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Architectural firm shares progress of financial study

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARREN – Representatives from Tecton Architects gave a progress update to the Board of Selectmen on the financial feasibility study for a new public safety/municipal complex.

At the Jan. 11 meeting, Jeff McElravy, a principal at Tecton

Architects, outlined the study's goals, its scope, progress to date, programming results and site test fits before opening the presentation up for discussion.

McElravy said he has been involved in public safety architecture for 37 years, and Tecton Architects has a team of people working in this field. McElravy said Tecton Architects' team is supplemented by H2M Architects, a

specialist in the design of fire stations.

"There's a lot of emergent trends that we look at, and make sure that we're thinking about in the design of our facilities," he said.

McElravy said a number of specialized engineers work with Tecton Architects as consultants on projects like this.

Study goals

The goals of the financial feasibility study are to provide the town with information to analyze the financial costs of a public safety/municipal complex and to identify potential savings or cost offsets.

The study will also educate the residents on the financial impact the project would have on its taxpayers.

"All of those things are some

of the big goals that we'll be looking at in order to meet the requirements of the funding for the study," McElravy said.

McElravy said the town received a state grant from the Executive Office for Administration and Finance to conduct the feasibility study.

Please see **STUDY**, page 5

Board discusses stalled project

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARE – Director of Planning & Community Development Paralee Smith said there have been no new developments with the Minuteman Farm project, and she said they are in a "holding pattern."

Minuteman Farm, LLC, is a proposed cannabis cultivation business to be located in the Millyard.

At the Jan. 4 Planning Board meeting, Vice-Chair Richard Starodoj said the terms and conditions of the special permit had required the applicant to get the project moving in a year.

Smith said the permit was issued about a year and a half ago, and there hasn't been evidence of progress since July of 2023.

Board members agreed that following the conditions of the special permit was important, and Kenneth Crosby said there may be other applicants with financial backing to come in and complete the project.

Smith read from a letter received from the applicant's attorney on Nov. 28 of last year that stated, "the project is currently on hold due to substantial changes in the financial markets."

Smith said she would speak with Town Manager Stuart Beckley about whether or not the board would need to have town counsel help them determine the next course of action. Smith said she will also check to see if the applicant pulled a building permit with the town.

"I don't want to discourage any type of businesses coming in or anything, but if we put that in the conditions and everybody agreed to it, I think that's what we really need to enforce," Starodoj said.

Ware Senior Housing Plan

Smith said the board will hear a presentation from Pioneer Valley Planning Commission's Senior Planner Becky Basch about the Ware Senior Housing Plan at the board's Thursday, Jan. 18 meeting. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.,

Please see **PROJECT**, page 11

CDAC discuss future projects

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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WARREN – The Community Development Advisory Committee met in the new year of 2024 to discuss future projects in the town of Warren.

Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission representative, Chris Dunphy, began by sharing that the water main improvements on School Street are substantially complete. The next phase of working on School Street is sidewalk and drainage improvements.

The plan is to have this phase complete sometime in the fall of 2024.

The CDAC is also working on forming a committee consisting of five-to-seven members to come up with design ideas for other town improvements such as ones for the Town Common and Cutter Park. The CDAC plans to have their committee ready in February.

FY 24 CDBG

Dunphy said the application for the fiscal year 2024 Community Development Block Grant is due on March 25. This grant will help support funds for future developments on streets that are in West Warren.

The streets the CDAC is looking at to improve are River Street and Central Street. The CDAC is still waiting to collect data from surveys from residents who live on those streets and have received a good portion of surveys so far.

"The response rate has been good," said Dunphy.

The CDAC is still waiting for more surveys from residents who are on Main Street, River Street and Central Street. Improvements being looked into include sidewalk updates and waterline improvements.

Cutter Park

Cutter Park in Warren needs improvements, including the play features on park grounds. Many residents still visit Cutter Park, but the play equipment is out of date and needs an upgrade.

Sharing some insight

Please see **CDAC**, page 11

VOICES OF RESILIENCE



These photos were taken from the community of Ware during the photovoice project.

Turley Photos by Nick Boonstra

Photo exhibit shines light on opioid crisis

By Nick Boonstra
Staff Writer
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BOSTON – State officials and community members gathered in the State House on Tuesday to debut a photography exhibit focused on amplifying the lived experiences of those who have been affected by the ongoing state-wide and nationwide opioid crisis.

The exhibit, entitled "Voices of Resilience," remained on display on the fourth floor of the capitol

building through Jan. 12, where it was visible to legislators and visitors alike, and included Ware as one of the Massachusetts communities on which the project focused.

The exhibit marked the culmination of work done through the National Institutes of Health HEALing Communities Study, part of the larger NIH HEAL Initiative, commissioned in 2019. According to the HEALing Communities website, Massachusetts ranked among the top 10 states with the highest rates of opioid overdose deaths in a 2017 National Institute on Drug Abuse report.

Researchers with the study went into communities in four states to



Ware resident Randy Gratton spoke at the State House during the "Voices of Resilience" exhibition.

connect individuals with helpful resources and with each other, and to learn from participants what additional resources were still needed locally to aid those seeking recovery.

Alyssa Curran, a clinician with the Hampshire County Sheriff's Office and the study's Community Coordinator for Ware and Belchertown, explained that the images used for the exhibit were chosen and presented through a method known as photovoice, in which study participants share reflections about meaningful photographs. Some of these reflections

Please see **VOICES**, page 15

Parks and Rec. discusses needs of dog park, playground

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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WARE – The Parks & Recreation Commission addressed citizen concerns regarding a recent dog attack at the Ware Dog Park.

At the Jan. 8 meeting, commissioners talked about steps that needed to be taken after a dog attacked another dog with both owners present. The owner of the dog that was attacked provided

photographic evidence of the injuries the dog received.

The main discussion was about figuring out how the commission could move forward with enforcement and how this situation could be deescalated in case it happens again.

A couple of options came up in the discussion during the meeting. First, the police department could issue a no trespass order for the dog or the dog's owner. The other option is to request a dangerous

animal hearing.

For a temporary no trespass order, the order applies to all park and town properties.

A representative of Milltown Regional Animal Control shared an idea of possibly having a utilizing tool or shield at the dog park. This utilizing tool is used to help prevent or shield two dogs away from each other in case one dog attacks another.

After discussing the options, a motion was passed to file a no tres-

pass order.

Dog Park lights

The commissioners were looking into the cost of the new lights at the Ware Dog Park. Options for controlling the lights including remotely by a smart phone, or with a timer on one of the light poles at the dog park.

Commissioners will get input from the neighbors who live near the Ware Dog Park as well.

Veterans Park

The commissioners are looking into finetuning the light poles at Veterans Park. The poles are also in need of a new paint job and the commissioners are going over costs for these improvements on the light poles.

Beauregard Playground

The Beauregard Memorial

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**OBITUARY
POLICY**

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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



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Local nurse dedicates career to caring for patients in their home

PALMER – It is the time of year for celebration, and Roxanna Harper MSN, RN, is celebrating 31 years since she began her nursing journey as a visiting nurse.

Getting into her car each morning, Harper, who is interim executive director of Baystate Home Health, Hospice, and Palliative Care, knows she has a busy day ahead. Each day is different, and a single phone call can change the order of the day.

What doesn't change is her commitment to taking care of patients in their own homes.

"Never would I have imagined that three decades later I would find myself leading and working with an outstanding team dedicated to providing care, education, and support to patients in their homes. The care we provide allows patients to come home from the hospital sooner, avoid stays in healthcare facilities, and learn to manage a newly diagnosed illness or disease," said Harper in a press release.

Who doesn't want to sleep in their own beds when they are sick?

"As a new nurse, I worked one year at Baystate Medical Center providing inpatient care and then decided to take a position in home care and after one visit I was hooked. I immediately experienced the unique richness of a nurse-patient relationship as I helped patients heal in their own homes. In the case of hospice care patients who have end-of-life care in their homes, these nursing experiences were like no other. In a patient's home, we are exposed to what is important to them, the supports that are present or absent, and the tranquility or chaos that defines their lives. All of that information plays a role in the design of our patient's care plans and the outcomes we hope to have for them," said Harper.

Access to home health services is important for people with chronic conditions or disabilities, and those who need short-term medical help after being discharged from the hospital. Many rural people depend on home health services to retain a degree of independence, and to avoid or delay hospitalization or a move to a nursing home or assisted living facility.



Submitted Photo

Ware nurse Roxanna Harper has worked locally for 31 years, providing care to patients in their homes in Ware and area communities.

This type of care is less costly than hospitalization, improves recovery and well-being, and eliminates the need to travel for additional services.

"Our goal is to support the integrity and independence of individuals and their families in the community, and we've been doing that for over 100 years," said Harper.

The care team consists of a dedicated group of professionals including nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, social workers, and home health aides, who work together as a team to provide the best care possible for every patient.

Harper noted people are often surprised at the level of care the Baystate team can provide at home.

"We care for a wide range of patients, from ages 18 to 100, with several comorbidities including heart failure, diabetes, and renal failure. We also care for patients recovering from surgery, actively fighting cancer, and managing chronic diseases that need specialized care. We assist patients transitioning to palliative care, enhancing their quality of life, advocating for them, and helping to provide the resources needed to make the decisions that are important to them to

ensure that each patient's wishes are respected during end-of-life care," she said.

As nurses, being able to care for another human being is a privilege, noted Harper.

"We're invited into the lives of perfect strangers and asked to make a difference. To be able to make a difference, we first need to establish a trusting relationship with the patients. At the core of everything I do I want to deliver safe, reliable, high-quality care and, in doing so, are honoring that trust patients, and their families, place in us," she said.

Her experience as a home care nurse has allowed Harper to provide care for a diverse patient population throughout Baystate Health's Eastern Region and in the town of Ware where she grew up, raised her family, and where she still lives.

"I find it very rewarding when I run into patients and their family members that I have cared for when I'm out in the community, who come up to me and still remember and are grateful for the care I provided to them or their family members. Being able to restore a sense of dignity to each patient is an incredible and unforgettable experience. It is a wonderful feeling seeing your patients recover and progress, whether it's helping them take their first steps in days, every moment is special and important," she said.

As a visiting nurse, Harper has cared for many patients over her 31 years that she said she will "always remember."

