

WARE RIVER NEWS

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WHS chiller project on STM warrant

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARE – Interim Superintendent Michael Wood told the School Committee that the high school's chiller replacement project would be included as an article on the Special Town Meeting warrant.

The Special Town Meeting will be held in the school's auditorium on Monday, Feb. 2 at 6:30 p.m.

At the Jan. 14 meeting, School Committee Chair Brian Winslow read the article (article 12), which will ask voters for additional money to cover the cost of the project.

"This did go up before the town before, unfortunately the amount that was appropriated was not sufficient and therefore it has come back to get the higher amount," he said.

Winslow said originally it was thought that the chiller could be repaired by replacing parts, but that will not be possible.

"They found it was just totally gone, so the whole thing needs to be replaced," he said.

Wood said article 12 is seeking an additional \$450,000 to add to the existing money appropriated. The total cost of the project is about \$650,000.

Please see **WARRANT**, page 3

It's time to go 'Into the Woods'

Eagle Hill School presents musical Jan. 23-25

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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HARDWICK – This weekend, the cast and crew of Eagle Hill School's production of "Into the Woods Jr." guarantee it will be worth the journeying to see this humorous, yet touching, adaptation of Stephen Sondheim's groundbreaking musical.

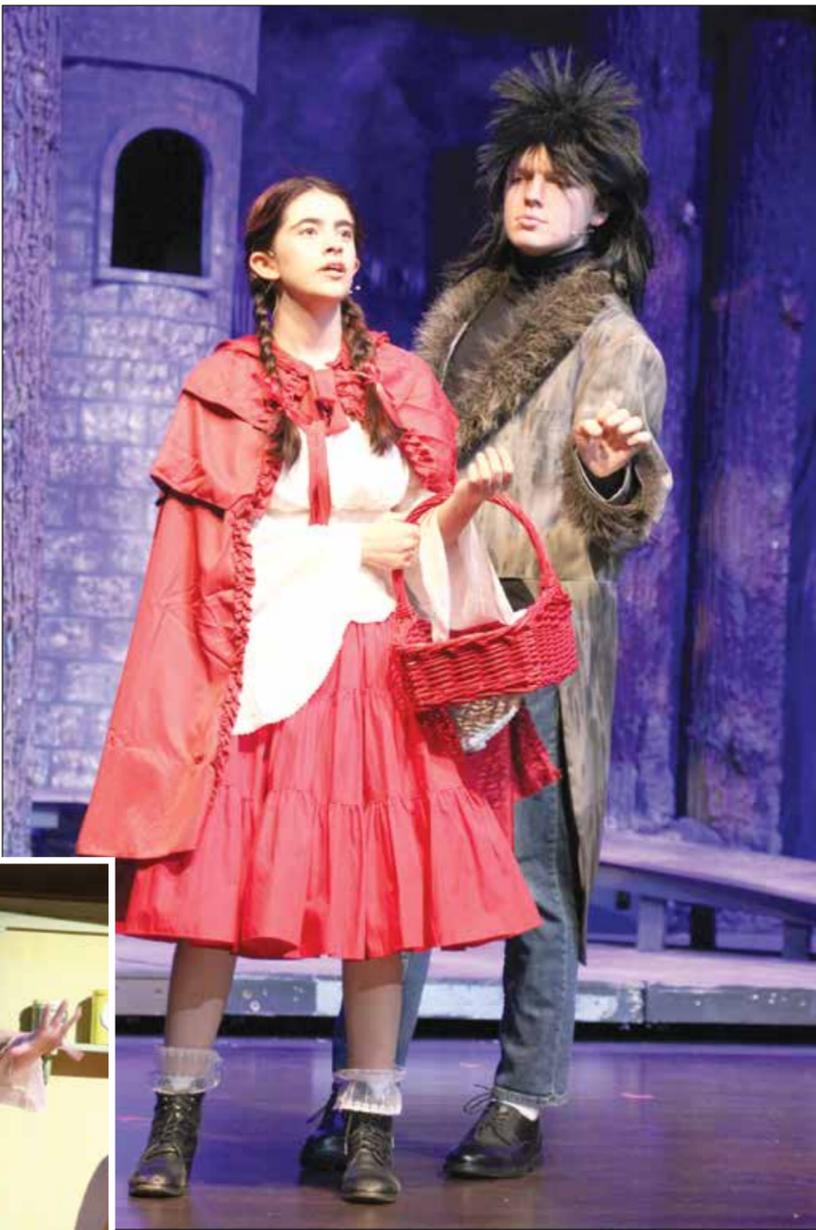
"Into the Woods Jr." will be performed Friday, Jan. 23 at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 24 at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Jan. 25 at 2 p.m. at The Center at Eagle Hill, 242 Old Petersham Road. Tickets are \$10 and are available online at thecenterateaglehill.org or at the Box Office on the days of the show.

Performing Arts Teacher Will Gelinas, director and

Please see **WOODS** page 6



The Witch explained her reasons for laying a curse on the Baker's parents.



Little Red Riding Hood encountered the Wolf on her way to Granny's house in Eagle Hill School's production of "Into the Woods Jr." to be performed Friday, Jan. 23 at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 24 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 25 at 2 p.m. at The Center at Eagle Hill, 242 Old Petersham Road.

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

PB OK'd personal kennel permit

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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HARDWICK – The Planning Board continued a public hearing to issue a special permit for a personal kennel to a resident on Patrill Hollow Road.

At the Jan. 13 meeting, Planning Board Chair William Cole read a statement from the town's Animal Control Officer, Tina Lindsay, in support of granting a special permit to applicant Sergio Nieves.

Nieves owns nine dogs, which he keeps at his house at 1376 Patrill Hollow Road, all of which are up to date on vaccinations and registrations.

Lindsay stated the only complaint received for the property was about barking dogs in 2023. She stated the complaint was addressed and there have been no further concerns.

"The applicant has done everything asked of him," Lindsay wrote in her statement to the board.

Animal Inspector and Assistant Animal Control Officer Traci Brearley was in attendance at the hearing, along with Nieves.

"I just want the permit to keep my pets," Nieves said to the board.

Nieves, who is a professional dog and K-9 trainer with a business in East Longmeadow, said he would

Please see **PERMIT**, page 7

Selectmen continued discussion on building assessment

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Board Selectmen had a discussion involving the town entering into a contract with Tecton Architects.

During their Jan. 15 regular meeting, the Selectmen wanted to know more about

what scope of work will be done when considering the bank building at 968 Main St., which used to be Cornerstone Bank.

Town Administrator James Ferrera talked about the two articles that were approved at the Special Town Meeting, with one including using Free Cash to see if the bank building would meet the stan-

dards of housing a police station.

The town has worked with Tecton Architects in the past, including the feasibility studies for a public safety complex. From Ferrera's standpoint, Tecton is knowledgeable about the town's needs.

Once the town comes to a decision, they will follow a designer selection law. As of

now, "we haven't landed on a specific site at this moment for a police station," Ferrera said. The town still doesn't know what the outcome will be as far as either constructing a new building or renovating an existing building.

This is an assessment that is needed and is what the townspeople support. The article passed at the Special

Town Meeting to have a study on the bank building done to see if it's feasible to house a modern-day police station.

The officials will give the town some guidance in the future, but this assessment needs to be done by an architect or an engineer. Not knowing if there is any hazardous material in the bank

building, the Selectmen know that would be an added cost and wants to make the public aware of that scenario.

From Ferrera's understanding, the bank building, owned by Jim Fountain, is not currently on the market. If the town were to move forward

Please see **BUILDING**, page 6

Hinckley returns to Paige Library for workshop

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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HARDWICK – The Paige Memorial Library is excited to welcome back Pam Hinckley this winter for workshops.

There are workshops available for kids to learn basic sewing and embroidery skills and to introduce them to using a sewing machine. In addition to kid's workshops there is a session of knitting and

handcrafts for adults.

Hinckley is a resident of Hardwick and has been sewing and knitting since she was a child. She started a sewing business out of her home and now offers classes for children.

Hinckley shared that she had kids who expressed a lot of interest and wanting to learn how to sew and knit clothes.

This year marks the third year Hinckley has offered these workshops at the Paige Memorial Library. Children have been coming every year to learn this life

Please see **HINCKLEY**, page 5

Library celebrated 150th year at open house

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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WARREN – Jan. 17, 2026, marked the official 150th anniversary of the Warren Public Library, which was celebrated this past weekend.

2026 is a special year with celebrations of the 250th anniversary of the United States of America happening all around the country. The Warren Public Library has an anniversary of its own to celebrate this year and its accolades and services were acknowledged heavily during their open house celebration.

It all began in 1876 when the Warren Public Library was established as



Shown from left are state Sen. Jake Oliveira, Barbara Larkin of the Warren Library Board of Trustees and state Rep. Todd Smola. Larkin was presented a Massachusetts General Courts Resolution, which was presented during the Warren Library's 150th anniversary open house this past weekend.

a corporation by an act of Massachusetts Legislature. The public library was to be free and open to the public, but the one thing missing was a building and where it can be placed in Warren.

Thanks to Senator Wilson Fairbank, who lived near the property, purchased a corner lot on Main Street and Bacon Street, which is now the current site of the Warren Public Library. After construction work was completed, the library had a new building and was dedicated on July 4, 1890. Town Officials, the Warren Public Library Corporation, and Building Committee were in atten-

Please see **OPEN HOUSE**, page 13



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Community Development Authority approved sign improvement

Staff Report

WARE – At their first meeting of the year, the Community Development Authority established the process for small façade and sign improvements along Main Street.

Businesses may apply through the Planning Department. Grants will be funded through the town's federal American Rescue Plan Act program.

Shannon Field of Fieldcrest Brewery presented a request and drawings for signs for the brewery. Field stated that the business that will open on East Main Street later in February.

The CDA voted to award Fieldcrest \$5,000 to support the new signs.

In other business, Erica Johnson, senior planner for the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, updated

the CDA on the recently awarded 2025 Community Development Block Grant. The grant is going through state contract review, and the town is working on completing special conditions.

The CDBG program will fund the first phase of the reconstruction of Cottage Street and three social services.

Cottage Street will include paving, new sidewalks, and utilities. The funded social service programs are adult literacy, senior citizen outreach, and the Ware River Domestic Violence Task Force.

The construction and services can move forward once the state contract is signed.

Johnson also discussed plans for the 2026 CDBG application. The grant submission is due to the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities on

April 21.

The maximum grant award is \$950,000.

Two steps needed for the application are a public forum and a final public hearing. The forum will be held on Monday, Feb. 9, and the hearing on Monday, March 9. The CDA, working with the Planning Department, will conduct public outreach.

Johnson explained the importance of public input to grant review. She suggested that the town may want to conduct a survey to confirm the needs of residents.

Depending on public feedback, the CDA will consider the next phase of Cottage Street construction and ongoing support of social services.

The next CDA meeting, including the CDBG forum, is Monday, Feb. 9 at 6:30 p.m.

Nomination papers for Ware's Annual Town Election now available

WARE – The Annual Town Election will be held on Monday, April 13.

Offices which will appear on the ballot are: Selectboard, three-year term, vote for two; School Committee, three-year term, vote for one; Board of Assessors, three-year term, vote for one; Board of Assessors, one year unexpired term, vote for one; Board of Health, three-year term, vote for one; Park Commissioner, three-year term, vote for one; Cemetery Commissioner, three-year term, vote for one; Planning Board, five-year term, vote

for one; Ware Housing Authority, five-year term, vote for one

The last date to register to vote is Friday, April 3. The last date to obtain and file nomination papers (49 days prior to the Annual Town Election) is Monday, Feb. 23 by 5 p.m.

The last date to file nomination papers with the Town Clerk (35 days prior to the Annual Town Election) is Monday, March 9. The last date to object to filing of nomination papers or withdrawal of papers filed (33 days prior to the Annual Town Election) is

Wednesday, March 11.

The last date for file an application for Vote by Mail (five business days prior to the Annual Town Election) is Monday, April 6 by 5 p.m.

Anyone interested in running for public office must be a registered voter in Ware.

Nomination Papers may be picked up as of Jan. 18 during normal business hours – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Questions may be directed to the Town Clerk, Nancy J. Talbot, at 413-967-9648 extension 103.

Are You Old News?



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

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



File Photo
Last week's photo from 2022 showed CCD student Jaxon Warburton volunteering to help the Ware Knights of Columbus serve spaghetti dinners. Warburton was correctly identified by Andy Zajac and Zacharias Fragkiadakis."

