awareness:

- Teaching with Trout (raising brook trout from eggs to adulthood)
- School-wide composting initiative
- Student Media Club
- School-wide production of Willy Wonka Jr.
- Visit from the Whalemobile



WE ARE EXCITED TO MEET YOU!

region

DCR lists upcoming winter hybrid presentations

BELCHERTOWN – The Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center, 100 Winsor Dam Road, announces the schedule for winter hybrid presentations.

All programs are scheduled for 2 p.m. In person seating is limited to 45 people.

In case of bad weather, the programs will only be held virtually. Please register for any of these events by visiting <https://www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events>.

Prince Walker of Barre – From Enslaved to Landowner

Sunday, Jan. 19 from 2-3 p.m.

Born to an enslaved family in Barre in June 1774 Prince Walker spent much of his life on a homestead that is now part of the Ware River Watershed. Although known mainly as the much younger brother of Quock Walker (whose suit to attain personal freedom was instrumental in freeing all enslaved people in Massachusetts) Prince Walker led a remarkable life.

Join Lucy Allen from the Barre

Historical Society as she presents on his trek to freedom and financial independence.

Understanding Fish Species at Quabbin Reservoir

Sunday, Jan. 26 from 2-3 p.m.

Creel surveys are a common technique used by fisheries professionals to better understand waterbody specific catch and harvest trends. Creel data from Quabbin Reservoir were collected at each of the three boat launch areas during the 2024 fishing season.

The presentation will provide updates regarding participation, catch, harvest and species specific trends. These data will be compared to other statewide and waterbody specific creel data collected by MassWildlife and Department of Conservation and Recreation.

The Mystery of Prescott Quilt of Names

Sunday, Feb. 2 from 2-3 p.m.

Step back in time and delve into the intriguing story behind a remark-

able artifact that has woven together generations—a quilt embroidered with fifty signatures from 1895, hailing from Prescott, Massachusetts. Who created this piece of history, and why? How did it make its way to the Hitchcock Chair Museum in Riverton, Connecticut, and who played a crucial role in returning it to the Swift River Valley Historical Society?

Join historical interpreter Karen Traub as she embarks on a fascinating journey to unravel the quilt's past.

History of Rutland Prison Camp

Sunday, Feb. 16 from 2-3 p.m.

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

This presentation will tell the story of this surprisingly successful social experiment nestled within the Ware River Watershed.

Microscopic world of the Quabbin Reservoir

Sunday, Feb. 23 from 2-3 p.m.

What's in the water? Learn about the microorganisms that live in the water, and how they can impact water quality.

This presentation will cover phytoplankton and zooplankton found in the Quabbin Reservoir with a live microscope demo.

Quabbin Reservoir and Watershed Protection

Sunday, March 2 from 2-3 p.m.

Engineering, forestry, wildlife and aquatic biology, carpentry, mowing and snowplowing...how do all of these things combine to protect the water supply of over three million people in Massachusetts? How does they benefit the region around the reservoir?

This presentation from the Visitor Center staff explores how the many different goals of DCR staff all support one goal, Quabbin watershed protection.

COLLEGE NEWS

HCC announces fall 2024 Dean's List

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is proud to recognize the students who earned Dean's List honors for the fall 2024 semester.

Local students include Brenna Rose Chesley, Madisyn Helen Davis, Erin Demers, Kristen Marie Dubuque, Hannah Rose Jacques, Brittanie Larzars-Rule, Brian C. Maraglia, Emily Zophia McGrail, Savannah Mary Mitchell Sachelys Perez, Alexis Rivera, Shalyn Loretta Royer, Angela Pauline Servant, Lisa A. Skutnik, Pandora Sage Washburn, Jeanette Marie Weatherwax and Caitlin Woodward, all of Ware.

Each term, HCC recognizes superior scholarship through the Dean's List. A student is placed on the Dean's List if their G.P.A. is 3.2 or higher.

STCC announces fall 2024 Dean's list

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Technical Community College announces the fall Dean's list.