"Some are good memories, and some are sad, but I always know that I did my very best for each and every one of my patients. Many changes have happened in healthcare over the last 31 years from technology, like cell phones and computers, to breakthroughs in science, and a pandemic that shut down the world for three years. One thing that remains is our team's commitment and passion to care for patients in the comfort of their own homes," she said.

For more information, visit www.baystatehealth.org/services/home-health/home-care.

Are You Old News?



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

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



File Photo
Last week's photo from 2013 showed Carol Zins (right) performing in the Friends of the Quabbin and Ware Community Theatre's production of "Quabbin: A Musical".

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

Paige Memorial Library lists upcoming events

HARDWICK – How can a sash tie an extended family together?

Author Paula Grandpre Wood will share her journey tracking down ancestors, piecing together their stories, and finding herself wrapped in an historic sash that creates an unbreakable bond, linking generations at the Hardwick Town House, 40 Common St., on Saturday, Jan. 20 at 1:30 p.m., presented by the Paige Memorial Library.

Her book "The Long Walk Home with the Ceinture Fléchée: The Arrow Sash" is a genealogical adventure with suspense, joy, and grief, a testament to faith, family, and traditions.

Space is limited so please register by emailing director.paigelibrary@gmail.com or calling 413-477-6704. Share your family's story

As we look forward to 2024, let's

also look back at family history and memories. Register to join a group to write and share stories of your family and perhaps search you family tree with "We are History: Preserving Memories and Family Stories" at the Paige Memorial Library.

Monthly meetings will be held at 2 p.m. or 6 p.m. on Tuesdays, depending on what time works best for participants.

Reminiscing is really just good old-fashioned communication. Be it a funny story, an important life-changing story, or a tradition, let's write it to leave a record. Memories can provide comfort and help put our lives in perspective.

Contact the Paige Library for more information by emailing director. paigelibrary@gmail.com or calling 413-477-6704.



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

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

The Flu and Covid vaccines are safe and effective for ages six months and older, and can help protect you from serious illness.

Healthy Quaboag is here to remind you to take care of yourself and those around you by getting vaccinated ahead of the holiday season, because YOU MATTER!

Find vaccines near you at www.healthyquaboag.org/rural-vaccine-equality-initiative-rvei/

Go to www.healthyquaboag.org to find vaccines near you.

TOWNS SERVED BY HEALTHY QUABOAG:

Barre | Belchertown | Brimfield | Brookfield | East Brookfield | Hardwick | Holland | Ludlow | Monson
New Braintree | North Brookfield | Palmer | Spencer | Wales | Ware | Warren | West Brookfield | Wilbraham



facebook.com/healthyquaboag



LEARN MORE

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. 22
 9 a.m. Tai Chi
 10 a.m. Scat
 11:30 a.m. Lunch
 6 p.m. Whist Party

Tuesday, Jan. 23
 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
 10 a.m. Scat
 11:30 a.m. Lunch
 5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking (\$3 per class)
 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

Wednesday Jan. 24
 9 a.m. Tai-Chi
 9:30 a.m. Quilting Club
 10 a.m. Scat
 10-11:30 a.m. Kirsten Krieger, Quabbin Region DPH Nurse office hours
 11:30 a.m. Lunch

Thursday, Jan. 25
 9 a.m. Walking Club
 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
 9:30 a.m. Line Dancing for Beginners

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

Friday, Jan. 26
 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 you name on the lunch list.

Monday, Jan. 22
 Chicken Parmigiana with Spaghetti, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day

Tuesday, Jan. 23
 Cheeseburger with Toppings, Onion Rings, Caesar Salad, Dessert of the Day

Wednesday, Jan. 24
 Baked Ziti, Chef Salad, Dessert of the Day

Thursday, Jan. 25
 Lazy Pierogi with Kielbasa, Fruit Salad, Dessert of the Day

Friday, Jan. 26
 Fish Sandwich, Potato Wedges, Veggie Salad, Dessert of the Day

Valentine Gala on Feb. 3 to benefit Stone Church

HARDWICK – Friends of the Stone Church welcomes all to a Valentine-themed benefit from 4-7 pm on Saturday, Feb. 3, at Hardwick Crossing Country Club, 262 Lower Road, 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. Tickets are \$65 per person; mail payment to FOSC, P.O. Box 347, Gilbertville, MA 01031 or order online through www.FriendsoftheStoneChurch.org (\$35 dollars of the ticket price is a tax-deductible contribution to FOSC). Advance purchase is required by Jan. 26.

For information, call Kathy McCrohon at 404-813-8809.

Paul Provost, keyboard and vocalist, will entertain with lush songs, fun dance tunes and traditional melodies.

FOSC's Gala Committee has engaged professional auctioneer Paul Varney. The live auction will include sponsor donations of a year's membership at the Baglio Center at Eagle Hill School and a certificate for 75 gallons of heating oil from R. J. McDonald, Inc; certificates for experiences, services and products, as well as many attractive and collectible items.

"The FOSC Gala and auction has always been a joyful time to visit with old friends and to meet new ones – all while supporting a good cause – and we look forward to this year's event," said FOSC president, Judy Edington in a press release.

Hardwick Crossing Country Club will serve an entrée-choice dinner with vegetables and salad, served buffet style, plus appetizer, desserts and beverages, and a full cash bar.

The historic Stone Church Cultural Center serves as a community meeting space, a concert and arts program venue. The 1874 Victorian structure is a reminder of 19th-century Massachusetts, when mill villages sprang up as textile and other industry brought people from around the world, cre-



This photo shows the scaffolding at the Stone Church for Phase 4 Lantern Level interior stabilization.

providing family arts programs, rehearsal space for community music groups, fine classical music concerts, and an elegant rental venue for community events.

In January 2023, the Friends received legal ownership of the building from the Gilbertville Trinitarian Congregational Church and inaugurated the Stone Church Cultural Center. Raising over \$188,000 in 2023 for capital preservation projects, FOSC contracted to reinforce the interior of the stone tower, replace over 500 tiles on the main roof, cap two unused chimneys, and install hand railings on the south entrance ramp.

Project Architect and FOSC Board member Phillip Warbasse reports that "FOSC's goal of securing the building for the future is coming closer, with elaborate steel reinforcing and new bonding grout going into the lantern level, above the belfry. This complex interior phase, the 4th of our staged tower stabilization projects, has paused during the winter. It will resume in freeze-free spring months, when conditions allow full curing of the water-based grout and mortar. We are proud of the professional services that contractor Joseph

Please see **STONE CHURCH**, page 11



Submitted Photos

This shows the inside of the Stone Church job site at lantern level.

Hardwick Community Church meeting set for Jan. 21

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Community Church will hold a meeting on Sunday, Jan. 21 at the Town House, 40 Common St.

A sign will be posted at the Town House with the meeting time.

This meeting is being held in preparation for the Tri-Parish Community Church's annual meeting to be held in early February. The annual meeting is

where member churches submit their reports and recommendations including budgets, bylaws and other governance duties.

Please note, a vaccination clinic will also be hosted at the Town House by Healthy Quaboag and The Rural Vaccine Equity Initiative on the same day from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., offering flu and COVID-19 vaccines at no cost.

Open auditions for the Workshop13 Players

WARE – Workshop13 is proud to announce upcoming open auditions for the new addition of a theatre program.

The "Workshop13 Players" will hold cold auditions on Jan. 29 and 30 from 7-9 p.m. for the production of three newly written short plays entitled "Robin Robin", "It's Not Delivery" and "Waiting for a Change". Auditions are rescheduled from Jan. 16, having been snowed out.

Show dates will be April 12, 13 and 14. The Workshop13 Players will be looking for four-six actors aged 20 to

mid-40s, who will be double cast in the three productions.


For further information please call the Director Dave Blessinger at 401-465-9686 or email at dbless9766@aol.com.

About Workshop13

Workshop13 Cultural Arts and Learning Center is a rural non-profit arts innovator devoted to increasing the appreciation and accessibility of the arts, strengthening the creative life of the community through instruction, collaborations and arts-based initiatives.



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



COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic

Flu shot available!


Monday January 22, 2024

3 pm - 6 pm

Located:
 Education to Employment (E2E)
 79 Main St.
 Ware, MA 01082


Pfizer & Moderna available.
 Bring your ID, insurance card, and vaccination card (if you do not have an insurance card, you can still get the vaccine).
 All vaccinations are no cost to you, walk-ins and families welcome!

Supported by Healthy Quaboag and The Rural Vaccine Equity Initiative



Please use QR Code or the link to pre-register:
<https://tinyurl.com/ycky5da>

Please direct any questions to Arianna Palano at
apalano@townofware.com, 413-478-2526.





BAKED POTATO FUNDRAISER

To Benefit
 Philmont Crew 2024
 BSA Troop 281

SAT., JAN. 27TH
 5:00-6:30PM

ALL SAINTS Church Hall
 Ware, MA
 Take Out Only!!!

\$10/person Advanced Sale
 \$12/person At The Door

Includes
 HUGE Potato, Drink & Dessert
 and All the Fixings:
 Butter, Sour Cream, Green Onion,
 Bacon, Cheese, Broccoli, Chili

Raffle Table & 50/50

Text or Call
 Dan 413-297-5886 or
 Marcia 413-297-1799 or Email
scoutdad281@charter.net

All proceeds will go towards
 the crew's trip to Philmont High
 Adventure Base in New Mexico







Can someone work while collecting Social Security Disability?

Dear Rusty:

If a person is collecting Social Security disability benefits, can they, at any point, work at all? If they can, what is the maximum they can earn and still keep the disability benefit?

I am asking because my husband is still young, but his injuries will not allow him to go back to the job he had prior to his injuries and surgeries. He does not just want to sit at home doing nothing.

Signed: Concerned Wife

Dear Concerned:

Actually, the Social Security Administration encourages those collecting Social Security Disability Insurance benefits to attempt to go back to work and they provide considerable leeway for them to do so. The monthly earnings limit for those collecting SSDI benefits in 2024 is \$1,550 and as long as your husband earns less than the limit while working, his SSDI benefits will not be in jeopardy.

Your husband should contact Social Security's Ticket to Work program directly to protect his disability status and discuss returning to work while collecting SSDI benefits.

The Ticket to Work program assists those now receiving SSDI benefits who wish to test their ability to return to work without putting their SSDI benefits at risk. The program provides considerable assistance, including new career training opportunities and connection to potential employers and it is voluntary and costs nothing.

