

WARE RIVER NEWS

SERVING THE WARE REGION FOR 129 YEARS

Vol. 138 No. 2

USPS 666100

\$31 PER YEAR - \$1.00 A COPY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2025

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

www.warerivernews.turley.com

SB hears budget overview for FY 26

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Finance Committee Chair Ken Willette spoke with the Selectboard about the upcoming fiscal year 2026 budget.

At the Feb. 4 meeting, Willette said Town Manager Stuart Beckley has engaged the department heads in gathering information to compile budget requests, prior to the Finance Committee's review of these requests during the month of March.

"In early April, we will provide our recommendations to Stuart to fine-tune the budget, so that hopefully by the middle of April we have a draft budget that we can go into further review with," Willette said.

Willette provided a high-level overview of the committee's perspective regarding the budget for this coming fiscal year.

"As always we believe a conservative approach to our budgeting is the right way for Ware," he said. "We know that the residents are very attentive to their taxes, they're very attentive to the level of services they get, and they're attentive to what the impact on their budgets are."

Please see **WARE BOS**, page 3



Quaboag hosts 4th annual Craft Fair

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The fourth annual Quaboag Regional Middle High School Craft & Small Business Fair took place this past Saturday.

This year's fair had a great turnout with over 90 vendors and crafters filling

the hallways and cafeteria. The setup was possible thanks to members of Quaboag's Student Council, who were in charge of running concessions, running the raffle and helping with the setup of all the vendors.

A total of 10 members of Quaboag's Student Council helped out during the Craft Fair, including Student Council President Parker Tunley.

Advisor to the Student Council, Kayla Hatch said this year's fair had a great turnout with proceeds from the vendor

Please see **QUABOAG FAIR**, page 8

Girl Scout Arianna Miknaitis was busy selling cookies at the annual Quaboag Regional Middle High School Craft & Small Business Fair and helping out her mom who runs PB&J Designs.

Board adopts PILOT policy

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Select Board met on Feb. 10 and had a discussion and anticipated vote on adopting a Payment In Lieu of Taxes policy.

The PILOT policy is being considered to better monitor the payments of nonprofit organizations that owns tax-exempt property in the town. There is a total of 33.43% of land in Hardwick that is owned by nonprofits.

Select Board Chair Kelly Kemp read the policy out loud for the residents in attendance to explain how the policy will be enforced and reviewed. As part of the policy there will be a bi-annual review of the PILOT policy to see what the contributions are from each nonprofit.

According to the policy the board is considering to adopt is that each nonprofit in Hardwick will be looked at individually. Prior to reading the board agreed that all property owners should give a fair share of services.

The policy reminds the town of the critical role nonprofits play in partnerships, collaborative relationships, and finding way that benefits both the nonprofit and the town. Select Board member William Tinker believes it is essential to have a PILOT policy in place for better structure and seeing annual fees to reduce the financial burden on the town's taxpayers.

"This policy is designed to ensure that nonprofits contribute their fair share to the services they rely on, ultimately reducing the financial burden on taxpayers," Tinker said. "Our duty is to act in the best interest of the citizens of Hardwick, ensuring that taxpayer dollars are used responsibly and equitably. The pressure from nonprofit entities should not outweigh our obligation to the residents who fund and rely on town services."

Contributions will be different for each nonprofit as they will be reviewed individually. When asked by a resident about fairness in this policy, Kemp stated "there is no fairness being looked at in the contract."

Please see **POLICY**, page 15

Valentine's gala shares love for Stone Church

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Friends of the Stone Church and their supporters shared their love for the iconic Gilbertville landmark this past Saturday, with the return of

Abbie Joy Vanilla Cupcake joined Steve Olivo at the Valentine Celebration fundraising event hosted by the Friends of the Stone Church at Hardwick Crossing Country Club this past Saturday.

the Valentine-themed gala celebration at Hardwick Crossing Country Club.

The sold out event featured a cocktail hour and buffet meal, music provided by the Mason Tyler Duo, a silent auction and a live auction with Barre's most famous auctioneer Paul Varney. Flowers arranged by Lynn Hartman of Hartman's Herb Farm adorned every table.

This event is a fundraiser to continue efforts to restore the Stone Church Cultural Center, the former Trinitarian Congregational Church. Built using Monson gran-

ite, this Tudor Gothic style church was designed by noted Worcester architect Elbridge Boyden; who also designed Mechanics Hall in Worcester, the Hubbardston Public Library and the Congregational Church in Brookfield.

The Stone Church's tower is the only one of three such towers of Boyden's still standing.

Phillip Warbasse, the project architect for the Friends, said the group is close to completing its goal to repair and stabilize the church's tower.

Please see **GALA**, page 6



Selectman continue reviewing classification and compensation study

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Board of Selectmen continued to review of the Classification and Compensation Study done at the Collins Center at UMass Boston.

Town Administrator James Ferrera had previously addressed the board at its Jan. 30 meeting about the results of the study and

shared some of his recommendations with the board to take into consideration regarding a proposed wage scale.

With having a full board at their Feb. 6 meeting, the Selectmen were able to share their thoughts with each other on what to agree on a proper wage scale for employees and various positions.

Ferrera describes this study as a way the town could be "paying employees correctly and getting fair wages." Ferrera's recommendations included moving certain positions to certain grade lev-

Please see **WARREN BOS**, page 9

Library holds Valentine's Day craft session

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – Valentine's Day is fast approaching as the Ware Library hosted a Saturday Morning Craft this past weekend.

This craft featured decoupage wooden hearts and all the tools were provided by the library. Helping out during the craft is Children's Librarian Cathy Goulet. The crafting tools featured wooden cutouts in the shape of a heart along with tissue paper, ribbon and mod podge.

This craft was not only exciting for kids ages 3 and up, but the adults got involved too. One parent had three wooden hearts

Please see **CRAFTS**, page 10



Jaxon is shown with a decoupage wooden heart he made in the children's room at the Ware Library during Saturday Morning Crafting.

Turley Photo by Ryan Drago



Ware River News
**OBITUARY
POLICY**

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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



PHONE
413.967.3505
Fax: 413.967.6009
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL
Advertising Sales
Dan Flynn
dfflynn@turley.com

Editor
Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

Subscriptions
www.turley.com

\$31 per year pre-paid
(\$36 out of state)
Newsstand: \$1.00 per copy

WEB
www.warriovernews.turley.com

@ Ware River News

The Ware River News is published by
Turley Publications, Inc. • www.turley.com

Ware Senior Center news

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

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

**ACTIVITIES
Monday, Feb. 17**

Closed for President's Day

Tuesday, Feb. 18

- 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
- 9 a.m. Movin' & Groovin' to the Oldies with Lisa. \$3 per class
- 9:30 a.m. Quilting Club
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1-2 p.m. Food Bank of Western MA Mobile Pantry at Grenville Park
- 1 p.m. Cornhole
- 5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking. \$3 per class
- 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

Wednesday, Feb. 19

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

Thursday, Feb. 20

- 9 a.m. Walking Club. Meet at Senior Center.
- 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley

- View Housing
- 9:30 a.m. Line Dancing for Beginners
- 10 a.m. Line Dancing
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. Cornhole
- 2:30 p.m. Art Class

Friday, Feb. 21

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

LUNCHES

DINE IN 11:30 a.m.
All meals \$3.50 unless otherwise noted
Required: call 413-967-4595 by noon on the business day before, to put your name on the lunch list.

Monday, Feb. 17

Closed for President's Day

Tuesday, Feb. 18

Hot Pastrami Sandwich, Krinkle Fries, Dessert of the Day

Wednesday, Feb. 19

American Chop Suey, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day

Thursday, Feb. 20

Lazy Pierogi with Pierogi, Vegetable Salad, Dessert of the Day

Friday, Feb. 21

Fish Nuggets, Potato Wedges, Coleslaw, Dessert of the Day

Quaboag Historical Society seeks scholarship applicants

The Quaboag Historical Society is proud to announce its annual scholarship program, designed to support high school seniors with a passion for history and a commitment to preserving the past.

This \$1,000 scholarship aims to assist students planning to pursue higher education in any historical related field.

The scholarship is only offered to a student who resides in one of the Quaboag Plantation towns of Brookfield, East Brookfield, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Warren, or West Brookfield.

It is offered to a current high school senior planning to enroll in a college or university for the upcoming academic year who will pursue a degree in one of the following fields: education, history, museum studies, anthropology, women's studies, American studies, or archaeology. Students wishing to study closely related fields are encouraged to apply.

The application deadline is May 2. For applications or more information, please contact Jeff Robbins by emailing jeffrobbins@charter.net or calling 508-579-4786.

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 1989 showed members of Ware Community Theatre preparing for their performance, "I'll Be Back Before Midnight". Shown from left are Melanie Hutchinson, stage manager; Craig Simmons, director; and Nancy Hyde, producer. Craig Simmons correctly identified those featured in the photo.

Beaver Lake Club Corporation offers scholarship

WARE – Beaver Lake Club Corporation of Ware announces its annual Louis H. Healy Scholarship of up to \$1,000.

This scholarship will be presented to deserving high school seniors or current college students who are residents of the Town of Ware or who are a member of the Beaver Lake Club Community.

The scholarship is given in the memory of Louis Healy a long time and well-respected member of the Beaver Lake community and the town of Ware. Lou was an active leader and participant in both town

and community matters and his family and friends continue to celebrate his thoughts, ideals, and memory by awarding this yearly academic scholarship.

The application deadline is April 14, and applications must be postmarked by that date. The selected recipient will be named and the scholarships will be awarded in early June.

Applications and information can be obtained by sending an email to ctrietsch22@gmail.com or by mailing a request to BLCC: P.O. Box 253, Ware, MA 01082.

Help plan celebration of Hardwick's libraries and history this Saturday

HARDWICK – Celebrate Hardwick with the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, and be part of a year of fun events.

Hardwick is 286 years old, the Paige Memorial Library building is 120 years old, Hardwick's libraries came before the Paige building. This celebration will include the history of all the libraries, the Hardwick villages, those who lived here (a Human Library), and events over the years that impacted Hardwick residents.

Perhaps people can even recreate events held in the past. To join the fun and the planning, come to a meeting on Saturday, Feb. 15 at 12:15 p.m. at the library or call 413-477-6704 or email director.paigelibrary@gmail.com.

On Saturday, Feb. 22 at 11 a.m. at the library, Hardwick's own Ridge Shinn will discuss "Cattle as Global Heroes; Why large

herbivores can build soil and help prevent droughts and floods when grazed correctly."

Shinn, Executive Director of the Northeast Grass-fed Beef Initiative, co-founder and CEO of Big Picture Beef, has developed markets and distribution systems throughout the northeast and has consulted all over the U.S. and for the Argentine government on the production and marketing of grass-fed beef.

His work has been recognized in Time Magazine, Atlantic Monthly, New York Times, Wine Spectator and Smithsonian. Ridge is also the co-author of "Grass-fed Beef for the Post Pandemic World: How Regenerative Grazing Can Restore Soils and Stabilize the Climate".

Register by calling 413-477-6704 or emailing director.paigelibrary@gmail.com.

QUABOAG SCHOOL CHOICE

Now Open 2025-2026 Grades K-12

US NEWS & WORLD REPORT
SILVER AWARD RECOGNITION
AMERICA'S BEST HIGH SCHOOLS
FOR 8 YEARS!

Form Available at www.quaboagrsd.org > Resources

IMMERSIVE HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

- ✓ CNA, Phlebotomy & EKG
- ✓ Fire & EMT Academy
- ✓ Early Childhood Education Ch. 74
- ✓ Biomedical Innovation Pathway
- ✓ Computer Science/Tech Innovation Pathway

(413)-436-9256 | 284 Old West Brookfield Road, Warren, MA 01083

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

ACCURACY WATCH

BOGEY LANES

"WHERE THE FUN IS"

OPEN EVERY DAY AT 12 NOON DURING SCHOOL VACATION

Bowling, Arcades, Billiards, Snack Bar, Beer & Wine

199 North Brookfield Rd., East Brookfield
(508) 867-6629 • www.bogeylanes.com

WINTER FUN FOR EVERYONE!

ROADHOUSE CAFE

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Enjoy your old favorites with some new touches

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

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



Submitted Photo

Eckert graduates from U.S. Navy basic training

Rebecca Eckert of Ware graduated from the U.S. Navy boot camp in Chicago on Jan. 3 of this year with the rank of E2 Seamen Apprentice. She will now go on to A-Training for Advanced Electronic Computer Field, while still staying in Chicago. Once done with that, she will then go on to C School. Eckert is a past graduate of Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School in Palmer.

News from Ware Public Schools

From the desk of Michael P. Lovato
Superintendent of Schools

School safety procedures and ongoing collaboration

The safety of our students and staff remains our top priority, and we value the input of parents and community members in our efforts to maintain a secure learning environment.

We want to reassure the community that our schools remain safe, up to date with required training, and appropriately staffed to handle any safety concerns.

Recently, concerns have been raised regarding our lockdown drills, fire safety responses, and upcoming safety training, and we want to clarify and provide the community with accurate information regarding all safety procedures. These procedures are conducted with the highest level of integrity and in full collaboration with Public Safety Officials.

Lockdown drills

Lockdown drills are a critical component of our emergency preparedness strategy. One lockdown drill was conducted in September 2024, and an additional training will take place prior to the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

These drills follow state-man-

dated best practices and are conducted in coordination with the Public Safety Officials to ensure that our response is both effective and appropriate. While we understand that drills can sometimes be unsettling, they are designed to ensure that students and staff are well-prepared in the event of an actual emergency.

In the 2023-2024 school year, while no lockdown drills were conducted, it's important to note that state law does not mandate lockdown drills as an emergency drill requirement. Nevertheless, the district believes that lockdown drills should occur regularly, and we intend to continue practicing them moving forward.

Our schools remain in full compliance with required safety procedures and are committed to making safety a top priority.

Fire safety responses

Emergency responses, including fire safety protocols, are designed to balance caution with swift action. In certain situations, staff and emergency responders may assess a situation before activating an alarm to determine the most appropriate course of action.

This approach prevents unnecessary disruptions while maintaining a high level of vigilance and preparedness. Our protocols are

aligned with fire safety regulations and have been reviewed in collaboration with the fire department.

These drills are conducted regularly in partnership with the fire department, who takes the lead on such drills and provides feedback to the district on areas for improvement.

Some parents have raised concerns that a drill occurred prior to the bell and questioned accountability and preparedness. I want to emphasize that this was not a drill, but rather a response to an active alarm incident.

The concerns about accountability and staff understanding their roles during the response are factually incorrect. We were able to maintain accountability for the students and adults present on campus, clear the building efficiently, and address the incident at hand.

However, we acknowledge areas that need further improvement and will continue to review and refine our procedures.

Safety committee meetings

While state law does not mandate frequent safety committee meetings, our district holds one safety committee meeting per year

Please see **SCHOOL**, page 5

Friends of Ware Town Hall offer spring 2025 lotto calendars

WARE – The Friends of Ware Town Hall announced their annual Lotto Calendar campaign is beginning.

Calendars are \$10 each, with drawings beginning April 1 and ending April 30 and prizes range from \$25-\$500.

Calendars are being sold locally at the following locations: Changes Hair Salon, Crystal Springs Dairy Bar, It's Wine O'clock, Moulton Insurance Agency, Nat Falk, Otto Florist, Platform Hair Design, Silhouettes on Main, Talk of the Town, This n That 2, Ware Library, Ware River Club, Ware Senior Center, Ware Town Hall, Town Clerk's Office and Wilton Children's Store.

Anyone from out of town wishing to purchase a calendar may do so by mailing a check for \$10 for each calendar to: Friends of Ware Town Hall, P.O. Box 692, Ware, MA 01082.



WARE BOS from page 1

Willette said creating the budget is a collaborative effort between the Finance Committee, department heads and town manager.

He said there is a slight uptick in state aid and funds the town will receive, but health insurance costs are expected to increase by about 15%. He said the cost of regional dispatch is also expected to increase.

Willette said capital needs, specifically water and wastewater infrastructure, are being prioritized by the Infrastructure Asset Improvement Committee. He said the committee has been creating articles at town meeting to fund different projects to improve the infrastructure.

Willette said the Finance Committee is also working with Beckley to revisit the town's financial policies regarding allotments that go into stabilization and reserve accounts.

"The needs of the town have changed, and it's time to look at that," he said.

Comments or concerns from citizens

Friends of the Mary Lane Hospital Chair Cindy Allen Bourcier shared concerns about demolition delay violation complaints against Baystate Health, as well as her public record's request for documents about Baystate Health from the town's attorney.

Selectboard Chair Nancy Talbot said the Selectboard members have received information regarding Bourcier's concerns, and it will be discussed at an upcoming meeting.

Bourcier also shared concerns about residents feeling belittled if they haven't attended all of the meetings related to Mary Lane Hospital in the past, due to comments made by board or committee members.

"I'm just hoping that some of those comments will stop," she said.

Stephen Granlund also asked about the memorial plaques that were taken from Mary Lane Hospital, and when they would be returned.

Beckley said he has the plaques at Town Hall and he will work with Granlund to catalog them.

Mary Lane Hospital petition

Bourcier said residents are exploring ways the town can require Baystate Health to clean up the Mary Lane Hospital site, before issuing any new permits. She said this includes an inventory of the funds, getting the funds moved to a new foundation and addressing demolition delay violations.

She said Baystate Health should also have a letter from the Attorney General's office authorizing the demolition of the hospital, which she said is a public charitable asset.

Bourcier said they would like to add a nonbinding referendum question on the election ballot or an article on the town meeting warrant,

asking residents if the town should require those applying for permits through the Building Department, to have resolved all outstanding issues with the town before getting approval for new permits.