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. 26

- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. chair Yoga with Lisa

Tuesday, Jan. 27

- 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
- 9 a.m. Movin & Groovin to the Oldies with Lisa. \$3 per class.
- 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. 28

- 9 a.m. Tai-Chi
- 9:30 a.m. Quilting Club
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. Knit-Crochet-Laugh
- 1 p.m. Chair Yoga with Lori

Thursday, Jan. 29

- 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
- 9 a.m. Walking Club

- (weather permitting)
- 9:30 a.m. Line Dancing for Beginners
- 10 a.m. Line Dancing
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 12:15 p.m. Art Class

Friday, Jan. 30

- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. Chair Yoga with Lori
- 6 p.m. Pitch (Doors open at 5 p.m.)

LUNCHES DINE IN 11:30 a.m.

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

Monday, Jan. 26

Blueberry Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Corned Beef Hash, Dessert of the Day

Tuesday, Jan. 27

Chinese Pepper Steak Sub Sandwich, French Fries, Dessert of the Day

Wednesday, Jan. 28

Pork Stir Fry with Rice Pilaf, Veggie of the Day, Dessert of the Day

Thursday, Jan. 29

Stuffed Pepper, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day

Friday, Jan. 30

Turkey Waldorf Sandwich, Veggie Salad, Dessert of the Day

Ham radio club meeting to be held Jan. 27

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the West Brookfield Senior Center, 73 Central St.

This month's presentation features Bill Simpson of Smokestack Lightning, who will explain the basics of lightning protection and share a short demonstration with his "lightning machine." All licensed amateurs and anyone curious about Amateur Radio are invited to attend, and the public is welcome to stop in – especially homeowners interested in practical lightning safety.

For more information about the club, upcoming events, or licensing opportunities, visit www.QVARC.com.



Business planning & marketing classes starting soon.



Build your skills and strengthen your business through QV CDC's hands-on workshops and group training sessions. Designed for both new and established businesses, these sessions cover **business planning, marketing, and financial management**. Financial assistance may be available for qualifying participants.

Foundations of Small Business Marketing \$25
2 dates to choose from: Sat. January 24 or Sat. April 18

With tight resources & limited time, having a clear, focused marketing plan can help cut through the noise and make an impact. This hands-on workshop is designed to help simplify your marketing and make more confident decisions. We will cover core marketing and social media fundamentals, including defining your audience, clarifying your message, developing a value proposition, creating an ad, and building a practical marketing plan. Participants will sharpen their focus, reach customers more effectively, and build a marketing strategy that supports steady growth in uncertain times.

5-part Business Planning Workshop \$99
Mon. Jan 26 • Wed. Jan 28 • Mon. Feb 2 • Wed. Feb 4 plus a one-on-one individual session.

Starting or growing a business can feel especially uncertain in changing economic times, and having a clear plan can help steady the path forward. The Quaboag Valley CDC Business Planning Workshop is a hands-on series that helps new and growing business owners bring structure to their ideas, understand their options, and plan with greater confidence. Participants learn how to build a support team, create a practical roadmap, explore marketing approaches, and better understand financing and cash flow through guided sessions and a one-on-one financial projection, all designed to support thoughtful decision-making.



Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation and Business Assistance Corporation



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Library offers fun and learning this winter

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – Tired of the winter weather? Looking for something fun and educational to do? Your local library has just what you're looking for.

Weekly programs at the Ware Library, 37 Main St., include Story Stars with Mrs. Desjardins on Mondays at 4:30 p.m., Storytime with Miss Cathy on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., Monday Crafternoon on Mondays from 3-5 p.m., Imagination Station (open-ended crafting) on Tuesdays from 4-6 p.m., Lego Club on Wednesdays from 4:30-5:30 p.m., Family Bingo held every last Thursday of the month from 4:30-5:30 p.m., and Saturday Morning Craft on Saturday, Jan. 24 from

9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Children can make Valentine's Day themed heart window decorations during the Saturday Morning Craft on Jan. 24. This is a drop-in crafting event inside the Ware Library's Children's Room recommended for ages 3 and up.

The Ware Library has numerous fun activities during the February school break. Storytime & Craft with Miss Cathy will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 10:30 a.m. for ages 2 to 5.

Wildlife on Wheels featuring animal ambassadors from the Zoo in Forest Park in Springfield makes its return to the Ware Library on Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 3:30 p.m.

Registration is required for Wildlife on Wheels as space is limited. To register,

call 413-967-9691 or email gouletc@cwmar.org.

In partnership with the East Quabbin Land Trust, the Ware Library will be hosting Nature Journaling on Wednesday, Feb. 18 at 2 p.m. This activity is fun for children ages 7-12 who love art and nature.

This program will be led by Ellie Shea, the Youth Education Coordinator at the East Quabbin Land Trust. Children will learn how to sketch plants, animals, and include notes.

Materials such as paper, basic art supplies, and natural materials will be provided. Guests can bring their own journal if they choose to as well as labeled art supplies, and plant materials.

Lego Club will take place during February break on Wednesday, Feb. 18 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Lego Club is

for ages 3 and up.

Julie Stepanek will make an appearance at the Ware Library for another round of Music with Julie on Thursday, Feb. 19 at 10:30 a.m. for ages 0-5.

The Ware Library is excited to welcome the talented a cappella group formed at Smith College in Northampton, known as the Smiffenpoofs, on Saturday, Feb. 28 at noon in the Reading Room.

This group is the oldest traditionally all female collegiate a cappella group in the U.S. that formed back in 1936.

For more information, contact the Ware Library by calling 413-967-5491, emailing warelibrary1881@gmail.com or visiting warelibrary.org. People may also follow the Ware Library on Facebook.

Hardwick to hold STM this Thursday

HARDWICK – Voters will take action on three articles at the Special Town Meeting on Thursday, Jan. 22 at 6 p.m. in the Municipal Office Building, 307 Main St., Gilbertville.

Police cruiser purchase

Article 1 will ask voters to transfer money from Capital Stabilization to pay costs to purchase a new police cruiser. This article requires a majority vote to pass.

School boiler replacement

Article 2 will ask voters to appropriate money to pay costs of replacing the boiler at the Hardwick Elementary School, and to determine whether this amount shall be

raised by borrowing or otherwise provided.

This article will require a two-thirds majority vote if the money will be appropriated through borrowing.

Rail Trail easement

Article 3 will ask voters to acquire, by purchase, gift and/or eminent domain, a permanent easement for the construction, operation and maintenance of a portion of the Mass Central Rail Trail on property identified as Assessor's Map 51, Parcel 1, and described in a deed recorded with the Worcester South Registry of Deeds in Book 60193, Page 81.

This article requires a majority vote to pass.

St. Aloysius Catholic School to hold open house

HARDWICK – St. Aloysius Catholic School is hosting an Open House in celebration of Catholic Schools Week on Monday, Jan. 26 from 3-5:30 p.m.

Prospective families are encouraged to visit the school, located at 52 Church St. in Gilbertville, where they

can tour the classrooms, meet the teachers and learn more about the great educational and faith filled experiences that await.

For more information, please call the school and speak to Roberta McQuaid, Enrollment Coordinator, at 413-477-1268.

Paige Memorial Library offers fun and learning

HARDWICK – This winter, Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, wants to educate and amuse you.

On Saturday, Jan. 24 at noon, Elizabeth "Ellie" Shea, Youth Education Coordinator for East Quabbin Land Trust invites you to Nature Journaling. This is for you and your family if you like art or nature. Snow date for this event is Saturday, Jan. 31 at noon.

Wednesday, Jan. 28

is an early release day for students. Come join library staff to explore printmaking. All ages will enjoy this.

Come join library staff for Valentine's Day events in February. Card making with a Gothic twist will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 10 and a special event on Saturday, Feb. 14.

On Saturdays in January through March 14, Pam Hinckley's will hold workshops including Kids Can Sew (and knit and crochet)

from 9-10:30 a.m. Class size is limited so registration is mandatory.

Hinckley will also offer an adults handcraft group (knitting, crocheting, beading and quilting) from 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

9 to 10:30 am - Kids Can Sew (and knit and crochet...) Class size is limited so registration is mandatory.

For more information about these workshops or to register contact Hinckley by calling 413-477-6004 or

emailing pahinckley@gmail.com.

On Saturday, March 14, from 3-5 p.m., Shenanigans with Friends, an exciting cover band of Western Massachusetts and Southern Vermont will perform a wide range of songs

The library has more events coming up. Check its Facebook page, www.facebook.com/paigelibrary or website www.paigelibrary.com.

WARRANT from page 1

Superintendent's report

Wood said the school district is still looking to fill vacancies, and he is working with an agency to find licensed teachers. Vacancies include the eighth grade math teacher, the computer teacher and the long-term special education teacher.

Wood said staff has "really come together" and figured out a schedule that will meet the IEP needs of special education students with the absence of the long-term special education teacher.

Wood also announced the departure of teacher David Greenberg, who has accepted a new position closer to his home.

"We're in the process of hiring for that position as well," Wood said.

Wood encouraged parents to have their students to dress in layers due to the winter weather, and also to have students check the lost and found areas at the schools for missing items.

Wood spoke about a project offered by the Children's Advocacy Center of the Hampshire County District Attorney's Office, known as "Handle with Care." He said

faculty would receive a "handle with care" message about a student, if that student's residence received a police or fire call.

"That's all we get – we don't get what happened, we don't get who as involved... the idea is to just let faculty know...that we need to give special attention and empathy to the student for whatever reason that he or she may come in with extra trauma that day," he said.

Wood said he is working with the Police Chief to sign a memorandum of understanding for the project.

Work is underway on the fiscal year 2027 school district budget. He said a needs-based budget will be developed and the target will be level-services.

Event Site Administrator position

Athletic Director Tom Shamgochian said the Event Site Administrator has been a position in the school district since 2012, and it has primarily been used during basketball games.

"Our Athletic Department is really a department of one, or one and a half," he said.

Shamgochian said having this position is essential, as the staff is "stretched real-

ly thin" during games when over 300 people can be in the gym at a time.

Wood said he recommended a pay increase from \$35 to \$80 per game for the Event Site Administrator.

The pay would be \$80 for a varsity game, and \$100 for both varsity and junior varsity games. Sports with longer games, such as soccer and football, would earn a higher rate due to more hours worked.

The School Committee approved the new fee schedule.

Student Council conference

Student Council Advisor and English teacher Lindsay Witherow came before the committee to get approval to bring Student Council members to the annual Massachusetts Association of Student Councils Conference

in Hyannis March 4-6.

She said it's a three-day event where students attend workshops that promote leadership and student discourse, and allow them to network with other schools.

"And there's some fun that they have there also," she said.

While at the conference, the students will also participate in the Unified Special Olympics' Polar Plunge.

"It's a great experience," Witherow said.

The School Committee approved the trip.

Superintendent's search update

School Committee member and search committee chair Mel Whitham said the search for a permanent superintendent is going well, and they have received several applicants. She said the

application deadline is Jan. 23.

"We hope to have two to four candidates to bring to the committee within that timeline," Whitham said.

Math teacher MOU

The School Committee signed a memorandum of understanding for Ware Middle School Assistant Principal Steve Alaownis to serve as the grade eight math teacher.

Wood said Alaownis has "graciously volunteered" to teach the algebra portion of the grade eight math course. He said it's really important to have a licensed teacher in that role.

Alaownis will teach one class each day and he will

have one planning period each week.

Donation

The School Committee accepted the donation of a 1925 Chickering parlor baby grand piano from a resident, valued at approximately \$2,700. The piano will be located in the middle school.

Comments and concerns

A resident asked about the status of the high school's principal position, and why it is not filled. She said the school district's website does not list current administrators either.

"I think it's time to put this to bed...what is going on with the principal?," she asked.

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USDA INSP. SWISS CHEESE \$4.44 lb	USDA INSP. STORE MADE ITALIAN MARINATED 1/2 CHICKEN \$2.99 lb	90 Meat Outlet
USDA INSP. FROZEN FULLY COOKED W/BBQ RUB ST. LOUIS PORK RIBS \$2.99 lb	SALE DATES: 1/22/26-1/28/26	90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288 www.90meat.com

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viewpoints

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

February is teen dating violence awareness month

To the editor,

The early warning signs of an unhealthy relationship are not always obvious, especially to teens.

That's why we're asking for help. If you know a teen, please talk to them about it.

It makes sense that teens get confused. Most relationships start out healthy enough, and if they do become unhealthy it doesn't usually happen quickly or with consistency.