Here is a link to Social Security's information on the Ticket to Work program: <https://choosework.ssa.gov/>

It's not mandatory for your husband to enroll in the Ticket to Work program but, in addition to other available assistance, he can request a Trial Work Period, which would allow for nine months, over a rolling five year period, during which he can earn any amount even over the normal monthly limit mentioned above without risking his SSDI benefits.

Within the Trial Work Period, only those months he earns over the normal monthly SSDI limit would count as a Trial Work Month. So, for example, your husband could work part time regularly earning under the normal monthly limit and if, in some months (up to nine), he earned more it wouldn't affect his SSDI benefits.

So, your younger disabled husband can, indeed, work while on Social Security disability, for as long as he wishes while earning under the monthly SSDI limit, the SSDI earnings limit changes yearly. He may also wish to enroll in Social Security's Ticket to Work program for assistance with developing a new career.

Plus, he can take advantage of using trial work months in the event his work earnings will, at times, exceed the monthly SSDI limit.

If your husband earns over the SSDI limit for more than the nine trial work months and his benefits are consequently stopped, he can within the five-year Trial Work Period have his benefits reinstated (without again going through the full application process) if his disability, once more, renders him unable to work full time.

For starters, I suggest your husband contact Social Security's Ticket to Work program directly at 1.833-889-0108 to discuss returning to work part time. Social Security will guide him through the entire process.

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 information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadviser@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

Dreaming of roses, blueberries bushes and more? Get those orders in!



For me at least, a much needed break from the garden has given way to the return of other hobbies this winter.

Quilting for one. I've enjoyed working on a Christmas tree quilt and have plans to start a pumpkin quilt.

I guess when I can't garden, I take horticulture any way I can get it - even in cloth! Quilting is fun in that you can exercise your love of color by playing with different combinations.

I like to see what looks good together and stand back and admire. It seems very similar to the admiration of a thoughtfully planned out flower garden. Well, you didn't start reading to learn about my sewing fancy, so let's get to some garden talk.

Do you dream of expanding your mini orchard or berry patch? Maybe you have a particular rose you are interested in.

If you desire to shop by mail, place your orders early (yes, now) for home delivery in April and early May.

I will start my dreaming with the Nourse Farms catalog (www.noursefarms.com or 413-665-2658). Located not far away in South

Deerfield, this company specializes in producing high quality berry plants (and asparagus roots plus).

It would be great to extend my blueberry picking season over a month or more, just like my parents did with their patch. I will plan to order early, mid at late season varieties to accomplish this.

Last year, Nourse switched from selling bareroot blueberry plants to selling them in one liter pots. According to the listing, plants are cut back to just over a foot. They will increase in top growth the first year.

They have found that selling potted plants eases transplant shock and reduces the chance of the roots drying out in shipment. Sounds great to me!

Take care to amend the soil to the proper pH and site the plants accordingly and you could enjoy blueberries for decades. My parents' bushes are still bearing some 70 years later.

Maybe you are in the market for apple trees this year. For well-rooted, hardy Maine grown plants, shop the Fedco Trees Catalog (www.fedcoseeds.com). Fedco Trees offers a great selection of heirloom apple trees, scionwood and rootstocks for home grafting, pears, plums and grapes among other types of nursery stock and ornamentals.

For heirloom apple enthusiasts or those interested in planting a cider orchard, this is an amazing resource. The final order deadline for trees is March 1.

The catalog changes a bit every year, so be sure to check back or reach out to them if you are looking for a specific variety and you

don't see it listed in print.

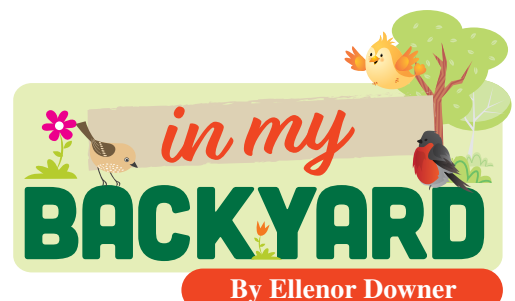
It's been a few years since I've found a reputable mail-order nursery for heirloom roses. Recently, I stumbled upon High Country Roses (www.highcountryroses.com), and I'm impressed with the variety of roses they carry, many of which I am familiar with from working at Old Sturbridge Village: Rosa gallica officinalis and versicolor, Harison's Yellow, Rosa eglanteria and more.

If heirlooms aren't your thing, check out the number of ARS (American Rose Selections) winners for proven success. All of the roses they sell are grown on their own roots by vegetative propagation and are not grafted.

Some arguments in favor of own root roses include better hardiness, increased blooms, vigor and longevity. With over 600 varieties to choose from there is something for new and seasoned rose enthusiasts alike, and a lot of useful information for growers on their website.

Yes, it is the middle of winter and all should be quiet on the gardening front, but it is also a great time to get your orders in to your favorite mail order catalogs. Shop early for the best selection!

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



Female Bufflehead

I received an email from a Brimfield resident, who along with his wife, participated in the Allen Bird Club's Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, Dec. 16.

One unexpected species they saw were three female buffleheads at the Springfield Reservoir.

The bufflehead is a small duck about 14 inches long. It has a distinct, large rounded head.

The male has a white wedge behind its black head. The male also has white flanks and breast. The female is gray brown with a small patch of white behind the eye.

They are diving ducks and feed on mollusks, fish, snails and crustaceans. They summer on wooded lakes, rivers and winter on lakes and coastal waters.

The female lays eight to ten ivory to buff eggs in a tree cavity or nest box. Their courtship begins in January and these ducks show a high level of aggression during that time.

Buffleheads are generally silent. However, the female makes guttural sounds during courtship.

Bird count

In his email, the Brimfield resident said he did his first Allen Bird Club count in the late 1970s. He said, "We have been covering the town of Ludlow, excluding the Westover Conservation Area covered by others, since 1989. The club's count circle center is in Springfield and includes adjacent towns. He also said, "We had an excellent day



weather wise, but the songbirds were hard to come by. With all the water ice free, we had high number of Canada geese (93), common mergansers (170, mostly males) and mallard (115). The common mergansers and many of the mallards were at the Springfield Reservoir."

He reported 20 ring-necked ducks at a pond near the Ludlow Country Club was another unexpected species in the count. In all, they had 32 species on their list, slightly more than the average of 29 species. Following the time in the field, the participants held a zoom meeting to discuss the results. No one mentioned seeing any winter finches i.e. redpoll, siskin or evening grosbeak.

Large flock of Canada geese

Recently, I saw a large flock of Canada geese in a cornfield in Spencer. There must have been at least 100. I did not stop to take an accurate count, but it was the largest flock I've seen.

Christmas card count

Years ago, Thelma Crawford told me she kept a Christmas card bird count every year.

While she was alive, we would share our card counts.

Often the bird fell into the unspecified species category. I even received a Christmas card one year with a loon with an evergreen wreath around its neck. This was the first year I did not receive any Christmas cards with birds even one perched off in a distant tree in the background.

Suet feeder

I now have my suet feeder out all the time as I have not seen any sign of wandering black bears in awhile. I also feed a combination of mixed bird seed, black oil sunflowers and shelled peanuts, which I mix together to put out daily.

I have the usual juncos, chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, blue jays, mourning doves and of course, squirrels. I have not seen the cardinal pair yet, but then I don't have a lot to time to spend watching my feeders.

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.

Nugget gets 'second chance' through Second Chance

EAST BROOKFIELD - Nugget, formerly known as Natty, faced unimaginable pain and adversity when he arrived at Second Chance Animal Services with a severe leg injury.

The dedicated team at Second Chance worked tirelessly to save his leg, but ultimately, the decision to amputate was made to ensure Nugget's comfort and quality of life.

In a heartwarming twist of fate, Nugget caught the attention of Matt and Nellie Zarif, the generous owners of Timberyard Brewing Company and longtime supporters of Second Chance. The brewery, known for its commitment to the community, had not only donated to Second Chance but also hosted events and provided storage for a large donation.

Nugget's story resonated with the Timberyard team, who had just started hosting popular puppy yoga classes to benefit Second Chance, led by the talented yoga instructor Audrey Martinez. The classes, held monthly, include a visit from friendly adoptable dogs available at Second Chance, who romp around the taproom while attendees work on their yoga moves.

Nugget, now thriving after his surgery, found his forever home with the Zarifs, joining a loving pack that includes three young boys and another three-legged dog, Lucy. Nugget's dog-sister wears a prosthetic leg and goes to work with her dog mom, Nellie Zarif, a prosthetist at Hanger Clinic in Worcester, where she helps to inspire people with limb loss.



Submitted Photo

Nugget, once known as Natty, came to Second Chance with a severe leg injury and is now the Timberyard Brewery dog.

Nellie considered making a prosthesis for Nugget but quickly realized that he did not need one due to the nature of his amputation and his young age. "He is so fast on three legs that four legged dogs have a hard time keeping up with him," said Lindsay Doray, chief development officer at Second Chance, who expressed admiration for Nugget's resilience. "We were in awe of his determination."

As a proud member of the Timberyard family, Nugget comes to work with Matt Zarif every day and has become a local sensation. The staff from Second Chance, including the veterinarian that performed his surgery, stop by the brewery from time to time to visit him.

Please see **NUGGET**, page 8

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OPINION POLICY

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

NEWS & FEATURES

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

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

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www.turley.com

Leave your diet at the door

Bellies Barnyard brings new dining experience to Main Street

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – There are no empty stomachs when guests visit the new Bellies Barnyard restaurant on Main Street.

Since November of 2023, Bellies Barnyard has brought a fun and refreshing experience to the town as the new business is thriving in popularity. The visionaries behind the concept of Bellies Barnyard are the proud owners Gary and Lori Hazen.

In the very beginning, Gary had an idea of wanting to open up a restaurant and started with wanting to run a café for guests to have breakfast.

Within a couple months, his idea came to life as the Bellies Barnyard name was born at the couple's first restaurant in Charlton. The Charlton location first opened in October of 2021 and was a small café compared to the current Bellies Barnyard location at 91 Main St.

The idea of Bellies Barnyard came from wanting to fill the bellies of the customers. A concept where no customer leaves hungry because the portions Bellies Barnyard gives you will leave you

full and happy.