"This could apply to a lot of different situations, not just the Mary Lane situation," she said.

Bourcier said another question they would like to ask residents, is if they would like to form a committee with the town of Hardwick with the purpose of controlling distributions of all Mary Lane endowment funds.

Joint meeting with Planning Board

The Selectboard held a joint meeting with the Planning Board to appoint alternate Planning Board member Alex Bergeron to a full-time position following the resignation of Shane Millier.

Bergeron will serve in this position until the annual town election in April, when he and any other interested candidates can seek election for a full term. Bergeron said he is planning on seeking election to this position.

Beckley said the alternate position once held by Bergeron will now be posted to seek interested candidates.

Police officer appointment

Police Chief Shawn Crevier asked the Selectboard to reappoint Police Officer Dan Clark, who previously served on the Police Department for about eight years

before taking a position in Hadley.

"It's a huge benefit to the town not having to absorb any additional costs to send someone to the academy," Crevier said.

Appointments

The Selectboard appointed Department of Public Works Director Dennis Morton and Beckley to the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission's Joint Transportation Committee. Morton will be a member, and Beckley will be an alternate member.

Maxwell Labier was appointed as an alternate member on the Zoning Board of Appeals with a term to expire June 30, 2027.

Water/sewer abatement request

The Selectboard continued discussion regarding 16 Aspen St. owner's request for a sewer abatement after the basement was flooded. The owner said the water was pumped out of the basement and down the driveway, and not into the sewer system to be treated.

The Selectboard voted to abate the sewer bill in the amount of \$386.23.

Recognition

Selectboard member Terrance Smith recognized Police Officer John Cacula for his response to an incident that occurred in the parking lot at Town Hall a couple of weeks ago.

"The way it was handled by Officer Cacula was excellent," he

said.

Purchase and sale agreement

Beckley said the town has received a purchase and sale agreement for the parcel of land off Walter Drive, adjacent to Grenville Park, to be signed by the Selectboard and the Conservation Commission. He said closing is expected to happen in March.

Purchase of this land with the help of grant funding was approved at town meeting last year. The land will expand both Grenville Park and the Mass Central Rail Trail.

The Selectboard voted to sign the agreement as presented.

Fireworks show

The Selectboard approved the use of \$2,500 from the donation funds provided to the town by ReSource Waste Services of Ware, to support the town's annual fireworks show.

Smith also offered to defer his stipend as a Selectboard member to benefit the fireworks show.

Town Manager's report

Beckley said Tighe & Bond visited the Senior Center to inspect the cracks in the walls. He said the cracks are growing, and they will be moving forward with creating a design to address the issue.

He said about \$135,000 has been set aside from American Rescue Plan Act funds and town meeting, but more money may be needed.

Junk & Bulk Trash Removal

Clean Out Solutions
Basement, Attic, Shed & Whole House Cleanouts
Shed, Pool & Hot Tub Removals
Arthur "Skip" Gervais
(774)397-6500

PARKER GLASS
Owned & Operated by the Parker Family
The Clear Choice For All Your Glass Needs

- Window Repairs
- Table Tops
- Plexiglass/Lexan
- Woodstove Glass
- Tempered Glass
- Decorative Glass
- Screen Repairs
- Mirrors
- Insulated Glass
- Laminated Glass

Serving the Gardner/Athol area since 1980
441 Chestnut St., Gardner - Monday - Friday 8:00-4:30
978-632-5382 • 800-564-5382
parkerglass@comcast.net

www.parker-glass.com

CANTERBURY TAILS VETERINARY CLINIC

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

Proudly serving Ware and its surrounding communities

DOGS CATS REPTILES EXOTICS
AND NOW BIRDS!

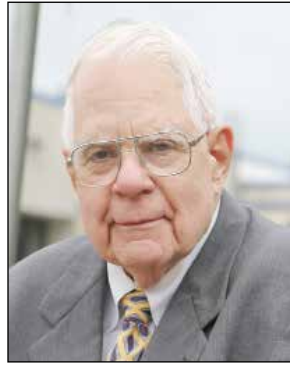
★ Now offering same day urgent care appointments ★
Monday - Friday

viewpoints

DISTRICT NEWS from Pathfinder's Superintendent:

Remembering Dr. Gerald L. Paist

By Eric Duda
Guest Column



It is with sadness that I share the news of the passing of our longtime superintendent, Dr. Gerald L. Paist, who passed away Friday evening, Jan. 24.

Dr. Paist served as superintendent of Pathfinder Tech from shortly after the school opened in 1973 until 2021, when I had the honor of taking over the role. Throughout his tenure, countless changes unfolded locally, regionally, and nationally, and Dr. Paist's leadership was pivotal in navigating these challenges and ensuring our school remained a strong and thriving institution.

I was fortunate to have had Dr. Paist as my superintendent when I was a student here in the late '90s, and he even handed me my diploma at graduation. Over the years, I developed a close relationship with him, and I appreciated all he did for students, our school, and our communities.

In 2006, Dr. Paist hired me as a teacher, and 18 years later, I still reflect on his guidance and support throughout my journey. He also played a key role in my development as a leader.

As I advanced through roles as Vocational Director, Cooperative Education Director, and later as Assistant Superintendent and Principal, Dr. Paist mentored me and helped me grow as a leader. He encouraged me to pursue graduate studies and leadership training opportunities, always offering his wisdom and guidance along the way.

As an administrator for more than a decade, including as his Assistant Superintendent, I had the privilege of working side-by-side with him for many years before his retirement. Together, we navigated many town meetings and worked through political and economic challenges, always ensuring the school's budget was approved and our students received the resources they needed. The lessons I learned from Dr. Paist in leadership, school finance, and relationship-building continue to guide my work today.

For many of you on staff, I'm sure you have your own memories and stories of Dr. Paist. Although he slowed down in his final years, he remained a steadfast and dedicated leader for decades, overseeing Pathfinder Tech through significant growth.

When he began his tenure, our district included just four towns; by the end of his career, it had grown to nine. Under his leadership, Pathfinder Tech underwent a building expansion in the late 1980s that we now know as the Math Wing and West Wing, which enabled enrollment to double in the late 1980s. Prior to these expansions, many of our technical programs were housed in rented spaces across multiple towns.

Dr. Paist was also deeply involved in many local, state, and national organizations, and I was fortunate to observe his leadership beyond the walls of our school. Through him, I learned invaluable lessons about the political process, school funding, and the importance of relationships with local leaders.

Dr. Paist had a unique sense of humor that those who knew him well truly appreciated. He had a quiet, dry wit that could catch you off guard, often followed by a thoughtful pause before delivering a response. He would say things that, at first, might seem simple or even puzzling, but if you understood his style, they would always make you smile.

A few of his signature sayings that I'll always remember include, "I have this to say about that" and "'Tis a puzzlement." Of course, each of these would be followed by wisdom and guidance. His humor was one of the many qualities that made him so memorable.

I also remember him telling me many stories about his past, his love for music, the shows and performances he had seen, and many other experiences from his life. Some of these stories were shared when we went out for breakfast or lunch together at our local restaurants, moments I always cherished.

I also remember him reflecting on challenging times and telling me stories about events from his past.

One story that stood out to me was when he shared where he was when he heard that JFK was assassinated. He told me he was getting off the Massachusetts Turnpike at the Palmer exit and remembered sitting at the tollbooth when the toll collector asked him, "Is the president still alive?"

The toll collector had assumed he was listening to his car radio – long before cell phones and other methods of communication. He said he started crying as he spoke to the toll collector. He told me that he had never felt the same way again after that day, until Sept. 11. On 9/11, he said he felt that same profound sense of loss and shock, and he cried again.

He also shared many other significant memories from his personal experiences throughout history. There are so many things I reflect on from what I heard him share that had a profound effect on me.

Dr. Paist's nearly 50-year career as a superintendent is impossible to fully summarize. What I can say is this: he devoted his entire life to Pathfinder Tech and made it his mission to serve this school community. He didn't view his role as just a job; it was a calling, and we were incredibly fortunate to have him for so many years.

I have lost a friend, a mentor, and a guiding light in my career, and we, as a school district, have lost someone whose legacy will continue to shape us for years to come.

In his final years, Dr. Paist lived in an assisted living facility in Pennsylvania, near his only living relative, Susan Hubbell-Whyte. My thoughts and prayers are with her during this difficult time, and I would like to express my gratitude to her for being by his side in his final years.

Please join me in keeping Dr. Paist's memory alive as we honor the incredible impact he had on Pathfinder Tech and on all of us.



Roses or carnations, you choose!



With St. Valentine's Day coming up, my thoughts turn to flowers.

I am not a "rose girl" so to speak. It is probably because I am frugal and roses cost an arm and a leg this time of year.

Get me a carnation and I am happy. They don't bend at the neck or pick you with thorns. They even smell nice, to me the fragrance is that of cloves.

So this will be a combo column. First, it will give our rose lovers out there the best chance of keeping their admirer's big investment healthy for the longest possible time. Then, I will do the same for the humble carnation.

Perhaps you will be the lucky recipient of roses on Friday. I have a couple tricks up my sleeve to help you increase their vase-life. First, remove the roses from their box and give each one a fresh cut on a forty-five degree angle.

If you can do this under water, all the better to prevent what I call "bent head" or "limp neck" syndrome- an air bubble clogging the stem.

You should also remove any foliage that will be underwater – it will rot and make the water stinky and full of bacteria. Leaves on the top third of the stem can remain as long as they look pretty; unbeknownst to me, these will continue to photosynthesize, making food to help the rose color up to its full potential.

We all have had a few "bent heads" or "limp necks" in our day – a shame, considering how expensive roses are, especially when purchased on a holiday. If you catch this situation early there is a way to remedy it: recut the stem of the rose or roses in question and soak them horizontally, under water for a half-hour or so.

This technique is contrary to what one might think is good for a many-petaled flower. I would argue that water trapped within the petals would breed fungi and shorten

vase-life, but I guess if the rose is doomed to the fate of a bent head, it's worth a shot. Regular folks have tried it in the bathtub and have been successful.

How about those carnations? They aren't as fussy as their more expensive counterparts, but here are a few helpful hints. Recut their stems to just above a node (the bump where leaves come from) and place in floral preservative.

If you don't have floral preservative, you can make your own. Here is a recipe that, just like the professional blends, contain the three necessary components for fresh flower health and longevity: carbohydrates, a biocide and pH adjuster.

- 1t sugar
- 1t bleach
- 2t lemon or lime juice (strained)
- 1 quart water

- Alternate version:**
- 1-12 ounce can decaf lemon/lime soda
 - 3 cans water
 - 1T bleach
 - Mix and stir to flatten

Each of these preservatives should be stored in the refrigerator with contents labeled.

Sometimes, carnations come very tightly budded. If you want them to open quickly, without waiting days, you can up the sugar content in the preservative to force bloom.

Do expect that you won't get to enjoy them as long in the vase if you do this, though, since their energy will be spent.

Cut flowers are sensitive to ethylene gas, and carnations are especially sensitive. Rotting foliage, ripening fruit, cigarette smoke and exhaust all release ethylene gas, which acts like a hormone that triggers maturation and death. For that reason we avoid storing flowers in the household fridge.

I had my own firsthand experience. I had arrangements to make at work, but had jury duty the day they were needed. I made them a day early and cleared out one of the coolers. Wouldn't you know it that someone put an apple inside without my knowing. Sure enough everything was ruined.

Whether you are a rose lover or a carnation lover, or enjoy any flower in between, I hope that you either treat yourself, or are treated by someone else, either on St. Valentine's Day or sometime soon!

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.

WARE RIVER NEWS TEAM



EDITOR
Paula Quimette
pouimette@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES
Dan Flynn
dflynn@turley.com



SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com



STAFF WRITER
Ryan Drago
rdrago@turley.com

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



@Ware River News



www.warivernews.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

DEANNA SLOAT
Graphics Manager



www.turley.com

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

OPINION POLICY

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

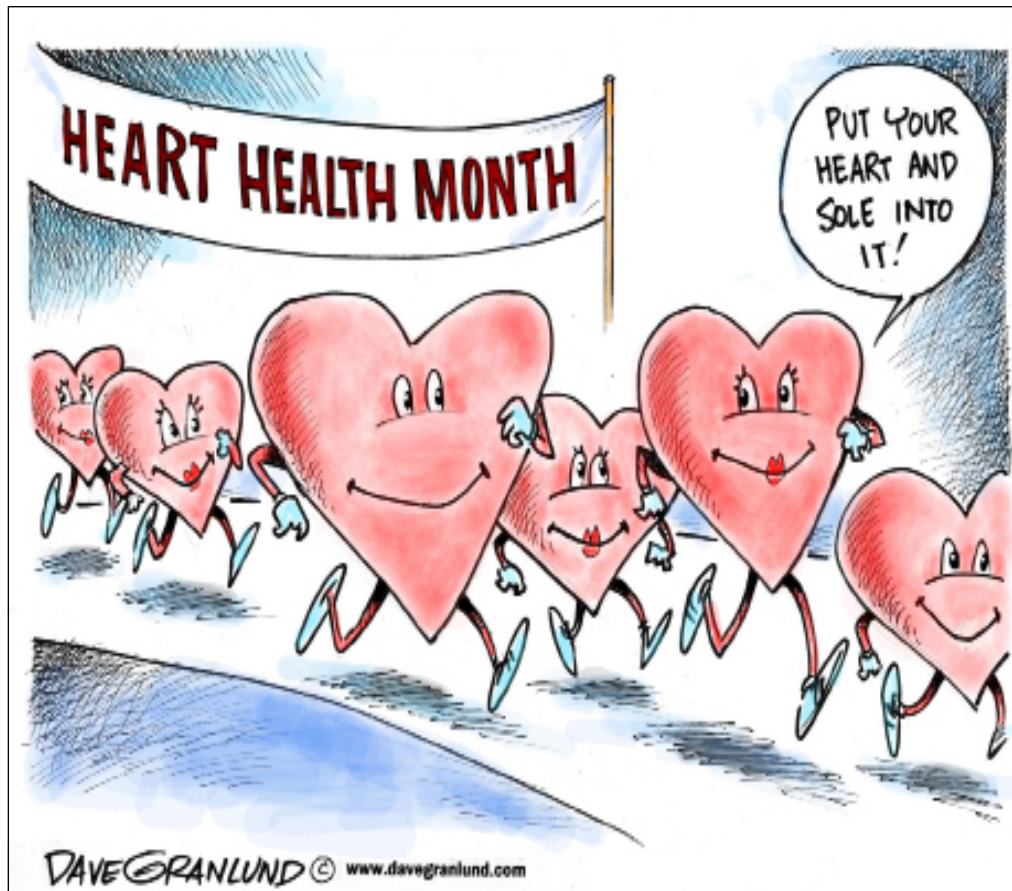
Send opinions to:
Ware River News
Letter to the Editor
80 Main Street,
Ware, MA 01082
or via email to:
pouimette@turley.com

The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

Turley Election Policy

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

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



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reader urges residents to give back by getting involved

To the Editor:

I have been a resident of Ware for over 40 years and for a large portion of that time, I have volunteered my time for boards and committees.

I grew up believing that it was important to give back to my community, and I have tried to be an energetic board member who was making a difference. I am disappointed to read and bear witness to people who are disparaging board members on committees who are just trying to gather information and move forward in the right direction for the town of Ware.

This is an important job for the people of any town or city in our country.

Remember the quote by Edmund Burke, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men (or women) to say nothing."

Many of our town boards are looking for those intelligent, well-informed citizens to step forward. Go to the town's website to find the openings, and be an instrument of change for our town.

These vocal people are not volunteering their time for these town boards or committees, but trashing the work of good people who do. (The loudest voice doesn't even live in town!).

I urge you to take the time to attend one of these town appointed meetings to observe first-hand what is being discussed. Then, decide for yourself before you believe the comments on social media or in the newspaper by people who say they mean well but prove over and over that they do not.

Lynn Lak
Ware

viewpoints



By Ellenor Downer



Male and female hooded merganser

My daughter saw a pair of hooded mergansers on the Ware River on two different occasions.

She said, "They were riding those rapids to the bridge and looked like they were having a blast. Then they just hung out under the bridge."

The hooded merganser is the smallest of the mergansers at 18 inches long. It has a short thin bill and crested head. The male has a black head, white fan shaped patch within the crest, which is only visible when the crest

is raised. The flanks are brown and the back black. It also has black vertical lines on its white breast. The female is plain brown with a darker back and red brown crest. The immature female looks like the adult female and the immature male similar to the female, but they some white in the crest.

Hooded mergansers dive underwater and eat small fish, frogs, crustaceans, mollusks and aquatic insects. Courtship begins in mid winter. Females do head bobbing and pumping. Most male displays involve crest raising. The male makes a frog like note and the female makes a hoarse "gak."

The female lays six to eight white eggs in a nest of grasses and down placed in a tree cavity or nest box. Mergansers summer on wooded rivers and lakes and winters on similar locations as well as along the coast.

Ludlow birds

On Saturday, Jan. 25 a Ludlow resident emailed about the birds in her backyard. She said, "The usual visitors are purple finches, white-throated sparrows, juncos, titmice, nuthatches, bluejays, mourning doves, cardinals and red bellied woodpeckers. Yesterday Jan. 24, we had a cowbird at the feeder. We haven't had any visit us in the five years we've fed the birds in winter. Just wondering if others in the area have seen a cowbird this early."

Bluebirds and northern flicker

I received an email on Sunday, Jan 26 from a North Brookfield resident, She said, "I live in North Brookfield, down on Lake Lashaway. I had five blue birds and a northern flicker on my feeders this morning along

with the usual birds. Early Spring?"

