

WARE RIVER NEWS

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Building Commr. gave update

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Board of Selectmen had several discussions with Building Commissioner William Cantell during their Feb. 12 meeting.

The first discussion was the building commissioner's update regarding the public use of the Shepard Building gym. Town Administrator James Ferrera confirmed that the variance for the building is good until April.

In the past the Shepard Building gym has been used to host town elections and as an event space for the haunted house event. Cantell conducted an annual inspection on the building and has noticed the requirement for not only handicap accessibility, but also a use for a restroom being in the gymnasium. There also has to be a safe passageway to access those restrooms.

Any other assembly use would no longer be allowed for the Shepard Building, including its gymnasium. When addressing the chair lifts, Ferrera said the "variance is just based on the chair lift."

This led to discussing the time a chairlift was installed in the gymnasium. From everyone's standpoint, the chairlift in the gym was removed, but it didn't break down. This impacts the assembly use options for the Shepard Building and Cantell wanted to know from the Board of Selectmen on how to enforce this issue.

"My goal is to make sure the town complies with the 521," Cantell said.

Complying with the 521 CMR (Code of Massachusetts Regulations, Section 521) is about adhering to the regulations set

Please see **UPDATE**, page 5

Diary of Nellie Northrop shared at Warren Library

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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WARREN – The Warren Public Library presented the program "Nellie O. Northrop: A Diary of Teenage Life in 19th Century Warren" this past Saturday.

Presenting this program was Barbara Larkin, a member of the Warren Public Library Board of Trustees.

When Larkin moved into her historic Warren home back in 1974, she discovered an amazing piece of Warren's history that was placed inside the attic. It was the diary of a teenage girl, Nellie O. Northrop, who lived in Warren with her grandmother.

Larkin was able to transcribe the information from Northrop's diary and had slips of notes and stories from the diary to read to the audience at the Warren Public Library.



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

A photograph of Nellie Northrop's home in Warren.

The house Larkin moved into was one of Northrop's homes in Warren located off High Street. Northrop previously lived off Southbridge Road in Warren.

The diary that was found in the attic of the High Street house was a gift Northrop got from her grandmother, Elizabeth Nichols. Northrop lost her mother when she was

8 years old, and she went to go live with her grandmother.

Having Northrop's diary was a great resource to learn about life in Warren back in 1875. There were many stories from the diary that were read by Larkin.

One subject that appears often in the diary are stories of illness. Sickness is men-

Please see **DIARY**, page 6

Feedback given at Mill-Health meeting

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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WARE – A community meeting was held at the Ware Senior Center last Thursday regarding the Ware Mill-Health District Plan.

Putting together this plan is the project team consisting of the BSC Group staff, Town Manager Stuart Beckley, Director of Planning and Community Development Paralee Smith, and MassDevelopment Staff. This project is funded by a technical assistance grant administered by MassDevelopment through the Commonwealth's Community One-Stop for Growth program.

Giving the presentation was Adam Duchesneau, a Senior Planner at BSC Group.

Part of this project is to provide a district plan that focuses on identifying redevelopment strategies to activate the former Mary Lane Hospital site and the Ware Millyard. This district area has the potential for housing and commercial space.

This community meeting served as an open house to gain feedback on what the public would like in the Millyard and former hospital

site area. The next step is preparing a report to summarize the existing conditions, opportunities, and constraints.



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU."

ADAM DUCHESNEAU
BSC GROUP

This will then provide the town with a conceptual redevelopment plan.

"We want to hear from you," Duchesneau said.

Maps were included in the presentation to determine the boundary lines and find a way to connect the health site to the Ware Millyard. In the existing conditions, there were street view photographs of various buildings in residential areas such as South Street, Cedarbrook Village, St. Mary's Church, the school, and the former Mary Lane Hospital site with the Wetherby Building still on location.

Please see **HEALTH MEETING**, page 6

QHMA held annual breakfast meeting

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com



WE CONSTANTLY ARE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING YOU'LL FIND INTERESTING AND BENEFICIAL."

GARY DAWSON
EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTHEAST

of the NorthEast - Presenting Sponsor; Cedarbrook

Village at Ware - Breakfast Sponsor and Host; Hardwick Vineyard & Winery - Raffle Sponsor; and Monson Savings - Raffle Sponsor.

He also thanked the chamber's underwriters for the year, Superior Plus Propane, Burkhardt Pizzanelli, Country Bank, J. Stolar Insurance Agency, Inc., Monson Savings, Servepro, Behavioral Health Network and Christopher Heights of Belchertown.

Director of Learning & Development at the Employers Association of the NorthEast, Gary Dawson, explained the history of the nonprofit, and how

its staff can help local businesses and employers.

"It started out as a manufacturing association," Dawson said of the Agawam-based organization. "Over the years we've grown."