"Leave your diet at the door," Gary said.

The barnyard concept was added to feature something different and fun to the dining experience. Throughout the Ware restaurant, Bellies Barnyard has artwork featuring barnyard themes such as cows and chickens being used as the main logos of Bellies Barnyard.

The Hazen family even custom-upholstered the chairs in the restaurant.

Bellies Barnyard has certainly become a destination dining experience. While operating in Charlton, the Hazen family wanted to look for a bigger space to offer more than just breakfast and lunch for dining.

Also, Bellies Barnyard wanted to be a location where they can provide other amenities such as live entertainment or music.

Seeking a location that can offer all three courses in a larger space, the Hazens found the space formerly occupied by Hanna Devine's Restaurant. Bellies Barnyard officially opened to the public in Ware on Nov. 20.

Since their grand opening, Bellies Barnyard has received a positive reception in their new home of Ware. Their new restaurant provides a bar and two rooms for seating and is a great venue with additional space to fit more customers and host live entertainment.

What also proves that Bellies Barnyard has been accepted by the community is the flood of



Gary and Lori Hazen of Bellies Barnyard prepare to cut the ribbon during a grand opening ceremony hosted by the Ware Business and Civic Association.

Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

people who visit Bellies Barnyard throughout the week. Lori and Gary have had days where there are lines of people waiting outside the front door to go eat at Bellies Barnyard.

Bellies Barnyard is not just a restaurant, but a family of dedicated staff. Bellies Barnyard has more than 20 employees as a staff and have been a loyal staff to the restaurant and the Hazen family.

"They're the best staff you could ask for," Lori and Gary said.

When the Hazen family moved their restaurant from Charlton to

Ware, their staff went with them to work at the new restaurant in Ware. With a loyal staff, Lori and Gary are very thankful as the first couple of months of business has gone well for Bellies Barnyard in Ware.

To go along with the barnyard features, Bellies Barnyard also plays classic cartoons in one of their dining rooms. Airing these animated classics adds to the popularity of Bellies Barnyard as many diners get to relive their childhood while enjoying the fine dining experience Bellies Barnyard has to offer.

With a new restaurant with extra space, Bellies Barnyard plans on providing live entertainment in the near future. Live music such as acoustics, folk rock, solos and duets are all instore for the live entertainment at Bellies Barnyard.

For the kids, Bellies Barnyard has barnyard animals for them to play with while waiting for their meals. When it comes to the meals at Bellies, they are meals you will never forget.

Bellies Barnyard has weekly dinner specials, including an all-day breakfast special. Wings are

also popular at Bellies Barnyard as are chicken and waffles and chicken sandwiches.

One popular special Bellies Barnyard used to do at their Charlton restaurant was Burger Bomb Thursdays.

In 2022, Bellies Barnyard got exposure on a national level by appearing on an episode of the Phantom Gourmet. At that time, Bellies Barnyard offered a popular dish called Southern Belly Biscuits; deep fried buttermilk biscuits topped with sausage gravy.

Since their appearance on the Phantom Gourmet, Bellies Barnyard had customers from 23 different states and 11 countries travel to their Charlton location just to try out their food. The Southern Belly Biscuits dish is currently offered at Bellies Barnyard in Ware.

Other popular specials at Bellies include the Western Mountain Hash, Corned Beef Hash, and the Philly Street Hash. To get an early glimpse of the Bellies Barnyard menu, visit www.toasttab.com/belliesbarnyard.

Coming soon to Bellies Barnyard is merchandise such as Bellies Barnyard t-shirts. In person purchases can be made at Bellies Barnyard.

Bellies Barnyard can be followed on Facebook and Instagram.

The current hours of Bellies Barnyard are Mondays and Thursdays from 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays from 7 a.m.-10 p.m. and Sundays from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Breakfast hours are Fridays from 7-11 a.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 7 a.m.-1 p.m.

STUDY from page 1

Study scope

The scope of the study is to prepare space needs for police, fire and town offices; weigh the benefits of multiple or single building designs; site evaluations and test fits; environmental desktop review, geotechnical investigation and conceptual design for the selected site; project cost estimate; tax impact evaluation and liquidated asset valuation.

McElravy said Tecton Architects always uses third-party, professional cost estimators.

"It doesn't matter what the building costs, it matters what the project's going to cost the community," he said.

McElravy said the study is still a "living document," and feedback and discussion from this presentation will help to move it forward and develop.

Space needs for departments

McElravy said it was determined that the building for the Police Department would require 9,875 square feet for its space needs. The Fire Department would need 16,670 square feet and the town offices would need 15,430 square feet.

He said his team looked at ways to lower costs by reducing square footage and creating shared office spaces in the Fire Department, rather than private offices.

In combining the Police and Fire departments, the space needs would be 26,545 square feet. Shared dispatch centers, training room and more, lowers the square footage needs of both departments. McElravy said Tecton Architects

looked at combining public safety and town offices into one building and square footage needs would total 40,185.

He said if the town considered this option, he would suggest a public safety building with a connector to town offices, due to the building code.

"Public safety buildings... they have to be the most resilient buildings according to the building code. The risk level is much higher, which means the structural systems are much stiffer than a town office structure would need to be," he said. "If we made them all a single building, then you would have to make the whole building meet that standard."

Possible locations

McElravy said there are four possible town-owned sites that Tecton Architects looked at, with sites A and B being located between the cemetery and the Highway Department on Brimfield Road; site C at the Highway Department site on Brimfield Road; and site D, on Route 67.

Sites A has a "lot of topography," and would pose a challenge for emergency vehicles entering and exiting garage bays. Due to this, the design would not include drive-through bays as requested by the Fire Department.

Site A would also have a "very unfortunate" response route,

turning on and off Brimfield Road.

McElravy said earth removal would reach 20 feet at some points on site A.

The town offices building would be located at the back of site A.

McElravy said site A would only have one way on and off the site, and would require significant retaining walls.

Site B would be located on the same parcel of land, but with the garage bays located closer to Brimfield Road. This allowed the amount of retaining walls needed to be reduced, he said.

He said there are still concerns about how the firetrucks would return to the station, requiring them to be backed in.

"This wasn't really deemed a great solution," McElravy said, due to traffic on Brimfield Road.

McElravy said for additional costs, the study could work with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and explore a signal light to alert motorists to Fire Department activity.

Fire Chief Adam Lavoie said

there are safety concerns with firetrucks backing in from the road, due to the number of large construction trucks accessing the road throughout the day.

Site C has the possibility for drive-through garage bays, and has smoother topography.

McElravy said he needs to work with the Conservation Commission regarding wetlands around the site and the Highway Department's stockpiles would need to be relocated.

Site C also has a better sightline of Brimfield Road.

Site D (located near Washington Street on Route 67) would allow for drive-through garage bays, but the site has significant grade drop-off. McElravy said there is a lot of water on the site as well.

The grade would have a "dramatic effect" on emergency response time, caused by trucks having to climb the hill, which exceeds the maximum grade allowed. McElravy said site D has a 14% grade and the maximum suggested was 8%.

McElravy said without a lot of fill material, this site would be "very expensive," and he didn't think it would be a viable option.

After looking at the four sites, McElravy said site C seems to be the most viable. Privately owned sites are also being considered in this study.

Value of existing assets

McElravy shared the assessed values of the town's current Police, Fire and town offices buildings, which total \$4,150,000. He said these values do not reflect actual market value.

"If you were to do a public safety building and sell those properties, this is the first glimpse into what you would get out of that," he said.

The Fire Station on Main Street is assessed at \$190,200 and the Fire Station on Albany Street is assessed at \$320,500;

the Police Station is assessed at \$1,267,700; and the Shepard Municipal Building is assessed at \$2,367,200.

Feedback

Board of Selectmen Clerk Derick Veliz said he would like to see the cost to the town if voters decide against the construction of a public safety/municipal complex. He also wants to see the "A+" option for site location.

Residents also asked for a timeline on the project.

Board of Selectmen Chair David Dufresne said this study is the first step in the project, which could take years of planning and research and would require a town meeting vote in order to become reality.

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TOWN OF WARE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS

The Town of Ware is seeking proposals from qualified social service organizations and agencies to include in their Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application. Activities eligible for funding include a range of social services that meet the needs of low and moderate-income Ware residents. Agencies providing the following services are encouraged to submit proposals; adult education/GED preparation, literacy programs, job training, domestic violence prevention, services for seniors, emergency food, family/youth activities and other social service programs.

The Town of Ware may choose to fund all, any or none of the proposals submitted. Agencies or organizations identified for inclusion in the Town's grant proposal will be required to submit additional information as part of the full CDBG application to be submitted to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC). Programs funded by EOHLC are expected to begin in the fall of 2024. The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) is assisting the Town in the coordination and administration of its community development programs. Please contact Erica Johnson to receive a request form or with any questions regarding this program at (413) 781-6045 or ejohnson@pvpc.org.

All proposals must be submitted by mail or e-mail to the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress Street – 1st Floor, Springfield, MA 01104, or ejohnson@pvpc.org by 2:00 p.m. Thursday, February 1, 2024.

Glenda's

Saturday, January 20th ~ 7pm-11pm
A.S.B.

Wednesday Nights ~ 7pm-10pm
Mix Tape Music Bingo/Prizes!

Friday Nights
8pm-11pm
Karaoke

Pool Players Wanted!
Glenda will sponsor a team to play in the Palmer Pool League - Call for details!

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warren

Mass Appeal Pizza & Bread Co.

West Warren restaurant approaches one year anniversary

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – Every small town has a place where residents can seek out a delicious pizza.

In the last year, residents of Warren and West Warren have enjoyed the presence of Mass Appeal Pizza & Bread Co., located off Route 67 in West Warren.

Mass Appeal Pizza & Bread Co. provides delicious authentic thin crust pizza for dining, take out and catering.

Bringing Mass Appeal Pizza & Bread Co. to West Warren is proud owner Jeffrey Fleming, who also goes by his nickname "Jasper". The nickname was picked up during his long career in the food industry.

Fleming was hand trained by an Italian family who runs a restaurant that is still open in Brooklyn, New York. Ignazio's is a pizzeria peddling thin-crust pies and appetizers in a simple space under the Brooklyn Bridge.