Local students making Dean's list are: Allan Stanley Gustafson of Gilbertville, Ian Loring Adams of Ware, Caitlin Hess of Ware, Amanda Mae Jacques of Ware and Taylor Vital of Ware.

To be considered, degree-seeking students must earn 12 or more college-level credits in the current semester or a total of 12 or more combined college-level credits earned during the fall and spring semesters and achieve a 3.3 or above grade point average.

Warren resident earns Dean's List honors

WELLESLEY HILLS – Myanyeliz Quinones of Warren has been named to the MassBay Community College Dean's List.

Quinones, who studies General Studies, achieved this outstanding academic honor for the fall 2024 semester.

To be eligible for the MassBay Dean's List, students must complete at least six credits of college-level courses, be in good standing with the College, and earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

Flamand named Presidential Scholar at Clarkson Univ.

POTSDAM, NY – Ethan Tyler Flamand of Ware, a sophomore majoring in engineering and management, was named a Presidential Scholar for the fall 2024 semester at Clarkson University.

Presidential Scholars must achieve a minimum 3.80 grade-point average and carry at least 14 credit hours.

Nicholas Warburton named to Dean's list at WNEU

SPRINGFIELD – Western New England University is proud to announce Nicholas Warburton of Hardwick has been named to the Dean's list for the fall 2024 semester.

Warburton is one of over 750 students to achieve this mark of academic excellence. Students are named to the Dean's List for achieving a semester grade point average of 3.30 or higher.

Warburton is working toward a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering.

WNE University announces President's list

SPRINGFIELD – Western New England University announces the President's list for the fall 2024 semester.

Local students making the President's list are: Jason Desantis of Ware and Seraya Dauksewich of Ware. Students are named to the President's List for achieving a semester grade point average of 3.80 or higher.



The MacDuffie School more than just a school, a community

At The MacDuffie School, we believe education is more than academics—it's the foundation for a lifetime of achievement. Our vibrant community fosters creativity, leadership, and excellence while instilling respect and integrity in everything we do.

At MacDuffie, you're not just a student—you're part of a community that celebrates your individuality and supports your growth. Our small class sizes and dedicated teachers ensure you're seen, heard, and challenged to reach

your full potential. Here, students don't just prepare for college—they prepare for life.

Choosing the right school is a big decision. That's why we invite you to learn more about MacDuffie and how it can shape your future. Visit our website, schedule a tour, or attend our April 5th open house to see for yourself what makes us different.

Your journey starts here. Define your future at MacDuffie—apply today! admissions@macduffie.org

Explore Your Passions.
Be a Leader.
Choose MacDuffie.



OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, April 5, 2025 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



The MacDuffie School is a special place, and it all begins with our mission:

To foster in all students the intellectual habits of mind, high ethical standards, and respect for diversity required for becoming effective individuals in their personal and work lives, and moral and responsible participants in the world beyond.

There's no better way to get a feel for The MacDuffie School than spending time with us!

Please register for our Open House at www.macduffie.org or contact the Admissions Office at (413) 255-0000 to reserve your spot.

Come Be A Part Of Our Community!

66 School Street
Granby, Massachusetts

www.MacDuffie.org

For Students
in Grades 6 through

Join us at PVPVA for an open house to see what we can offer your child

Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School (PVPVA) has a 25+ year history of providing an excellent, arts-focused, college-prep education to students in Grades 7-12.

PVPVA students thrive in a creative, challenging learning environment that offers them a broad exposure to the performing arts. Our students consistently show that incorporating the arts into education creates, not just better artists, but better students who are equipped to be active participants in their future.


With an extensive Course Catalog of over 65 Arts Classes across Music, Dance, Theatre, Visual Arts and Technical Theater, students have access to both introductory courses and audition level courses, with multiple performance opportunities, offered alongside their core academics.

Join PVPVA for an Open House and see why we are consistently voted one of the Best Charter Schools in the Valley!


Now accepting applications for the




2025/2026 school year for Grades 7-12 at pvpa.org/admissions.