Brimfield birds

I received an email from a Brimfield resident on Jan. 21. He said, "Today in the yard all the usual birds were about however the junco flock has increased to about 65 birds. Other not so commonly seen birds were a Carolina wren, and a white-throated and a tree sparrows."

In another email he wrote, "Yes the blue jays sure do like the peanuts. The titmice also get their

share. And once in awhile a red-bellied woodpecker with show up and take a peanut. When I walk around the yard there are a couple of places under a tree or shrub where the ground is littered with empty peanut shells."

Birds in my yard

I continue to have the usual birds at my feeders and suet feeder such as black capped chickadees, titmice, white breasted nuthatches, downy woodpeckers, mourning doves and blue jays. Now that it is February, I expect to see male red-winged blackbirds.

I received a state of the art bird feeder equipped with a camera for my birthday. I have not set it up yet. I will take it down once bears come out of hibernation because I would not want it destroyed.

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

BBB warns of top Valentine's Day scams

This Valentine's Day is shaping up to be big, according to projections by the National Retail Federation, which suggests that total consumer spending may reach \$27.5 billion.



As you prepare to celebrate, there are a few common scams that you need to be aware of. Whether hoping to spark a new relationship or buying gifts for loved ones, beware of these scams regularly reported to the Better Business Bureau.

Imposter websites

Consumers should always be alert for imposter websites, from fake jewelry sellers to online dating sites. Red flags of imposter websites include products being available at extreme discounts, being asked to pay with cash transfer apps or cryptocurrency, or if customer service is unreachable.

Romance scams

Romance scammers often target vulnerable people who have experienced a recent breakup or hardship. Red flags for romance scams include the relationship moving very fast, you never meet in person, and they ask for money.

Wrong number scam

Responding to a text message from someone who messaged the wrong number might seem harmless. The text message, however, is bait to lure you into a conversation to get your personal information.

Red flags of wrong number scams include messages that don't stop, the sender directs you to sign up for a website, or they try to get your personal information.

Fake florist scam

Ordering flowers? Don't procrastinate or you may end up falling for a scam. Don't let phony florists ruin your Valentine's Day. Common red flags of this scam include no reviews of the business (always check BBB.org), you can't find a return policy or satisfaction guarantee, or the deal is "too good to be true."

If you encounter a suspected romance scam, cut off all contact with the perpetrator by blocking their accounts and phone number. Then, report your experience to BBB.org/ScamTracker. Dating site users should also report suspicious activity to the platform so they can take action against the scammer's account.



By Russell Gloor

Why was Social Security money moved to the General Treasury?

Dear Rusty:

Why were the Social Security funds moved from the Social Security account to the General Fund with the government?

Is it not then called a tax making it an entitlement? That then gives the government control of our retirement. Most of us feel that someone should be in charge and use the Social Security fund with investments that grow our savings.

I invested my 401,000 and savings and the original amount made me money during the Trump years and I'm now trying to catch up. I make this statement because I draw more from my investments than I receive from Social Security.

Signed: Questioning Senior Citizen

Dear Questioning Senior:

I'm afraid I must inform you that no Social Security funds have ever been moved from the Social Security account to the government's General Fund; this is a pervasive myth which we have refuted many times over the years. For information, here is one of many articles I have published on this topic, which I hope you find interesting: <https://socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-about-repaying-social-security-money-taken-by-politicians/>.

Someone actually is charged with monitoring our Social Security funds, a board of Social Security Trustees consisting of the Secretaries of Treasury, Labor, and Health and Human Services, as well as the Commissioner of Social Security plus two Public Trustees. Each year the Social Security Trustees do a complete analysis of the Social Security program, especially its financial status and outlook for the future. If you have interest in the Trustee's latest annual report, here is a link to the 2024 analysis: <https://socialsecurityreport.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/tr24summary.pdf>.

What you will find in the Trustees' report is that Social Security will run out of reserved funds in about 2033, necessitating an across the board cut of about 21% for everyone, unless Congress acts soon to reform the program and restore it to fiscal solvency. The Trustees have warned Congress about this problem for many years, but Congress has yet

to find the bipartisan cooperation needed to fix the problem.

Association of Mature American Citizens has steadfastly offered proposals to Congress, which would restore Social Security to solvency and will continue to do so with the new 119th Congress, which convened on Jan. 3, 2025.

Please know that we appreciate your feedback and commend you for the wise use of your 401k investments, something that many of our members find necessary to supplement their Social Security. Remember, Social Security was never intended to provide all your retirement income, so earlier saving to supplement your retirement financial needs was a very wise move on your part.

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

SCHOOL from page 3

unless major changes are required to the Safety Action Plan. We are open to convening additional meetings whenever significant changes or new concerns arise.

At present, there are no major changes to report, but we have consistently engaged in safety discussions throughout the school year. These conversations have taken place in multiple meetings, and we continue to collaborate closely with local police and fire departments.

Additionally, ongoing discussions between staff and public safety officials ensure that concerns are addressed in real-time and that all safety protocols remain up to date. Our commitment to maintaining a safe environment remains unwavering, and we are always in regular contact with law enforcement and emergency responders to ensure that we are prepared and aligned on all safety matters.

The safety committee will continue to meet as needed or at least once a year to review and address any emerging concerns. Upon meeting with each party mentioned in this memo, we agree that at this time, there is no need for a safety meeting until later in the year after reunification training has been conducted to determine what changes, if any, need to occur.

Upcoming training sessions

To further enhance our preparedness, additional training sessions will be held for staff and students. These trainings will reinforce best practices in emergency response and ensure con-

tinued alignment with law enforcement and emergency personnel.

Currently, training is scheduled with the Ware Police Department, Fire Department and the Sheriff's Department to conduct reuni-

fication training, and we plan to invite some parents to participate and observe the process. In addition, we have upcoming site-specific training at each location, which will be conducted by the Ware Police Department.

We appreciate the community's engagement in these important conversations and remain committed to transparency, collaboration, and continuous improvement. Our goal is to ensure that our schools remain safe havens

for all students and staff. We welcome your feedback and questions at any time. Please do not hesitate to reach out with your thoughts or concerns.

PRESIDENT'S DAY SALE!

INSTANT FINANCING - HUGE REBATE PACKAGES AVAILABLE!

TV'S On Sale!

- 32" Smart.....\$129.99
Regularly \$139.99
- 43" Smart.....\$199.99
Regularly \$249.99
- 50" HDTV.....\$189.99
Regularly \$269.99
- 55" Samsung HDTV...\$299.99
Regularly \$349.99
- 65" HDTV.....\$429.99
Regularly \$599.99
- 70" Samsung 4k TV...\$499.99
Regularly \$599.99
- 75" Samsung HDTV...\$599.99
Regularly \$699.99
- 85" Samsung 4k TV...\$849.99
Regularly \$1799.99

ALL OLED TV'S ON SALE!

MATTRESS SALE!

TWIN: \$199

(REGULARLY \$299)

FULL: \$269

(REGULARLY \$499)

QUEEN: \$299

(REGULARLY \$599)

VOTED

2021 - 2022 - 2023 - 2024

WORCESTER COUNTY'S "BEST APPLIANCE STORE"

WE INSTALL TV'S, MICROWAVES AND DISHWASHERS!

<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">LG #3400 WASHER & DRYER Front Load, Reg. \$1599.99</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$1399.99</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">G.E. DELUXE COIL TOP STOVE Reg. \$599.99</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$499.99</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">WASHERS & DRYERS ON SALE!</p>				
<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">SAMSUNG WASHER & DRYER #46300 Reg. \$1599.99</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$1299.99</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">AFTER REBATE!</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">DELUXE FRIGIDAIRE INDUCTION STOVE Reg. \$1299.99</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$999.99</p>			<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">GE DELUXE DISHWASHER Reg. \$499.99</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$399.99</p>		
<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">WHIRLPOOL WASHER & DRYER Front Load, Reg. \$1599.99</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$1299.99</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">G.E. DELUXE AIR FRY GAS RANGE Reg. \$899.99</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$699.99</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">FRIGIDAIRE DISHWASHER Reg. \$399.99</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$299.99</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">SAMSUNG TOP LOAD WASHER & DRYER Pair - Reg. \$1199.99</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$1099.99</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">AFTER REBATE!</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">G.E. 27 CU. FT. FRENCH DOOR REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$1999.99</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$1499.99</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">5 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER Reg. \$159.99</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$159.99</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">10 CU. FT. FREEZER Reg. \$459.99</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$399.99</p>
<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">WHIRLPOOL 21 CU. FT. TOP MOUNT REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$899.99</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$699.99</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">FRIGIDAIRE 18 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$699.99</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$599.99</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">FAMOUS MAKER OVER THE STOVE MICROWAVE Reg. \$249.99</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$199.99</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">LG 24 CU. FT. BOTTOM MOUNT REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$1599.99</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$1399.99</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">MAYTAG DELUXE WASHER OR DRYER Reg. \$699.99</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$549.99</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">LG 20 CU. FT. BOTTOM FRENCH REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$1299.99</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$1299.99</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">WHIRLPOOL SIDE BY SIDE Reg. \$1499.99</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$1099.99</p>

INSTANT FINANCING UP TO \$10,000!

WHITCO

140 MAIN STREET, SPENCER, MA
508.885.9343
SEE WHITCOALES.COM

Store Hours: Mon. through Fri: 10am-9pm • Sat: 9am-8pm • Sun: 12 Noon-7pm

FOR 100'S OF DEALS!

ELECTION NEWS

Nomination papers available for May 3 town election

HARDWICK – Nomination papers for the 2025 Annual Town Election on Saturday, May 3 are now available.

Offices for election and those presently holding the office are as follows: Select Board, Kelly Kemp, three-year term; Assessor, Lucinda J. Childs, three-year term; Constables, James D. Swett, Eric Vollheim and Ryan J. Witkos, (three) three-year terms; K-12 Quabbin School Committee, Jennifer E. Garvey, three-year term and Kristyl B. Kelly, unexpired two-year term; Board of Health, Ernest J. Warburton, three-year term; Paige Agricultural Fund Trust, Stephen A. Prouty, five-year term; Paige Memorial Library Trustee, Stacey A. Hill and Eric Vollheim (two) three-year terms; and Planning Board, John J. Samek, three-year term.

All deadlines below are 5 p.m.:

Last day to obtain and submit nomination papers to the Board of Registrars for certification, Friday, March 14; last day to file nomination papers with the Town

Clerk, Friday, March 28; last day to object or withdraw nomination papers, Tuesday, April 1; last day to register voters for the Annual Town Election, Wednesday, April 23; and last day to apply to vote by mail (if haven't already), Monday, April 28.

Voter registration

Voter registration will be held in the Myron E. Richardson Building, 307 Main St. on Wednesday, April 23, from 9-5 p.m. This is the last day and hour to register voters who wish to vote at the 2025 Annual Town Election.

Mail-in voter registrations will be accepted if postmarked no later than the April 23 deadline.

Financial statements

Financial statements must be filed by all candidates for election by the following dates even if the candidate has no financial activity to report: #1 pre-election report, eight days prior to election, Friday, April 25; and #2 post-election report, 30 days after election, Monday, June 2.

Nomination papers available for annual town election

WARE – Nomination Papers are now available to any interested individual who are registered voters in the Town of Ware.

Nomination Papers are available for the following elected offices which will appear on the Annual Town Election Ballot of April 14.

Selectboard, one seat, three-year term; School Committee, two seats, three-year terms; Board of Assessors, one seat, three-year term; Board of Health, one seat, three-year term; Park Commissioner, one seat, three-year term; Cemetery Commissioner, one seat, three-year term; Planning Board, one seat, five-year term; Planning Board, one seat, unexpired term, four years; Ware Housing Authority, one seat, five-year term; and Ware Housing Authority, one seat, unexpired term, one year.

All incumbent office holders have been notified of their term's expiration. Current office holders are as follows: Selectboard – Joshua Kusnierz, School Committee – Christopher Desjardins and Brian Winslow,

Board of Assessors – Gerald Fountain, Jr., Board of Health – Jennifer McMartin, Park Commissioner – Ryan Mulligan, Cemetery Commissioner – Paul Harper, Planning Board – Kenneth Crosby, Ware Housing Authority – Nancy Brown.

The Planning Board seat which has an unexpired term of four years is due to the resignation of Shane Millier and the Ware Housing Authority unexpired term of one year is due to the appointment made by the Selectboard to last only until the next Annual Town Election.

Nomination Papers are available at the Town Clerk's Office during normal business hours Monday through Friday. Deadline to apply and return Nomination Papers is Monday, Feb. 24.

Interested individuals may contact the Town Clerk Nancy J. Talbot by calling 413-967-9648 extension 103 to discuss further or ask questions as needed.

Information will appear on the Town of Ware website, www.townofware.com and in the Ware River News and TV 15.

Nomination papers for town elections now available

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

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

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

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



Auctioneer Paul Varney starts the bidding.



Lou Falcone sings while performing at the Friends of the Stone Church event.



Mark Fontaine plays the keyboard as part of the Mason Tyler Duo.

GALA from page 1

"We've gotten all the way up to the inside of the dormer level," Warbasse said.

The multi-phase project includes filling the joints, which have expanded over the years since the church was constructed over 150 years ago. All masonry restoration has been completed up to the top of the belfry and part of the lantern level.

"All the original joints were about half an inch wide," Warbasse said. "Some have opened up to an inch and a half."

To date, the Friends have invested over \$500,000 into the tower since 2014, through grant awards and fundraising efforts. Another \$390,000 is needed to complete repairs to the lantern level exterior and spire.

"The work now is to raise enough money to do the outside and the spire," Warbasse said.

This work is essential to protect the tower from the effects of the elements. In every rain event, water still leaks into the lantern level, and every winter the freeze-thaw cycle moves stones in unrepaired areas microscopically.

FOSC President Judy Edington welcomed those in attendance at the gala dinner and thanked them for their continued support.

"Seeing a full room is really quite energizing," Edington said. "It's galvanizing. It gives us heart for what we still have to do."

Edington said the Friends need to finish work on the tower and that there's still more to do.

"You all help us push forward," she told the attendees.

Edington thanked the members of the gala committee, Kat McCrohon, Clare Hendra, Paula Roberts, Mary Warbasse, Michelle Webb and Cheryl Wolfe, along with event volunteers Ruth Baker, Frank Hanson, Judy Knight, Joanne Meegan, David Salvadore and Phillip Warbasse.

As attendees finished their meals and enjoyed dessert and coffee, Varney started the live auction, first offering people a chance to bid on a seemingly empty 12-liter wine bottle, which was revealed to have an unknown amount of cash stashed in it.

Hardwick resident Judy Kohn was the lucky winner of the "conversational piece" that also came with a story as relayed by Varney.

Varney said the bottle was donated to the live auction by a friend of David Salvadore and that it had been emptied of its original contents during a weeklong camping trip to Vermont.

The live auction also featured a new individual or family membership to the Baglio Center at Eagle Hill School donated by Eagle Hill School; a \$250 gift certificate to see the Boston Symphony Orchestra

at one of three locations donated by Edington; a two-night weekend stay for two couples or a family of four to the Sugar Maple Trailside Inn in historic Florence donated by Kathy and Craig Della Penna; 75 gallons of heating oil from R.J. McDonald Heating Oil donated by Bruce McDonald; and a seven night stay at the Villa Camilla on Grace Bay Beach in Turks & Caicos.

Almost 100 individuals and



Friends of the Stone Church President Judy Edington welcomes attendees to the fundraiser.



This map shows the town of Hardwick as it appeared on June 30, 2006, identifying every owner of a home on every street and road on that date, as prepared by the late Emily M. Bancroft.



Tables of donated items were available during the silent auction, including this wood-turned lamp made by Harry Comerford.

businesses donated items to both the silent and live auctions.

Upcoming events

The Friends of the Stone Church will be hosting a number of events throughout the upcoming year, including "Old, New, Borrowed and Blue" featuring the works of Bach, Robert Schumann and Ravel, as well as Indonesian music and blues with pianist Cicilia Yudha on Sunday, March 9 at 3 p.m.

A book signing by local author Lisa J. Cohen will celebrate the release of her new book, "Litany for a Broken World" on Sunday, March 16 from 4-5:30 p.m.

On Sunday, April 6 at 3 p.m. Emi Ferguson, flutes and Michael Poll, classical guitar, will perform Dowland, Bach, Telemann, Schubert, Takemitsu and Rebay.

On Saturday, May 3 at 7 p.m., organist Peter Krasinski returns to accompany the silent film, "The Last Command" from 1928, starring Emil Janning. He will provide original accompaniment on the Stone Church's Johnson & Son organ.

The Friends will also host two free Sunday concerts on the lawn with the Weir River Jazz Ensemble on June 8 at 2 p.m. and the Weir



This homemade quilt was donated to the silent auction by the Stukuls family in memory of Susan Stukuls, who made the quilt.

River Concert Band on June 22 at 2 p.m.

For more information about the Friends, or to help support their preservation work, visit www.friendsofstonechurch.org or mail donations to Friends of the Stone Church, Inc., 283 Main St., P.O. Box 347, Gilbertville, MA 01031.



ROBINSON

TREE SERVICE
LLC

Professional - Reliable - Fully Insured

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

All Major Credit Cards Accepted
100% Financing Available

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

MARKET SPOTLIGHT

A maple farm and an abundance of jams from the same town

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

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

WEST BROOKFIELD – We have transited the winter half way mark and are going downhill, sort of. It was a lovely Wednesday, Feb. 5, but we proceeded to the West Brookfield Winter Farmers' Market full in the knowledge that the practitioners of the science of meteorology had predicted the next day would not be pleasant.