Now, the Employers Association of the NorthEast offers over 60 different training courses, offered both in-person and remotely, with flexible timing schedules to meet the employer's needs.

"One of the things that makes us unique is all of the ways you can attend training," he said. "We're trying

Please see **QMHA**, page 7



Gary Dawson, director of Learning & Development at the Employers Association of the NorthEast, was the featured speaker at the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce's annual breakfast.



Submitted Photo

BERTHIAUME VISITED HARDWICK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

On Feb. 13, state Rep. Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr. visited Hardwick Elementary School to look at the boiler at the school and discuss possible solutions to have it replaced. Pictured from left to right are Clayton Larson, Hazel Larson, Samantha Mace, Berthiaume and Bennett Kolenda.

A watershed is full of action!

By Keith Davies
Coordinator, Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council
Guest Contributor

Editor's Note: This is the second part in a multi-part series about the Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council.

By 2014, the original Chicopee River Watershed Council (1970s) had ceased to exist, it had not been able to engage new people.

A small group of people saw a need to change that and began to renew an idea: the Chicopee Watershed and

its tributaries are a special place and should be better known and appreciated by its local residents. Why and how to do that?

Rivers have long been the lifeblood of communities across the region. They helped build New England and they were worked hard and taken for granted.

By the 1970s, people began to realize we needed to clean up our rivers, they benefited us and wildlife in ways we had overlooked. Watershed Councils sprang up and helped start a process to turn things around and in the big picture, things

Please see **BLUE TRAIL**, page 13



Volunteers participated in one of many river cleanups in the Chicopee River Watershed.



College & University NEWS



Alisyn Bruso named to Dean's List at Merrimack College

NORTH ANDOVER – Alisyn Bruso of Ware has been named to the Dean's List at Merrimack College for the fall semester of 2025.

She is the daughter of Robert and Brandy Bruso of Ware. A nursing major, Bruso is a freshman at Merrimack where she is a member of the Austin Scholars and serves as the Zeta Tau Alpha Sisterhood Chair.

Colleges and universities list President's and Dean's list

President's list

- Western New England University, Springfield**
- Jason Desantis of Ware
- Nicholas Warburton of Hardwick
- Mia DiRienzo of Ware

Dean's list

- American International College, Springfield**
- Majka Lagimoniere of Ware, criminal justice major

Fitchburg State University

- Sophia M. Spier of Gilbertville
- Marc D. St. Germain of Hardwick
- Sean J. Moon of Ware

Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, NH

- Kelsey Madigan of Ware

- Springfield College**
- Emmah Hinckley of Ware, health science/pre-PT major
- Andrew Soltys of Ware, mathematics major

Stonehill College, Easton

- Kylee Slattery of Ware

University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI

- Michael Devlin of Ware
- Nyela Dupre of Ware
- Lilly Knight of Ware
- Livi Robbins of Ware

Western New England University, Springfield

- Benjamin Torres of Ware

Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester

- John Auchter of Ware, class of 2027 majoring in management engineering
- Camren McCormick of Ware, class of 2027 majoring in mechanical engineering

Paige library lists activities for winter days

HARDWICK – Drop-in for Stamp Mania at the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, on Wednesday, Feb.25, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

This is an early release day for the Quabbin Regional School District. Explore print-making with rubber stamps, ink, markers and more to make your own bookmarks and other creations. All ages will enjoy this.

Story Time with an activity is held on Wednesdays, 10:30

a.m.-noon. A fun time for young patrons to experience the library and a nice place to make friends.

Explore the library's collection of board games for all ages on Thursday, Feb. 19. Bring friends and family.

Saturdays, Feb. 21, 28, and March 7, 14 drop in to Pam Hinckley's adult hand-craft workshops from 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Shenanigans with Friends, an exciting cover band of Western Massachusetts and

Southern Vermont will perform a wide range of songs on March 14, from 3-5 p.m.

Other ongoing library activities include the Paige Book Club, the Cookbook Club, Celebrate Hardwick, the Ongoing Book Sale, the Paige Writers, and the Movie Festival Committee. Come join a group or suggest a new one. More events are coming.

Check out the Facebook page and website, www.facebook.com/paigelibrary/ or www.paigelibrary.com/

Are You Old News?



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



File Photo Last week's photo from 2003 showed Ware High School football players getting ready for the fall season. From left were eighth grader Edward Collette (#75) and sophomore Chet Lokey (#61) Roger H. Lincoln correctly identified his late father, Roger N. Lincoln, in the Feb. 12 "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.



Polar Plunge to benefit Special Olympics on March 21

WARE – The Ware Polar Plunge fundraiser to benefit the Special Olympics will be held on Saturday, March 21 at West Beach – Beaver Lake.