There are often cycles that include bad times, followed by apologies and a return to the good times. Red flags can be easy to miss, especially for young people.

Intense jealousy can look like love. Possessiveness and pressure to spend a lot of time together – even at the expense of other friendships or family ties – can feel flattering.

Controlling behavior – like demanding your passwords, pics or location – can look like a partner who wants to take care of you, make all the plans, and make sure you are safe. Mind games and gas-lighting can make teens feel that it is their fault if they are mistreated, and that if they only tried harder their relationship would return to how good it was at the beginning.

If things go bad, a partner's plea for loyalty can be convincing, especially when coupled with promises to change.

And leaving a relationship can become difficult. Their partner may threaten to share intimate photos or secrets on social media, to trash talk them, or to find some other way to make them regret leaving. Their partner may plead with them to stay, saying they don't know what they will do to themselves if their partner leaves or claiming that their partner is the only one who understands them and the only one that can help them do better.

This complexity explains in part why a 2023 survey of Hampshire county youth showed that over one-third of 12th grade students (38%) have at least one friend who has been abused

by a dating partner. This is not something that is happening to just a few teens or something that can be easily dismissed.

Teens need guidance, and they need this guidance whether they are being harmed, the ones causing harm, or even witnessing harm.

Many people ask us what they can do to help. Here is our answer: Talk about it. Raise the topic. Dive in.

February is teen dating violence awareness month. It's a perfect time to start a conversation.

Ask the teens in your life what they think about the relationships they see and why. These are not one-time conversations. We can use any opportunity – a song, a movie, a post – to gently raise the topic over time. It helps to listen without judgment and to add what we know little by little, rather than downloading everything we know at once.

If teens disagree with us, this can be a good thing. Let them struggle with new ideas. This is often when the best learning happens.

To learn more about how to have these conversations check out loveisrespect.org, a project of the National Domestic Violence Hotline that focuses on young people ages 13-26.

Research shows that one in five people who experience relationship abuse have their first experience of abuse as a teen. We have a chance to change their trajectory, one conversation at a time.

Sincerely,

Jennie Simmons
 Jenny Raiche
 Jacquie Jock
 Sue Lewandowski
 Dan Orzulak
 Mark Ames
 Monica Moran
 Ellie Matos
 Melissa Hutchins
 Erin Ballard
 Emily Skoczylas
 Paula Kularski
 Sawyer Blake
 Officer Somer Bren
 Ware River
 Valley Domestic
 Violence Task Force

Winter sowing is a fun experiment

“Winter sowing” always comes up as a hot topic on social media this time of year.

The basic premise of winter sowing is to plant your seeds in mini greenhouses (gallon jugs), place the jugs outside and simply let nature take over. The advantage being that no heat mats or lights are needed. No window sills full of seedlings, either.

While I don't think it is as simple as it sounds, I do think trying it would be a fun experiment.

Read on this week and next to consider some of the pros and possible cons of this seed starting technique.

Years ago I read a blog where a master gardener was encouraging folks to start native perennials in milk jugs outside. The seeds of many of these plants require a period of cold and moist stratification to break seed dormancy.

In simple terms, they need to go through winter in order to sprout. Think of it as nature's safety mechanism; seeds germinate at the right time to survive and thrive!

You may ask, then, why not just sow the seeds outdoors in the garden? In theory it sounds good, but in reality “the wild” is not the best seed bed.

From hungry birds and rodents, to wind and drenching rains, success is hit or miss. Safely inside the milk jug, but at the same time outside in the elements to freeze

and thaw, freeze and thaw, tricky seeds are coaxed into germinating. Success at your fingertips!

Here are the nuts and bolts! Start with clean gallon

You may wonder how to deal with tiny seed. I place it in a folded index card and gently tap the card so that the seeds fly out. If you want to handle the seed easily, do cover with only a small amount soil, say an eighth of an inch or so and firm down.

How many seeds to sow is a tricky question. If you want to keep the plants in the jug until they go in the garden, then hope for four plants, maybe six per jug at the most, figuring how big they will be at transplant stage.

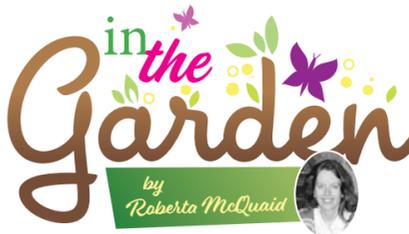
For tricky germinators, perhaps double or triple the amount of seed you sow versus how many you desire. If germination is great, you can always transplant some out.

Close the container and seal it with duct tape. Be sure to label the jug with the plant name via a paint pen, really the only writing utensil that won't smear, fade or wash away when exposed to the elements.

Place the jugs in full exposure outdoors and with the cap off, so that heat can escape and small amounts of moisture can penetrate. When the temperature outdoors heats up past 60 degrees, be sure to take the duct tape off and vent your seedlings. Check often and water as needed.

The pros recommend to cover with a blanket if frost threatens or even move heat lovers inside on cold nights

Please see **GARDEN**, page 8



WARE RIVER NEWS

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The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

A final hike of 2025

By Julie Midura

“You know, honey, we always talk about how we'll really start living ‘some day.’ Once the kids are grown. Once we have more time and more money. Once we retire. But how do we know that we'll both be physically capable of doing something so demanding if we wait for ‘some day’ to arrive? How do we know that we will even reach that elusive ‘some day’?”

It was a beautiful August day in 2016, and Tom and I were standing on the summit of Mount Lafayette in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. We were completing Tom's lifelong dream of hiking the Franconia Ridge Loop – a majestic 9-mile hike featured on a National Geographic List of the 20 Best Hikes in the World.

On that summer afternoon almost ten years ago, I was trying to convince

my husband that we should attempt to hike all of New Hampshire's 48 tallest peaks. I was 51, and he was 59 at the time. There were numerous reasons not to pursue such a time-consuming and physically challenging endeavor.

One of which, as Tom stated, was because “We're far too old and there's no way we can hike up all those mountains in our lifetime.”

It took a bit of persuasion on my part, but he finally agreed to chase after those 48 mountain peaks.

Since that day, Tom and I have not only completed the entire White Mountain 4,000 Footer List once, but twice including climbing every peak during the winter season. And we've repeated several of our favorites over a half dozen times.

In addition, we've backpacked 800 miles on the Appalachian Trail, completing 8 of the 14 states. We have also climbed the second



highest peak in the continental United States – 14,440-foot Mount Elbert in Colorado – when I was 58 and Tom was 66 years old.

The thousands of miles we have walked over the past 10 years have not just proven what our bodies and minds are capable of. Every mile

Please see **HIKE**, page 5



HIKING from page 4

has been a journey of adventure, self-discovery, courage, humility, resilience, contentment and gratitude. And every footprint we have left on every woodland trail and every slab of granite has propelled us forward to the next.

Our final hike of 2025 in New Hampshire, just two weeks ago, continued to do the same.

It's minus 2 degrees when we start up the trail toward the summit of Mount Jackson at 4:15 a.m. The sky is black and the beams of our headlamps pierce the darkened forest. When we lift our heads upward, our lights illuminate the trees, and they appear like figures standing guard over the landscape.

The snow-laden evergreens groan under the weight, pressing closer to the ground, seeming to bow to us as we pass. The silence is full, broken only by the crunch of our boots on the hard-packed snow.

When we break treeline, everything changes. We brace ourselves against the onslaught of howling wind. The sheer force pushes our bodies backward. We slam our trekking poles into the hard-packed snow to steady ourselves, while hoping that our spike-clad boots anchor us to the icy granite.

The final steep pitch makes my heart tremble. Adrenaline is coursing through my body. I grab onto rocks and pull myself upward, eyes watering, skin pierced with the sting of icy needles. I breathe a sigh of

relief when we reach the plateau, and we rush to the leeward side to escape the wind's torment.

We find a partially sheltered ledge and quickly spread our bright green sleeping bag over our sleep pads atop several feet of snow. We crawl inside of the double-wide down bag and snuggle close together. Based on the weather, we know we can't remain immobile for long. Movement keeps the body warm.

Stillness allows the cold to penetrate the numerous layers of clothing we are wearing. Today, even the trees are shivering.

We sip hot apple cider in an attempt to warm our insides while waiting for the sun to crest the distant horizon. The cold kisses our cheeks and the wind fills our ears. We inhale the frigid mountain air and watch plumes of vapor rise as we exhale.

We remain snuggled in our lofty sleeping bag on this snowy perch for over an hour, unwilling to leave in spite of the cold settling into our bones. For we don't want to miss one single minute of this unforgettable moment that is unfolding before us.

The earth itself seems to be holding its breath, waiting for the show to begin. With eyes focused eastward, we watch the black of night turn into the blazing red of dawn.

The stars above are being replaced with an inferno of fiery reds and blazing oranges-like molten lava spreading as the horizon slowly burns. And there it is. The

shimmering golden sphere we have been waiting for, spreading its golden light down the mountainside and awakening the earth from its slumber. The brilliant rays stretch from the heavens and dance upon the earth, giving life to everything they touch.

This experience is just one of the many that will burn in our hearts and memories for as long as there is breath in our lungs. An experience that we may never have witnessed had we not decided to chase a dream ten years ago. Had we waited until we retired. Had we waited for "some day" to arrive.

I implore you to not allow your age, fitness level, current circumstances, past failures or anything else dictate what you are capable of! I encourage you to chase the dream, seize the opportunity and never live regretting what could have been if only you had taken the chance.

We have but one wild and crazy life. Today is the day to go out and live it.

Tom and I have lived life to the absolute fullest over the past 10 years. Adventuring on weekends and vacations from work. But for one of us, at least, life is opening up to even more possibilities and opportunities.

I'm thrilled to announce that after dedicating 50 years of his life to his career, Tom completed his final day as a working man on the last day of 2025!

See you in the wild places, my friends!

ConCom approved connector trail

Staff Report

WARE – The Conservation Commission met last Wednesday to review an application by the town, in partnership with the East Quabbin Land Trust, to construct a trail connecting the Mass Central Rail Trail to Grenville Park.

The 10-foot wide trail will pass through the Grenville Park extension acquired by the town last year.

Cynthia Henshaw of the EQLT and Andrea Kendall of LEC Environmental Consultants presented the proposed 1,500-foot long multipurpose trail to the commission. The trail will run near the Ware River and includes a short bridge over a small stream.

Kendall reviewed the trail location along with environmental buffer zones. She stated that the bridge will

be set above the stream with railings.

With funding assistance of EQLT, the town is conducting a botanical study to assure protection of Giant Rhododendrons in the project area. The commission approved the project as presented.

According to Henshaw, the connector trail is funded by a \$79,140 Mass Trails grant matched by a \$22,000 donation.

According to Town Manager Stuart Beckley, the project is to be completed by the end of June. Beckley is preparing a request for bids for the construction.

The commission also held a hearing with owners of property on Greenway Plains Road. Pat Lord of GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. represented property owner Jeremiah Boulter who is looking to develop a single-family home on the

property. The land is located along Flat Brook.

Lord stated that there are wetlands and riverfront areas throughout the property that limit the location of the home. Conservation Agent John Prenosil noted that the development met the requirements of the Wetlands Protection Act and had been reviewed by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

Commission Chair Mark Swett raised concerns about mowing and maintenance of the property in the wetland area. Boulter agreed to limit the project to the site needed for the building of the home.

Markers will be placed along the wetland boundary so that future owners are aware of the limits.

The commission voted unanimously to approve the home project based on the condition to place the markers.

Deadline for 'Winter' art entries is Feb. 12

WARE – ArtWorks Gallery invites artists of all mediums from throughout the northeastern U.S. to explore the theme of "Winter."

The deadline for entry is Feb. 12 by midnight. The entry form and full details can be found on workshop13.org.

ArtWorks Gallery is located at 69 Main St. "Winter" will be on display from March 7 through April

4, opening with a reception on Saturday, March 7, from 3-5 p.m. Gallery hours are Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m.

The juror for "Winter" is Susan Tilton Pecora. She has been painting the streets, harbors, factories and farms of New England throughout her life.

About ArtWorks Gallery
ArtWorks Gallery is Workshop13's gallery on

Main Street. This space features numerous art exhibitions each year and is also available to rent for individual or group shows.

Workshop13 is a dynamic center where arts, culture, and community converge – expanding access to the arts and nurturing creativity and self-expression in the rural region. For more information visit workshop13.org, or call 413-277-6072.

HINCKLEY from page 1

skill and Hinckley has some new additions this year.