Oh well, all of humanity knows that tomorrow is not promised, so enjoy today.

And we did.

It was back to The First Congregational Church, 36 North Main St., at 3 p.m., where the warmth is more than temperature, but also in the spirit of the vendors and the shoppers who were glad to be there.

This week we are featuring two vendors.

Thompson's Maple Farm and Lucky Me Farm & Kitchen

A longtime regular at the West Brookfield Summer Market and at the Winter Market since its inception is Thompson's Maple Farm. John Thompson could be called a market fixture as he is always at the table.

Based at their New Braintree land since 2000, it is a true local operation, as local as it gets.

In 2003 the Thompson's tapped a few of their own trees to learn and provide for their own needs. They

tapped neighbors' trees in trade for syrup. Then came an evaporator and next, a vacuum pump, to draw sap through the hoses from the trees. With around 1,200 taps, some mechanization is necessary.

It is not just maple products; The Thompsons have an ice cream maker. As the farm is not a dairy operation, it relies on milk products from Cooper's Hilltop Farm in Leicester.

That said, just about all the other ice cream ingredients rely on inputs grown on farm. Raspberries, strawberries, blackberries, and peaches are from family bushes, plants or trees. Other ingredients are traded for with neighbors, bartering ice cream or maple products.

Around 2014, the Thompsons started showing up at farmers markets and other events. There are the above-mentioned West Brookfield venues, but you can find Thompson's Maple at Sturbridge and Brimfield.

You can also run into them at the West Brookfield Asparagus Festival and the Sturbridge Harvest Festival and at other holiday fairs. Thompson's has also been up at Farmer Matt's for some evening events.

This year, saw something new mentioned in a previous week, Bourbon Barrel Aged Maple Syrup, but there is also Maple Coated Nuts. The coated nuts are pecans.

Time marches on and we are heading toward maple tapping time in the next couple of weeks. With 40-degree days and around 20-degree nights the sap flows. If it's bit off, it might take longer, but no matter.

We shall see the Thompson's Maple Farm back again everywhere next year.

You can visit them on Facebook.

Lucky Me Farm & Kitchen

Lucky Me Farm & Kitchen has been absent several markets. There has been a reason. It may not have been a good reason, but it cannot be argued that it was not a sufficient reason.

Sara Doubleday has a beloved pet Brown Swiss cow, now retired, that stepped on her hand. Ouch!



Turley Photos by Richard Murphy
Sara Doubleday displays jams from Lucky Me Farm & Kitchen.



John Thompson is shown with his maple coated pecans.

No matter, Sara is now back and should be every other Wednesday for the duration.

The farm itself has a lot going on. There is raw milk. They raise

hay and silage and beef, but Sara is definitely into making jam with over 30 varieties with interesting names such as Pina Colada Jam, Blue Mule, Fig Jam, and more.

If you're a jam fan, it would be hard not to find one you like.

Lucky Me spends a lot of time on the road going to markets from Springfield to Boston, so we are lucky to have her here.

Like Thompson's, she has a Facebook page to keep abreast of what Lucky Me is up to.

The market continues Wednesdays through March 12 during the mid-afternoon. Come and feel the warmth inside the church.

Blood drive to take place at QRHS Feb. 27

BARRE – A blood drive will take place on Thursday, Feb. 27 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Quabbin Regional Middle High School, 800 South St., in the high school gymnasium.

Ellie Frost, a senior at Quabbin Regional High School, is putting on a blood drive at the high school in partnership with the Rhode Island Blood Center.

Walk-ins are welcome if space

permits, but they ask people to sign up at ribc.org/drives and use sponsor code M102.

Sixteen year old donors need parent/guardian permission. Permission slips are available at ribc.org/permission.

Donors should eat, drink and bring ID with their name and photo. Blood donation takes about an hour. People may also call 800-283-8385.

Polar Plunge to benefit Special Olympics is March 8

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



The gates will be open from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and there will be food, warm beverages, water, snacks and music provided. Check-in for the plunge is at 11 a.m. and the plunge will take place at noon.

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

WE ♥ OUR READERS

STIHL **Husqvarna** **DR**

PARK SAW SHOP

LOGGING • ARBORIST • SAFETY

1292 PARK ST. PALMER, MA 01069 **1-800-232-6132**
(413) 544-9027

Mon-Fri 6:30am-4pm • Sat 7am-Noon
Shipping Can Be Arranged
RENTALS AVAILABLE

Birds on the Range offered Feb. 15

AMHERST – Birds on the Range will be held on Saturday, Feb. 15 at 1 p.m. at The Notch Visitor Center, Holyoke Range State Park, 1500 West St., Route 116.

Get a close-up look at owls and other birds of prey with Tom Ricardi, a licensed rehabilitator and wildlife biologist, and learn about the great work being done at the Massachusetts Birds of Prey

Rehabilitation Center, which cares for injured birds.

Come and see what birds can be found here on the Range.

NESCO SALES INC.
COMPLETE AUTOBODY CENTER
Your Safety is Our Top Priority

RS #1688

- All vehicles are sanitized before and after repairs
- Pick-Up & Delivery Services Available
- Collision Specialists

Call Us to Arrange a Free Estimate following Social Distancing Guidelines

We Handle ALL Insurance Claims

91 State St., Bondsville, MA **283-6403** www.nescoautobody.com

McNeely Tree Service
Insured • References

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

H: 508-867-6119 • C: 978-888-1693

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

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

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

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

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

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS PORK BUTT STRIPS.....	\$2.99 lb	VALENTINE'S DINNER FOR 2	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP ROUND ROAST or STEAKS.....	\$4.99 lb
USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SIRLOIN CUTLETS.....	\$2.22 lb	2 FROZEN TENDERLOIN STEAKS 4 JUMBO SHRIMP CHEESECAKE FOR 2 2/13-2/15	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS 10 LB BAG	77c lb
USDA INSP. FROZEN BONE-IN PORK LOIN END CHOPS	\$1.79 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF SHORT RIBS	USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN WINGS TRAY PAK.....	\$1.88 lb
USDA INSP. SLICED IN OUR DELI TURKEY BREAST	\$3.99 lb	\$8.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN HANDMADE CHICKEN EMPANADAS FULLY COOKED	\$2.99 lb
USDA INSP. SLICED IN OUR DELI MONTEREY JACK CHEESE	\$4.44 lb	USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY DIET LEAN GROUND BEEF	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN RAW SHRIMP EASY PEELED 31/40 COUNT 2 LB BAG.....	\$9.99 ea
USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF SHANK.....	\$3.99 lb	\$4.99 5 LB BAG		
USDA INSP. FROZEN GOAT MEAT	\$6.99 lb	SALE DATES: 2/13/25-2/19/25		

90 Meat Outlet 90 Avocado St. Springfield
413-737-1288 www.90meat.com
We reserve the right to limit quantities.

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

BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

warren

Cemetery Commission sets FY26 budget

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Cemetery Commission met on Feb. 4 to go over its budget for fiscal year 2026.

All members of the Cemetery Commission went over their budget items that may feature some increases. The commission's clerk Cindy Baxter mentioned she had scheduled to meet with Town Administrator James Ferrera later in the month and will go over their budget.

The commission believes most of their cemetery supplies are going up in cost as well as additional items. With members of the Cemetery Commission putting in a lot of hours, it is only fitting to have salaries go up as well, including the salary of the clerk.

The Cemetery Commission

was wondering if they had a road and tree item in their budget. However, it may have a minimal impact on the commission as they believe it may be due to maintenance, and it could be for the Highway Department.

Baxter mentioned the commission could go to the Special Town Meeting and could possibly access free cash for surveying and expanding work on the cemetery.

Other supplies that may go up in cost include new flags and flowers. Commission Chair William Brunk was thinking of raising the budget a few hundred dollars for FY26. According to Vice-Chair Steve Cristol, the Cemetery Commission "hasn't gone up in years."

The Cemetery Commission agreed and voted to increase the budget for FY26. The Cemetery Commission's budget is going up \$305.

Local author presents writing/publishing workshop

WEST BROOKFIELD – "Everyone has a story to tell," said award-winning author Ed Londergan.

His ninth annual creative writing and publishing workshop will be held on Sunday, March 9, from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Salem Cross Inn.

"The writing workshop aims to help those who want to write but don't know where to start or who have had an idea for a story that's been bubbling in their head for years and finally want to put it on paper. I also help people who have written something and need to know how to move ahead," said Londergan, who provides a full day of information.

"The workshop will cover the entire process of writing and publishing, including idea development and sources of inspiration, drawing from storytelling traditions, developing the story, structure, and flow, conceiving and bringing characters to life, dialogue, editing, short fiction, writer's block, and the publishing process," Londergan said. "The publishing process can be

confusing and frustrating. I'll take the group through the various publishing options available. There will also be some fun writing exercises."

Past workshops have been attended by people of all ages and occupations, from 12-year-old students to 75-year-old retirees.

"Five attendees have written books and had them published while others have had stories and articles placed in various publications," said Londergan.

"One of the things past attendees have enjoyed and learned from is the writing exercises," Londergan said. "The writing exercises this year are different than what I've done in the past. I enjoy seeing

the creative ideas that come out of them."

"Back-and-forth discussion is always a popular part of the day. Attendees learn from each other. Individual issues or problems anyone has with their writing are discussed, and the group helps them with suggestions and observations. At times, a lot of 'here's what happened to me, and here's what I did,'" he said.

The workshop is limited to 14 participants. The cost is \$110, and lunch is included.

Registration is required, and the deadline is Feb. 28. To register, email ed.londergan@gmail.com or call 508-864-8685.

Aromatherapy 101 program set for March 1

WARREN – Learn the history and health benefits of essential oils and healing botanicals at the Warren Senior Center on Saturday, March 1 at 2 p.m.

This free program is sponsored by Warren Public Library

with a grant from the Warren Cultural Council and the MA Cultural Council. Craft and take home an aromatherapy dream pillow, bath salts and soap.

Space is limited, please register by calling 413-436-7690



Alex Davison, right, of Davison's Photography alongside friend and colleague Caiden. Davison had a photography booth during the craft fair.



Members of Quaboag Student Council kept busy running concessions and raffles during the school's annual craft fair.

Sweetheart Deals

QUABOAG FAIR from page 1

tables and raffles going to support the Student Council's MASC Leadership Conference in Hyannis. Proceeds from the raffle are going towards the QRMHS Student Council Polar Plunge for Special Olympics.

Although it is wintertime and snowstorms could linger, the craft fair still had an incredible turnout.

"Even though there is a snowstorm coming and it's the peek of flu season, it was still a good turnout," Hatch said.

One of the vendors featured photography by Davison's Photography. Alex Davison is a student at Quaboag who recently picked up photography as a hobby.

Davison had many samples of his photographs displayed and some photos were formatted into greeting cards.

When asked how he got into photography last year, Davison said "I just started taking pictures".

The aspiring photographer also had a camera stand in place and took sample photos during his time at the QRMHS Craft & Small Business Fair. Davison is currently a freshman at Quaboag and does photography in his spare time.

For more information, email Davison's Photography at davison-photography@gmail.com.

For a tasty treat, a member of Girl Scout Troop 65445 Arianna Miknaitis was selling Girl Scout cookies at the fair. Arianna was also

helping her mom out at her booth PB&J Designs.

Many vendors were sticking to the Valentine's Day theme with their products. Labors of Love provided laser cut engraved wood pieces and hand-painted pieces of hearts and other crafty decorations. To see more creative designs from laser cut engraving, email Labors of Love at kathleenmlynarski@gmail.com or call 413-345-4802.

Over 40 prizes were featured in the raffle during the craft fair. Members of Student Council did an excellent job organizing the raffle and sold tickets for guests who got to experience the fourth annual Craft & Small Business Fair at Quaboag Regional Middle High School.



Leggings were available at this booth and came in colorful patterns.



Crocheted items were big at this year's craft fair at Quaboag Regional Middle High School and guests could purchase their own emotional support sensory hedgehogs.



Homemade birdhouses were designed by Gary's Bird House Sales out of Chicopee.



Figurines and fairy houses were standing out at Quaboag's Craft Fair.



Laser cut engraved and hand painted crafts made by Labors of Love. A tree full of hearts would make a great Valentine's Day gift.



Sweets and desserts including dunkaroos could be purchased at the craft fair.



Pens, keychains and wine corks were all beaded and hand-made.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

WARREN BOS from page 1

els. Ferrera will be meeting with department heads to explain the new wage scale and how it will transpire once factored in and how the steps work.

Ferrera explained to the board as he will explain to department heads and staff that there will be no direct steps, up or down, and no one is losing money in their pay.

One of the requests regarding one job position is the pay rate of the assistant to the Town Clerk being raised up to a grade C on the wage scale and the wage increases from \$19.29 per hour to \$24.78 per hour. This example if approved would be the highest increase across the board of any individual this on the presented pay scale plan.

Ferrera said, "the board may want to consider adjusting some positions." The board thought an increase this high sounds like a different position than the one presented, the assistant to the Town Clerk. The position description is on a grade D scale.

The board suggested the Town Clerk rewrite the request and what is being requested and brought forward to the Board of Selectmen at their next meeting.

Fire Chief Adam Lavoie commented on the study discussion and had concerns regarding not being informed about the ability to comment on the potential pay scale change. With budgets being due soon, Lavoie finds it essential for departments to know what was drafted as a new wage scale and factor it into department budgets.

"Draft the budget with those numbers coming in," Lavoie said.

The board suggested that the deadline for budgets get pushed back for another week or two. When asked if the Finance Committee has reviewed and responded to the study, Ferrera said he has not received any

responses yet. Ferrera would like to hear the input from the Finance Committee and the board would think it be easier to justify what the numbers are. Vice-Chair David Dufresne commented and believes having this step process is beneficial for workers to move up in their job, but wants them to not worry about being pushed a step down in pay due to this new process.

"Department heads need to make sure that they let employees know they're not losing money," Dufresne said.

The board also advises all departments to reach out to the board with any questions, comments or concerns regarding the proposed pay scale and have the opportunity to approach the board during a meeting and speak on it so the board can hear more input.

The board voted to accept the recommendations of the Town Administrator regarding the study on its implantation of the wage scale. The motion was approved by the Selectmen.

Superintendent's report

The Board of Selectmen heard from Quaboag Regional School District Superintendent Stephen Duff and his monthly report. Duff spoke on the support the schools are getting from grants and have \$434,000 worth of upgrades that will be made in the schools and will help cover heating bills.

The school district is currently in contract discussions with transportation bids. According to Duff, transportation expenses are going up 8%.

There is door and window work currently being done at West Brookfield Elementary School. The other schools, including Quaboag Regional Middle High School and Warren Community Elementary School are being looked at for future work done to windows and doors and possibly looking at a grant for a roof proj-

ect, which is expensive.

Duff said the school district also applied for a community compact information technology grant and wanted to thank Ferrera for helping with the application. This grant would be helpful for the elementary school in Warren.

"We're now looking at ways that we can help each other out," Duff said referring to having a good working relationship with the Town Administrator and the Finance Committee.

Duff also expressed appreciation for the partnership with the Fire Academy as another junior volunteer was recently sworn in. Several students of the CNA program have been working hard and have pursued CNA positions at the rehab center at Quaboag on the Common in West Brookfield.

"These programs are serving our communities well," Duff said.

Duff also talked about budget season fast approaching and the Selectmen asked if they could look at budget items such as salaries, stipends and bonuses.

The board also asked about the regional agreement. Dufresne believes the regional agreement should be looked and needs an update.

Duff said the regional agreement is reviewed by the School Committee and reminded the board that it does not expire. The goal for the school district is to keep the budget as low as possible, but always a goal to advocate for the students.

Ambulance abatements

The board spoke with Lavoie about first quarter of fiscal year 2025 and second quarter of FY25 ambulance abatements. Lavoie said these abatements are for ambulance fees and involve writing off costs that are for insurance purposes.

According to Lavoie, certain ambulance services cannot balance

a bill by law.

Dufresne asked if it would benefit the town if it got a minute clinic. Lavoie believes a clinic would help ease the burden on ambulance calls.

Lately, emergency calls and ambulance calls have increased due to other factors that were not originally on a 911 system. Lavoie said there has been an increase in mental health calls. One increase that helps the town is mutual aide from other town emergency services.

"Towns do help cover the overages," Lavoie said.

Lavoie mentioned the town could get a second ambulance but one of the issues is the Fire Department has no room for it and they would cost money to get the staff for that additional ambulance. The board also brought up the idea of regionalizing an ambulance service, but that comes with some delayed complications.

Lavoie mentioned that the process of getting an ambulance license is difficult to get. It's even harder to get back after someone gets out of an ambulance license.

The board mentioned the Quaboag Connector could be a helpful transportation source for the cases where someone can go to doctor's office and save the ambulance for the emergency calls.

After approving the first and second quarters for the ambulance abatements, The board asked Lavoie if he would reach out to other towns who have a minute clinic.

A clinic would be beneficial for the town considering that one of the closest hospitals near Warren, Mary Lane Hospital in Ware, closed years ago and the next two close destinations are Baystate Wing Hospital in Plamer and Harrington Hospital in Southbridge.