This event is weather/ice dependent. It is subject

to change if the ice is not melted.

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.

Open burning permits available online only

WARE – Open burning season is open now through April 30, during the hours of 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Permits will be available online only at ware.firepermits.com. In order to obtain a burning permit, please go to ware.firepermits.com and register for the site.

If you are already registered for the site from last year's season, you only need to log in and apply for a 2026 burn permit.

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

Special Town Meeting rescheduled to March 2

WARE – The Special Town Meeting scheduled for Monday, Feb. 2, has been postponed to

Monday, March 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ware High School auditorium.

Nomination papers for election available

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

Offices which will appear on the ballot are: Selectboard, three-year term, vote for two; School Committee, three-year term, vote for one; Board of Assessors, three-year

term, vote for one; Board of Assessors, one year unexpired term, vote for one; Board of Health, three-year term, vote for one; Park Commissioner, three-year term, vote for one; Cemetery Commissioner, three-year term, vote for one; Planning Board, five-year term, vote for one; Ware Housing Authority, five-year term, vote for one

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

The last date to file nomination papers with the Town Clerk (35 days prior to the Annual Town Election)

is Monday, March 9. The last date to object to filing of nomination papers or withdrawal of papers filed (33 days prior to the Annual Town Election) is Wednesday, March 11.

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

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

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

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

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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 pouimett@turley.com, or call 967-3505. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Ware River News, Attn: Editor, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069.

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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. 23

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

Tuesday, Feb. 24

- 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
- 9 a.m. Movin & Groovin to the Oldies with Lisa. \$3 per class.
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking. \$3 per class
- 6 p.m. Pitch (Doors open at 5 p.m.)

Wednesday, Feb. 25

- 9 a.m. Tai-Chi
- 9:30 a.m. Quilting Club
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. Knit-Crochet-Laugh

Thursday, Feb. 26

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

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

Friday, Feb. 27

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

LUNCHES DINE IN 11:30 a.m.

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

Monday, Feb. 23

Brunch, French Toast, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Dessert of the Day

Tuesday, Feb. 24

Cheeseburger with Lettuce, Tomato, Onion and Pickle, French Fries, Dessert of the Day

Wednesday, Feb. 25

Chicken Picatta, Mashed Potatoes, Veggie of the Day, Dessert of the Day

Thursday, Feb. 26

Beef and Broccoli over Rice, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day

Friday, Feb. 27

Baked Fish, O'Brien Potatoes, Veggie of the Day, Dessert of the Day



Participants enjoyed making a "Valentine Love Bug" floral arrangement with Otto Florist stylist Brian Socha.

'Lotta Love' at Ware Senior Center

WARE – A huge shout out and thank you to the Ware Walmart who donated candy and desserts to the Ware Senior Center for their Valentine's Day party.

Store Manager Brian, Coach Poppy, and Coach Connie had little bags of cookies made for each guest who attended the party.

They presented everything to Sue LaBarge of The Friends of Ware Seniors Inc., who is in charge of the parties and other events held at

the center. Otto Florist with stylist Brian Socha had two classes at the center to make a Valentine Love Bug that all the attendees created with Socha's directions which was so well received. Otto Florist also donated a Love Bug for the raffle table at the Valentine's Day party.

A butter lamb making class for Easter will be held on Thursday, April 2. To attend, register by calling LaBarge at 413-544-1574.



Participants showed off their Valentine's Day "love bug" arrangements.

Beaver Lake Club Corporation offers scholarship to residents

WARE – Beaver Lake Club Corporation of Ware announces its annual Louis H. Healy Scholarship of up to \$1000.

These scholarships 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 17, 2026 and applications must be post-marked by that date. The selected recipient will be and the scholarships will be awarded in early June.

Applications and information can be obtained by sending an email to crietsch22@gmail.com or by mailing a request to BLCC: P.O. Box 253, Ware, MA 01082



Sue LaBarge, president of The Friends of Ware Seniors Inc., is shown with Coach Poppy of Walmart. The store donated candy and desserts to the Ware Senior Center for its Valentine's Day party.



Submitted Photos
Walmart Store Manager Brian and Coach Poppy are shown with desserts that were donated to the Ware Senior Center.

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viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

I'm still working; Why didn't my benefit amount increase

Dear Rusty:

I have been working somewhat consistently since commencing my Social Security benefit income. I've been collecting since my full benefit age of 66, approximately. I'm now 81 and customarily, in about October of each calendar year, Social Security notifies me of additional benefits from my additional work. Not this year.

I earned some \$18,000-\$19,000 in 2025. SS advised I did not meet some 35-year formula. I thought that formula just applied to the original benefit calculation. Otherwise, one seems cheated given the SS taxes paid on income received after applying for benefits without any consideration for that income. Please advise me.