Visit us to learn more!
To register for Open House, and TO APPLY:
www.pvpa.org/admissions or QR Code below



OPEN HOUSE
Weds, Jan 15 4-6pm
Sat, Jan 25 & Feb 1 10am-12pm
Tues, Feb 18 10am-12pm



Free, Arts-focused, College-prep
Grades 7-12
Application Deadline Feb 23, 2025

65+ courses in Theater, Dance,
Instrumental and Vocal Music,
Visual Arts, Technical Theater and Film

Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School

www.pvpa.org/admissions




photo credit: Julian Parker-Burns

15 Mulligan Drive, South Hadley, MA www.pvpa.org/admissions 413.552.1580

A	C	T	H			T	H	O		E	S	O	P			
A	R	E	A	S		H	U	B		N	A	G	A			
H	O	W	L	E	D		E	D	T		T	U	A	N		
S	C	A	M	P	I		I	D	A		A	C	M	E		
						T	O	N	A	L	I	T	I	E	S	
B	A	M	B	I	N	O		E	N	O	L	S				
C	H	O	I	C	E	R		D	S	T						
D	A	N	T	E						A	B	B	E	Y		
						M	S	G		T	O	L	U	E	N	E
			S	P	I	E	L		E	D	I	B	L	E	S	
			P	A	R	A	M	A	G	N	E	T				
E	L	B	A			I	C	H		T	I	T	H	E	S	
B	A	L	I			P	I	A		S	E	R	A	P	E	
O	N	E	S			R	A	N		S	A	K	E	S		
N	O	S	E			O	L	A		P	E	E	S			

Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

FULL TIME POLICE OFFICER

The **Warren Police Department** is accepting applications for the position of full time Police Officer. Applicants are preferred to be academy trained and must be willing to work weekends, nights and holidays.

Responsibilities include responding to emergency and non-emergency calls for Police, Fire and Ambulance services. It is preferred that applicants currently possess valid certification as a Police Officer. Candidates must have strong interpersonal, verbal, and written communication skills. Preferences include an associate degree or higher in criminal justice, serve in the US military, or experience as a Police Officer.

The Patrolmen's contract provides an education incentive and a candidate with prior experience may also be considered to start at a higher step rate of pay.

Resumes and cover letters must be returned no later than **Thursday, January 30th, 2025**, to the attention of **Lt. Kyle Whitcomb, WPD PO Box 606, Warren, MA 01083 or Whitcomb@warren-ma.gov.**
The Town of Warren is an EOE.

public notices

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 16 Cottage Street, Ware, Massachusetts
By virtue and in execution 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

TOWN OF WARE Public Forum

Monday, February 10, 2025 at 5:30pm

Public Hearing - Monday, March 17, 2025 at 6:30pm

Ware Town Hall 126 Main St., Ware MA

FY 2025 Town of Ware CDBG Application

The Town of Ware Community Development Authority, with Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, will conduct a Public Forum on Monday, February 10, at 5:30pm and a Public Hearing on March 17 at 6:30pm at Ware Town Hall, 126 Main St., Ware.

The public is encouraged to attend these meetings to discuss the FY25 application to the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development for up to \$850,000 in available Community Development Block Grant Funds. All persons with questions or comments regarding the grant application will have an opportunity to be heard. Those unable to attend can send written comments to the Community Development Authority, Planning Dept., Ware Town Hall, 126 Main St., Ware MA 01082, Attn: Paralee Smith.

The town is seeking input on community needs and projects which would benefit from grant funding. Construction of the Cottage Street Improvements project

is currently being reviewed. The CDBG application will also include a request for funding up to five social services programs including, but not limited to, adult basic education and GED preparation, domestic violence prevention, elder services, and community health.