Hinckley was an elementary school teacher when she got out of college, but after having children she stayed home and committed a lot of time to sew and knit. Over the years, Hinckley would build on her sewing and knitting skills while being at home taking care of the kids. All three of Hinckley's children sew.

The workshop for kids starts with hand sewing. Once practicing hand sewing, the kids will begin using sewing machines to make whatever they want to work

on.

For a chosen project by the kids, Hinckley provides simplified version of the project. Last year, kids worked on a lap quilt.

Sewing is a life skill Hinckley feels kids should learn as they grow into adulthood.

"I want to encourage them to do this," Hinckley said. "It's best done by following their interests."

The workshops involve individual projects and group projects. For example, as a group project, kids in previous workshops taught by Hinckley wanted to make a small quilt. Group work helps kids learn how to work

together.

Materials for the workshops are provided by Hinckley. For the kids, they start with embroidery. As she learns their skill level, Hinckley will teach the kids how to use the sewing machine. Various projects are worked on during these workshops. According to Hinckley, it depends on the interest of the kids when it comes to knitting or sewing.

Prior to these workshops, Hinckley offered sewing classes at the Paige Building. These classes stopped around the time when Hinckley opened her business in Ware. Once she retired 11 years ago, she began to miss teach-

ing.

Several years ago, Hinckley contacted Julie Bullock at the Paige Memorial Library and interest was soon sparked to have some workshops for sewing and knitting. Hinckley has always offered these workshops in the winter-time, during the months of January, February, and March.

Kids have done many unique projects during these workshops. From basic knitting stitches, to sewing items like zippered cloth bags and pin cushions.

These workshops don't just apply to kids, but there is a session available for adults.

Hinckley says the adult portion of the workshops involve a group of people who love to knit and do handcrafts. These adults like to socialize and work on various projects.

Hinckley is there to help and take questions if the adults have any. It is a fun get-together for the adults. Many adults bring knitted handcrafts, while some enjoy doing some beading and crocheting.

Hinckley says the adults bring their own project.

"Whatever they're working on," she said.

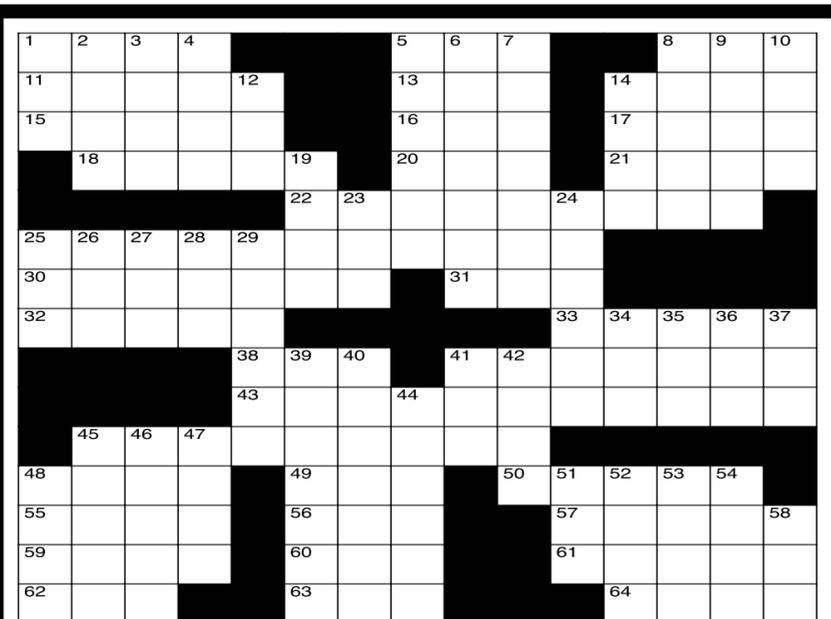
There are usually 10 to 15 adults every Saturday during Hinckley's workshops.

Hinckley will continue to

offer these workshops at the Paige Memorial Library on an annual basis. The biggest benefit is having fun.

The following dates for these workshops at the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, are Jan. 24, Jan. 31, Feb. 7, Feb. 14, Feb. 21, Feb. 28, March 7 and March 14. Kids can sew from 9-10:30 a.m. Class size is limited to six students ages 7-12, pre-registration is required.

Knitting and Handcrafts for adults take place from 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. For more information, contact Hinckley at 413-477-6004 or email pahinckley@gmail.com.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Paddles
- 5. Sunscreen rating
- 8. Very fast airplane
- 11. Immune responses
- 13. "Partner" to feather
- 14. New England river
- 15. Longest river in New Guinea
- 16. Midway between east and southeast
- 17. Israeli politician
- 18. Back bones
- 20. Consumed
- 21. One you can rely on
- 22. Dressed up gaudily
- 25. Representatives
- 30. Dog breed
- 31. Pitching statistic
- 32. Manpower
- 33. S. Korean entertainer
- 38. Outsourcing firm
- 41. Viceroy of Egypt

- under Turkish rule
- 43. One who removes antlers from a flower
- 45. Potluck dish
- 48. Discount
- 49. Airborne (abbr.)
- 50. Cavalry sword
- 55. Basics
- 56. Hollywood director
- 57. Afflicted in mind or body
- 59. Horsley and Majors are two
- 60. Midway between northeast and east
- 61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 62. Malaysian isthmus
- 63. Fall back
- 64. Cheek

- 2. Baseball's best pitchers
- 3. ___ Nui, Easter Island
- 4. Invests in little enterprises
- 5. Constant
- 6. Hobby
- 7. A place to store food
- 8. Short-tail marten
- 9. Burn with a hot liquid
- 10. Left his heart in San Francisco
- 12. Swedish krona
- 14. Legendary actor
- 19. French cleric
- 23. Former measure of length for textiles
- 24. Opaque glassy substance
- 25. Residue of burned item
- 26. A place to unwind
- 27. Japanese honorific
- 28. Terminus

- 29. Fails to make a shot
- 34. Journalist Tarbell
- 35. College hoops tournament
- 36. Monetary unit of Macao
- 37. Of she
- 39. Spoke ill of
- 40. Elements
- 41. Kilocalorie (abbr.)
- 42. Shades
- 44. Poem of fourteen lines
- 45. Pole used in Scottish sport
- 46. Hollyhocks genus
- 47. Street name for marijuana
- 48. Polio vaccine developer
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Prejudice
- 53. Actor Idris
- 54. Confederate soldiers
- 58. Criticize



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The Stepsisters taunted Cinderella about not being able to go to the festival.



The cast of "Into the Woods Jr." danced during a dress rehearsal.



The Baker is shocked when he learns how to lift the Witch's curse.



Cinderella cleaned the floors while her father, stepmother and stepsisters went to the festival without her.



The cast of "Into the Woods Jr." sang during a dress rehearsal.

WOODS from page 1

choreographer of "Into the Woods Jr.," said that originally the students were going to perform a different Sondheim musical, but decided something fun and lighthearted would be a better choice.

"We all just wanted some childlike happiness," Gelinas said. "We all deserve a happily ever after."

Gelinas said Sondheim is one of the most celebrated composers of all time and a Broadway legend. Being able to perform "Into the Woods Jr." has been "really meaningful" for the students.

"The kids are having a really fun time," he said. "We're really looking forward to getting an audience. We appreciate the community's continued support and patronage."

"Into the Woods Jr." follows three main characters that are based on classic fairy tales: Cinderella, Jack (of bean stock fame) and the Baker. Each of these characters decides to journey into the magical woods, in hopes of finding the answers to their problems.

Along the way, they encounter two well-known fairy tale villains, the Witch and the Wolf.

The Witch is played by Eagle Hill School senior Griffin, who never thought he would have the chance to play this iconic role, made famous by actress Bernadette Peters.

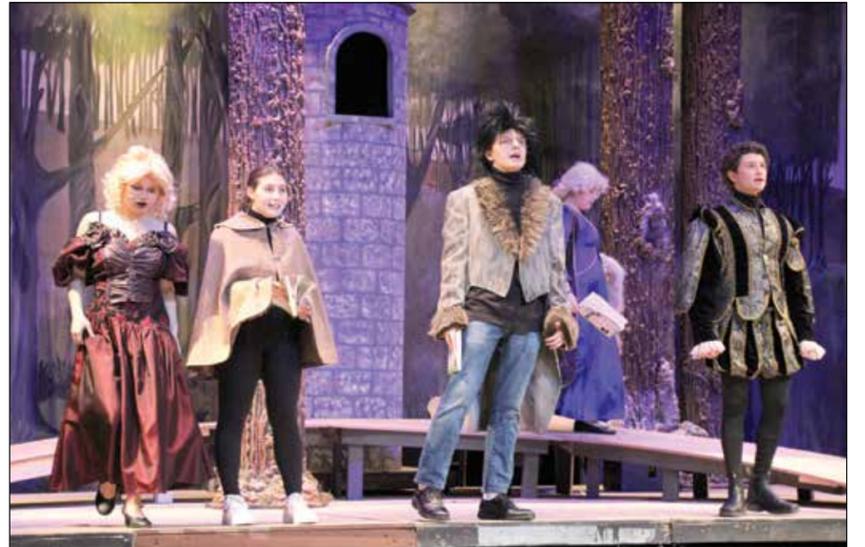
"I've loved this show since I was very small," Griffin said. "I would sing all of the Witch's songs constantly."

Griffin said there is even a video of him singing the Witch's Rap at the age of 9.

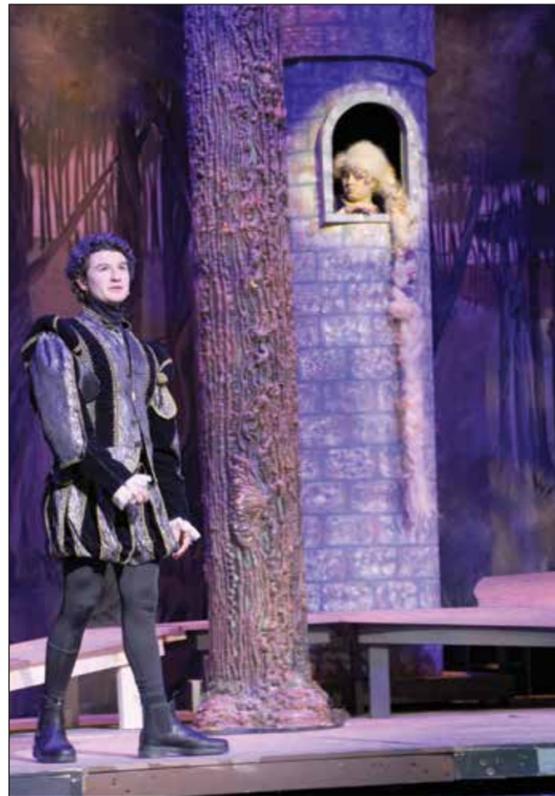
Griffin attended school in New York, before coming to Eagle Hill School, and he is now enjoying his second year. One of his favorite things about Eagle Hill School is its impressive theater department and the opportunities it has given him to grow as a performer.

"I'm so thankful, so grateful," Griffin said.

Griffin has also developed



"Into the Woods Jr." is an adaptation of Stephen Sondheim's famed musical, which gives a different spin on classic fairytales.



Rapunzel's Prince sang about the longhaired princess locked in the tower.

as a writer with the support of Gelinas and other teachers, and his one-act play; "Love, You're Not Alone" will be performed by Eagle

Hill School at the annual Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild's High School Drama Festival. This festival features over 100 one-act

plays being performed by various high schools.

"Love, You're Not Alone" is about four teenagers across the U.S. experiencing the AIDS crisis in the early 1980s. Inspired by music great David Bowie, Griffin has incorporated many of his songs into the play.

The Wolf, another villain in "Into the Woods Jr.," is played by Quabbin Regional High School senior Aidan Mahoney, who has returned for his fifth production at Eagle Hill School.

In addition to the Wolf, Mahoney is also cast as Cinderella's Prince. The Prince's song, "Agony," is one that he is most excited about being able to perform on stage.

"I love all the little moments the Prince has," he said.

Mahoney is also joined by two other Quabbin students, siblings Sebastian Palomera-Espinoza and Ximena Palomera-Espinoza.

Both Griffin and Mahoney are planning to pursue theater and theater education in college after they graduate high school this spring, both saying they were inspired to do so because of the wonderful teachers they've had in their lives.

"They have had such an impact on me," Griffin said.

BUILDING from page 1

ward with this contract, the Selectmen wanted to know when Tecton Architects can begin on the assessment. The Town Administrator said Tecton can start as soon as possible, and it could take several months.