Signed: Feeling Cheated

Dear Feeling Cheated:

For Your Information, your Social Security benefit is always based on the highest 35 years of your lifetime earnings with your early years' earnings automatically adjusted for inflation. And that formula continues even after you start receiving benefits. Social Security will look at your earnings each year to see if your recent earnings are among your highest. If so, they will automatically recalculate your benefit to give you a higher amount and pay you retroactively to the first of that year.

Apparently, in past years, your more recent earnings were among the highest over your lifetime, which is why you received those notifications in the fall of each previous year saying your benefit was adjusted based upon recent earnings. That you didn't get a similar notification this year, means that your earnings in 2024 were not among the highest over your lifetime, so no adjustment to your monthly benefit was appropriate.

Now, to clarify, those annual notices you received in the past

always referred to the preceding year – that is, if you received a notice in October 2024 of a higher SS benefit, that was a result of your 2023 earnings. If you got no such notice in October of 2025, that means that your 2024 income was not among the highest over your lifetime. And your 2025 earnings of \$18,000 - \$19,000 will likely not be among your lifetime highest either, so you probably won't get a notice next year either.

It's important to understand that your contributions to Social Security, i.e., the SS payroll taxes you pay while working, are not put into a separate account for you – rather, they are used to help pay benefits to all beneficiaries.

In other words, just contributing to SS with payroll tax from your work earnings doesn't necessarily mean you get a higher benefit. Your SS benefit is always based upon the 35 years in which you earned the most, including recent years if you continue to work. So, you weren't "cheated" that is simply how the program works your SS benefit is always based on your highest 35 years of work earnings, including recent years, with earnings from the early years adjusted for inflation.

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

What are shallots, anyway?

Shortly after the two part column on growing onions, I received a question about shallots.

My friend was looking through a seed catalog and wanted to know the ins and outs of growing them. This topic was a fun one for me because it required some research.

Can you believe that the Garden Lady has never grown shallots before? There is an explanation why, with part of the reason being that I am not what you'd consider a fancy cook, and shallots have their place in fine dining.

The other reason is that admittedly I never understood the point of shallots – aren't they just small onions? Why would you buy something special for a recipe if you had a good old fashioned onion in the pantry?

As all the cooks in the audience gasp, let me qualify that statement with the fact that now I know better.

Shallots are slightly different plants from onions scientifically. Whereas the onion goes by the name *Allium cepa*, shallots are what you would call a cousin, with the Latin name *Allium cepa* gr. *Aggregatum*.

Although the flavor hints of garlic (who is another more distant cousin), shallots are sweeter and more mild than onions, and are a staple in French and Asian cuisine where they can be used raw or cooked. Think delicate sauces or vinaigrettes.

I laugh when I picture all of the onion family members sitting around at a party. You'd have the gregarious onion, the boisterous garlic and then the cultured shallot,



wearing a beret and speaking with a French accent.

I'm not sure why my mind went there, but it was a fun digression.

In terms of culture, shallots are similar to onions in that they can be grown from both sets or seeds. Seeds would be started indoors anytime now through March. Transplants or sets are best planted in the garden as soon as the ground can be worked, usually early April.

Although shallots mature smaller than onions, spacing should still be four-six inches apart so that they can size up to their full potential. They are shallow rooted, so supplemental watering is a must.

When foliage reaches 12 inches, apply a mulch around the base of each plant to help conserve moisture and cut down on weed competition. Until that point, cultivate carefully by hand or pull individual weeds as they pop up.

Like onions, scallions begin to "bulb up" around the time of the summer equinox. Top dressing with fertilizer at that time is a smart idea.

As summer draws to a close, shallots will exhibit

similar die back as onions, whereby the tops begin to fall over, indicating they are ready for harvest. If the weather cooperates, sun cure on the ground or garden path for a few days, then move indoors to a spot with good air movement to finish the curing process.

Once necks have shrunk and dried, cut the tops off to about one inch above the bulb and store in mesh bags as close as you can to the freezing mark with ample humidity. One interesting fact I learned from Fedco Seeds (www.fedcoseeds.com) is that if you don't have a room that cold, humidity can be adjusted to make up the difference for proper storage.

For example, best case scenario dictates that shallots need 34 degrees at 66 percent humidity. Say the coldest you can get your storage spot is 55 degrees, well then they would like 45 percent humidity. The closest you can get it to add up to 100 the better.

I wonder if this theory holds true for other crops in storage. My squash and pumpkin aren't the happiest this year, so maybe I will look into how to manipulate the environment to avoid some of the shriveling I am seeing.

Anyway, I hope you had a few chuckles reading this column and that you might feel inclined to give shallots, that cultured onion cousin, a try this gardening season.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 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.