The Ware Town Hall is handicapped accessible. Persons who require special accommodation for either public meeting should contact the town at least one week prior to the hearing date at (413) 967-9648, ext. 118. For further information contact Erica Johnson at PVPC at (413) 781-6045 or ejohnson@pvpc.org, or Para Smith, Director of Planning & Community Development at (413) 967-9648, ext. 118 or psmith@townofware.com 01/16, 01/23/2025

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 31, 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: 548WNW/MA Vin: IFMCU93118KA28749 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 01/16, 01/23, 1/30/2025

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

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

BEAUTY SALON EQUIPMENT. One regular and one electric styling chair, one Jeffco freestanding hair dryer, excellent condition \$500 for all. Call **413-534-4992.**

MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY. EXTRAORDINARY performance. Central Boiler certified Classic Edge Titanium HDX OUTDOOR WOOD FURNACE. Call today **413-296-4320.**

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD
Fresh cut & split \$200.00
Seasoned cut & split \$300.00
All hardwood.
Tree length available
*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!** New England Forest Products **(413)477-0083**

MORE HEAT LESS WOOD. Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. 26% Tax Credit. Call **(508)882-0178**

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY

ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED. **BUYING** Bottles, Cocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, Masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more Donald Roy **(860) 874-8396**

JUNK REMOVAL

A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL
Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.
We load it & take it.
413-531-1936
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

SERVICES

A B Hauling and Removal Service

2***A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE*******

Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. **(413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868.**

DRYWALL AND CEILINGS, plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. **(413)563-0487**

SERVICES

ELECTRICIAN

NEED AN ELECTRICIAN?
Look no further!
PJ's Electrical offers fast and reliable electrical services for your home or business. Call now for a FREE estimate! **(413) 366-1703**
LICENSED & INSURED

HOME IMPROVEMENT

HANDYMAN RESIDENTIAL REPAIRS. Powerwashing, home repairs, interior/exterior painting, ceiling/wall repairs and chimney repairs. Fully licensed/insured. Lic. #105950CSL. Call **413-566-5596/413-433-5073.**

HOME IMPROVEMENTS. REMODELING Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. **(413)246-2783** Ron.

LANDSCAPING

A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE
Excavator Services
Overgrown property?
Extreme Brush Cutting!
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal
Lawn/Arborvitae Installed
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand
Storm Clean-up
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal
Insured
Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

MASONRY

STOP WET BASEMENTS

ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING
All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call **(413)569-1611, (413)374-5377**

PAINTING

DUTCH TOUCH PAINTING
Interior only \$199.00 for average 12x16 room. Very neat, references, prompt service call **(508)867-2550**

PLUMBING

GREG LAFONTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg **(413)592-1505**

SERVICES

ROOFING

JENKINS ROOFING specializing in residential roofs & repairs, chimney repairs. Hampden, MA - **413-566-5596/413-433-5073.** Lic. #105950CSL. Fully insured.

RUBBISH REMOVAL

BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 **(413)537-5090**

TREE WORK

AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE. Residential removal of trees. Free estimates, Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call **413-283-6374.**

DL & G TREE SERVICE- Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate **(413)478-4212**

STUMP GRINDING

DL & G STUMP GRINDING
Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave **413-478-4212.**

AUTO

CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS
FREE TOWING
FAST SERVICE
CASH PAID AS IS
CALL OR TEXT
413-219-6839

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.

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT BUILDING & CONSERVATION P/T EMERGENCY DISPATCHER

The Town of Wilbraham is looking to fill multiple vacancies. Application deadline 1/27/25. For application and more information please visit **www.wilbraham-ma.gov.** EOE

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM

POLICE OFFICER

For application and more information please visit **www.wilbraham-ma.gov.** Review of applications begins immediately. Open until filled. EOE

WILBRAHAM UNITED CHURCH

is hiring a sexton three evenings, 7-10 hours per week, \$16 per hour. Additional compensation for hours needed for weddings and funerals. Please send resume to **admin@wilbraham-unionitedchurch.org**
More information found at **www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org/about-us-2/**

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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**

Post your job openings in our classifieds. We get results! Call 413-283-8393

STAY ON TOP OF IT ALL!
Subscribe Today!

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD " toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

413.283.8393
www.turley.com
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069

Find archives of this local newspaper at www.newspapers.turley.com

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: MONDAY AT NOON
or call: 413-283-8393

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50c for each additional word.