COLLEGE NEWS

Colleges and Universities announce President's and Dean's lists

President's list

Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, New Hampshire, **Farrah Forkey** of Ware

Western New England University, Springfield, **Jason Desantis** of Ware and **Seraya Dauksewich** of Ware

Dean's list

Champlain College, Burlington, Vermont, **Danni Vecchione** of Ware

College of Our Lady of the Elms Chicopee, **Kelsey Roman** of Gilbertville and **Kaley Campbell** of Ware

Mount Wachusett Community College, Gardner, **Jeffrey Lima** of Hardwick

Distinction list

Megan Muheim of Warren

Excellence list

Nick Johnson of Gilbertville and **Christian Turcotte** of Ware

Springfield College, Springfield **Kyle Natasi** of Hardwick, movement and sports studies major and **Andrew Soltys** of Ware, mathematics major

Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, **Emmet Wright** of Hardwick, majoring in mechanical engineering

VHS Recovery
(+other old tape formats)
mini-DV hi-8 VHS-C CE

Do you have old Home Movies that are in DANGER? Let's save them from OBLIVION so you can share with family & friends email for a quote: ModelRogers+VHS@gmail.com

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


think OUTSIDE of the BIG BOX
SUPPORT COMMUNITY BUSINESSES

PALMER PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS:

PALMER FOR TOMORROW
Gathering

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN!

WHAT IS IT?
Palmer has received funding in a settlement between Massachusetts and pharmaceutical companies, placing them at blame for the current opioid crisis.

Now we must decide how to best use the money to support our community, and we want to hear from YOU!

COME JOIN US TO DISCUSS THE NEXT STEPS IN THE PROCESS AS WE TALK ABOUT:

- Creating a Community Survey
- How to Support Those With Substance Use
- Preventative Measures
- After Care

FREE FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

- People with lived experience
- Individuals in recovery
- Family/friends of those with substance use disorder

To Join Our Group!

WHEN & WHERE
The Second Wednesday of Every Month
3:00pm-4:30pm
at The Palmer Public Library

For any questions reach out to:
(413)283-2606 or ngauthier@townofpalmer.com

*You will always be able to stay completely anonymous at Palmer for Tomorrow, we will never ask or share your name or your story.

Ware 2025 dog licenses are now available

Licenses must be purchased by March 31 to avoid late fees

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 Monday, 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 license must be purchased prior to March 31 and your envelope must be also 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 2024 check the license to see if the Rabies Certificate is current (the information is on your 2024 license);

if it is current, simply come into the office to license in person or license by 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 additional 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 your dog license.

Contact the Town Clerk's Office by calling 413-967-9648 extension 177 if you failed to license in 2024 so that we can inform you what is owed in entirety to license for 2025.

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 for the first time, be sure to supply the dog owner's name, address and contact telephone number; a copy of the Rabies Certificate and if the dog is neutered or spayed (please also send this certificate unless it is stated on the Rabies Certificate).

Questions can be directed to the Town Clerk's Office by calling 413-967-9648 extension 177.



Kids could also design their own penguin that could be posted on the bulletin board inside the Children's Room.



Three wooden hearts made by one guest that represent their two kids and spouse.

CRAFTS from page 1

made to represent her children and one for her husband.

Hearts were also made by Catelynn, Carter and Emmalynn. Jaxon did a great job designing his own decoupage wooden heart and took it home with him afterwards.

Goulet said Saturday Morning Craft has had great turnouts and many guests fill the children's room.

"It has been crazy busy," Goulet said. "Close to 35 people for one Saturday Morning Craft."

Next to the supplies for decoupage wooden hearts there was a crafting station for kids to decorate their own penguins. Winter is still lingering in the month of February and the snow could still appear. Therefore, penguins can be made and placed on the bulletin board of the children's room.

Saturday Morning Craft at the Ware Library is a drop in activity. For more information on future crafts, call the library at 413-967-9691 or email gouletc@cwmares.org.

Upcoming events at the library The Ware Library will be featuring Wildlife on Wheels on Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 2 p.m. Join the library during this interactive and informative program by meeting a few live animal ambassadors from the Zoo at Forest Park.

Registration is required for this event. Email Miss Cathy at gouletc@cwmares.org or call 413-967-9691.

One upcoming workshop at the library is a Bath Bomb Workshop. This workshop is for ages 5 and up and will take place in the children's room on Thursday, Feb. 20 from 3-5 p.m.

For teens and adults, the library



A decoupage wooden heart sample designed by Children's Room Librarian Cathy Goulet.

is hosting a Faux Stained Glass workshop. The workshop will take place on Feb. 13 at 5 p.m. Visit the library at 37 Main St.



An energy-efficient home is within sight.

Improve the comfort and efficiency of your home with a **no-cost Home Energy Assessment**. It's just one of the many ways we're here for your home.

Here's how it works:

- An Energy Specialist will find areas where your home may be losing energy, especially during hotter and colder months.
- The Energy Specialist can install energy-saving products at no cost and provide weatherization offers, such as 75-100% off approved insulation and no-cost air sealing.
- You can also receive information on rebates and incentives toward qualifying energy-efficient equipment and appliances.

99% of customers who have completed a Home Energy Assessment would recommend it to a friend or family member.

nationalgrid

Proud Sponsor of



Schedule your Home Energy Assessment today. visit ngrid.com/assessment or call **1-866-527-SAVE (7283)**

SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.turley.com

Quaboag scores win over Ware



Reese McKeever reaches up for a score.



Isabelle Manzaro holds the ball back before making a pass inside.

WARE – Last Sunday night, Quaboag girls basketball scored a win over host Ware as part of a doubleheader between the boys and girls teams of the two schools. Ware fell behind early as Quaboag got a big advantage 16-4 after one quarter. Quaboag got 15 points from Juliette Boos while Reese McKeever had 12 points for the Indians.



Kyla Campbell goes for the free throw.



Mia Letendre looks for a long pass.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Amelia Orszulak readies for a layup attempt.



Shelby Hogan passes into the paint.



Madisyn Slattery tries to work her way out of trouble.



Jacoby Labillois goes for free throw.



Parker Tunley struggles to get a shot off under pressure.



Juliette Boos gets around the opposing defense.



Kyle Clark passes after making a rebound.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Quinn Geary hustles down the court.

Panthers defeat Orioles in boys basketball action



Jaxon Warburton shuffles a pass away.

BELCHERTOWN – Last Wednesday night, Quabbin Regional basketball faced off with Belchertown on the road. The Panthers, which continue to have a strong season, came away with a 59-52 win, while the Orioles fell to 8-8 on the season. The two teams



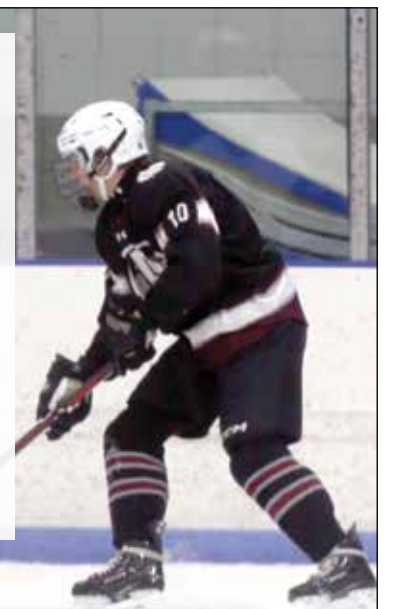
Zeke Santoro drives to the hoop.



Brady Patchen looks to score in traffic.

Hurricanes edge out Pacers

HOLYOKE – Last Wednesday evening, Amherst ice hockey, which co-ops with Pathfinder, defeated the Chicopee five-team co-op 3-2 at Fitzpatrick Rink. Nate Desbien, Alex Marlin, and Pathfinder's Ethan Mooney all scored the goals for the Hurricanes. Chicopee got goals from Nate Robitaille and Tyler Denison. Spencer McDonald made 21 saves in goal. Amherst 9-4-1 and is headed for tournament, while Chicopee is 3-8-2.



Noah Latulippe works the puck away from the wall.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Brach Applegate angles for a shot on goal.



Pathfinder's Ethan Mooney looks for a path to the Chicopee goal.

sports

Quabbin girls suffer loss to host B-Town



Mia Ducos makes a quick pass as she heads down the court.



Lianna Leger tries to get around a Belchertown guard.



Abby Rogowski goes for the put-back.

BELCHERTOWN – Last Wednesday night, in the second matchup of a boys-girls double-header, Belchertown girls basketball defeated Quabbin 61-30. Playing

on its Senior Night, Belchertown got 20 points from Aubrey Klingensmith while Morghan Litz sunk 19 points and Chloe LaRoche added 17 points. Quabbin's Mia

Ducos scored 13 points and Abby Rogowski added seven points in the defeat. Quabbin is 5-11 while Belchertown is 10-8 and has secured its spot in the state tournament.



Christian Dunn eyes an open teammate.



Bella Smith drives into the arc.



Brooke Austin takes the free throw.



Turley photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com
Aiden Girard is closely guarded.



Cayden Bousquet looks for a pass around an opponent.



Cassian Kowalik gets to the foul line.

Pioneers fall to rival Panthers

PALMER – In a battle of the Palmer boys basketball squads, Palmer High beat Pathfinder last Wednesday night 55-42. Stephen Fredette led all scorers with 18 points. Dylan Doherty added 14 points for the Panthers. Cayden Bousquet had a big game for the Panthers with 15 points. Cassian Kowalik had 10 points. The Panthers improved to 12-4 while the Pioneers are 2-14.



Mason Baer takes a free throw.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – The Commercial Elks have concluded their second round of the candlepin league season.

Going into the final week, the standings had Team BK in the first-place position with a record of 22.5-13.5. The Daft Kings are in second place at 20.5-15.5. Daft Kings would have to win at least three points to win the round as long as BK doesn't win any points in the final week of round two. The remaining four teams are mathematically eliminated from winning the second round.

The winner of this round will join Gutter Mouths in the championship roll off at the end of the season. First round winners, Gutter Mouths, bowled against Last in Line. In game one, Gutter Mouths were victorious over Last in Line 340-325.

In game two, Gutter Mouths won again by a score of 361-335. Stephen Manolakis bowled a 108 in game two to go with his teammate Dino Tessicini's 105. The third and final game was close but Gutter Mouths won again 343-339 for a three-game sweep.

The final score was 1044-999 in favor of Gutter Mouths.

The top seed Team BK bowled against Compression in the final week of round two. In game one, Compression defeated BK by a score of 382-366. Jeff Whyte of BK bowled an excellent game of 113 in a losing effort. David Bowman of Compression bowled a 105.

In game two, Compression was victorious again, taking another win from BK 375-345. In the third and final game, Team BK won the last game, 376-361, to give themselves one point in the final week. Mark Fitzpatrick ended the match with a 108.

The final score was 1118-1087 in favor of Compression.

The pressure was on for Daft Kings who are two points out of first place as they bowled against the Mailmen. In game one, Daft Kings got a victory by a score of 377-371. Ken Trudel of Daft Kings lead his team to victory by bowling a 112. Bryan Surprise of Mailmen bowled a 119 in a losing effort.

In game two, Daft Kings won another close game by a score of 393-392. Matt Bertelli of Daft Kings had the high single score of game two with a 116. Bryan Surprise has a 111 in game two.

In game three, it was another game with a single digit difference as Daft Kings won again 392-385. Dave Cobleigh of Daft Kings was the hero of game three with a 116. Bryan Surprise had the high series on his team with a 325. Matt Bertelli had the high series on his team with a 317.

The final score was 1162-1148 in favor of Daft Kings who won all four points in the final week. As a result, the Daft Kings pull ahead of Team BK and win the second round. Daft Kings will be competing in the championship roll off at the end of the season.

With one final round to go, the Commercial Elks League at Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes will crown one more winning team to join Gutter Mouths and Daft Kings in the playoffs.

Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

Team Mass Boys & Girls AAU Basketball Tryouts

Cost: \$30 Covers both tryouts (players get t-shirt)
AAU card \$25 (purchase on our website, we'll pull them)

Tryout # 1: February 22, 2025
Location: **Tantasqua Jr High School** (320 Brookfield Road, Fiskdale, MA)

- Boys Grades 4th-6th 8:30 a.m. - 9:40 a.m.
- Boys Grades 7th & 8th 9:45 a.m. - 10:55 a.m.
- Boys Grades 9th-12th 11 a.m. - 12:10 p.m.
- Girls Grades 4th-6th 12:15 p.m. - 1:25 p.m.
- Girls Grades 7th-8th 1:30 p.m. - 2:40 p.m.
- Girls Grades 9th-12th 2:45 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Tryout # 2: March 1, 2025
Location: **Oxford High School** (100 Caruncle Drive, Oxford, MA)

- Boys Grades & Girls Grades 4th-6th (9 a.m. - 10:25 a.m.)
- Boys & Girls Grades 7th & 8th (10:30 a.m. - 11:55 a.m.)
- Boys and Girls Grades 9th-12th (12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.)

Pre Register/pay on website: teammassbasketball.com
Questions Email: teammassbasketball@gmail.com or call 413-539-1548
AAU affiliated club for over 25 years!

Hall of Fame unveils schedule for 2025 enshrinement

SPRINGFIELD — The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame has unveiled its Enshrinement Weekend schedule for the Class of 2025. The celebratory weekend will culminate with the Enshrinement Ceremony on Saturday, Sept. 6, in Springfield—the Birthplace of Basketball. Finalists, as well as select award winners, will be announced on Friday, Feb. 14, during NBA All-Star Weekend in San Francisco, and the Class of 2025 will be revealed on Saturday, April 5, at the Final Four in San Antonio.

Enshrinement Weekend will begin at Mohegan Sun on Friday, Sept. 5, with the Tip-Off Celebration and Awards Gala. The Class of 2025 and returning Hall of Famers will then travel to Springfield, Mass., where they will participate in the weekend's traditional events taking place at the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame and Springfield's Symphony Hall.

First-time candidates for the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2025 include Carmelo Anthony, Sue Bird, Maya Moore, Dwight Howard, Doc Rivers, Billy Donovan, Sylvia Fowles, Chamique Holdscaw, Mark Few, Lisa Bluder, Marc Gasol, and Micky Arison.

A limited number of VIP Packages for the 2025 Enshrinement Ceremony will go on sale on Friday, Feb. 14, at 6 p.m. at hoophall.com on the Hall of Fame's Enshrinement Ticket page or by calling the Basketball Hall of Fame at (413) 231-5513.

Individual tickets for the events will go on sale tentatively on Saturday, April 5, at 12 noon.

Details of the current schedule of events for Enshrinement 2025 are as follows:

Friday, September 5, at Mohegan Sun (Uncasville, Conn.)

Enshrinement 2025 Autograph Session

An opportunity to meet the Class of 2025 at their first public Enshrinement Weekend event. A ticket to this event will give fans the opportunity to receive one autograph per class member.

Enshrinement 2025 Press Conference

The official media availability for the Hall of Fame Class of 2025. This availability is only open to credentialed members of the media, along with VIP Package ticket holders, and will be held at Mohegan Sun. The media credential application will open on Monday, July 21, at hoophall.com/media.

Enshrinement Tip-Off Celebration and Awards Gala

The Class of 2025, along with the Hall's prestigious annual award winners, will be celebrated at this televised Enshrinement event at Mohegan Sun. During the event, the Class of 2025 will receive their Hall of Fame rings, courtesy of Baron Championship Rings, and their official Hall of Fame jackets, provided by Reveal Suits. The program will additionally highlight the presentation of the Hall's annual John Bunn Lifetime Achievement Award and the Curt Gowdy Media Awards.

Saturday, Sept. 6, in Springfield, Mass.

Enshrinement Ceremony VIP Reception at Springfield Marriott

Toast the incoming Hall of Fame Class of 2025 at the official VIP Reception prior to the sport's ultimate recognition. The party is limited to select ticket holders for the Enshrinement Ceremony. Shuttle service between the host location and Symphony Hall will be provided if needed. This exclusive party will set the stage for a memorable night on the Red Carpet and at the Ceremony.

Enshrinement Ceremony Red Carpet Show at Symphony Hall

The Class of 2025, legendary Hall of Famers, and some of basketball's biggest icons take center stage on the red carpet in a live TV broadcast outside Symphony Hall.

Enshrinement Ceremony at Symphony Hall

One of the most elite nights on the basketball calendar each year, the Hall of Fame Class of 2025 will be formally enshrined into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in a nationally televised ceremony.

'Ice-O-Topes' score win over Bruins

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Ice-O-Topes, née Thunderbirds, (22-17-2-3) rode a four-goal flourish in the final period to a 5-2 victory on Saturday night over the Providence Bruins (25-15-4-1) before a sellout crowd of 6,793 inside the MassMutual Center. Springfield has still never lost to the Ice-O-Topes, improving to a perfect 5-0 record as their alter ego, while the team also extended its point streak to seven straight games.

It became evident in the early stages that goals would be scarce on this night, as Bruins All-Star netminder Michael DiPietro and Springfield stalwart Colten Ellis showed no signs of blinking in the opening 20 minutes. Matt Luff had two of the better chances for Springfield, but the iron rang on the veteran winger on one attempt, while DiPietro flashed terrific lateral agility to stonewall the Ice-O-Topes forward on another offering.

Not to be outdone, Ellis was timely in his own right, making his brightest save of the frame when he denied a breakaway backhand attempt from Max Jones.

The first three power plays of the night proved unsuccessful, but on their second attempt in the closing

minutes of the middle period, the Bruins finally solved Ellis as Jones hit Riley Tufto on a slap feed in the right circle, where the big centerman lifted a shot under the crossbar to make it 1-0 Providence at 18:14 of period two.

In desperate need of a response, the 'Topes got just that in the final seconds of the stanza, as MacKenzie MacEachern and Dalibor Dvorsky combined to work the puck to the edge of the blue paint on a 3-on-2 rush, with Nikita Alexandrov cashing in with just eight seconds separating the teams from the dressing room.

Alexandrov was far from finished, and at 4:01 of the third, with Leo Loof holding the puck at the left point, Alexandrov dashed to the blue paint, where he deflected Loof's pass in behind DiPietro to hand Springfield the 2-1 lead.