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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:
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The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

Turley Election Policy

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

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



DAVE GRANLUND www.davegranlund.com

Smola supports bills regulating the use of AI in political campaigns

BOSTON – State Rep. Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Ways & Means Committee), recently supported legislation that would promote greater election transparency by regulating the use of artificial intelligence in political campaign advertising.

House Bill 5094, An Act enhancing disclosure requirements for synthetic media in political advertising, and House Bill 5093, An Act to protect against election misinformation, were both given initial approval by the House of Representatives on February 11. The bills were engrossed on votes of 156-0 and 153-3, respectively.

"Artificial intelligence is a powerful tool, but when it is used to create deceptive political content, it has the

GUEST COLUMN

potential to undermine public trust in our elections," said Smola. "These bills strike an important balance by protecting free speech while ensuring voters are not misled by manipulated audio or video. Our goal is to make sure voters can make informed decisions based on accurate information and have confidence in the electoral process."

Smola noted that House Bill 5094 would require that advertising paid for by a political candidate, political party or action committee, or campaign contributor with the intent to influence voters include clear disclaimers if

the advertisement uses any audio or video that was generated using artificial intelligence. Violations would be subject to a fine of \$1,000.

Smola said the proposed changes will help prevent voters from being misled and will allow them to make informed decisions on whether to support a candidate based on reliable, fact-based information. Similar language was filed as an amendment by the House Republican Leader's Office during the Fiscal Year 2025 and Fiscal Year 2026 budget cycles, with the House adopting the amendment as part of its Fiscal Year 2025 spending proposal before it was dropped from the final budget.

During floor debate, the House adopted an amend-

ment to House Bill 5094 offered by House Republican Leadership providing an exemption for radio and television broadcasting stations, including cable and satellite television operators, programmers, producers and mobile applications or streaming services who are paid to broadcast election-related communication.

According to Smola, House Bill 5093 would prohibit any individual or entity from distributing deceptive audio or visual material with actual malice within 90 days of an election. Specifically, the bill would apply to any material that depicts a candidate with the intent to injure their reputation or deceive a voter into voting for or against the candidate; concerns the safety or regu-

lar operations of an election with the intent to disrupt the electoral process; or intends to mislead voters about the date, time, place, or methods of voting.

Under the provisions of House Bill 5093, a candidate who is the target of a deceptive audio or video may bring action for general or special damages but must bear the burden of proof that a clear violation occurred under this proposed law. It also authorizes the Attorney General to seek injunctive or other equitable relief when a violation occurs to block the distribution of the deceptive material.

Smola noted that House Bill 5093 provides an exemption for radio and television stations and streaming ser-

Please see **SMOLA**, page 5

Fish Fridays returned to Eagles Club

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago
The Fraternal Order of Eagles #4133 brought back fish and chips this past Friday.

WARREN – For the first time in nearly a decade, the Quaboag Fraternal Order of the Eagles #4133 offered a fish meal last Friday evening.

Fish and chips were on the menu as members of the Fraternal Order of Eagles in West Warren put together around 80 meals. Over 40 meals were pre-ordered and the Eagles made more as the need arose.

One of the trustees of the Quaboag Eagles is Josh King, who was one of the cooks for this returning fish fry meal. King has been part of the Eagles for the last 10 years and thought of bringing back a popular dish the club used to cook more often.

Prior to COVID-19, the club used to do Fish Fridays and now with more people going out, what better than to offer a similar meal. The funds from these meals go towards the club and their efforts to continue to expand on offering these meals. The

funds also go towards the club supporting various charities.

Spaghetti dinners are still offered at the Quaboag Eagles on the first Wednesday of the month. The meal consists of spaghetti, sauce, and meatballs. The club also make different pasta meals, including American chop suey.

Helping King with preparing the fish and chips was Mykenzie Sheldon, a cook and bartender at the Quaboag Eagles. Sheldon is a new staff member at the club and said she “loves the staff and the members” of the Eagles.

If she had to choose what meal she likes to make at the

club, Sheldon said spaghetti dinners are fun to make.

The seafood for this meal came from North Shore Seafood in Northampton. King says fish and chips is a start to “Fish is Back” and soon the club will begin offering other seafood meals in the future, such as scallops and clams.

Members and guests enjoyed this meal at the Quaboag Eagles, and some members also kept busy playing a 9-ball pool tournament.

During the most recent snowstorm, the Quaboag Eagles were open and provided hydration, water, and coffee for the first responders, police and plow drivers. The Quaboag Eagles FOE #4133 is located at 2167 Main St. in West Warren. Quaboag Eagles FOE #4133 can be followed on their Facebook page.

For more information about the Fraternal Order of Eagles, visit foe.com. The Eagles is a social club and part of and international non-profit charitable organization where people help people.