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash Check# _____
Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

GREAT VALUE!
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

Free Girl Scout event offered on Jan. 29

PALMER – Palmer and Ware area girls are invited to a free Girl Scout event, “Embrace Possibility” on Wednesday, Jan. 29, from 5:30-7 p.m. at Second Congregational Church, 1080 Pleasant St.

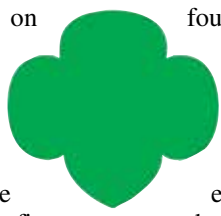
Girls and their guardians will sample Girl Scout badge projects, and take home their first Girl Scout patch. Girl Scout troops will be selling Girl Scout Cookies and answering any questions.

Adults will discuss volunteering to form a new Girl Scout troop. Girl Scouts of Central and Western

Massachusetts seeks volunteers to form a new leadership team (three-four volunteers) so that the troop responsibilities are fun and can be shared. No previous Girl Scout experience is necessary.

This event is for girls entering grades kindergarten and one, who are not currently Girl Scouts. RSVP by Jan. 25 by visiting <https://go.gscwm.org/EmbracePalmer>.

For information contact Angie by email at Arodriguez@gscwm.org or call 413-584-2602 extension 4028.



Free line-cook training classes at HCC begin Jan. 21 and 27

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College will be running both daytime and evening editions of its free, line-cook training program at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, beginning Jan. 21 and Jan. 27.

The five-week daytime program starts Tuesday, Jan. 21. Classes meet Mondays and Wednesdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., and Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

The 10-week, evening program runs Jan. 27 through April 9 on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 5-9 p.m.

“HCC tries to meet the needs of its students by offering multiple options for start days and times,” said Paul Sheehan, assistant project coordinator for culinary arts programs. “Over the last few years, we have offered our free line cook training as separate day and evening programs to help students find the schedule that works best for them.”

The program is designed for those already in the restaurant industry who want to upgrade their skills as well as unemployed or underemployed individuals interested in starting new

careers. “We usually have a mix of young people entering the job market for the first time and people who are re-entering the job market, looking for a second career,” Sheehan said. “The course is perfect for anybody who’s looking for a job and has a passion for food and the dining industry.”

All classes meet in person at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute at 164 Race St.

Participants will learn all the essential competencies they need to become successful line cooks:

knife skills; how to prepare stocks, soups, sauces, desserts, poultry, fish and meat; culinary math and measurements; moist and dry heat cooking methods; as well as workplace soft skills, such as building a resume and searching for jobs.

Offered as part of HCC’s Business & Workforce Development division, the line cook course is free to qualifying applicants.

For more information, or to fill out an inquiry form, please go to hcc.edu/line-cook.

Your BUYLINE CONNECTION

BEAT THE TARIFFS & TAXES!!!

VOTED #1 APPLIANCE STORE IN WORCESTER COUNTY 4 YEARS IN A ROW!!!

SLEDS, SKATES, TOBOGGANS! MATTRESS SALE!!!!

WHITCO TOY & BIKE

12 MONTHS 0% FINANCING

140 Main St., Spencer
www.whitcosales.com 508-885-9343

Open: Mon.-Fri. 10am-8:30pm, Sat. 9am-8pm, Sun. 12pm-7pm

POST ROAD REALTY

BUYING OR SELLING... WE HAVE THE PERFECT FIT FOR YOU!

www.PostRoadRealty.com

Join us for an Open House at two beautiful properties! Explore these amazing real estate opportunities and find your dream home. We look forward to seeing you there!

\$599,900
1300 Bemis Rd., Warren
OPEN HOUSE:
Sunday, Jan. 19th
11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

\$549,900
78 East Main St., West Brookfield
OPEN HOUSE:
Sunday, Jan. 19th
1:00 to 2:30 PM

Cassie Paolucci
774-200-3523

Follow us on Facebook

Feel right at home!

Find the home made for you. Let us work with you to find your dream home.