When coming to a decision on the bank building, the board says it all depends on what Tecton will tell them. Vice-Chair Derick Veliz believes what they are told about the assessment will give them either a "yes" or "no" answer.

The assessment of the building will identify what upgrades are needed and an estimated cost for those upgrades. It will address the challenges to the building.

The board wants to have challenges documented and thought of submitting a list of questions for the architects. With too many questions to ask, Chair Richard Eichacker thought the board should table this item until

their meeting and gain more clarification.

Ferrera reminded the board that this assessment would not have a design drawing, just more of a layout of the building. If tabled, the process of this assessment to the building will take longer, according to Ferrera.

Veliz wants to make sure the town is getting their money's worth from this study. Any questions can't be answered until they identify what the current conditions of the building are.

The board agreed to table the contract with Tecton Architects. In addition to this agenda item, Eichacker thought it would be wise to also table the discussion to enter in a contract with H2M Architects & Engineers for the purpose of maximizing the use of the basketball court adjacent to Fire Station A.

Police related items

The Board of Selectmen began their regular meeting

by acknowledging the resignation of Police Officer Patric Gillespie. Ferrera received a letter from Gillespie and Chief Gerald Millette regarding the resignation to be effective Feb. 1.

Gillespie is a military veteran and is willing to stay on, part-time.

Next, the board discussed appointing Ian N. Curtiss as a full-time Police Officer and review a request from the Police Chief to start said appointment at a Step 5 (\$31 per hour) on the patrolmen's wage scale.

Millette introduced Curtiss to the board and gave a well-detailed presentation on Curtiss' qualifications, certifications, and education. Curtiss brings a lot of experience and has gone through various training and courses. He has an associate's degree in criminal justice and is close to receiving his bachelor's in public safety administration.

Curtiss was appointed as a full-time police officer and to

start at said wage scale step for a one-year term.

Town Accountant

The board discussed appointing Tammy Martin to the position of Town Accountant and to ratify said employment agreement. Ferrera said two qualified candidates arrived for interviews and the committee came to a decision on one candidate.

Martin, who had worked for the town in the past, had returned and said she was excited to be back and work in the town of Warren. The board appointed Martin to serve as Town Accountant.

Memorandum

The board discussed a possible vote to sign a memorandum of understanding between the town of Rutland and The Central Massachusetts Regional Emergency Communication Center. Ferrera explained that this MOU is for containing administrative services until

the end of the fiscal year, June 30. Several towns have signed already and are allowing Rutland to be the host community.

The board voted to sign the MOU.

Town Administrator's report

During his report, Ferrera talked briefly about H2M Architects & Engineers, who are looking to have a contract with the town for the purpose of maximizing the use of the basketball court adjacent to Fire Station A in Warren. The Town Administrator shared that H2M specializes in fire stations.

The duct work project at the Senior Center is currently ongoing. Fire Station B had a hot water tank that went down and was repaired as of Jan. 15.

Ferrera attended the Sewer Commissioners meeting earlier in the week and was going over their budget with them. Ferrera said he was working with their

Chief Operator on a couple different initiatives he has for the department. Ferrera mentioned the new Chief Operator has done a lot of good work.

Correspondence

The board revisited the letter from West Brookfield regarding mutual aid from the Fire Department.

Fire Chief Adam Lavoie said the department had offered temporary assistance and shared West Brookfield is now getting into better shape with a new interim Fire Chief in place. The West Brookfield Fire Department had some staffing issues at the start of their challenging situation.

The board asked Ferrera if he had any further communication with West Brookfield, other than the letter, and Ferrera said he had no further information. The board may review the mutual aid agreement further.

Paul Francis Kszaszcz, 86

WARE – Paul Francis Kszaszcz, 86, of Ware, passed peacefully surrounded by loved ones on Jan. 18, 2026, in the home he built in 1961.



Born Aug. 21, 1939, he was a lifetime resident of Ware. He was the son of the late Ignacy (Ed) and Irene Kszaszcz.

Paul attended Ware schools until he went to Springfield Trade High School to learn machining. He had a successful career as a Tool and Dye Maker. His children often referred to him as MacGyver, as there was nothing that he could not fix.

At an early age, Paul learned to play the drums and even gave lessons. He spent decades playing with polka bands including Happy Louie and many other local bands. He spent many years helping make golumpki and pierogi for the St. Mary's food sales. Paul loved to polka dance, go to the beach, play cards and travel.

He was a storyteller and could talk for hours reminiscing. He loved to joke and make people smile.

No matter what life threw at him, he kept a positive outlook on life.

Paul leaves behind his four children. Paula and her husband Jim St. Pierre,

Christine Juda, Theresa Kszaszcz and Michael and his wife Danielle Kszaszcz. He has five grandchildren, Ashley Juda and her partner Ian, Allyson and her husband Garrett Ostiguy, Courtney St. Pierre, Megan Kszaszcz and Nathan Kszaszcz.

He also has a great-granddaughter on the way. Paul also leaves behind his longtime companion, Rose Marie Murphy and her family, Rick Murphy, Mikey and her husband Eddie Tapanes and their three daughters.

A Funeral Mass for Paul will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2026, at 11 a.m. in St. Mary Church, 57 South St., in Ware. A calling hour will be held in the church from 10-11 a.m. prior to the mass.

The family would like to thank Baystate Hospice for their compassion and care during this difficult time. In lieu of flowers we ask that donations be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105, or online at <https://www.stjude.org>

Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St., in Ware is honored to be assisting his family with his care and services. An online tribute page is available at charbonneaufh.com.

Stanley John Soltys, 82



WARREN – Stanley John Soltys, age 82 passed away on the afternoon of Saturday, Jan. 10, 2026, at Saint Vincent Hospital in Worcester.



Stanley was born on Sept. 3, 1943, in Palmer, son of the late Stanley J. Soltys, Sr. and Genevieve E. (Kosmider) Soltys. Stanley was a 1961 graduate of Palmer High School. On Dec. 27, 1961, Stanley enlisted in the United States Navy, and proudly served his country for four years. Stanley was stationed at the former Chelsea Naval Hospital, where he served as a medical corpsman. He and his unit were put on active alert during the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962.

Stanley was honorably discharged on April 26, 1966, with the rank of HN (Hospital Corpsman). He enrolled in Worcester Polytechnic Institute School of Industrial Management in Worcester and received a four-year certificate in Industrial Management.

Stanley was employed for American Optical in Southbridge for 20 years and in 1987 went to work for E. Osterman Gas Service. While employed at Osterman Gas, Stanley held many titles: Plant Manager, District/Area Manager and retiring as Key Account

Manager in 1999. In 2002, Stanley underwent a kidney and liver transplant at the Lahey Clinic.

He enjoyed cooking and was especially known for his Bread & Butter pickles and relishes.

On Nov. 12, 1966, Stanley entered into Holy Matrimony, in St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Palmer, with Beverly Ann Bradlenski, they have been married for 59 years.

Stanley was a member of the former Knights of Columbus in Warren, where he planned several fundraising dinners. For the past 21 years, he was a communicant of St. Mary's Church in Ware. He was also a past member of the Warren Capital Planning Committee.

Stanley and Beverly lived for 38 years in Sturbridge and 21 years in Warren. Stanley leaves behind his loving wife, Beverly Ann (Bradlenski) Soltys, his sisters in law; Carol Ann Soltys and Joan Carol Doleva, nephews and nieces: Debra Ablicki (Tom), Daniel Murphy (April), Mark Murphy, Lisa (Soltys) Navin (Rick), Gary Soltys (Kathleen), and Jennifer (Doleva) Bowser (Jason). He also leaves behind his great nephews and nieces: Jonathan Ablicki, Jennifer

Ablicki, Ashley (Navin) Malnati, Erin (Navin) Munro, John Soltys and Andrew Soltys, along with many cousins and friends. Stanley also leaves behind his loving miniature schnauzer, Lady.

Stanley was predeceased by his father, Stanley J. Soltys, Sr., in 1956, his mother, Genevieve E. (Kosmider) Soltys-Dojka in 2000, and his brother, John J. Soltys and sister Helen Murphy-Hall both on Aug. 28, 2000.

Calling Hours for Stanley will be held on Friday, Jan. 23, 2026, from 3-5 p.m. in Cebula Funeral Home, 66 South St., Ware. A Funeral Mass will be offered on Saturday, Jan. 24, 2026, at 11 a.m. in St. Mary's Church, 57 South St., Ware. Military Honors will be rendered following the funeral mass on the plaza in front of the church.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the following: The Warren Firefighters Association, P.O. Box 608, Warren, MA 01083 or to Second Chance Animal Service, P.O. Box 136, East Brookfield, MA 01515, or to a charity of your choice.

Funeral Arrangements and Services are under the direction of Cebula Funeral Home, Ware. For more information and an online guestbook, please visit: www.cebulafuneralhome.com.

Death notices

Kszaszcz, Paul Francis
Died Jan. 18, 2026
Services Jan. 27, 2026

Soltys, Stanley John
Died Jan. 10, 2026
Services Jan. 24, 2026

Ware River News OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) 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.

be willing to accept any conditions the Planning Board set for his special permits, as his goal was to keep his nine dogs at home, as many of them are senior dogs. Nieves said he does not plan on having any more dogs live at his property.

Planning Board Vice-Chair Harry Comerford said he made a site visit to Nieves' property, which is surrounded by a perimeter fence. He said while there, the dogs were well behaved.

Comerford said he did not observe the dogs barking when he was there, and that since the one in 2023, the Animal Control Officer hasn't received any other complaints.

Planning Board member Jenna Garvey read the Lindsay's recommendations for conditions to apply to the special permit, putting a limit of no more than 20 dogs being allowed on the property at a time, with no outside dogs housed overnight on the property.

Nieves said his friends have brought their dogs over in the past, but that he was willing to stop that if the board asked him to.

The Planning Board members discussed the conditions and agreed that Nieves could have no more than 10 of his personal dogs living at the property, and six outside dogs that could not be housed overnight. The special permit would have a two-year term limit, and Nieves would need to reapply when it approaches expiration.

The board members voted in favor of issuing the special permit to Nieves, with only John Samek in opposition. The special permit required a super majority (four out of five votes) in order to pass, which it did.

Cell tower proposal

Cole said the board received a letter from KCI Technology regarding a proposed cell tower at the Goodfield Farm property on Barre Road. He said the board has not received a complete application for the project at this time.

Cole said the proposed project involves the construction of a 180-foot monopole with cellphone carrier Verizon being the anchor tenant. He said there would be room on the pole for other

cellphone carriers as well.

Cole said when the board receives the complete application; a public hearing date will be set.

"When the application comes in, it will be on the agenda," Cole said.

Recorded meetings

Resident William Tinker, who also serves on the Select Board, asked the Planning Board members for their input regarding the recording of meetings. He asked the board members if they supported having their meetings video recorded and archived.

Tinker, and others in attendance at the meeting, said it is challenging for many residents to attend board and committee meetings due to work, family and personal obligations. Others said driving at night was oftentimes a deterrent, and that some residents are homebound and unable to attend.

"We certainly don't want to keep anyone out, but we haven't seen the need to record," Cole said.

Resident Judi Korzec said it is difficult for people to get to meetings, and that the town would see greater participation if meeting recordings were available.

"Sometimes you just can't show up," Korzec said. "It's important to see what's going on in these meetings."

Muddy Brook update

Board of Health member Richard Romano and Conservation Commission member Bill Zinni provided an update to the Planning Board about the protection of the Muddy Brook aquifer and watershed.

Romano said the Department of Environmental Protection released groundwater monitoring reports from test well samples taken around the former landfill on Patrill Hollow Road.

"There's all kinds of contamination in the groundwater," Romano said.

Romano said the reason Muddy Brook needs to be protected is for human health, safety and the environment.

The Muddy Brook aquifer also supplies drinking water to the town of Ware's Barnes Street well.

Bill Tremblay Poetry Prize winners announced

SOUTHBRIDGE – The Jacob Edwards Library is pleased to announce the winners of the first annual Bill Tremblay Poetry Prize.

Earning first place was Stephen Campiglio of Sturbridge; second

place, James Spaulding of Brookfield; and third place, Terrance Lanier of Warren.

Judge for the contest was poet Bill O'Connell from Amherst.

A poetry reading and celebration of the winners

will be held at the library on Thursday evening, Jan. 29 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. The reading is free and open to the public to celebrate this inaugural event.