Nomination papers for town election now available

WARREN – Town Clerk, Laura J. Stockley, announces that Nomination Papers are now available for the upcoming Town Election to be held on Tuesday, April 5.

These papers must be filed with the Board of Registrars, in the Town Clerk’s office, for certification on or before Tuesday, March 17 at 5 p.m. Final day to withdraw as a candidate is Thursday, April 2 at 5 p.m.

Appearing on the ballot will be the following:
Moderator, three-

year term; Selectman, three-year term; Board of Health, three-year term; Assessor, three-year term; Park Commissioner, three-year term; Cemetery Commissioner, three-year term; Sewer Commissioner, three-year term; Planning Board, five-year term; Housing Authority, five-year term; and Housing Authority, two-year term.

The Quaboag Regional School District positions will also be incorporated on the Town Ballot. Two members

from the Town of Warren for a three-year term and two members from the Town of West Brookfield for a three-year term. These nomination papers are available on Feb. 2 at the Superintendent’s office at 284 Old West Brookfield Road, Warren. Deadline for returning these papers is Friday, March 20 by 4 p.m.

Last day to register to vote before the Town Election is Friday, April 24 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Town Clerk’s office in the Shepard Municipal Building.

Lucy Stone tells her story on March 7

WARREN – Join the Warren Public Library at the Senior Center in celebration of Lucy Stone Day on Saturday, March 7 at 3:30 p.m.

As part of the library’s ongoing 150th anniversary celebration, storyteller Judith Black will be appearing as Lucy Stone to give an engaging presentation for all ages about the life and legacy

of the influential women’s rights advocate and abolitionist.

Meet Lucy Stone (1818-1893) and enter her world as he yearns for an education deemed unacceptable for girls, obstinately rejects the idea of marriage, and overcomes every obstacle to become a “shining star” of the antislavery and women’s rights movements.

Featured on stages from the Montreal Comedy Festival to The Smithsonian Institution, Black has appeared 15 times at the National Storytelling Festival and is the winner of the Oracle Award, storytelling’s most coveted laurel.

Sponsored by the Warren Public Library with a grant from the Quaboag Historical Society.

UPDATE from page 1

by the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (AAB).

The Selectmen know there has to be some form of access to the gym, and there were ideas brought by the board to maybe install an elevator or a lift by the stairway. “Bottomline is they can’t use the gym for anything,” Richard Eichacker asked for clarification. There is a total of two chair lifts now that are currently down at the Shepard Building. The one in the gym was never replaced.

When addressing the idea of a bathroom being installed in the gym, the stage area may potentially be taken out to make room for a bathroom. As of this meeting, The Selectmen agreed with the building commissioner that no new activities can be done inside the Shepard Building gym.

Cantell also discussed his recent inspection of 2167 Main St., the Fraternal Order of Eagles in West Warren.

After going through his inspection Cantell noticed several issues in the building.

The building commissioner made some requirements regarding what was important for the club to improve. He said some of these improvements were addressed a couple years ago and were never followed through. Cantell went this past December and cited what needed to be up to code.

Cantell said an application needs to be submitted to him by the building owners within 30 days to address what they’re going to do. He had not received an application at the time of the meeting.

Cantell did hear from the Electrical Inspector that he did start working on updates to the exit signs and emergency lighting. There is a door on the building that is not up to code and the masonry chimney is still not in compliance.

Another concern Cantell had was the building has no smoke detector system in place. Smoking does happen in the building from what Cantell has learned. There is also an apartment space upstairs above the Eagles Club.

The Board of Selectmen suggested to Cantell that if the owners don’t respond, then he should begin enforcing. The Selectmen looked into if they had the power to take the liquor license away and quickly confirmed that they could not renew it when it’s up.

The board will write a letter and cite the safety concerns and list what has to be addressed within the next 30 days.

The next discussion with the Building Commissioner is regarding the inspections of assembly use buildings in town. These assembly use buildings include churches, and each church has various levels of compliance, accord-

ing to Cantell.

When addressing Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Warren, Fire Chief Adam Lavoie said he has inspected the building in the past and it is also a school.

After listing all the churches in Warren, Cantell was seeking advice from the Board of Selectmen on how to address the properties that haven’t complied. The board suggested keeping the owners informed on what could happen if certain things don’t pass inspection and are left alone.

“Encourage the owners how important this is,” Derick Veliz said.

Police related items

The Board of Selectmen heard from Chief of Police Gerald Millette on a few police related agenda items. The first was the acknowledgement of Ian Curtiss declining the full-time Police Officer position.

Millette clarified with the Selectmen that he spoke with Curtiss and he said he had some situations going on and was unable to come over to Warren. The Selectmen had a vote to rescind the appointment.

The board discussed appointing Patric Gillespie as a part-time on call Police Officer. Gillespie came from the Town of Barre and has background in the military.