Just 1:41 later, the lead got a boost as Otto Stenberg filled the center lane, receiving a pass from Luff and firing it through DiPietro to make it a 3-1 game at 5:42. The tally snapped Stenberg's eight-game goal drought and also dou-

bled as his first goal on home ice. The Bruins would not go down easily, and Vinni Lettieri stepped in front from behind the goal line to lift a backhandler home before Ellis could get across, shrinking the 'Topes' lead to 3-2 at 7:45.

Unlike the night before, the T-Birds would not let the Bruins get even this time around, killing off a Providence power play before adding onto their lead once again at 17:48 when Alexandrov fielded a pass out of his feed at the bottom of the right circle before slipping it into the blue paint. Before DiPietro could smother it, Matthew Peca arrived to jam it across the line for his team-leading 17th of the season, giving Springfield a 4-2 advantage.

Dvorsky joined Alexandrov with three-point nights when he threw a puck from center ice into an empty net with 1:29 to polish off a four-goal final period and earn Springfield three of a possible four points on the weekend.



Railers drop finale to Atlanta Gladiators

WORCESTER — The Worcester Railers HC (20-20-2-4 46pts) lost to the Atlanta Gladiators (20-22-4-2, 46pts), on Saturday night by the final score of 4-2 in front of a crowd of 7,094 at the DCU Center. The Railers are back on the ice next at the Credit Union of Texas Event Center taking on the Allen Americans on Friday, February 14th at 8:10 p.m. EST.

It was Atlanta who scored first tonight as Cody Sylvester (2-0-2) put the Gladiators up 1-0 19:26 into the first period. Just 31 seconds later Andrew Jarvis extended the Atlanta lead to 2-0 heading into the second period. Worcester got their first on the night off the stick of Matias Rajaniemi (1-0-1) 2:34 into the third period. Atlanta scored back-to-back empty-net goals in the

third period from Cody Sylvester and Ryan Cranford (1-0-1). The Railers then made it 4-2 with a goal from Matt Ustaski (1-0-1) 18:41 into the third to finish off the night's scoring.

It took nearly the entire first period for either team to score until Atlanta took the 1-0 lead. It was Cody Sylvester (17th) who put the Gladiators up 1-0. With just three seconds remaining in the first period Andrew Jarvis (4th) extended the Atlanta lead to 2-0 with a low slap shot to beat Bullion down low. Shots favored Worcester 12-10 in the first period.

Despite power play chances for both sides neither team was able to net one in the second period. The Railers went to the power

play twice in the period, first at the 10:02 mark into the second followed by another chance at the 13:38 mark. Atlanta got their power play opportunity 16:17 into second frame, but the Worcester penalty kill held strong keeping Atlanta from jumping out to a three-goal lead. Shots favored Worcester 14-7 in the second.

Worcester made it a 2-1 game early in the third following a goal from Matias Rajaniemi (3rd) 2:34 into the third period. The Railers went to the empty net in an effort to tie the game late, but Atlanta scored twice on the empty net, the first was Cody Sylvester (18th) followed by Ryan Cranford (9th). The Railers then got one back scored by Matt Ustaski (3rd) leading to a 4-2 final. Shots favored Worcester 15-5 in the third and 41-22 in the game.



EQLT to host 'Kids' Wonder Workshop' on Feb. 20

HARDWICK — The East Quabbin Land Trust will host a Kids' Wonder Workshop during school vacation week, on Feb. 20 from 1-3 p.m., at EQLT's office, 120 Ridge Road.

Open to children of all ages, activities will be held indoors and outside and include:

Sap to Syrup — a demonstration of a small-scale "backwoods approach" to selecting and tapping a tree, drawing sap and creating syrup.

Exploring the Forest Play Trail — the Forest Play Trail, created for elementary-aged children, is a discovery trail near the EQLT office that kids can visit anytime, year-round.

Rock Painting — after discovering and gaining inspiration from the Kindness Rocks along the Forest Play Trail, children will have the opportunity to paint their own Kindness Rocks to take home.

Who Goes There? Animal Tracks & Wildlife Sign — see and learn about various animal tracks and specimens indoors, then head outside to look for animal tracks and other wildlife sign.

S'mores Making — creating these timeless treats over an open, outdoor fire. Other healthy snacks will also be available.

The outdoor activities will be held on the hillside next to the EQLT office in both wooded and open grassy areas. Children should have sturdy, warm footwear, be dressed for the weather...and bring their curiosity!

Please RSVP to atrevvett@eqlt.org if you would like to attend. In the event of inclement weather, the Kids' Wonder Workshop will be moved to the following day, Feb. 21, from 1-3 p.m.

About the East Quabbin Land Trust

The East Quabbin Land Trust fosters a meaningful relationship with the natural world by conserving, connecting with and caring for the farmlands, woodlands and waters in the East Quabbin region of Massachusetts.

Celebrating its 30th Anniversary in 2024, EQLT was formed in 1994 out of concern for the loss of farmland and wildlife habitat to unplanned sprawl in and around Hardwick. Since 1998, EQLT has expanded its protection efforts to Barre, Petersham, New Braintree, North Brookfield, and other nearby towns.

By working cooperatively with property owners, government agencies, conservation groups and other land trust organizations, EQLT has been able to protect over 6,200 acres in the region.

Nat Falk offers best men's clothing for 88 years

Nat Falk has been in business for more than 88 years, offering the best in men's clothing along with personalized service at competitive prices.

The business was started on Main Street by Nat Falk in 1936, with Joe Falk becoming the owner in 1977, and his son, Charlie, buying the business in 1989. Since then, Charlie has continued the hallmark of the store, offering free alterations (with some exceptions) in the store with prices at or below its competitors for the same service.

Nat Falk offers customer service that is second to none while still offering prices that cater to working people. "In today's market of competitors inflating their prices and after work, Nat Falk offers everyday great values. We don't play the pricing games," Charlie said. "We offer the best personalized service at workingman's prices."

Nat Falk carries some brands such as Carhartt, Levi's, Huggo, Florsheim, Iod, Van Heusen, Armani and Carolina, just to name a few. They carry big and tall sizes and are a proud Boy Scout supplier. Nat Falk is the place to go for formal wear with a full selection of sales and rentals for that all important date.

Come in today and enjoy the best in service at unbeatable prices. It is what Nat Falk has been about since 1936.

THE JOURNAL REGISTER & WARE RIVER NEWS

is offering our local businesses an opportunity to advertise at a **reduced rate!**

- Business profile - 250 words
- Photo - yourself, employees or building
- Advertisement - 3 column x 6"

ALL FOR ONLY \$275

This special section will run in the April 3rd issue of The Journal Register & The Ware River News.

Ad deadline: March 19, 2025

Quarter page ad with story (4.75"x8") \$275
 Half page ad with story (9.75"x8") \$460
 Full page ad with story (9.75"x15.75") \$650

Contact Dan Flynn to reserve your space today
 413-297-5886 or dflynn@turley.com

Customer Service The Way It Should Be for 88 Years

All at Prices Below What You'll Pay in a Department Store

FORMALWEAR SALES & RENTALS

YOUR DESTINATION FOR WEDDING, PROM OR ANY FORMAL OCCASION.

Top Brand Clothing from head to toe

VAN HEUSEN SHIRTS TO FLORSHEM SHOES

YOUR CARHARTT WORKMAN HEADQUARTERS AT EVERYDAY GREAT PRICES!

KNOWLEDGABLE SALES HELP ALTERATIONS AT FREE OR LITTLE COST

NAT FALK
 64 Main Street, Ware • 967-6721

Turley Publications, Inc.
 — A TURLEY PUBLICATION —
WWW.TURLEY.COM

public safety

Smola announces FY25 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grants

BOSTON – State Rep. Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means) is pleased to announce that five fire departments within his district were awarded fiscal year 2025 Firefighter Safety Equipment grants.

The recipients and their award amounts are as follows: Town of Brimfield, \$12,500; Palmer Fire District No. 1, \$15,500; Bondsville Fire District, \$12,500; Town of Sturbridge, \$15,499.99; Town of Wales, \$10,436.79; Town of Ware, \$15,408.54; and the Town of Warren, \$11,043.75

Out of 789 individual fire stations in Massachusetts, 273 were

named as grantees and share more than \$4.5 million in funding, with awards ranging from \$4,502.88 to \$50,000. All fire departments in Smola's district that applied and attended the mandatory program webinar received FY25 Firefighter Safety Equipment grant funding.

Smola stated, "This grant funding is a crucial investment into the maintenance and improvement of our fire departments." He continued, "Firefighters risk their lives for the well-being of our communities. It is vital that the legislature continues to support our firefighters and care for their safety, as they so often do for us."

Firefighter Safety Equipment

Grants were made possible by the Healy-Driscoll administration, the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, and the legislature.

Fire departments can use this funding to purchase equipment improvements, such as protective gear, thermal imaging cameras, portable radios, hazardous gas detectors, and personnel accountability systems. The grant program also provides reimbursement for over 100 types of eligible equipment including purchase of essential firefighter turnout gear, hoses, nozzles, communication equipment, hand tools and more.

Ware Police Log

During the week of Feb. 2-11, the Ware Police Department responded to 23 miscellaneous calls, 16 administrative calls, 10 traffic violations, 14 emergency 911 calls, five motor vehicle accidents, one safety hazard, four frauds, two thefts/larcenies, three animal calls and 37 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

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.

Sunday, Feb. 2

3:27 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Clifford Avenue, Citation/Warning Issued
4:45 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Otis Avenue, Services Rendered
7:32 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gilbertville Road, Citation/Warning Issued
3:46 p.m. Safety Hazard, Palmer Road, Investigated
7:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation/Warning Issued
8:06 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, River Road, Investigated

Monday, Feb. 3

1:13 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Convent Hill Road, Could Not Locate

Tuesday, Feb. 4

5:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Street, Citation/Warning Issued
8:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued

Wednesday, Feb. 5

4:22 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Walnut Street, Citation/Warning Issued
4:30 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Smith Avenue, Citation/Warning Issued
4:36 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued
4:42 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Vigeant Street, Citation/Warning Issued
5:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued
6 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation/Warning Issued
9:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Citation/Warning Issued

Thursday, Feb. 6

12:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Street, Citation/Warning Issued
3:35 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Parker Street, Citation/Warning Issued
3:43 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Eddy Street, Citation/Warning Issued
10:04 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Eddy Court, Dispatch Handled
10:10 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Belchertown Road, Services Rendered
1:44 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Old Belchertown Road, Services Rendered
2:57 p.m. Fraud/Deception, West Street, Could Not Locate
6:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Citation/Warning Issued
10:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued

Friday, Feb. 7

3:17 a.m. Bylaw Violation, East Street, Citation/Warning Issued
7:54 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Old Belchertown Road, Could Not Locate
9:20 a.m. Fraud/Deception, North Street, Advised
5:36 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Unknown Location, Dispatch Handled
7:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning issued
8:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gould Road, Criminal Complaint Request

Saturday, Feb. 8

3:35 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Report Made
7:04 a.m. Theft/Larceny, Palmer Road, Investigated
6:41 p.m. Theft/Larceny, West Street, Advised
9:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Belchertown Road, Arrest Made

Sunday, Feb. 9

1:53 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Street, Investigated
5:06 p.m. Fraud/Deception, North Street, Advised
6:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Anderson Road, Citation/Warning Issued
8:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued

Monday, Feb. 10

11:27 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Street, Could Not Locate
11:29 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Street, Report Made
4:36 p.m. Fraud/Deception, North Street, Services Rendered
5:19 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Maple Street, Could Not Locate
9:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Belchertown Road, Citation/Warning Issued

Tuesday, Feb. 11

2:45 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Parker Street, Citation/Warning Issued
2:54 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued
5:02 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Cummings Street, Dispatch Handled
6:31 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued
6:55 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued

Warren Police Log

During the week of Feb. 1-8, the Warren Police Department responded to 156 building/property checks, 52 community policings, 20 emergency 911 calls, one parking issue, one safety concern, one stolen vehicle, one larceny/theft, one fire/smoke investigation, four animal calls and 16 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Saturday, Feb. 1

6:33 a.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Nelligan Terrace, Citation Issued
10:42 a.m. Bleeding, High Street, Transported to Hospital
6:22 p.m. Fire/Smoke Investigation, Main Street, Investigated

Sunday, Feb. 2

12:14 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Boston Post Road, Citation Issued
12:28 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
1 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Maple Street, Transported to Hospital
1:18 a.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Comins Pond Road,

Report Filed

9:28 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
9:44 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ware Road, Citation Issued
4:09 p.m. Heat/Cold Environmental, Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital

Monday, Feb. 3

8:38 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
10:27 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Southbridge Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
11:27 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Winthrop Terrace, Transported to Hospital
10:23 p.m. Breathing Difficulty, Southbridge Road, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, Feb. 4

2:01 a.m. Parking Issues, North Street, Citation Issued
8:49 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Boston Post Road, Written Warning
9:23 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

9:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Wednesday, Feb. 5

1:43 a.m. Safety Concern, Pine Street, Transported to Hospital
7:59 a.m. Stolen Vehicle, Presidential Circle, Officer Spoke to Party
9:10 a.m. Larceny or Theft, Main Street, Report Filed

Thursday, Feb. 6

3:37 a.m. Falls, Pine Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
11:29 a.m. Stroke, Winthrop Terrace, Transported to Hospital
1:24 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Keys Road, Transported to Hospital

Friday, Feb. 7

5:22 p.m. Falls, Keys Road, Transported to Hospital

Saturday, Feb. 8

4:37 p.m. Welfare Check, A Street, Report Filed
5:16 p.m. Trauma, Quaboag Street, Transported to Hospital

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Feb. 3-10, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 35 building/property checks, 25 directed/area patrols, seven radar assignments, three traffic controls, 14 emergency 911 calls, one citizen assist, two assist other agencies, two complaints, three safety hazards, three motor vehicle accidents, one motor vehicle investigation, one structure fire and eight motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, Feb. 3

9:28 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
1:35 p.m. Medical Emergency, Collins Road, Transported to Hospital
2:21 p.m. Parking Complaint, Church Street, Officer Handled
10:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Lower Road, Investigated

Tuesday, Feb. 4

12:21 a.m. 911 Structure Fire, Lower Road, Transported to Hospital
12:55 a.m. 911 Assist Citizen, Duhamel Court, Dispatch Handled
2:02 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Parker Court, Transported to Hospital
2:45 p.m. Safety Hazard, Main Street, Dispatch Handled
4:45 p.m. 911 Fire, Lower

Road, Investigated
6:16 p.m. 911 Fire, Lower Road, Investigated

Wednesday, Feb. 5

2:15 a.m. Fire, Lower Road, Extinguished
6:49 a.m. 911 Notification, Church Street, No Action Required
9:01 a.m. Fire, Lower Road, Services Rendered
11:17 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Dispatch Handled
11:55 a.m. Medical Emergency, Church Street, Transported to Hospital

1:52 p.m. Carbon Monoxide Alarm, Hardwick Road, Investigated
8:18 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital

Thursday, Feb. 6

5:31 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Barre Road, Citation Issued
7:57 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Jackson Road, Services Rendered
9:30 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Main Street, Vehicle Towed
9:35 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Main Street, Dispatch Handled
10:26 a.m. Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

12:46 p.m. Suspicious Activity, River Run, Spoken To

Friday, Feb. 7

12:09 p.m. Fire Alarm, Church Street, Services Rendered
2:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Citation Issued
3:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning
4:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Written Warning
4:39 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Maple Street, Transported to Hospital

Saturday, Feb. 8

7:47 a.m. Complaint, North Road, Transported to Hospital
10:27 a.m. Safety Hazard, Sullivan Avenue, Officer Handled
8:11 p.m. Medical Alarm, Muddy Brook Road, Services Rendered
11:13 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Muddy Brook Road, Transported to Hospital

Sunday, Feb. 9

11:11 a.m. Safety Hazard, Mill Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
12:27 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Pine Street, Transported to Hospital

Monday, Feb. 10

6:52 a.m. Assist Other Agency, North Road, Officer Handled

Open burning season now open through May 1

WARE – Open burning season is now open by permit and runs through May 1.

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

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

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

Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?

We invite you to join us Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm to explore these topics and more.

This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.

Please contact **Pat James 413-726-8661**.

Holyoke Community College offers free computer literacy training

HOLYOKE – In partnership with the nonprofit CanCode Communities, Holyoke Community College is offering a free six-week computer training course starting Feb. 25.

The real-time, instructor-led online classes will run Tuesdays and Thursdays Feb. 25 to April 3, from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

The program is aimed at helping individuals build essential computer skills for both personal and professional development. Participants will explore the Microsoft Office (Microsoft 365) suite of

programs (Outlook, Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and OneDrive), learn how to create resumes and presentations, manage calendars and tasks, create spreadsheets, send email, and organize and share documents using cloud storage.

"This course is perfect for those with basic computer skills looking to level up their Microsoft 365 knowledge for work, school, or personal use," said Arvard Lingham, HCC executive director of community education and corporate training.

Tuition assistance is available for qualified Massachusetts residents 18 and older. Limited seats are available. Laptops and WiFi hotspots for Internet access will be provided for students who need them.

Funding for the program comes from the Western Mass Alliance for Digital Equity.

To sign up for classes, please send an email to admissions@albanycancode.org, or go to cancode.org/apply-now.

obituary

Old Sturbridge Village announces February events and programs

STURBRIDGE – Old Sturbridge Village welcomes February with new events, a new exhibit, and many favorite programs returning this month.