NOTICE

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DEADLINE
January 28, 2026

PUBLICATION DATE
February 18, 2026

A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO

WWW.TURLEY.COM

Town Clerk releases 2026 dog licensing information

WARE – Massachusetts State Law, Chapter 140, §137, requires that all dogs six months of age shall be licensed each year.

Dog licenses are now available for sale and must be purchased by Tuesday, March 31.

If you are licensing in person the Town Clerk's Office will be open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday each week during business hours. Town Hall is now closed to the public on Wednesdays. If you are licensing by U.S. Mail, the licenses must be purchased prior to March 31, and your envelope must also be post-

marked by March 31 or there will be a late fee.

Fees for licensing your dog are male/female \$15; spayed/neutered \$10.

On April 1 there will be a late fee of \$15 per dog in addition to the licensing fee.

Rabies Certificates for each dog must be presented at the time of licensing as in the past.

If your dog was licensed in 2025, check the license to see if the Rabies Certificate is current (the information is on your 2025 license); if it is current, simply come into the office to license in person or license by U.S. Mail. If licensing by mail, you must

provide a self-addressed, postage paid envelope in order for us to return the license and tag to you.

If licensing more than one dog, be sure to add sufficient postage to your envelope to insure delivery.

Checks are payable to the Town of Ware for the appropriate amount. All Rabies Certificates supplied will be returned to you with the dog license.

Contact the Town Clerk's Office at 413-967-9648 extension 177 if you failed to license in 2025 so that we may inform you what is owed in entirety to license for 2026.

There is also a blue drop box outside the lower-level offices at Town Hall for those of you who wish to drop off your request for licensing. Address the envelope to Town Clerk/Dog Licenses.

If you are licensing your dog for the first time, be sure to supply the owner's name, address and contact telephone number; a copy of the current Rabies Certificate and if the dog is neutered/spayed also send this certificate unless it is stated on the Rabies Certificate.

Question may be directed to the Town Clerk's Office at 413-967-9648 extension 177.

Baystate Health implements enhanced infection prevention

As the region is currently experiencing high levels of respiratory virus activity, Baystate Health has implemented enhanced infection prevention measures across all clinical settings to help protect our communities.

What patients and visitors should know

All health care workers are required to wear a medical mask in patient care areas in our healthcare facilities to protect patients, visitors, and team members.

Visitors ages 5 and older are required to wear a medical mask in patient rooms, patient care areas, and common spaces for visitors (including waiting rooms). This applies to all Baystate Health hospitals and practices.

Patients ages 5 and older are encouraged to wear a mask in the above settings.

Masking is strongly encouraged in non-patient

care areas for team members, visitors, and patients.

These measures are consistent with guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The latest data from DPH categorizes influenza-like illness infection rates as "very high" in Massachusetts, with the severity of infection categorized as "high," resulting in an increase in patients seeking care for complications from the illness.

Baystate Health appreciates the cooperation of patients and visitors as they work together to protect the health of the communities during this period of increased respiratory illness.

Learn more before your visit

Current visitor guidelines and updates are available at: <https://www.baystatehealth.org/visiting>.

GARDEN from page 4

so that the seedlings won't freeze. To prevent tip-over by four-legged friends or playful kids, pros also suggest putting the jugs in trays or bins.

As you can see, this method is not maintenance-free, but certainly worthy of a try

especially for gardeners who are short on indoor space or in the mood to get their hands dirty earlier in the season than normal! January and February is the perfect time to start seeds that need a cold treatment.

Look for key terms on the seed packet, such as "strati-

fication needed," "sow in the fall," etc. You can also use this technique to sow cold hardy annuals in March—think chard, spinach, kale, snapdragons, bachelor button and the like.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the

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

Drinking Water Community Information Session

DATE

February 5, 2026
5:30-7:30 p.m.

LOCATION:

Ware Senior Center
1 Robbins Road, Ware MA 01082

Need transportation? Contact the Quaboag Connector at 413-544-3401 by February 4, 2026.

All are welcome to join this event to learn about the Town's public water supply, and to share how you get information about town water and what more may be helpful to you in understanding about the water that flows to your tap.

You'll hear from Ware DPW and have the opportunity to share comments and questions, and help the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission develop an approach toward greater understanding about drinking water.

Food and Beverages will be provided

The first 20 participants to sign up and attend will receive a gift card as compensation for attending!

We want to hear from you!



<https://tinyurl.com/yukekhp>



Register today!



MVP
Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness



WARE Senior Center



Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

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Indians suffer pair of home losses



Kaleb Kanozek takes a shot.



Brodie Koczur keeps the ball away from his opponent.



Troy Jurczyk faces an opponent as he crosses midcourt.



Brady Guimond gets the layup.

WARE – Last week, Ware High School boys basketball was defeated twice at home, losing to Commerce last Tuesday 73-62, then Duggan Academy 63-46 last Friday evening. In the loss to Commerce, Jack Gaudreau had 22 points to lead Ware while Brady Guimond scored 18 points. Ware is just 3-7 so far in the regular season, though their power ranking due to their strength of schedule has them in the top 32 in Division 5. Ware plays many opponents in higher divisions.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Cougars grab third win



Jack Stevens receives a pass on the run.

WARREN – Last Wednesday evening, Quaboag Regional High School boys basketball defeated Southbridge 65-60 for its third win of the regular season. After a tough start losing three of its first four games, the Cougars have now won two of their last three. The Cougars started the week with a 3-5 record and next face the Advanced Math and Science Academy Charter School on Friday, Jan. 23 at 6:30 p.m.



Kadin Dufault heads for the hoop.

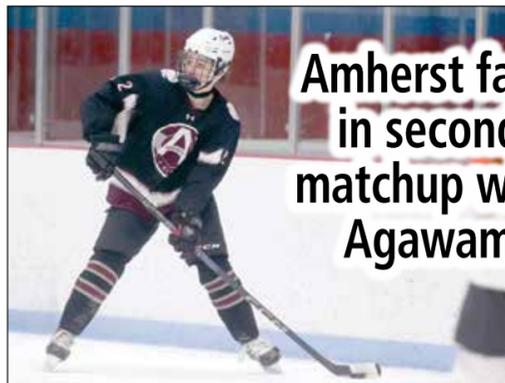
Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Jacoby Labillois goes for a layup.



Jacob Toomey heads down the court to start a play on offense.



Sawyer Ferro fires a shot at the goal.

Amherst falls in second matchup with Agawam



Joshua Feldman tries to steal the puck.

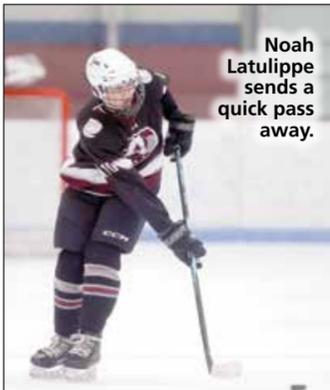


Brody Palmisano sends the puck away from the side of the ice.

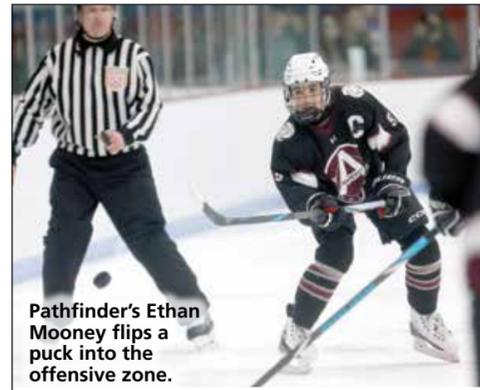
AGAWAM – On Saturday, Jan. 10, Agawam ice hockey had its rematch with Amherst Regional, which co-ops with Pathfinder Tech. The Brownies were able to pick up a 3-1 win, their first of the season. Anthony Barbarini, Casey Thomas, and Braden Parrelli scored the goals for Agawam with Nick Brown coming up with two assists. Amherst's lone goal came from Sawyer Ferro. Agawam is 1-9 this year with Amherst now 5-6-1.



Silas Balboni runs into an opponent.



Noah Latulippe sends a quick pass away.



Pathfinder's Ethan Mooney flips a puck into the offensive zone.

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Addison Doktor tries to overcome pressure to shoot under the basket.

Early defense keys win for Pathfinder

PALMER – Last Thursday night, Pathfinder Tech defeated Smith Vocational 47-37 thanks to some good early defense and a great night from Megan Clark. Pathfinder limited the visitors to just eight points in the first half and Clark scored 23 points to lead all scorers. Taylor Allen added 13 points. The Pioneers are now 4-3 and next play on Thursday, Jan. 22 against Bay State Academy Charter at 6 p.m.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

RIGHT: Taylor Allen makes her way down the court.



Megan Clark changes sides of the court.

sports



Izzy Doty tries to make a pass away from the sideline.



Mia Ducos considers her next move as she approaches pressure.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Panthers fall to Clinton, Tyngsborough

BARRE – Last week, Quabbin girls basketball enjoyed much of the week off, but the Panthers were looking to regroup from the previous week that included a pair of losses. The Panthers would fall to Tyngsborough

at home 53-33. They followed that with a 58-31 loss at Clinton on Jan. 9. The Panthers were in action against Lunenburg earlier this week, but return home on Friday, Jan. 23 at 6 p.m. to face Hudson High School.



Makenzie Casey charges into the paint.



Abby Rogowski winds up to make a pass.



Grace Vandoudenhove tries to shoot over a block.

Railers pick up overtime win over Pirates

PORTLAND, ME — The Worcester Railers HC (16-15-2-1) fell to the Portland Pirates (15-10-5-2) in overtime on Saturday, January 17th, in front of a crowd of 6,076 with a final score of 3-2 at the Cross Insurance Arena. The Railers will take on the Pirates next on home ice on Sunday, January 18th at 3:05 p.m.

Portland nabbed the first goal of the night just 2:08 into the first off a goal from defenseman Andrew Nielsen (1-0-1). Nielsen's goal was the only one in the first period. Worcester answered the 1-0 lead from Portland with a goal from Jesse Pulkkinen (1-0-1) at 0:33 into the second to tie the game. Portland took back the one-goal lead halfway through the second, this time from Mitch Deelstra (1-0-1), Worcester once again evened the score with a goal from Drew Callin (1-0-1). A final goal from Max Andreev (1-0-1), at 3:27 in overtime secured the Pirates' 3-2 victory.

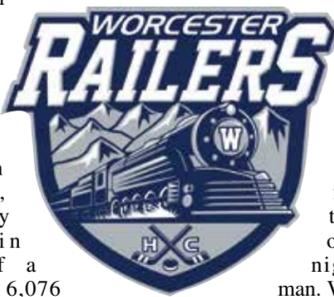
Worcester kicked off the night shorthanded just 16

seconds after puck drop. An early penalty against Lincoln Hatten for high-sticking put Portland on its first power play of the game, which forced Worcester to fight the first two minutes of play for the night down a man. With just eight seconds remaining on Hatten's call, Portland defenseman Andrew Nielsen (5th) grabbed the only goal of the period for either team, which gave the Pirates a 1-0 lead to close the first twenty. Shots for the period with 11-4 in favor of Portland.

Worcester didn't wait long to tie the game in the second. Jesse Pulkkinen (3rd) picked up his 5th point of the season with a goal at 0:33. Portland went back on the power play soon after the score on a hooking call on Anthony Callin. Worcester had their first chance at the man-advantage about five minutes into the period, as Anthony Callin was tripped up by Max Andreev. Portland re-gained their one-goal lead once more around the halfway mark of the period, scored by Mitch Deelstra (2nd) at 9:35. Neither the Railers nor the Pirates could

break past the blue line for the remainder of the second, which left the Railers down by one for a second time in the evening. Portland out-shot Worcester nine to seven. Penalties for the period were one for Worcester and two for Portland.

The Railers came out fighting in the third and tallied their highest shot total for any period of the night. A roughing call on Loke Johansson put Worcester on their third power play just over seven and a half minutes into play for the third. Unable to capitalize on their previous two power play chances, Drew Callin (10th) drove the puck home at 8:28 to even the score once more for the Railers. A late-game goal from Anthony Callin had Worcester celebrating an early win; however, the goal was waved off for goaltender interference as Callin fell into the net of Brad Arvanitis. The game once again was 2-2 and went into overtime for the second consecutive night. In the end, the Pirates would take the win in overtime with a final score of 3-2, the last lamp lit by Max Andreev (7th) on a shot from atop the circles to beat Gahagen in net for Worcester. Final shots were 27-25 in favor of Portland. Final penalties were five for Portland and four for Worcester.