Millette said Gillespie is willing to stay on as a part-time/on call police officer.

there are questions about the authenticity of the material. Additional exemptions are provided for website and newspaper content that includes a similar disclosure, and for material that is con-

sidered to be satire. House Bill 5093 and House Bill 5094 will now move to the Senate for its consideration.

SMOLA from page 4

vices that broadcast materially deceptive communications, including as part of an interview or news report, provided they disclose that



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The board voted to appoint Gillespie as a part-time police officer for a one-year term.

Town Administrator Report

During his monthly report for January 2026, Ferrera mentioned the monthly tax collections, which in total was \$813,737. The Town Administrator had a department head meeting regarding the fiscal year 2027 budget process.

Ferrera also acknowledged the progress being made on the improvements to the town website. Ferrera also highlighted in his report that the town is moving forward nicely with the important projects with Tecton and H2M regarding the assessments for 968 Main St. and Fire Station A.

The town is continuing working with Tighe & Bond for HVAC and duct work for

the Senior Center. Ferrera has met with departments and discussed potential articles for the upcoming special and annual town meetings in the spring.

While meeting with various departments, Ferrera discussed budgets and shared he is pleased so far on how the budgets are looking. What Ferrera wants departments to address is to provide an explanation to why money was given back in certain budgets.

There are still a lot of moving parts, but budgets are underway. Ferrera said he got Pathfinder’s assessment for next year and is currently at a 3.6% increase or about \$16,000. After speaking with Superintendent Eric Duda, that number is being looked at to possibly go down a bit.

For updates on the new town website, Ferrera wanted to thank Veliz for helping with headshots for the web-

site. An idea was brought up to possibly do department photos. Ferrera also thanked Administrative Assistant, Griffin Harrington, for all his hard work on the town website.

Animal Control Officer’s vehicle

The board revisited the discussion of the Fire Chief’s request to transfer the Animal Control Officer’s vehicle over to the Fire Department for fire department use. Lavoie said the vehicle needs about \$2,400 in mechanical work to pass an inspection.

The Chief has respected the request from the Board and is waiting for signatures from the Animal Control Officer to give the vehicle to the Fire Department. Lavoie says he has enough in his budget to repurpose the vehicle.



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public safety

Ware Police Log

During the week of Feb. 1-11, the Ware Police Department responded to 22 miscellaneous calls, 42 administrative calls, 16 traffic violations, 19 emergency 911 calls, three thefts/larcenies, two harassments/stalks/threats, four motor vehicle accidents, three fires, two damage/vandalisms, two safety hazards, one fraud, one trespass, seven animal calls and 26 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

Sunday, Feb. 1

12:24 a.m. Traffic Collision, East Street, Arrest Made
 2:19 a.m. Structure Fire, Pleasant Street, Extinguished
 10:57 a.m. Safety Hazard, South Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 10:57 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Dispatch Handled
 11:07 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Beaver Lake Road, Appears Secure After Check
 11:34 a.m. Theft/Larceny, Greenwich Plains Road, Advised
 6:24 p.m. Traffic Violation, West Street, Civil Complaint

Monday, Feb. 2

3:05 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Investigated
 4:20 a.m. Suspicious/Wanted, West Street, Investigated
 4:45 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Walnut Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 8:02 a.m. Fire Complaint, Pleasant Street, Services Rendered
 11 a.m. Fraud/Deception, North Street, Services Rendered
 4:53 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Bank Street, Arrest Made
 4:54 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Campbell Road, Investigated
 8:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gould Road, Citation/Warning Issued

Tuesday, Feb. 3

3:32 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Parking Ticket Issued
 3:42 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Otis Avenue, Parking Ticket Issued
 3:50 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Walnut Street, Parking Ticket Issued
 3:58 a.m. Bylaw Violation, School Street, Parking Ticket Issued
 5:24 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 11:16 a.m. Damage/Vandalism, Otis Avenue, Appears Secure After Check
 5:18 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Walnut Street, Services Rendered
 7:03 p.m. Warrant Service, West Street, Arrest Made

Wednesday, Feb. 4

3:43 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Parking Ticket Issued
 3:50 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Walnut Street, Parking Ticket Issued
 4:38 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Pleasant Street, Parking Ticket Issued
 7:43 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Palmer Road Citation/Warning Issued
 1:54 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Indian Hill Road, Dispatch Handled
 2:40 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Main Street, Dispatch Handled
 3:45 p.m. Theft/Larceny, North Street, Services Rendered