After his training, Fleming began operating a pizza event function company in Connecticut. These functions would operate during big events such as college events, fairs, and the Big E every year in West Springfield. Fleming also has a seasonal operation over at Misquamicut State Beach in Westerly, Rhode Island.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Fleming had to readjust to a new business strategy to keep the pizza business going smoothly.

In 2021, Fleming and his family were seeking a new location

to rebuild a new pizza business, and Fleming had his eyes set on central Massachusetts. After looking through the communities of Warren, Belchertown and Ware, Fleming saw an opportunity at the location of 2162 Main St. in West Warren.

"This was our best investment and we're looking to grow in the Quaboag Valley," said Fleming.

In February of 2023, Mass Appeal Pizza & Bread Co. was officially opened to the public in West Warren. According to Fleming, the reception has been good from the small town of Warren and the experience of offering their pizzeria in town has been incredible.

Mass Appeal Pizza & Bread Co. is "a place that has a positive social impact," Fleming said.

Outside of the food service, Mass Appeal Pizza & Bread Co. also offers other activities that are beneficial to the community.

Fleming hosts bread baking classes for all ages. These classes provide engagement and education for those who might want to pursue a career in the food service industry.

During these bread classes, adults and kids can work in groups or individually and learn about being savvy in the kitchen and understanding food safety.

One of the classes Fleming provides at Mass Appeal Pizza & Bread Co. is called "Knead Wine." This class is a hands on bread class that teaches the fundamentals of bread baking and participants in the class get to take their bread home.

Mass Appeal Pizza & Bread Co. also enjoys supporting the community by offering a pay if you can policy. This sort of policy applies to supporting low-income families.

Mass Appeal Pizza & Bread Co. also partakes in community bread shares that are also beneficial for



Mass Appeal Pizza & Bread Co. Owner Jeffrey "Jasper" Fleming gets ready to serve a fresh pizza.



Jeffrey "Jasper" Fleming tosses pizza dough in the air.

families. "We won't refuse providing meals for those in financial strife," said Fleming.

Offering meals when necessary, Mass Appeal Pizza & Bread Co. continues offering community bread shares to improve the standard of living. Fleming truly believes that the public is confident in him and his restaurant.

Alongside Fleming during his operation of Mass Appeal Pizza & Bread Co. are his four sons, Barrett, Cooper, Hunter and Logan.

Also, part of the team is Jon Ela, a graduate of Quaboag Regional Middle High School. Ela

is a passionate pizza maker who Fleming refers to as "Jon the Pizza Pro."

Advancing with their community outreach, Mass Appeal Pizza & Bread Co. supports a lot of organizations through their "Piece of the Pie" fundraiser. This fundraiser supports youth programs as the business brings food for their activities.

Organizations supported by Piece of the Pie include the Quaboag Performing Arts, Warren/West Brookfield Football and Cub Scouts.

Displayed across the dining room at Mass Appeal Pizza &

Bread Co. are cake pans. Fleming lends these unique cake pans out to customers who want to make special cakes.

The shapes offered and displayed include Winnie the Pooh, Thomas the Tank Engine, bears, stars and much more.

Now in the new year, Mass Appeal Pizza & Bread Co. has a lot of plans instore for a special occasion.

On Valentines Day, Feb. 14 the restaurant will be celebrating their one year anniversary. The pizza shop will be offering specials to highlight their anniversary and will have fun promotions such as heart

shaped pizzas.

Mass Appeal Pizza & Bread Co. also has a branded school bus. The bus is used for various events such as birthday parties, yard parties and concerts.

Fleming had the bus displayed during the Brimfield Flea Market. Future events with the bus will take place in the spring.

Mass Appeal Pizza & Bread Co. is open Tuesday through Sunday from 4-9 p.m. and can be reached by calling 413-436-8556. Mass Appeal Pizza & Bread Co. uses delivery services such as Grubhub and DoorDash.

Spaghetti dinner at Eagles Club is Feb. 7

WARREN – The West Warren Fraternal Order of Eagles, 2167 Main St., West Warren, is offering a spaghetti dinner on Wednesday, Feb. 7 from 4-7 p.m.

The West Warren Eagles Aerie 4133 offers a spaghetti dinner once a month on the first Wednesday. In the Fraternal Order of Eagles, the term Aerie is the name of the build-

ing in which the members meet and hold events.

The Fraternal Order of Eagles is an international non-profit organization uniting fraternally in the spirit of liberty, truth, justice, and equality, to make human life more desirable by lessening its ills and promoting peace, prosperity, gladness and hope.



Nominations papers available for annual town election

WARREN / WEST BROOKFIELD – Town Clerks Laura Stockley of Warren and Heather Gough of West Brookfield announced that nomination papers are available on Monday, Feb. 5 for the annual town election, which will be held on Tuesday, May 7.

Nomination papers are available from each respective town clerk during office hours:

Town of Warren – Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and Thursday

from 1-6 p.m.

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. 6 at the Quaboag Regional Middle High School front office between the hours of 8 a.m.-3 p.m. School Committee positions open include two members from Warren for three-year terms and two members from West Brookfield for three-year terms.

Knights host spaghetti supper on Feb. 10

WARE – The Ware Knights of Columbus will host a Valentine's Day spaghetti supper on Saturday, Feb. 10 from 6-8 p.m. at St. Mary's Church Hall, South Street, dine in or take out.

Tickets are \$15 adults and \$10 children. For tickets, call/text 413-537-3422.

A free holiday rose will be given to the ladies. Beer and wine will be available for purchase.

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| USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SPARE RIBS..... | \$2.35 lb | USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF SIRLOIN STEAKHOUSE TIPS..... | \$8.44 lb | USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG..... | \$1.66 lb |
| USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS PORK BUTT STRIPS..... | \$2.99 lb | USDA INSP. FROZEN WHOLE CHICKEN..... | 88¢ lb | USDA INSP. FROZEN BROCCOLI & CHEESE STUFFED CHICKEN BREAST..... | \$3.99 lb |
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St. Aloysius Catholic School to hold open house

HARDWICK – St. Aloysius Catholic School is hosting an open house at the school located at 52 Church St., in Gilbertville, on Monday, Jan. 29 from 3-5:30 p.m.

Prospective parents are cordially invited to visit the classrooms and meet the faculty of this growing school. The 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 website, www.stalouisuscs.com, under the "Join our Family" tab.

The Center hosts Appalachian photography exhibit

HARDWICK – The Center at Eagle Hill is hosting photographer Vern McClish's Appalachian Exhibition, featuring 50 powerful images.

The exhibition specifically focuses on the Southeast Ohio Appalachian coal region, with images and text highlighting the people of this region of Appalachia.

McClish's lens captures the essence of Appalachia, presenting a visual narrative of the individuals and families who worked tirelessly in the coal mines, contributing significantly to America's insatiable need for energy.

Beyond the physical toll, the region has grappled with the ravages of poverty, family strife, and

the devastating impact of the opioid crisis. Many of McClish's images are accompanied in this exhibition by written descriptions of the moment the image was captured.

The exhibition serves as a testament to the unwavering determination and commitment of those who have called Appalachia home.

The exhibit "Ode to a Forgotten People and Place: Faces and Families of Ohio's Appalachia 1971-1974" will run from January to March 2024, at The Center at Eagle Hill. There will be an opening reception, free and open to the public, on Saturday, Feb. 10 from 4-6 p.m.

For additional viewing hours, please contact The Center at Eagle

Hill by calling 413-477-6746.

About The Center

The Center at Eagle Hill is a performance venue in central Massachusetts presenting world class music, dance, theatre, and comedy. For more information about this, and other events please visit www.thecenterataglehill.org.

The Center at Eagle Hill is located at 242 Old Petersham Road.

Submitted Photo

Photographer Vern McClish's Appalachian Exhibition "Ode to a Forgotten People and Place: Faces and Families of Ohio's Appalachia 1971-1974" will be on display at The Center at Eagle Hill.



COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic



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Sunday January 21, 2024

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

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Bring your ID, insurance card, and vaccination card (if you do not have an insurance card, you can still get the vaccine).
All vaccinations are no cost to you, walk-ins and families welcome!**

Supported by Healthy Quaboag and The Rural Vaccine Equity Initiative

Please use QR Code or the link to pre-register:

<http://tinyurl.com/ms2zhh7p>

Please direct any questions to Arianna Palano at apalano@townofware.com, 413-478-2526.





Members of the Ware Business and Civic Association had a gathering at the Western Mass Pinball Club in Three Rivers.



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette and Ryan Drago
Ware Business and Civic Association members played a variety of pinball machines

FLIPPING OUT



Ryan Drago uses his bowling skills to play this vintage game.



WBCA members enjoy winter event in Three Rivers

THREE RIVERS – Ware Business and Civic Association explored its membership “beyond” Ware, holding its winter activity at the Western Mass Pinball Club.
Members competed for the highest score on over 60 pinball machines; and a special “Golden Flipper” contest with a \$100 cash prize provided by ColorBlindGuy. Country Bank sponsored the event and I.A.M.BID provided the reception area.
For more information about the WBCA, visit warebca.com or follow them on Facebook.



Katie Faucher of Country Bank was the winner of the Golden Flipper Pinball Challenge and received \$100. Faucher is standing alongside Chris Murphy of ColorBlindGuy.



The Ware Business and Civic Association members enjoyed pizza, salads, desserts and over 60 varieties of pinball.



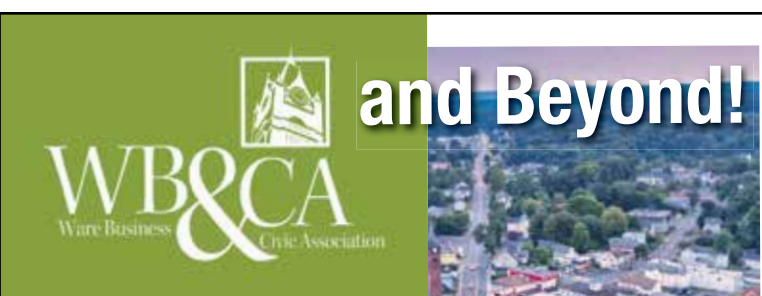
Ware Business and Civic Association member and ColorBlindGuy Chris Murphy explains the rules of the Golden Flipper pinball challenge.



Country Bank sponsored the event at the Western Mass Pinball Club and I.A.M.BID hosted the reception area.