Lisa Caron Real Estate

42 W. Main Street, PO Box 447 Brookfield, MA 01506
Cell : 508-341-8299
Search Homes Instantly: <http://www.lisacaron.com>

WARREN LAND: 5.3 ACRES \$65,000

WARREN – Very Rural location on a gravel road. Fantastic location for your new home. The site has a road roughed in and easy to access. This lot is 5.3 acres of natural surroundings. There are other homes built on this road in such a way that this location will still maintain its rural feeling. Contact me for more information!

CENTURY 21 Century 21 North East
180 West St., Ware
Ready to Buy or Sell? Call Me!
1-978-434-1990

The Optical Shop
at Kelly & Velazquez Eye Center

“The Finest Quality at Reasonable Prices”

The Most Advanced Lens Designs Available

Frames to Fit Any Budget

Large Selection of Designer Frames For All Ages

SUNGLASSES
Maui Jim • Ray Ban

1504 N. Main St., Palmer, MA 413-283-3511
362 Sewall St., Ludlow, MA 413-589-1806

Expert guidance in selecting the right frame with the best fit & lenses for every lifestyle.

JOHNS PAINT STORE

California PAINTS

SINCE 1977

46 Years and Counting...

- ✓ Interior/Exterior Paint
- ✓ Wallpaper
- ✓ Hardwood Flooring
- ✓ Carpeting
- ✓ Tile & Vinyl Flooring
- ✓ Window Treatments
- ✓ Interior/Exterior Stains
- ✓...and more

Everything You Need to Complete Your Project

JohnsPaintStore.com • 413-283-9427

Pioneer Plaza: 1240 Park Street, Palmer
Monday - Friday, 8 am to 5 pm - Saturday, 8 am to 2 pm

WHERE EVERYONE GOES FOR THEIR PIECE OF THE EARTH!

WINTER IS COMING!

BULK ROAD SALT • BULK TREATED SALT
WASHED WINTER ROAD SAND • SAND/SALT MIX

STOCK UP NOW!

Construction Stone • Landscaping Stone
Title V Septic Sand • Presby Sand • Concrete Sand
Stone Dust • Crushed Gravel • Cold Patch

Homeowner Friendly • No Minimums
PICK-UP OR CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR DELIVERY TODAY!

Bond
Sand, Gravel & Asphalt

98 North Spencer Road, Route 31N, Spencer, MA
508-885-6100
508-885-2480

www.bondsandandgravel.com

Adventure tours of Warren
Share the Adventure with us!

3 Day Hampton Beach Getaway

March 15.....**8-Night Bahamas Cruise**..... from \$1499
May 23.....**7-Night Bermuda Cruise**..... from \$1699
June 10-12....**Hampton Beach Getaway**..... \$529
June 28.....**Boston Harbor Lunch Cruise**..... \$175
Sept 12-26....**Portugal & The Azores**..... \$6549

Share the Adventure with us soon!
For further information call Randall at (413) 436-5357 or email adventuretours@att.net or go to www.adventuretoursofwarren.com

BUYLINE CONNECTION

3 Ads for 1 Low Price!!!

Ware River News, Barre Gazette & Quaboag Current
Over 16,000 copies • Prints every Thursday

Special Ad Size Pricing

- 3" x 1" **only \$33**
- 3" x 1.5" **only \$48**
- 3" x 2" **only \$66**
- 3' x 2.5" **only \$82**
- 3" x 3" **only \$99**

FULL COLOR INCLUDED!

Contact Dan Flynn
413-297-5886
dflynn@turley.com

❖ **Every Wednesday**
SIP & KNIT
12pm-2pm
Free

❖ **Every Friday**
TOO GOOD TO TOSS
8am-9am
Free baked goodies from the week while supplies last!
Limits may apply.

❖ **Future Events**
Contact us to plan your next private event.
508-637-1577

23 Summer Street
North Brookfield
MA 01535

508-637-1577
Tues.-Sat. 8am-2pm
Sun. 9am-2pm

❖ COFFEE
❖ GLUTEN FREE OPTIONS
❖ BREAKFAST SANDWICHES
❖ SOUPS
❖ COOKIES
❖ MUFFINS
❖ PASTRIES

Bring in entire ad for one FREE Beverage with purchase of a baked good. Tues.-Thurs. 8am-10am