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Turleysports

Athlete of the Month

Jack Gaudreau

WARE HIGH SCHOOL

In a home defeat against Commerce last week, Gaudreau was a bright spot, scoring 22 points to lead the Indians boys basketball team.

To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.



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Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Bondsville League

WARE – It is week 18 of the Wednesday night Bondsville League at Roll-A-Way Lanes in Ware, Ma.

After 18 weeks, Fire Mountain holds on to a slim lead in first place with a record of 79.5-46.5. Sandri is in second place with a record of 76-50.

Night Hawks are in third place with a record of 73-53. Ironmen are in fourth place with a record of 71-55. Cannonballs are in fifth place at 64-62 and Spare Parts Bud have a record of 63-63. These are the teams currently with a winning percentage of 50% or higher.

In week 18, Flaming Bowling Balls bowled against Zeke's Freaks. In game one, Flaming Bowling Balls won by a score of 473-439. Zeke Sicard, a veteran candlepin bowler of the Bondsville League, bowled well with a 104 in game one.

In game two, Zeke's

Freaks got the win by two points, 455-453. Sicard stayed consistent and scored 104 again.

In game three, Flaming Bowling Balls won the last game, 436-428. The team wins total pinfall by a final score of 1362-1322.

The Snappers bowled against Fire Mountain in week 18. In game one, Fire Mountain struck first and won 470-440.

In game two, Fire Mountain stayed hot and won again, 510-447. Rick Trott of Fire Mountain had the highest game on his team, 119, and his teammate Scott Brewster bowled with 114.

In game three, Snappers snapped out of their slump by winning game three, 445-429. Kevin Krasnecky of Snappers bowled a 117 and a three-game series of 325. The final score was 1409-1332 in favor of Fire Mountain.

The Night Hawks bowled against Slow Burners during week 18. In game one, Night Hawks defeated Slow Burners by a score of 484-466. Darryl Sinclair of Night Hawks started off the match with

127. Scott Radisic of Slow Burners began with 113.

In game two, Slow Burners beat the Night Hawks, 463-428. Sinclair bowled a 122 game in a losing effort. Radisic followed up with 112 during his team's win.

In game three, Slow Burners won 520-448 thanks to Nate Orszulak's 143 game. Sinclair finished with 106 and a series of 355. Radisic finished with 110 and a series of 335. The final score was 1449-1360 in favor of Slow Burners.

Sandri bowled against Spare Parts Bud in week 18. In game one, Sandri won by a score of 480-465. Brandon Lane of Sandri had the highest game of 119.

In game two, Spare Parts Bud won by just one point, 457-456. John Jebb of Spare Parts Bud was working on a spare in the tenth frame and got a three count to help his team win by one.

In game three, Sandri won by a score of 474-469. Sue Horton of Sandri finished with 119 and Jebb finished with 108. The final score was 1410-1391 in favor of Sandri.

T-Birds offense dries up in loss to Bridgeport

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. - The Springfield Thunderbirds (13-18-4-2) continued to have a tough time location offense, falling 4-1 to the Bridgeport Islanders (16-17-2-1) on Saturday night inside Total Mortgage Arena.

A bad break for T-Birds netminder Vadim Zherenko resulted in Bridgeport's game-opening tally at 6:37 of the opening period, as Zherenko lost his balance and fell in his blue paint, allowing Daylan Kuefler to carry the puck around the net and wrap it past the fall-into-goaltender to make it 1-0 Bridgeport.

Aside from that unfortunate break, the T-Birds

and Islanders played a mostly defensive-minded first period, as Zherenko's nine saves and Henrik Tikkanen's eight stops in the Bridgeport crease accounted for much of the action on the scoresheet.

Matthew Peca quickly got his troops back on track, as the T-Birds captain slipped a wrist through Tikkanen just 49 seconds into period two, tying the score, 1-1, and extending his point streak to five consecutive games. Matt Luff also extended his season-long point streak to seven games with the primary assist on Springfield's first marker of the evening.

However, that potential momentum-changer was

quickly washed out when Cam Berg connected on a wrist from the left circle just 2:08 later, restoring a one-goal Bridgeport lead, 2-1.

Shots and chances continued to come at a premium for both teams, as the clubs combined for only 43 shots all evening, including just 25 in the final 40 minutes of play.

The T-Birds never did receive a power play in this one, and the club's last-minute efforts with Zherenko on the bench proved fruitless, as Adam Beckman and Eetu Liukas each connected on empty-netters to give Bridgeport the final goals of the night.

Ware Police Log

During the week of Jan. 11-20, the Ware Police Department responded to 30 miscellaneous calls, 13 traffic violations, 20 emergency 911 calls, four thefts/larcenies, three trespasses, one harassment/stalk/threat, one damage/vandalism, one motor vehicle accident, one breaking and entering, one indecency/lewdness, one safety hazard, six animal calls and 42 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

Sunday, Jan. 11

12:22 a.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Walnut Street, Advised
 9:14 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Walnut Street, Investigated
 10:36 a.m. Damage/Vandalism, Vigeant Street, Report Made
 4:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Belchertown Road, Citation/Warning Issued
 5:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Belchertown Road, Citation/Warning Issued
 5:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Belchertown Road, Citation/Warning Issued
 5:52 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Dispatch Handled
 7:34 p.m. Theft/Larceny, West Street, Arrest Made
 11:02 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Morse Avenue, Services Rendered

Monday, Jan. 12

2:51 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 9:16 a.m. Theft/Larceny, Morse Avenue, Investigated
 1:54 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Church Street, Dispatch Handled
 2:03 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Church Street, Advised
 4:18 p.m. Safety Hazard, Church Street, Services Rendered
 5:11 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Pleasant Street, Investigated

Tuesday, Jan. 13

10:58 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Report Made

6:21 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Services Rendered

Wednesday, Jan. 14

3:01 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Walnut Street, No Action Required
 4:40 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Pulaski Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 4:53 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Smith Avenue, Citation/Warning Issued
 5:16 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Walnut Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 10:41 a.m. Indecency/Lewdness, North Street, Services Rendered
 1:29 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Grove Street, False Alarm
 1:57 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Gould Road, Report Made
 3:32 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Unknown Location, No Action Required
 4:36 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, South Street, Dispatch Handled
 7:31 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, North Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Thursday, Jan. 15

8:55 a.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Gould Road, Report Made
 3:40 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Kingsberry lane, Could Not Locate
 5:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Palmer Road, Citation/Warning Issued
 7:20 p.m. Breaking and Entering/Burglary, Parker Street, Arrest Made
 7:44 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Highland Village, Dispatch Handled

Friday, Jan. 16

2:31 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Walnut Street, Parking Ticket Issued
 6:10 a.m. Traffic Collision, West Street, Report Made
 7:29 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 10:46 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Church Street, Dispatch Handled
 4:12 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Park Street, Investigated

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

5:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Wes Street, Citation/Warning Issued

Saturday, Jan. 17

2:39 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Parking Ticket Issued
 2:46 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Dale Street, Parking Ticket Issued
 2:51 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Bellevue Avenue, Parking Ticket Issued
 3 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Parker Street, Services Rendered
 3:48 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Gareau Avenue, Parking Ticket Issued
 4:28 p.m. DUI/Impaired, South Street, Arrest Made
 10:41 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Pine Street, Services Rendered

Monday, Jan. 19

10:12 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Eagle Street, Dispatch Handled
 1:21 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Warren Road, Unfounded
 5:48 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Homecrest Avenue, Dispatch Handled
 7:06 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Walnut Street, Investigated
 8:20 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Walnut Street, Dispatch Handled

Tuesday, Jan. 20

2:03 a.m. Structure Fire, Gilbertville Road, Investigated
 7:40 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Belchertown Road, Dispatch Handled

Warren Police Log

During the week of Dec. 28-Jan. 3, the Warren Police Department responded to 90 building/property checks, 13 community policings, 24 emergency 911 calls, three parking issues, two fires/illegal burns, one structure fire, one complaint, one stolen vehicle, seven motor vehicle accidents, two animal calls and 12 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Sunday, Dec. 28

12:51 p.m. Complaint, Main Street, Area Patrolled
 1:15 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 1:52 p.m. Stolen Vehicle, Yankee Drummer Drive, Report Filed
 5:21 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Milton O. Fountain Way, Transported to Hospital
 7:24 p.m. 911 Transfer, Heritage Drive, Information Given
 11:08 p.m. Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Bemis Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Monday, Dec. 29

8:48 a.m. Parking Issues, Nelligan Terrace, Citation Issued
 9:15 a.m. Falls, Mechanic Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 2:46 p.m. Abdominal/Back Pain, Walkeen Koziol Road, Transported to Hospital
 8:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

Tuesday, Dec. 30

10 a.m. Falls, Old Douglas Road, Transported to Hospital
 11:25 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Report Filed
 1:44 p.m. Welfare Check, Southbridge Road, Transported to Hospital
 3:15 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Brook Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 4:38 p.m. Structure Fires, Crescent Street, Investigated
 6:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Hit and Run, North Street, Area Search Negative
 8:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint

Wednesday, Dec. 31

4:49 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Comins Pond Road, Transported to Hospital
 10:30 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 11:21 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Boston Post Road, Criminal Complaint
 3:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Southbridge Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 8:58 p.m. Illegal Burn, Old Brook Road, Report Filed

Thursday, Jan. 1

12:48 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Brimfield Road, Vehicle Towed
 12:51 a.m. Motor Vehicle Hit and Run, A Street, Officer/Chief Advised
 2:02 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Maple Street, Vehicle Towed

10:53 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old West Warren Road, Criminal Complaint
 11:24 a.m. Parking Issues, Hitchcock Avenue, Investigated
 11:43 a.m. Parking Issues, Trudeau Drive, Negative Contact
 12:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Hit and Run, Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed
 3:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Ware Road, Report Filed
 8:30 p.m. Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Quaboag Street, Transported to Hospital
 11:08 p.m. Falls, Winthrop Terrace, Transported to Hospital
 11:28 p.m. Abdominal/Back Pain, Chapel Street, Mutual Aid Transport

Friday, Jan. 2

6:51 a.m. Abdominal/Back Pain, Heritage Drive, Transported to Hospital
 4:54 p.m. Illegal Burn, Richardson Street, Fire Extinguished
 8:52 p.m. Breathing Difficulty, Southbridge Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Saturday, Jan. 3

5:13 p.m. Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Bemis Road, Transported to Hospital
 8:53 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned, Crescent Street, Report Filed
 11:06 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Pine Street, Transported to Hospital



Submitted Photo

Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early Jr. hosted a half-day event organized by the Prevention and Support Network that focused on supporting individuals and families affected by substance use disorders.

Worcester DA's event highlighted holistic approach to recovery

WORCESTER – On Oct. 23, Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early Jr. welcomed community members, including recovery advocates, health and wellness professionals, and law enforcement personnel to Veterans Inc. in Shrewsbury for a half-day event organized by the Prevention and Support Network.

This event focused on supporting individuals and families affected by substance use disorders through holistic, mind-body approaches to recovery.

Keynote speaker Linda Geraghty, a trauma-informed yoga instructor and family recovery specialist featured in the award-winning documentary “Our American Family”, spoke about the deep connection between trauma and substance use. Drawing from both professional expertise and her own experience, she emphasized how recovery requires attention to one’s entire system – body, mind, and family – not just the symptoms of addiction.

“Addiction is relentless. We often try to hide it while our families get sicker. Engaging in open conversations is crucial to truly understanding this disease, and that understanding is

vital for the family’s healing,” said Linda Geraghty.

Geraghty highlighted the ways in which stress and trauma can live in the body, and how practices like yoga, breathwork, and mindfulness can help release those patterns, restore regulation, and rebuild trust in oneself and others. Geraghty underscored the importance of supporting families, emphasizing that addiction affects loved ones as profoundly as those experiencing it firsthand, and that breaking generational cycles of trauma and addiction begins with compassion, communication, and consistent support.

Her work integrates trauma-informed principles to help families navigate recovery with understanding, boundaries, and resilience – key themes that resonated with many in attendance.

A panel of local wellness professionals expanded on these ideas, offering practical insights into how holistic methods can complement traditional treatment and recovery pathways.

Panelists included Kellie Hamilton, founder of A Better Path to Wellness; Phil George, clinical biochemist; Jacqueline Monteiro, wellness practitioner and recovery coach; Anthony

Bizzotto, president and co-founder of Revive of the U.S.A., Inc.; and Heidi Moody, personal trainer and L3 CrossFit coach. Each spoke about the ways nutrition, movement, mindfulness, and community engagement contribute to sustainable recovery and overall wellbeing.