For fun competition, ColorBlindGuy introduced the Golden Flipper Challenge where the player who scores the most points on one of the vintage pinball machines wins.



Join Our Small-Town Business Development Adventure!

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

Our Mission

We're not just any organization – we're a community catalyst! Our mission is clear: foster camaraderie among local businesses, creating a vibrant hub that transforms our town into a must-visit destination for all. We're here to ignite connections, inspire growth, and spark innovation.

Why Join Us?

Referrals are just the beginning! As a member, you'll enjoy the spotlight on your business within our close-knit community. Think of us as your business's ultimate cheerleaders, making sure your unique offerings shine bright.

A Legacy of Achievement

Since 2011, our organization has been making waves. We're not just about meetings – we're about momentum. From securing endorsements for local businesses to orchestrating events that turn visitors into regulars, we've been shaping our towns' destiny, one success story at a time.

Events that Sparkle

Who says business can't be fun? Picture this: quarterly membership nights that blend networking with laughter. We're all about community, after all – and a little friendly competition in the bowling alley or at the axe throwing yard never hurt anyone.

Network that Expands

With a sprawling member base, joining us means getting in on the action. Your business won't just get noticed; it'll become a star in our constellation of local talent.

An Investment in Success

For just \$120 per year, you're securing your spot in our thriving business ecosystem. That's less than your monthly coffee run – and the rewards are far more energizing.

Seamless Entry

No hoops to jump through here! Say goodbye to complicated application processes. Joining us is as simple as a few clicks – just hop online and start transforming your business journey.

Embrace Uniqueness

We're not your typical chamber. We're a creative canvas, welcoming fresh ideas and perspectives. No rigid rules, just endless opportunities to make a mark.



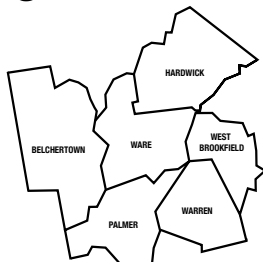
Aerial pictures provided by Above the Law Imagery

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



JOIN TODAY!

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email warebca@gmail.com



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



Ware Business and Civic Association President Dan Flynn speaks at the association's winter activity held at the Western Mass Pinball Club.

NUGGET from page 4

“Nugget is the smartest dog that I have ever met,” said Zarif. “Like-Lassie level smart; when you talk to this dog, he understands you. He’s the perfect brewery dog, so well behaved, sweet, and friendly. He loves being a part of the action.”

Nugget has embraced his role as a dogfluencer, delighting visitors at Timberyard and stealing the spotlight in social media posts.

His favorite gig? Greeting attendees on puppy yoga mornings.

He’s even been spotted auditioning with Santa for a chance to be a reindeer, sitting patiently next to Santa for hours during his visits to the brewery, posing for photos with happy families, and helping to fundraise for a local charity. Nugget’s journey from pain to fame is a testament to the power of love, resilience, and a community that cares.

SPORTS

Ware evens up season series with Monson

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARE—Sweet revenge. When the Ware boys' varsity basketball team traveled to Michael J. Kane Gymnasium last month, they suffered a 54-45 loss to Monson.

When the two Bi-County West League rivals battled each other again at Paul Orszulak Gymnasium last Friday night, the Indians celebrated a 69-62 victory over the Mustangs in front of a large home crowd.

"It's always nice to win a home game, especially against one of our biggest rivals," said Ware sophomore forward Brady Guimond, who scored 12 of his 17 points during the second half. "Monson is a very good basketball team, and this is a very big win for us."

Ware had a 1-4 overall record following an eleven point home loss against Palmer on December 18.

The Indians, who won their next four games, had a 5-4 record following the second meeting of the regular season against the Mustangs. It was the first time that the Indians have been over the .500 mark since they defeated Mount Everett, 57-41, in the season opener.

"We started the season with a 1-4 record, but we're a much different team right now," said Ware head coach Gene Rich. "We averaged 51 points per game in our first five games. Since then, we've been averaging 66 points per game.

We've also been playing well defensively. We found our identity and we figured out what works best for us as a group. A couple of our younger players are also playing key roles."

Guimond, who's a first-year starter for the varsity basketball team, was one of the Indians three double figure scorers in the home victory versus the Mustangs (6-4).

Senior guard Jack McKeever scored 12 of his team-leading 20 points in the first half. He made four shots from beyond the three-point line. Sophomore center Jack Gaudreau chipped in with 11 points.

The Mustangs, who won two of the three meetings against the Indians a year ago, were led by eighth grade guard Trey Dillahunt with a game-high 22 points.

"Trey plays basketball all year round," said Monson head coach Zac Dreher. "He has a lot more experience than most of the older players. He keeps us in every game."

Senior guard Colin Beaupre and sophomore Austin Meacham scored 12 points for the visiting team. Beaupre was the leading scorer in the first meeting of the season against Ware with 17 points.

The score was tied 4-4 a little more than three minutes into the first quarter before the Indians built a double digit lead with the help of a 17-7 run.

"We've fallen behind in every game that we've lost so far this sea-

Please see **WARE**, page 11



Turley photos by Jack Cascio NEAPsmugmug.com
Jack Gaudreau is all focus with his jumper.



Brady Guimond displays his defensive prowess.



John Mumper puts his acrobatic talents on display with this move.



Justin Grout heads for the net.



Jack McKeever fights off the defense as he drives to the paint.



Turley photos by Jack Cascio NEAPsmugmug.com
Evelyn Doe and Parker Tunley put out a defensive double team.

Cougars suffer tough loss at home

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARREN—Paul Dubuc, longtime girls' varsity basketball coach at South Hadley High School, is familiar with all the high school gyms throughout Western Massachusetts.

Dubuc and his players traveled to Central Massachusetts last Wednesday night where they played a regular season game at the Quaboag Regional gymnasium for the first time.

The Lady Tigers, who held a 21-2 lead at the end of the first quarter, cruised to a 62-32 non-league road victory over the Lady Cougars.

"We've never been to this gym before, but we came out and played very well in the first quarter," Dubuc said. "This gym is bigger than our own gym. We enjoy playing in bigger gyms because it gives us more space to operate. My players played very hard and I'm very proud of them."

The Lady Tigers had a 5-3 overall record following their only visit to Central Massachusetts during the 2023-24 regular season. When the first MIAA Division 4 state power rankings of the season were released, the Lady Tigers were ranked 13th.

"We've been improving in every game that we've played this season," Dubuc added. "We put the ball in the basket and played good defense in tonight's game."

Junior Maddie Soderbaum led the way offensively for the Lady Tigers with 14 points.



Maddie Potion takes control of this ball.

Junior Caitlin Dean and freshman Cara Dean both contributed with 10 points each.

Rounding out the scoring column for the visiting team were junior Ava Asselin (8 points), freshman Taylor Bullough (7 points), senior Drew Alley (6 points), junior CC Gurek (5 points), and junior Sophia Butler (2 points).

Alley, who was the starting goalie for the Lady Tigers soccer team, which lost to Sutton in the Division 4 state finals last fall, is the only senior listed on the South Hadley varsity basketball roster.

Please see **QUABOAG**, page 10

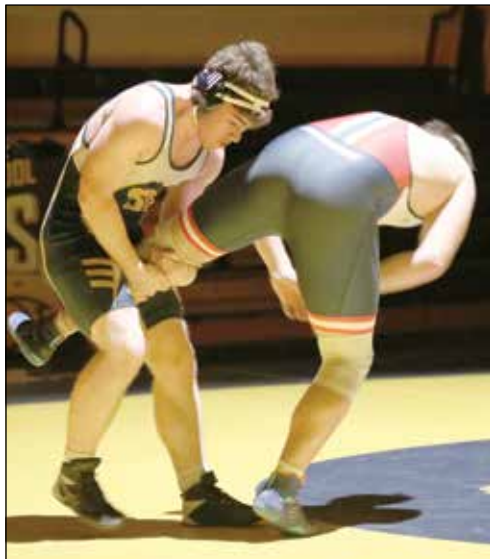
WRESTLERS WORKING TOWARD TOURNAMENT



Desmin Neak wrestles in the 106-pound class.

BARRE – Quabbin Regional High School wrestling continues to work towards the Central Mass. and potentially the state tournament, both of which take place next month. The Panthers faced Algonquin last Wednesday night, falling 57-24. The

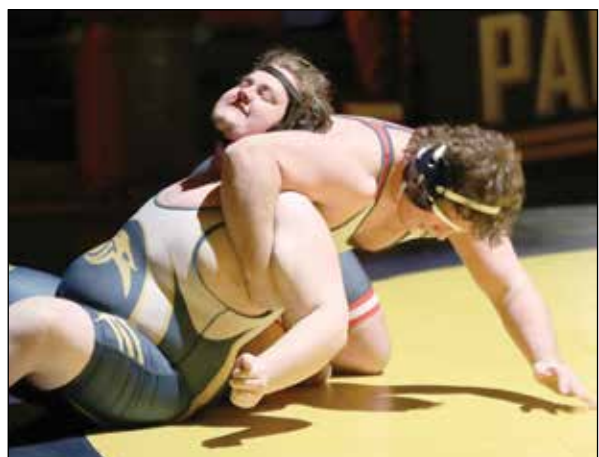
Panthers were scheduled to face Nashoba earlier this week and this weekend, are set to engage in a set of dual meets at Granby High School against opponents from Western Mass. Coming up, the Panthers host Leominster Wednesday night at 6:30 p.m.



Senior Matt Tolman gets a leg up on his opponent.



Turley photos by Ray Duffy
Noah Mielt flips his opponent head over heels.



Christian Stolgitis as a heavyweight in his varsity match.

Pioneers win again, defeat Cybercats

SPRINGFIELD – The Pathfinder girls basketball team improved to 5-3 on the season as they defeated Sci-Tech on the road last Thursday night. The Pioneers got 14 points each from Victoria Stevens and Desiree Croteau. Pathfinder led throughout the matchup and went up 33-17 at halftime. Sci-Tech did make a run in the fourth quarter, but Pathfinder's big lead was too much to overcome.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Victoria Stevens makes her way down the court.



Megan Clark dribbles toward the hoop.



Taylor Allen goes for the open layup.