Opening Friday, Feb. 14, Old Sturbridge Village is excited to present a new exhibit. Hands & Hearts: Courtship and Marriage in 19th-Century New England explores marriage and partnership by telling the stories of four couples from the 19th century.

The new exhibit is located in the Visitor Center and is included with standard daytime admission. Hands & Hearts was made possible thanks to the generous support of Keith and Elaine Knowlton and the Felicia Fund.

On Feb. 15 and 16 Old Sturbridge Village celebrates Valentine's Weekend. Guests can learn about the history of love letters, view the process of preparing hot chocolate, hear a selection of comedic 19th-century love songs, shop for unique gifts, and more.

Married couples can make this celebratory weekend extra special by renewing their wedding vows with a Justice of the Peace. Registration in advance, by Feb. 12 is required for vow renewal and a limited number of time slots are available.

Evening of Illumination continues this month on Feb. 22; tours are based on pre-selected time slots and are available from 6-7:30 p.m. This unique experience allows guests to discover how New England families spent their evenings before the introduction of technology by touring the Village after dark, lit only by candlelight, oil lamps, lanterns, and firelight. This event is sponsored by National

Grid. A popular visitor favorite, Maple Days will return this year from Feb. 19 to March 9. Guests can learn about the history of maple sugar in 19th-century New England and watch the sugar-making process at OSV's sugar camp, from tapping the trees to "sugaring off".

Educators visit for free during school vacation week, Feb. 19-21. This is an opportunity for teachers to explore how they can plan a field trip for their students. Special programming for teachers includes drop-in, hands-on crafts, 19th-century school lessons, tours of the Village, and talks with members of the Collections and Research team on these dates.

Teachers must show a valid teacher ID card, paystub, or other proof of being a teacher, principal, or school aid at the Visitor Center to receive free admission. Offer valid for teachers only, not others in their party.

Special thanks to Cornerstone Bank for supporting OSV and the celebration of Museum Education's 50th Anniversary.

February's Homeschool Day will be on Feb. 28. Homeschool Day is an educational opportunity for students to explore the Village and participate in hands-on workshops, scavenger hunts, and self-guided exploration. February's Homeschool Day celebrates Black History Month. Students will learn about the valuable contributions that people of color had in the 19th century on art, cooking, and written word.

For event details and tickets, and additional information, visit osv.org.

POLICY from page 1

Kemp looks at the policy as a guideline for the town to follow and have some form of structure needed without financial burdens that could arise in the future. Members of the board agreed that there is a need for the policy and they should speak with nonprofit organizations to negotiate an appropriate contribution.

However, it was noted that some town services are hard to put a value on, regarding public safety, infrastructure, water, sewer, etc. "We need a guideline," Tinker said. "And we agreed on impact fees."

After reading the entire policy for the public to hear, Kemp moved to a vote on the adoption of the PILOT policy. The vote was unanimous, and the Select Board approved and adopted the PILOT policy.

Capital Planning Committee

Mark Korzec, the chair of the Capital Planning Committee, spoke with the Select Board regarding items to discuss and bring to the Annual Town Meeting. The first item Korzec spoke about was the Gilbertville hydrant system.

There are several in the village of Gilbertville that don't work. Korzec said the Fire Chief knows of the hydrants that don't work.

The second item was about the police station. For years, the Hardwick Police have shared a space with the New Braintree Police Station, and Korzec thought would it be beneficial to form an advisory group to determine the new location of the Police Department.

Korzec said, "What does the Police Department look like five years from now" when considering the proposed item of put-

ting together a committee.

Town Administrator Justine Caggiano asked if there is a benefit of adding another committee. The board thinks they should bring in members of the Police Department to get their input on a new police station location. The board thinks a subcommittee might be a good idea to put together.

The third item was about tree removal behind the Municipal Building. Town Administrator Justine Caggiano brought up that the town received quotes already for the tree removal project and the project is to be done in the spring.

Korzec also recommended to have engineering and project management be sought out for the roof of the Hardwick Elementary School.

"Roof needs repair and replacement in the next two years," Korzec said.

The final item Korzec spoke about was fireproofing town records. The Select Board will look into these items and determine what can be done for all of them and figure out how Capital Planning can be involved.

Town Administrator's report

Caggiano shared her report with the Select Board, starting with the new phone system training. Staff were trained on the new phone system at the municipal building.

As mentioned earlier in the meeting, Caggiano talked about the quotes the town got for the removal of trees that are currently behind the Myron E. Richardson Municipal Building. The project is looking to be completed in the spring.

Caggiano wanted to acknowledge the fire departments of Hardwick and Ware who worked together in handling a structure fire that took place on Church Street.

Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

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

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

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

5.25" x 4"

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

5.25" x 8"

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

10.75" x 8"

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

10.75" x 15.75"

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



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



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

Call Dan today 413.297.5886 or 413.283.8393

Emilia Bzdula, 95

WARE – Emilia (Lopata) Bzdula, age 95, passed away peacefully on Monday, Feb. 10, 2025, at Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center in West Brookfield.



At the time of her passing, her loving daughter was by her side. Emilia was born in Wola Szczucinska, Poland on Oct. 18, 1929, daughter of the late Wladyslaw Lopata and Katarzyna (Pula) Lopata.

Born and educated in Poland, she lived there with her family through the war years. In 1953 she entered into Holy Matrimony with Tadeusz Bzdula, they were happily married for 27 years before his sudden passing in 1980.

Their marriage produced three loving children; Carl, Barbara and Wesley. In 1968 Emilia, Tadeusz and their children emigrated to the United States, settling into a home in Ware, and raising their children.

Emilia was employed for many years as a machine operator for Hardwick Knitted Fabrics in West Warren. She was a faithful Catholic, she was a communicant of St. Mary's Church in Ware, a member of its Holy Rosary Sodality and a long-time member of the Polish Women's Alliance.

Emilia leaves behind her loving daughter, Barbara MacNeish and her husband John, her daughter-in-law, Daniele Bzdula, granddaughter, Sylvia Bzdula and great-grandchildren; Abigail and Colt. Sadly, Emilia was predeceased by her beloved husband, Tadeusz in 1980, beloved sons; Carl Bzdula in 2002 and Wesley Bzdula in 2009, as well as her siblings: Jozef Lopata, Tadeusz Lopata and Eugenia Panek.

A Calling Period will take place on Friday, Feb. 14, 2025, from 9-10:30 a.m. in the Cebula Funeral Home Chapel, 66 South St., Ware. A Funeral Mass will be offered at 11 a.m. in St. Mary's Church, 57 South St., Ware. Emilia will be laid to rest following the funeral mass in St. Mary's Cemetery, Ware.

Funeral Arrangements are under the direction of Cebula Funeral Home, Ware. For more information and an online guest book, please visit: www.cebulafuneralhome.com. Memorial Contributions may be made to St. Mary's Church, 60 South St., Ware, MA 01082.

Barbara wishes to thank the entire staff of Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center for the loving and tender care they took for Emilia while she was a resident there. Emilia will be lovingly remembered and missed by all those who knew and loved her. Rest in Peace Emilia.

Death notice

Bzdula, Emilia (Lopata)
Died Feb. 10, 2025
Services Feb. 14, 2025

Ware River News OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries

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

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

The Jazz Bones will perform free concert

WARE – The Jazz Bones will present a music concert on Sunday, Feb. 23 at 4 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church, 17 Park St.

This concert is open and free to the public. This concert will benefit S.O.N.G. (Supporting Orphans, Nationally & Globally).

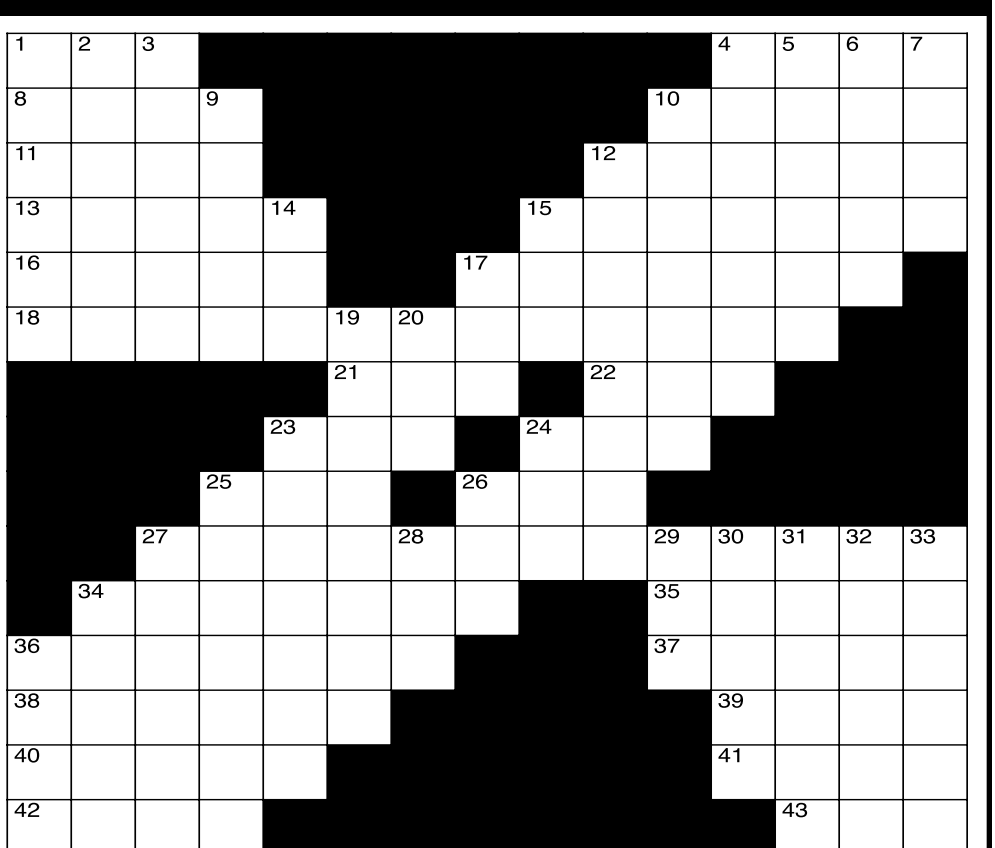
The trombone ensemble has a powerful five-part harmony whether they are playing a hard swing, fast jazz or a sweet ballad and backed by a first class rhythm section to drive the beat.

Music you may hear: "Eleanor Rigby", "All of Me", "On A Clear Day", "Don't Get Around Anymore", "Bad Bad Leory

Brown", "Here's That Rainy Day", "Bye Bye Blackbird", "Polka", "Fly Me to the Moon", "Battle of Jericho", "Old Devil Moon", "Bill Bailey", "Satin Doll", "California Dreaming", "Indiana", "Tie A Yellow Ribbon" and "America The Beautiful".

Please visit the Jazz Bones web site to listen to the group: www.Premierentertains.com. For more information about the Jazz Bones contact David Neill by calling 413-686-5027 or emailing tbns@aol.com.

The program is supported in part by the Ware Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.



CLUES ACROSS

- Racquet sport group (abbr.)
- Norse god of thunder
- Russian industrial city
- What's good for the ___
- Round-ish shape
- Baltimore MLBer
- French modernist painter
- Burned with water
- Intestinal issue
- Take the lead
- Prove oneself worthy
- None
- Tax collector
- Swiss river
- Gymnast Raisman
- Baby's dining accessory
- Canadian beer distributor
- Iconic American tourist destination
- More expansive
- Alert
- Popular boots
- Doc ___
- Showings
- Conclusion
- Share a common boundary
- Shooting sport
- Popular side dish
- Global energy firm
- Chronicles (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

- Type of bomb
- Polynesian island country
- Heavenly body
- Hard workers
- Covered
- Johns Hopkins Hospital founder
- Plant of the grass family
- Island person of the Bering Sea
- Storehouse
- Scarlet-flowered desert shrub
- A pituitary hormone
- Female sibling
- Monetary unit of Afghanistan
- Empowering
- Space station
- Disorder
- State of fuss
- Footwear for babies
- Nuclear reactor (abbr.)
- Droves
- Affirmative
- Male parent
- Utter obscenities
- Type of verse
- Unpleasant person
- One who settles down
- Founder of source-based history
- A way to snarl

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY. EXTRAORDINARY performance. Central Boiler certified Classic Edge Titanium HDX OUTDOOR WOOD FURNACE. Call today 413-296-4320.

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD
Fresh cut & split \$200.00
Seasoned cut & split \$300.00
All hardwood.
Tree length available
*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes guaranteed!! New England Forest Products (413)477-0083

MORE HEAT LESS WOOD. Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. 26% Tax Credit. Call (508)882-0178

TAG SALE

VALENTINE'S DAY GARAGE SALE.
February 14-16, 8am-3pm.
16 Paradise Lake Road, Monson.
No early birds please.
Moving, everything must go.

Find archives of this local newspaper at www.newspapers.turley.com

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY

ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.
BUYING Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more.
Donald Roy (860) 874-8396

JUNK REMOVAL

A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL
Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.
We load it & take it.
413-531-1936
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

SERVICES

DRYWALL AND CEILINGS, plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. (413)563-0487

SERVICES

ELECTRICIAN

NEED AN ELECTRICIAN?
Look no further!
PJ's Electrical offers fast and reliable electrical services for your home or business.
Call now for a FREE estimate!
(413) 366-1703
LICENSED & INSURED

HEATING & AIR COND.

KELLUM HEATING & COOLING LLC. Licensed, insured HVAC Technician, 30 years experience, repairs, full and 24 hour emergency service. 413-275-4408.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

HOME IMPROVEMENTS. REMODELING Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. (413)246-2783 Ron.

RLH ENTERPRISES
Home improvements, restorations, renovations. Fully insured. HIC license. (413) 668-6685.

SERVICES

LANDSCAPING

A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE
Excavator Services
Overgrown property?
Extreme Brush Cutting!
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal
Lawn/Arborvite Installed
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand
Storm Clean-up
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal
Insured
Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

MASONRY

STOP WET BASEMENTS

ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING
All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call (413)569-1611, (413)374-5377

PAINTING

DUTCH TOUCH PAINTING
Interior only \$199.00 for average 12x16 room. Very neat, references, prompt service call (508)867-2550

SERVICES

PAINTING

KEN'S PAINTING SERVICES. Interior painting/staining, wallpaper removal, wall/ceiling resurfacing, cabinet painting. Quality workmanship, fully insured. Free estimates. Call 413-896-8264.

RETIRED GUY
Will paint an average size room for \$200. Quality work. References available. Dave 413-323-6858.

PLUMBING

GREG LAFOUNTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg (413)592-1505

RUBBISH REMOVAL

BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 (413)537-5090

TREE WORK

AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE. Residential removal of trees. Free estimates. Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call 413-283-6374.

DL & G TREE SERVICE. Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate (413)478-4212

STUMP GRINDING

DL & G STUMP GRINDING Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave 413-478-4212

AUTO

CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS
FREE TOWING FAST SERVICE CASH PAID AS IS CALL OR TEXT 413-219-6839

HELP WANTED

COA COORDINATOR for Town of Westhampton. Description available online at www.westhamptonma.gov. Applications accepted until position filled.

HAMPDEN POLICE DEPARTMENT is now accepting applications for a **FULL-TIME police officer.** Review of applications begins immediately. Visit www.hampdenpolice.com for more information. EOE

PRESSMAN for local printer. Four-color, 19x25 size press, L528. Experience preferred. Call 413-478-6964 or 413-519-3321.

STORAGE

STORAGE: FREE MONTH! Secure gate access, well lit. Great prices. Call Secure Storage at 413-800-6278 for your free month.

REAL ESTATE



ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

FOR RENT

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and/or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

NOTICE

CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE IS NOW ON FRIDAY AT 12 NOON.

CHANTEL BLEAU ACCOUNTING SERVICES
For Full Accounting & Tax Service
Registered Tax Return Preparer
228 West St., Ware, MA 01082
413-967-8364
Call For An Appointment
The IRS does not endorse any particular individual tax return preparer. For more information on tax preparers go to irs.gov.

Personal & Small Business Federal & All States
FAST TAX USA TAX PREPARATION SERVICE 413-348-2279
IRS Certified Tax Preparers
Independently owned and operated. Over 25 years experience.
1622 B North Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069
www.FastTax-MA.com
Free E-File & Direct Deposit

AJE FINANCIAL SERVICES
588 Center Street Ludlow, MA 01056
www.ajefinancial.com (413)589-1671
Personal, Business, Corporate and Partnership Tax Filing
Bookkeeping and Accounting Services
Trusted Experts Since 1995

TAX-TIME SURVIVAL GUIDE
Call your local Turley Publications sales representative for information and rates on advertising your tax service here!
413-283-8393

Call Your Local Turley Publications Sales Representative For Information And Rates On Advertising Your Tax Service Here
CALL 413-283-8393 TO PLACE YOUR AD TODAY!

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: **FRIDAY AT NOON**
or call: 413-283-8393

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$28.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash Check# _____
Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

GREAT VALUE!
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

STAY ON TOP OF IT ALL!
Subscribe Today!

Turley Publications, Inc.
12 HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS
413.283.8393
www.turley.com
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

Country Bank supports communities with annual donations

WARE – Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving central and western Massachusetts, proudly reported over \$900,000 in donations for 2024.

The bank's philanthropic efforts supported local non-profits across its communities, with 462 organizations receiving grants throughout the year.

In addition to financial contributions, Country Bank team members dedicated 1,958 hours of volunteer service, demonstrating their ongoing commitment to giving back. Furthermore, 39 team members served on 95 non-profit boards and committees, actively contributing their time and expertise to advance these organizations' missions.