Throughout the event, attendees also took part in guided mindfulness exercises and movement breaks, offering moments to practice the very mind-body techniques discussed during the program. These activities encouraged participants to experience firsthand how mindfulness and movement can support focus, stress relief, and emotional balance.

Early commended the speakers and attendees for their shared commitment to exploring new, compassionate approaches to supporting recovery throughout Worcester County. He noted that addressing addiction requires collaboration across every part of the community – treatment and health care providers, families, schools, clergy, law enforcement, and local organizations – working together to reduce stigma and create lasting change.

New license plate honors fallen law enforcement

BOSTON – State Sen. Peter J. Durant, R-Spencer, voted in favor of legislation to create a new special license plate to honor fallen law enforcement officers by offering a symbol of respect to their surviving spouses, parents, and children.

The bill—S.2903, An Act honoring Blue Star Families directs the Registry of Motor Vehicles to create a new Blue Star (Law Enforcement) Families’ plate to help the family members remember their loved one in a visible way on their car. It would also create a Blue Star Family emblem for motorcycle plates.

“When we see these license plates on vehicles, we will be reminded that our law enforcement officers do not always return home from work each day and it will offer the chance to personally thank family members of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in order to keep us safe,” Durant said.

Durant said he is hopeful the bill will be passed in the House and signed by the Governor.

“I believe that it would be comforting for family members to have these spe-

cialty license plates and to receive words of gratitude from people who notice them in public,” Durant said.

Under the legislation, the RMV would be required to make the plates available to Blue Star Law Enforcement spouses, parents, and children without charge. The RMV would also be able to offer vanity plate registrations for Blue Star plates up to six characters in length.

The Blue Star Family license plates would join other special recognition plates currently offered by the RMV, including Gold Star Family plates for drivers with close family members who died in or as a result of their service in the Armed Forces.

The Senate Committee on Ways and Means advanced the legislation to the floor on a 17-0 vote Jan. 8, as a partial report on a bill that was advanced in December by the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security. All committee votes are publicly posted on the Legislature’s website.

The Senate passed the bill on a 38-0 roll call vote, sending it to the House for further consideration.

Pedestrian death in parking lot under investigation

WARE – A 73-year-old woman from West Brookfield died Friday evening after being struck by a vehicle in the Walmart parking lot on Palmer Road.

The woman had exited a vehicle she had been occupying with her 79-year-old husband. Shortly thereafter, the vehicle was put in reverse and struck her.

She was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The incident remains under investigation by the Ware Police Department and the Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit assigned to the Northwestern District Attorney’s Office. At this time, no foul play is suspected.

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will determine the cause of death.

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OPEN HOUSE from page 1

dance for this dedication.

Over a century later, the Warren Public Library has expanded its services with more books of various genres, DVDs, audiobooks, magazines, board games, video games, computers, and internet access.

There was a lot to enjoy during the Warren Public Library's open house.

At the front desk, guests were greeted by Library Assistants, Rowan Bernstein and Gena LaScala. The front desk had a lot of interesting merchandise from pens, key-chains, book-marks, and zines highlighting Fun Fact Friday and the collection of artifacts that are in the Warren Public Library.

The zines were created by LaScala, who also took pictures of the artifacts that are featured. The zines will be up for sale at the Warren Public Library to help raise money for the library.

A lot of the merchandise featured the new library logo for the 150th anniversary. The logo features an owl that is inspired by the owl that is outside the building. Renee Hudon designed the owl logo for the library. Member of the library board, Sue Koss, is the designer behind the key-chains.

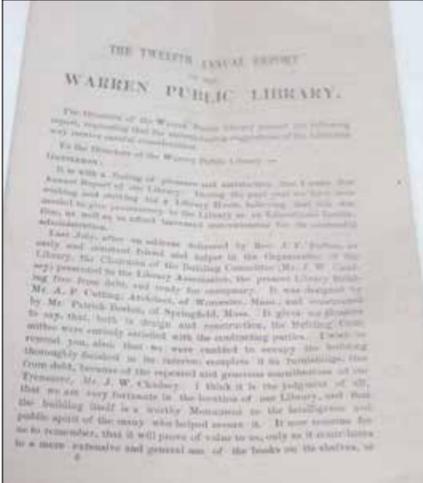
The open house also featured live music from cellist Skip Vonkuske. 2026 marks Vonkuske's 50th year playing the cello. Vonkuske mentioned the Warren Library was 100 years old when he began playing the cello.

Attending the open house is Bud Pratt, who was involved in various projects to help improve the library. In 1999, Pratt said the library was painted in addition to a lot of wood-work and sanding being done as part of the project. Pratt pointed various spots around the library that was improved.

In 2004, Pratt was involved in another project where the library had introduced its upstairs floor. According to Pratt, the upstairs floor was closed until 2004. This project



Library Assistants Rowan Bernstein, left, and Gena LaScala are shown at the Warren Public Library.



A copy of the annual report, which highlighted a remarkable attendance at the Warren Public Library back in 1891.

involved a lot of woodwork, sanding, and plaster work. A lot of rotted wood was found and replaced.

Pratt is proud to see the Warren Public Library reach this incredible milestone of 150 years and is essential to the community.

"These libraries are beautiful buildings," Pratt said. "A focal point in the community."

As part of the library's unique history, Library Board Member, Tracey Mazur showed a copy of the annual town report from 1891, which featured written texts of the library's activity during the year.

In one paragraph of the annual report it reads, "The reading room has been visited during the year by 13,665 people, showing, I think, that it is appreciated."

The Warren Public Library's 150th open house celebration featured special guests. Members of the town's Board of Selectmen were in attendance, Town Administrator James Ferrera, and a couple of State Legislators.

State Sen. Jake Oliveira arrived at the Warren Public

Library and was touring the library to learn more about its history. Joining Oliveira was state Rep. Todd Smola, who brought a Massachusetts General Courts Resolution to present to the Warren Public Library.

This resolution was read into the record in the House and Senate and highlights the history of the library in addition to its recognition of its 150th anniversary. The resolution will become part of permanent history of the Commonwealth.

During the presentation, Smola shared that libraries are "community centers" and it is important to promote the library community and help the next generation of reading. Smola shared he loves reading the traditional and has always loved the idea of having a library as a reliable source.

Oliveira did the honor of reading the resolution out loud during the open house. Before the reading, Oliveira acknowledged that libraries are "centers of democracy" and there was a lot to celebrate in the nation, including the 250th of America, and a lot to celebrate in Warren.

"It is an honor to represent the town of Warren," Oliveira said.

The resolution highlights the history of the Warren Public Library as well as its accolades and services to the town of Warren. Barbara Larkin of the Library Board of Trustees came up to accept the resolution.

Board of Selectmen Chair Richard Eichacker and Vice-Chair Derick Veliz presented a plaque to the library, which was also accepted by Larkin. The plaque recognized the Warren Public Library for its 150 years of service and reads "providing access to information and technology and supporting the learning needs of the community; and wishes its board of directors, staff and the many community volunteers continued success."

The library will host a number of activities throughout the year to continue the celebration of its 150th anniversary. For more information, visit the Warren Public Library at 934 Main St. or go online at www.warrenpubliclibrary.org.

Copies of these unique Fun Fact Friday zines were up for sale to help raise money for the library. These zines highlight the most interesting artifacts library.



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago
Cellist Skip Vonkuske was the entertainment for the open house.

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By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Lily M. Lunani to Bank of America, N.A., dated January 4, 2008 and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 9363, Page 302, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Bank of America, N.A. to ABS Loan Trust V, recorded on December 24, 2018, in Book No. 13166, at Page 244 ABS Loan Trust V to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee of CSMC 2021-JR2 Trust, recorded on March 21, 2024, in Book No. 15093, at Page 133 Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee of CSMC 2021-JR2 Trust to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as trustee on behalf of and for the benefit of BP-JR 2 Loan Trust, recorded on June 24, 2025, in Book No. 15456, at Page 90 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 2:00 PM on February 3, 2026, on the mortgaged premises located at 76 Aspen Street, Ware, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage.

TO WIT: A certain parcel of land situated on the Westerly side of Aspen Street in said Ware and bounded as follows:

Beginning at an iron pin driven in the ground at the northeast corner of lot conveyed on West line of street;

Thence Southerly on said street seventy-five (75) feet to an iron pin;

Thence Westerly on land formerly of Samuel H. Giguere ninety-five (95) feet to an iron pin;

Thence Northerly seventy-five (75) feet to land formerly of J.H. Storrs, at an iron pin; and, Thence Easterly ninety-five and one half (95-1/2) feet to place of beginning, containing more or less.

Parcel 2
The land in said Ware off the Westerly side of Aspen Street, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at an iron pin at the Northwesterly corner of other land now or formerly of Wdowiak, said iron pin being set North 66° 16' 52" West ninety-six and 04/100 (96.04) feet from the iron pin in the Westerly line of Aspen Street marking the Northeastly corner of said other land;

THENCE North 66° 16' 52" West along remaining land now or formerly of Laurette C. Smith one hundred sixteen and 87/100 (116.87) feet to an iron pin at Aspen Grove Cemetery;

THENCE South 19° 11' 20" West fourteen and 34/100 (14.34) feet to a stone bound;

THENCE South 18° 47' 29" West fifty-five and 96/100 (55.96) feet to an iron pin at the Northwesterly corner of land to be conveyed by Laurette C. Smith to Laura Demers; the last two (2) courses being along land of Aspen Grove Cemetery;

THENCE South 63° 46' 18" East along said land now or formerly of Laura Demers one hundred twelve and 72/100 (112.72) feet to an iron pin at the Southwesterly corner of other land of Wdowiak;

THENCE North 22° 25' 55" East along said land of Wdowiak seventy-five (75) feet to the point of beginning. Containing 8,314 square feet and being Parcel "B" on a Plan of Land in Ware,

Mass., surveyed for Laurette C. Smith by Robert H. LeMaitre dated September 15, 1979 and recorded in Hampshire County Deeds, Plan Book 112, Page 74.

SUBJECT TO rights reserved by Laurette C. Smith a/k/a Laurette C. Smith in a deed given by her to Louis G. and Marguerite Wdowiak recorded at Hampshire County Deeds, Book 2128 Page 107, if still in force and effect.

BOTH PARCELS are the same as were conveyed to us by deed of Louis C. and Marguerite Wdowiak dated Sept. 23, 2004 and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds at Book 7997 Page 307. Subject to a first mortgage dated January 4, 2008 and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds at Book 9363, Page 285 in the original principal amount of \$110,400.00. For mortgagor's(s)' title see deed recorded with Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 9363, Page 281.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF AND FOR THE BENEFIT OF BP-JR 2 LOAN TRUST

Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES,
P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
24920

01/08, 01/15, 01/22/2026

Town of Hardwick PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Under the provisions of the General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 166, and any additions or amendments thereto; please be advised that at their meeting on **Monday, February 9, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.**, at the Municipal Office Building, 307 Main Street, Gilbertville, MA 01031, the Hardwick Select Board will consider a request to give permission to Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc, to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way:

Barre Road- National Grid to install 11 JO pole beginning at a point approximately 2054 feet southwest of the centerline of the intersection of Glazier Road and Wheelwright/Barre Road and continuing approximately 2040 feet southwest.

Cleveland Road- National Grid to install 2 JO Poles on Cleveland Road beginning at approximately 200 feet north of the centerline of the intersection of Cleveland Road and Barre Road. 01/22/2026

TOWN OF HARDWICK BOARD OF HEALTH PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Hardwick Board of Health will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, February 5, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.** at the Municipal Office Building, 307 Main Street, Gilbertville, MA.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive public comment on proposed regulations for Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products.

Interested parties are encouraged to attend. Copies of the proposed regulations may be requested at Town Hall or by email to boh@hardwick-ma.gov. 01/22, 01/29/2026



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

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Mobile Home located in Waterwheel Village at 31 Edward Lane, Barre, MA 01005. This is a 55 and better community. This home includes a wonderful floor plan with very spacious rooms. Master bedroom includes a walk-in closet. Two full bathrooms. A four-season sunroom is off the kitchen. Includes two large woodsheds and a metal garage you can park under to fend off winter weather. **Asking \$288,000.** See listing on MLS # 73433198

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Mobile Home located in Waterwheel Village at 21 Varney Lane, Barre, MA 01005. This is a 55 and Better community. This home includes a wonderful floor plan with spacious rooms. Master bedroom includes a large attached bathroom. Two full bathrooms, large back deck, and two large wood sheds. **Asking 245,000.** See MLS#73457117.

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