Hannah Mellor passes to her left.

sports

Quabbin girls take second loss

BARRE – It was just their second loss of the regular season this year as Quabbin girls basketball fell to visiting Tyngsborough 43-36 last Tuesday evening. The Quabbin offense, which has been excellent for most of the season, suffered a bit of a power outage in this matchup. Riley Bassett and Mia Ducos managed double digits with 12 points each. The Panthers are 7-2 on the season with a 3-2 mark in the Mid-Wach C league.



Riley Bassett puts up a shot.



Mia Ducos drives to the hoop.



Turley photos by Ray Duffy
Bri Whitelaw grabs a three-pointer.



Abby Rogowski wrestles for the ball.



Hannah Baxter gets an offensive rebound.

Worcester Railers falls at home to Norfolk Admirals

WORCESTER – It wasn't that the Railers ran out gas Sunday afternoon so much as they never had any in their 3-0 loss to the Norfolk Admirals.

Both teams were on the last leg of one of those dreaded 3 in 3 weekends, but the Admirals played it smarter than Worcester. Norfolk followed the script by jumping out to an early lead and keeping things under control the rest of the way.

It helped that the Admirals got admirable goaltending from Kristian Stead. He made 25 saves to record his first career ECHL shutout in his 11th ECHL game. It was Norfolk's second shutout of the season over Worcester. Thomas Milic beat the Railers, 4-0, on October 29. The game marked the third time this season Worcester has been whitewashed.

Brandon Osmundson, Denis Smirnov and Andrew McLean scored the game's goals. McLean's went into an empty net at 19:15 of the third period.

It was a very good goaltending game overall as Josh Boyko was excellent in the Railers net. He stopped 32 of 34 shots and kept it winnable.

"I thought he played really well," coach Jordan Smotherman said. "He made some great saves...I was really happy with his game."

"Playing from behind three nights in a row; you just can't do that to yourself," Smotherman said.

Although Norfolk had 34-25 edge in shots, the teams had about

the same number of great chances. Worcester had two breakaways in the first period. Railers players hit iron twice later on. John Copeland hit a post, Anthony Callin a cross-bar.

The breakaways were by Worcester's two top scorers, Ashton Calder and Anthony Repaci. Both players made good moves. Stead made two good saves.

In contrast, when Norfolk scored at 4:57 of the first period to go ahead, 1-0, Osmundson's shot went post to post and in, hitting the right one first.

"Over the course of a three-game weekend," Smotherman said, "you're not always gonna get the bounces and you can't rely on them."

The Admirals finished that period with a 14-4 edge in shots on goal. For the weekend, Worcester was outshot by 38-17 in the three first periods.

Smirnov doubled his team's lead early in the second period, scoring at 2:29. Danny Katic set up his teammate with a great pass from the right boards. Smirnov was just outside left post and had an easy re-direct from there.

The Railers lineup included familiar face Blake Jenkins, back from his brief time on the Hartford roster, and unfamiliar face Ryan Dickinson. The rookie defenseman made his professional debut as Zsombar Garat got a break. He had played in 32 of the season's first 34 games.

Justin Bonsignore to do pre-season 'test' at Daytona

WADING RIVER, N.Y. – Three-time NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion Justin Bonsignore will compete in the ARCA Menards Series pre-season test at Daytona International Speedway this weekend.

Bonsignore will drive a car prepared by Andy Hilenburg, the 1995 ARCA champion, who also has two Daytona ARCA wins to his credit. The cars are prepared by Fast Track High Performance Racing.

The pre-race test is in preparation for the upcoming ARCA

Menards Series opener at Daytona during Speedweeks on Saturday, February 17. The weekend will also include the opener for the NASCAR Xfinity Series and the NASCAR Cup Series Daytona 500.

Seven different drivers have earned the right to take laps around Daytona via the "Road to Daytona" program. Invites include the two regional series that are part of the ARCA Menards Series platform - the

Please see **RACE**, page 12

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – A new team leads in round two of the Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League.

As of Jan. 2, The Champs R Here take over the #1 seed with a record of 14-6. The Champs also lead the league with a team high single of 439 and team high triple of 1253.

Second place is Acres at 13-7 with a team high single of 436 and team high triple of 1206. Third place is Team BK at 13-7 with a team high single of 425 and team high triple of 1182. Compression is in fourth place at 11.5-8.5 with a team high single of 419 and team high triple 1174.

In fifth place is Life is Good at 11-9 with a team high single of 410 and team high triple of 1176. Last in Line is in sixth place at 8.5-11.5 with a team high single of 407 and team high triple of 1133. Blue B's sit in last place with a record of 8-12, a team high single of 411 and a team high triple of 1152.

The Champs R Here bowled against Last in Line on the league night of Jan. 9. In game one, The Champs and Last in Line tied at 392 and each received half a point.

Taylor Colkos and Steve Manolakis of The Champs bowled well over their averages in game one. Colkos started off with a 102 and Manolakis bowled a 106. Vinny Navarro of Last in Line started off with a 105.

In game two, The Champs R Here came out victorious by a score of 402 to Last in Line's 394. Manolakis bettered his first game score by bowling a 117. John Colkos bowled his league average, 103. Navarro bowled 104 in game two.

In game three, The Champs won the last game of the evening, 421-386. Three of the four bowlers on Champs R Here went over 100 with Dino Tessicini at 111, Taylor Colkos at 110 and John Colkos at 107.

Thursday Night Mixed League

The winners of round one, Team Six bowled against Team Five.

In game one, Team Six won by a score of 397-396. In game two, Team Six won again by a score of 419-410. Dan Mahoney of Team Six bowled a 106. In game three, Team Five won the last game 406-393. Team Five won total pinfall by a final score of 1212-1209.

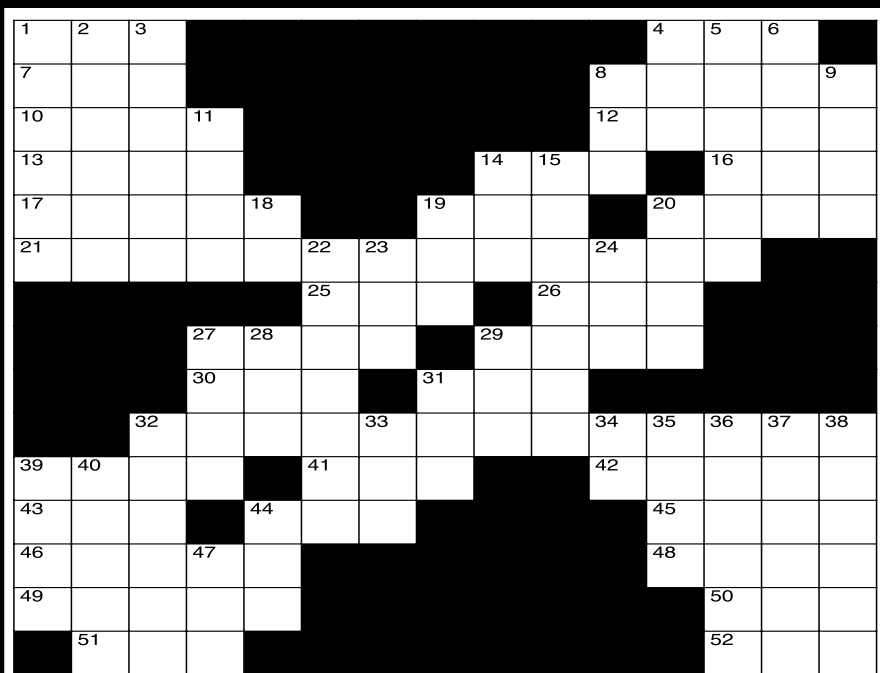
Team Two bowled against Team One. In game one, Team Two was the winner by a score of 415-382. Donna Danek, the president of the Thursday Night Mixed League had a good game bowling a 103. Following Danek, Dan Fennyery had a 111 game to start off the evening.

In game two, Team One was victorious over Team Two 396-383. In game three, Team One won the last game of the evening 400-365. Kris Rickson finished the night with a 109. Team One took total pinfall by a final score of 1178-1163.

Team Four bowled against Team Three. In game one, Team Three was the winner scoring 402 to Team Four's 392. Jesse Danek of Team Three started off strong with a 117. In game two, Team Four fought back and won 387-367. In game three, Team Four won the last game 397-390. Jesse Danek, who had an off game in the 2nd rebounded by finishing the night with a 115.

Team Four won total pinfall by a final score of 1176-1159.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS

- Microgram
- Where golfers begin
- Each
- Warm weather metropolis
- Coat with sticky substance
- Girl's given name
- Myth (Spanish)
- Ultrahigh frequency
- Former NBAer Jeremy
- Where rockers work
- Your consciousness of your own identity
- Soft-finned fishes
- Localities
- Paddle
- Union
- Member of religious

- community
- Small shrill flute
- Small constellation in the Milky Way
- They ___
- College kid on vacation
- de Armas and Gasteyer are two
- Part of the human body
- A progressive grading
- Sound unit
- Noise some birds make
- Abba ___, Israeli politician
- Portuguese city
- Be extremely, uncritically fond of
- Resembling old Norse poems
- Ask for out of extreme need
- Sino-Soviet

- block (abbr.)
- Midway between south and southeast
- It's used to make furniture
- Clod
- They indicate where places are
- Bobby ___, NHL champ
- Prints money
- Honorable title (Turkish)
- Appetizers
- Midway between north and northwest
- Spanish be
- Breezed through
- Grilled dishes
- In a way, excites
- Change mind
- A French abbot
- Popular candy
- Partner to cheese
- Wood or metal bolt

CLUES DOWN

- An insane person
- Boothe Luce, American author
- Buttock muscles
- Men's fashion accessory
- "Hotel California" rockers
- Electronic communication
- Magnetomotive force (abbr.)
- Hostelries
- A way to resound
- Exclamation: yuck!
- A resident of Indiana
- Exclamation of surprise

QUABOAG from page 9

"Drew can dominate a game without even scoring a point," Dubuc said. "She defends, rebounds, and passes the ball very well. I really don't remember the last time that we only had one senior on the varsity team. Our future looks very bright."

The only double figure scorer for the Lady Cougars (3-5) was senior Evelyn Doe, who scored 12 of her 14 points after half-time.

"Evelyn is an outstanding basketball player," said Quaboag head coach Bill Beauregard. "She only took a couple of shots in the first half. For us to be successful, she needs to shoot the ball more than 20 times in a game."

Junior Juliette Boos chipped in with eight points and junior Parker Tunley added seven points.