Recognizing the importance of financial literacy, Country Bank hosted seven Credit for Life Fairs for more than 2,000 high school seniors, educating them on credit, budgeting, and the long-term impact of financial decisions. Additional classes were conducted at various schools across the region and Christina's House, a home for



Submitted Photo

Country Bank donated over \$900,000 to 462 nonprofit organizations last year.

women and children who are homeless or near homelessness.

As part of its annual Season of Difference campaign, Country Bank partnered with the WonderFund to support those

involved with the Department of Children and Families system throughout central and western Massachusetts. Through this collaboration, the bank contributed over \$20,000, reinforcing its commit-

ment to making a meaningful difference in the lives of vulnerable children and families.

Among the organizations receiving support were Junior Achievement, EcoTarium, Main South CDC, Venture Community Services, Why Me/Sherry's House, Boys & Girls Clubs, Behavioral Health Network, Way Finders, HomeFront Strong, United Way of Pioneer Valley and Central MA, The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, Worcester County Food Bank, Juniper Outreach, Square One, Friends of the Homeless, along with 22 senior centers and 23 food pantries across the region.

Mary McGovern, President and CEO of Country Bank, emphasized the bank's dedication to its communities. "At Country Bank, our commitment to enriching the communities we serve is at the heart of everything we do. We take great pride in supporting organizations that make a meaningful impact, whether through financial contributions or the dedication of our team members. Giving back isn't

just part of our mission—it's a responsibility we embrace to help strengthen the places we call home and make a difference in the lives of those we serve."

About Country Bank

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

With a commitment to personalized service and community involvement, Country Bank offers individuals, businesses, and municipalities a comprehensive range of banking products and services. Country Bank can be reached at 800-322-8233 or online at country-bank.com.

Cold weather clothing drive ongoing through spring

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

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

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

Quabbin students selected for Project 351 Ambassadors

BARRE – Each year, eighth grade students from communities across the commonwealth are selected to participate in Project 351.

Project 351 shares. "We are a youth-led, school-based movement for positive change. We believe inside every young person is a brave, bold leader with dreams of a better world and the skill, passion, and creativity to achieve their vision. The program is designed to meet the demand for high quality, enriching service opportunities that respect and reflect the unique gifts and world changing aspirations of young people."

Project 351 Ambassadors are from left, Robert Tobin, Aiden Pagan, Jacob Rosario, Chloe Richardson, Zoey Salvadore and Isabelle Wentworth.



public notices

**TOWN OF WARREN
NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING
New Liquor License
Tropical Vibes & Grille**
TOWN OF WARREN
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
of a NEW OF LIQUOR
LICENSE The Warren Board
of Selectmen as the Local
Licensing Authority will hold
a public hearing on **Thursday,
27, 2025, at 6:00 P.M.** at the
Shepard Municipal Building,
48 High Street, West Warren
pursuant to MA Gen. Laws
Chapter 138 § 15A, on the new
Application for licenses; for
Tropical Vibes and Grille located
at 2162 Main Street West
Warren, The manager is Pierre
Cadet.
02/13, 02/20/2025

**COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF
THE TRIAL COURT
COMPLAINT TO
FORECLOSE TAX LIEN**
[seal] No. 21 TL 000203
Queenie O. Giles, Otis
Giles, Jr., also known as Otis
Clarence Giles, and Joshua
Giles, also known as Joshua L.
Giles, all deceased, all formerly
of Worcester, Worcester County,
and said Commonwealth; Mossy
Giles, also known as Theodore
Moss Giles and Theodore M.
Giles, Sr., deceased, formerly
of Guilderland in the State of
New York; Sheila Boykin, Tracy
Edmonds, Emma Nelson, Jamie
Picard, Tavie Johnson, and Taj

Johnson, also known as Taj C.
Johnson, all now or formerly of
Worcester, Worcester County,
and said Commonwealth; James
Giles, also known as James
Edmonds, now or formerly of
Dudley, Worcester County, and
said Commonwealth; Greg
Giles, also known as Gregory M.
Giles, now or formerly of Ware,
Hampshire County, and said
Commonwealth; Joshua Lee
Giles, now or formerly of Saint
Cloud in the State of Florida;
Theodore M. Giles, Jr., now or
formerly of Schenectady in the
State of New York; or their heirs,
devisees or legal representatives:

A Complaint has been filed by
the Plaintiff Tallage Brooks,
LLC. The Complaint asks the
Court to enter a judgment ending
any ownership rights or
interests in the land described
below. The Complaint is about
a parcel of land located in the
Town of Ware, Hampshire
County, Massachusetts, described
in the Complaint as follows:

A parcel of land with any
buildings thereon, containing
about 0.179 AC being described
as parcel 60 0 176 in the office
of the Assessors, Town of Ware
identified in book and page
7073-313, Hampshire Registry
of Deeds.

**To respond to the
Complaint, you or your attorney
must take these steps by
the Deadline to Answer, which
is the twenty fourth day of
March in the year two thousand
and twenty-five.**

First, prepare a written
Answer. You may write your
own Answer or use the form
or the online guided interview

program on the Court website.
Second, file your Answer with
the Land Court Recorder's
Office, or in the Assistant
Recorder's Office at the Registry
of Deeds where the land is located,
or using the Court's online
eFiling system. Third, serve
a copy of your Answer to the
Plaintiff by mail or e-mail.

**If you do not answer
the Complaint by the above
Deadline to Answer, this Court
will find you in default.** You
may lose the chance to answer
or dispute the facts listed in
the Complaint or pay the taxes
owed. You may lose all ownership
rights or interest in the land
described above. If a judgment
of foreclosure is entered, you
will lose ownership of your
property. If the property is
worth more than the amount
owed to cover the tax debt and
foreclosure costs, you may be
entitled to receive any remaining
funds (excess equity) from the
Plaintiff.

It is ordered that this citation
be published right away, once in
Ware River News a newspaper
published in Ware.

Witness, **GORDON H.
PIPER**, Esquire, Chief Justice
of said Court, this Twenty Ninth
day of January in the year two
thousand and twenty-five.

Attest with Seal of said
Court.

Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder

Plaintiff's Attorney:
Daniel C. Hill, Esq.,
6 Beacon Street,
Suite 600,
Boston, MA 02108
Tel: (617) 494-1220

02/13/2025

**TOWN OF WARE
Department of Public Works
Legal Notice
Invitation for Bids
FY 2025 & 2026
Hydrant & Valve Replacement
Contract: DPW-25-02**

The Town of Ware will receive
sealed bids for furnishing materials
and services as needed for the
period from April 15, 2025, to
June 30, 2025, and July 1, 2025
to June 30, 2026.

The bids are for the replacement
of Fire Hydrants and Hydrant
Valves including related work.
Specifications and Bid Forms
are available at the Town of
Ware, Town Manager's Office,
126 Main Street, Ware, Massachusetts
01082. Bids shall be
submitted in a sealed envelope
addressed to the Town of Ware
and marked "FY 2025 & 2026
Hydrant & Hydrant Valve
Replacement Contract". Bids will
be received at the Town Manager's
office **until 11:00 AM,
March 27, 2025** and at which
time they will be publicly opened
and read.

A bid deposit equal to 5%
of the total bid amount must
be submitted with all bids, the
bid deposit may be in the form
of a Bid Bond from a Surety, a
Certified Check, Treasurers or
Cashier's Check. This contract
shall be awarded to the lowest
responsive and responsible bidder
as defined in MGL Chapter
30, Section 39M c. If the Bidder
is a corporation, state your correct
corporate name and the state
of incorporation. If Bidder is a
partnership, state names and ad-

resses of partners. If Bidder is
a trust or other legal entity, state
the correct names and addresses
of trustees or names and address
of those legally authorized to bid
and enter into contracts. Contractors
are required to comply with the
Commonwealth of Mass. Department
of Labor and Industries Prevailing
Wage Rates in accordance with
Mass. General Laws, Chapter 149,
Sections 26 and 270. The Town of
Ware is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative
Action Employer. Failures to
follow the instructions, meet the
criteria, or agree to the terms
and conditions contained in this
IFB may be cause for rejection
of the bid as non-responsive. The
Town reserves the right to reject
any and all bids, wholly or in
part, and to accept any bid or part
thereof and to waive informalities,
when at its sole discretion it is
deemed to be in the best interests
of the Town and to the extent
permitted by law.

Stuart Beckley
Town Manager

02/13/2025

**TOWN OF WARE
REQUEST FOR
PROPOSALS
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICE
PROGRAMS**

The Town of Ware is seeking
proposals from qualified social
service organizations and agencies
to include in their Community
Development Block Grant
(CDBG) application. Activities
eligible for funding include a
range of social services that

meet the needs of low and moderate-income Ware residents.
Agencies providing the following
services are encouraged to submit
proposals; adult education/
GED preparation, literacy
programs, job training, domestic
violence prevention, services for
seniors, emergency food, family/
youth activities and other social
service programs.

The Town of Ware may choose
to fund all, any or none of the
proposals submitted. Agencies
or organizations identified for
inclusion in the Town's grant
proposal will be required to submit
additional information as part
of the full CDBG application to
be submitted to the Massachusetts
Executive Office of Housing
and Livable Communities (EO-
HLC). Programs funded by EO-
HLC are expected to begin in the
fall of 2025. The Pioneer Valley
Planning Commission (PVPC) is
assisting the Town in the coordination
and administration of its
community development programs.
Please contact Erica Johnson to
receive a request form or with any
questions regarding this program
at (413) 781-6045 or
ejohnson@pvpc.org.

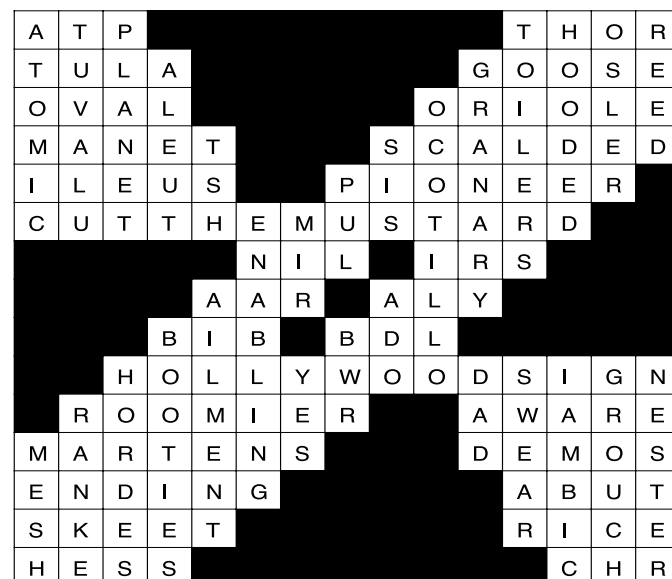
All proposals must be submitted
by mail or e-mail to the
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission,
60 Congress Street – 1st
Floor, Springfield, MA 01104, or
ejohnson@pvpc.org by 2:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 6, 2025.
02/13/2025

NEWS & FEATURES

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

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

A TURLEY PUBLICATION
www.turley.com



PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

DCR lists upcoming winter hybrid presentations at center

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

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

In case of bad weather, the programs will only be held virtually. Please register for any of these

events by visiting <https://www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/> events.

History of Rutland Prison Camp

Sunday, Feb. 16 from 2-3 p.m.
Fresh air, three home-cooked meals a day, comfortable sleeping quarters and a private hospital – sounds like a delightful retreat for a prison? Indeed, it was!

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

Microscopic world of the Quabbin Reservoir

Sunday, Feb. 23 from 2-3 p.m.
What's in the water? Learn about the microorganisms that live in the water, and how they can impact

water quality.

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

Quabbin Reservoir and Watershed Protection

Sunday, March 2 from 2-3 p.m.
Engineering, forestry, wildlife and aquatic biology, carpentry,

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

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

Your BUYLINE CONNECTION

PRESIDENT'S DAY SALE PRICES ALL MONTH!!!

VOTED #1 APPLIANCE STORE IN WORCESTER COUNTY 4 YEARS IN A ROW!!!

SLEDS, SKATES, TOBOGGANS!

SEE AD INSIDE!!!!

WHITCO TOY & BIKE

12 MONTHS 0% FINANCING

140 Main St., Spencer
www.whitcosales.com
508-885-9343

Open: Mon.-Fri. 10am-8:30pm, Sat. 9am-8pm, Sun. 12pm-7pm

Brookfield, MA – Discover your dream home in this 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath colonial offering charm, space, and convenience. Step into the inviting living room with a stunning fireplace, flowing into the dining area and a bright kitchen with a cozy breakfast nook. The main floor features a half bath and laundry room for added convenience. Upstairs, you'll find three spacious bedrooms, including a primary suite with a private full bath and walk-in closet, plus an additional full bath for family and guests. Enjoy the attached 2-car garage with direct access from the laundry room, perfect for easy living. The fully fenced front and back yards provide privacy and plenty of space for outdoor activities, entertaining, or gardening. Located just seconds from Tantasqua High School and minutes from Routes 9 and 20, this home is a commuter's dream while being close to shopping, dining, and amenities. Don't miss this opportunity—schedule your showing today! \$489,900

YOUR LOCAL REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS

We Do More So You Will Make More!!!

EXIT Real Estate Executives

130 W. Main Street
Spencer, MA 01562

Michelle Terry
Broker/Owner

michelleterryteam.com

GIVE US A CALL TODAY! 508-202-0008

Country Canine KENNELS

Boarding, Grooming, Daycare

Boarding starting at \$40 a night
Daycare starting at \$26 a day

84 Greenwich Plains Road
Ware, MA 01082

(413) 277-0334 Office Phone
countrycaninekennels@gmail.com

I pride myself on helping people in my community

BUY OR SELL A HOME.

I've Sold hundreds of homes in your area - offering advice and knowledgeable service to many of your neighbors. Call or email me today and I would be happy to assist you.

CENTURY 21 Century 21 North East
180 West St., Ware
Ready to Buy or Sell? Call Me!
1-978-434-1990

Brookhaven Assisted Care

19 West Main Street, West Brookfield, MA 01585

MANAGEMENT TEAM:
Erin, Laura and Nancy

Over 56 years of service.

24 hour care, Medical Management, Assistance with activities of daily living, Activity Program, well trained, compassionate and caring staff.

Services Available In-House:
Physician's / Nurse Practitioner services, Pharmacy services, Podiatry services

VNA services:
Physical, Speech, Occupational Therapy, Hospice, Mobile X-Ray, Geriatric-Psych services
Transportation available, Hairdresser / Barber

Manager: Erin Glazier
508-867-3325 ~ erin.brookhaven@gmail.com

FOUNTAIN And Sons Construction Company INCORPORATED

- Excavation Complete Site Work • Demo • New Home Construction
- Screened Loam, Sand, Stone, Gravel, Septic Sand
- Trucking • Backhoe, Dozer, Excavator Work
- Water & Sewer Line Repairs & Replacements

YOUR BUSINESS IS IMPORTANT TO US!

177 Brimfield Road, Warren, MA 01083
413-436-5705 • www.fountainandsons.com

WHERE EVERYONE GOES FOR THEIR PIECE OF THE EARTH!

WINTER IS COMING!

BULK ROAD SALT • BULK TREATED SALT
WASHED WINTER ROAD SAND • SAND/SALT MIX

STOCK UP NOW!

Construction Stone • Landscaping Stone
Title V Septic Sand • Presby Sand • Concrete Sand
Stone Dust • Crushed Gravel • Cold Patch

Homeowner Friendly • No Minimums
PICK-UP OR CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR DELIVERY TODAY!

Bond
Sand, Gravel & Asphalt

98 North Spencer Road,
Route 31N, Spencer, MA
508-885-6100
508-885-2480

www.bondsandandgravel.com

Support Your Local Newspaper.

Invest in Your Community!

Adventure tours of Warren
Share the Adventure with us!

Think Spring!

April 27Some Like it Hot at PPAC.....\$120
May 237-Night Bermuda Cruise..... from \$1699
June 10-12.....Hampton Beach Getaway \$529
June 28.....Boston Harbor Lunch Cruise.....\$175
July 12Escape to Rockport.....\$110

Share the Adventure with us soon!
For further information call Randall at (413) 436-5357
or email adventuretours@att.net
or go to www.adventuretoursofwarren.com

BUYLINE CONNECTION

3 Ads for 1 Low Price!!!

Ware River News, Barre Gazette & Quaboag Current

Over 16,000 copies • Prints every Thursday

Special Ad Size Pricing

3" x 1" ... only \$33
3" x 1.5" only \$48
3" x 2" ... only \$66
3" x 2.5" only \$82
3" x 3" ... only \$99

FULL COLOR INCLUDED!

Contact Dan Flynn
413-297-5886
dfflynn@turley.com

❖ **Every Wednesday**
SIP & KNIT
12pm-2pm
Free

❖ **Every Friday**
TOO GOOD TO TOSS
8am-9am
Free baked goodies from the week while supplies last! Limits may apply.

❖ **Future Events**
Contact us to plan your next private event.
508-637-1577

23 Summer Street
North Brookfield
MA 01535

508-637-1577
Tues.-Sat. 8am-2pm
Sun. 9am-2pm

❖ COFFEE
❖ GLUTEN FREE OPTIONS
❖ BREAKFAST SANDWICHES
❖ SOUPS
❖ COOKIES
❖ MUFFINS
❖ PASTRIES

Bring in entire ad for one FREE Beverage with purchase of a baked good. Tues.-Thurs. 8am-10am

NOW OPEN!

HANNA'S ON MAIN
Restaurant • Bar • Catering
91 Main Street Ware, MA 01082

OPEN WEDNESDAY - SATURDAY
Lunch and Dinner
SUNDAY
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

413-277-0009

Live Entertainment Every Friday Night