The trio of Doe, Boos, and Tunley, who scored her team's only points of the first quarter, combined to score 29 points.

Quaboag, who played in the Division 5 state tournament a year ago, were moved up to Division 4 before the start of this season. The Lady Cougars were ranked 41st in the Division 4 power rankings.

The top 32 teams in each Division automatically qualify for the state tournament. The other teams who finish the regular season with a .500 or better record also qualify for the state tournament.

Beauregard wasn't very happy with his team's first half performance.

"We weren't aggressive either offensively or defensively in the first half. We also allowed them



Isabelle Burgess brings the ball down court.



Parker Tunley brings the ball down court.

to make too many three-pointers, which was probably the biggest difference in the game," he said. "We seem to get off to slow starts against very good teams. I thought we played much better in the second half."

The Lady Tigers made four of their nine 3-pointers during the first eight minutes of the contest.

A little more than a minute into the game, Soderbaum hit a 3-pointer from the right side which was followed by a Gurek lay-up which gave South Hadley a 5-0 lead.

With three minutes remaining in the first quarter, Cara Dean stole the ball at midcourt before scoring an inside hoop pushing the Lady Tigers lead into double digits (12-2) for the first time.

The opening quarter ended with back-to-back 3-pointers from Bullough and Cara Dean, who scored all her points during

VOICES from page 1

were printed anonymously on the displayed photographs, adding context and poignancy to them.

One evidence-based practice encouraged at the event was that of carrying Narcan, also known by its generic name naloxone. Narcan is a life-saving medication that can reverse an opioid overdose and can be purchased at many pharmacies without a prescription.

Representative William "Smitty" Pignatelli, of the 3rd Berkshire District, emphasized the importance of carrying Narcan in remarks he gave at the event.

He related the tragic story of a young man who passed away as a result of an opioid overdose while his family and a police officer were present as they waited for an ambulance to arrive with Narcan.

Because of this and similar stories, Pignatelli said that he was supporting a bill that would require all first responders in Massachusetts to carry Narcan. The bill, H. 2008, most recently had a joint hearing in October, according to the Massachusetts General Court's website.

"You never know who's going to show up at your front door," Pignatelli said, emphasizing that this was especially true in rural communities, and demonstrating that EMTs should not be expected to be the only ones with Narcan available.

Department of Public Health Commissioner Robert Goldstein also spoke at the event, sharing the startling news that the 2,359 overdose deaths recorded in 2022 were a record for the Commonwealth.

In addition to further stressing the importance of carrying Narcan, Goldstein laid out the evolution of the opioid crisis in Massachusetts, starting with prescription drugs around 2005, and escalating with the influx of fentanyl, a synthetic opiate, over the last decade.

"The drug supply is poisoned," he said, referring to the fact that illicit street drugs are now frequently contaminated with substances like fentanyl and xylazine, an animal tranquilizer, unbeknownst to the user.

Dr. Jeffrey Samet, Boston Medical Center physician and Principal Investigator for the HEALing Communities Study in Massachusetts, said that the Commonwealth had taken on a leadership role in addressing the national opioid crisis, but that there was still a long way to go.

"The essence of the HEALing Communities Study was to see if we can engage community members to come together in coalition within their communities," Samet said. Specifically, Samet highlighted how the study empowered participants to make decisions about the most helpful ways to allocate resources within their own communities.

Randy Gratton, a fourth generation Ware resident, shared how the



The "Voices of Resilience" exhibit was on display at the State House in Boston.



Community Coordinator Alyssa Curran spoke about the photovoice project held in Massachusetts' communities.



From left are Department of Public Health Commissioner Robert Goldstein, state Rep. Smitty Pignatelli, Dr. Jeffrey Samet, Randy Gratton and Alyssa Curran.



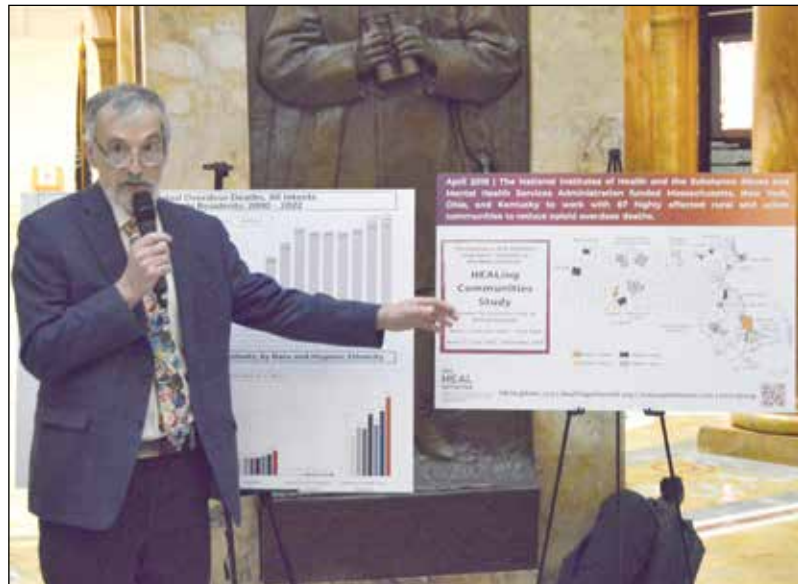
Department of Public Health Commissioner Robert Goldstein speaks at "Voices of Resilience."



State Representative Smitty Pignatelli spoke in support of a bill that would require all first responders in Massachusetts to carry Narcan.



Narcan was available at the exhibit.



Dr. Jeffrey Samet shared opioid overdose statistics.



Photos in the "Voices of Resilience" exhibit shared messages from the photographer.

public notices

LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Stephen G. Smith, also known as Stephen Smith to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for NetBank, its successors and assigns, dated July 25, 2005 and recorded in Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 8367, Page 10 (the "Mortgage") of which mortgage Citibank, N.A., not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee of New Residential Mortgage Loan Trust 2019-RPL3 is the present holder by Assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as Nominee for NetBank, its Successors and Assigns to Bank of America, N.A. dated April 16, 2018 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 12929, Page 72, and Assignment from Bank of America, N.A. to U.S. Bank National Association, not in its Individual Capacity but Solely as Trustee for the NRZ Pass-Through Trust VII dated June 5, 2019 and recorded at

said Registry of Deeds in Book 13281, Page 241, and Assignment from Bank of America, N.A. to Citibank, N.A., not in its Individual Capacity but Solely as Owner Trustee of New Residential Mortgage Loan Trust 2019-RPL3 dated December 7, 2020 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 13902, Page 340, and Assignment from U.S. Bank National Association, not in its Individual Capacity but Solely as Trustee for the NRZ Pass-Through Trust VII to Bank of America, N.A. dated January 5, 2023 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 14775, Page 276, and Assignment from Bank of America, N.A. to Citibank, N.A., not in its Individual Capacity but Solely as Owner Trustee of New Residential Mortgage Loan Trust 2019-RPL3 dated December 30, 2022 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 14777, Page 148, and Assignment from Bank of America, N.A. to Citibank, N.A., not in its Individual Capacity but Solely as Owner Trustee of New Residential Mortgage Loan Trust 2019-RPL3 dated May 2, 2023 and

recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 14850, Page 168, and Assignment from U.S. Bank National Association, not in its Individual Capacity but Solely as Trustee for the NRZ Pass-Through Trust VII to Citibank, N.A., not in its Individual Capacity but Solely as Owner Trustee of New Residential Mortgage Loan Trust 2019-RPL3 dated July 12, 2023 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 14910, Page 285, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 37 Pleasant Street, Ware, MA 01082 will be sold at a Public Auction at **2:00 PM on February 2, 2024**, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A certain tract or parcel of land situated in Ware, Hampshire County, aforesaid bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a stone post on the North line of Pleasant Street and the Easterly side of Bank Street, it being the S.W. corner of the tract hereby conveyed;

Thence Northerly on the Easterly line of Bank Street about one hundred twenty seven and one-half (127 1/2) feet to an iron pin in the ground at the foot of a bank;

Thence Easterly in a straight line at the foot of said bank about one hundred twenty seven and one-half (127 1/2) feet from and parallel with the North line of said Pleasant Street about sixty-three (63) feet to an iron pin in the ground on the Westerly line of land formerly of Elizabeth W. Sturtevant;

Thence Southerly on the westerly line of land formerly of said Sturtevant about one hundred Twenty-seven and one-half (127 1/2) feet to the North line of Pleasant Street and at the southwest corner of land formerly of said Sturtevant;

Thence Westerly on the North line of Pleasant Street about sixty three (63) feet to the point of beginning.

BEING the same premises conveyed to the Mortgagees herein by deed of Cynthia Armstrong dated December 10, 2005 and recorded in Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 6935, Page 152.

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 6935, Page 152.

The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

Terms of the Sale: Cashier's or certified

check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the

premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Citibank, N.A., not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee of New Residential Mortgage Loan Trust 2019-RPL3

Korde & Associates, P.C.
900 Chelmsford Street
Suite 3102
Lowell, MA 01851
(978) 256-1500
Smith, Stephen G.,
22-040424
01/11, 01/18, 01/25/2024

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.

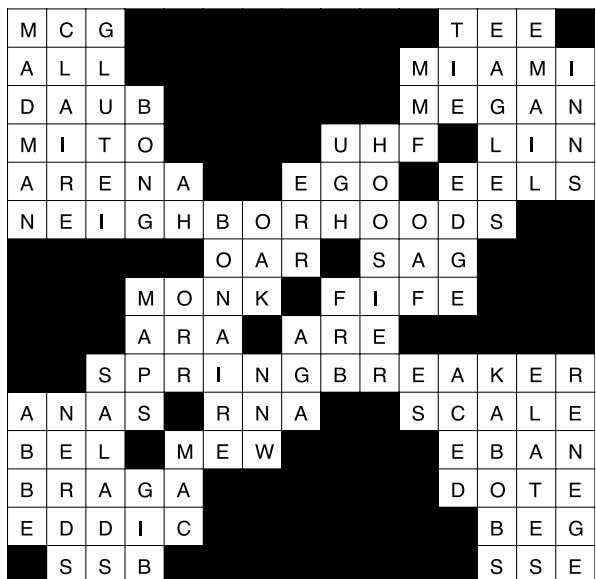
See more Public Notices on Page 14

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