Thursday, Feb. 5

3:01 a.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, East Street, Services Rendered
 6:44 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Main Street, Advised
 7:27 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Palmer Road, Citation/Warning Issued
 7:39 a.m. Safety Hazard, North Street, Advised
 8:47 a.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, Belchertown Road, Services Rendered
 9:45 a.m. Weapons/Firearms, West Street, Services Rendered
 11:38 a.m. Odor, North Street, Investigated
 12:28 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted, West Street, Appears Secure After Check
 12:42 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Advised
 2:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, East Street, Services Rendered
 8:46 p.m. Structure Fire, West Street, Investigated
 10:06 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Friday, Feb. 6

12:37 a.m. Suspicious/Wanted, West Street, Services Rendered
 9:24 a.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, Palmer Road, Services Rendered
 10:36 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Vigeant Street, Advised
 12:08 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Greenwich Road, Services Rendered
 2:03 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted, North Street, Advised
 4:22 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, No Mapping, Dispatch Handled
 6:26 p.m. Damage/Vandalism, West Street, Investigated
 8:55 p.m. Traffic Violation, Main Street, Parking Ticket Issued
 8:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Criminal Complaint Request
 10:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/

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.

Warning Issued
 11:44 p.m. Assault, North Street, Services Rendered

Saturday, Feb. 7

1:20 a.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Pulaski Street, Vehicle Towed
 6:53 a.m. Traffic Violation, North Street, Vehicle Towed
 10:15 a.m. Traffic Violation, Main Street, Vehicle Towed
 11:45 a.m. Theft/Larceny, Maple Street, Services Rendered
 2:08 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Hillside Village, Services Rendered
 3:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, North Street, Services Rendered
 5:25 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Cottage Street, Investigated

Sunday, Feb. 8

2:45 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 4:20 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 4:26 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Vigeant Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 5:06 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Walnut Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 9 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, North Street, Appears Secure After Check
 4:17 p.m. Warrant Service, West Main Street, Arrest Made

Monday, Feb. 9

1:18 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 3:41 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Walnut Street, Parking Ticket Issued
 3:49 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Gareau Avenue, Parking Ticket Issued
 6:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gould Road, Citation/Warning Issued
 8:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation / Warning Issued
 8:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Belchertown Road, Citation/Warning Issued

Tuesday, Feb. 10

8:51 a.m. Traffic Violation, Pulaski Street, Citation/

HEALTH MEETING

from page 1
 The presentation also recognized the previous community engagement and previous work. These include the 2016 Master Plan, Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2025, Economic Development Strategic Plan 2024, Safety Action Plan 2024, Open Space and Recreation Plan 2023, Study Report for the Traffic Operations West Street (Route 32) 2022, Ware Millyard Redevelopment 2021, Complete Streets Prioritization Plan 2020, Bike & Pedestrian Network Plan 2020, Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Final Report 2018 and the Community Development Strategy 2017.
 Throughout the meeting room at the Senior Center there were input boards in place to gain community feedback. There were "Map your input boards," a "wishing wall" board where residents could write down their thoughts on what they would like to see.
 There were category

choices listed on the bottom of the map your input board to see what category your aspiration falls under. Categories include affordable housing, mixed-use development, healthcare facility, access to the Ware River, historic preservation, and many more.
 During the question segment of the community meeting, Duchesneau was asked about handling various ownerships in multi-owner spaces.
 In Duchesneau's experience, that is a redevelopment topic that has been "dealt with most often." The Senior Planner says it involves making layout plans and an overview of where the town wants to be. The town can put out some ideas and revitalization strategies to see where everyone stands.
 After no further questions, the public who attended browsed around the room to leave some feedback and listed what their aspirations are for the Ware Mill-Health District Plan. The Ware residents listed various responses and shared their input on what

would be good to have in the district.
 Various answers included an indoor pool, recreation facility, veteran housing, memory care, healthcare venues and services, playground, rehab facilities, retail, age 55 and over housing, access to the Ware River, pickleball, exercise paths and many more.
 On the wishing wall, there was a diverse list of aspirations. One was to tear down buildings that are coming apart. For the mill buildings, there was a desire to rehabilitate them.
 For dining and restaurants, a resident put down a "healthy eating establishment." Another aspiration was a place giving "new hope for younger generations."
 The next steps for the Ware Mill-Health District Plan are to have project team meetings, do an existing conditions analysis, have a site visit and field work, have more community engagement, and then a final report will be presented to the town.

Warren Police Log

During the week of Jan. 25-31, the Warren Police Department responded to 136 building/property checks, six community policings, 20 emergency 911 calls, two complaints, one threat, one parking issue, two safety hazards, four motor vehicle accidents, two animal calls and 11 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Sunday, Jan. 25

2:46 a.m. Parking Issues, South Street, Citation Issued
 11:02 a.m. Alarm Activation, Heritage Drive, Transported to Hospital
 11:35 a.m. Diabetic, Bay Path Road, Mutual Aid Transport
 8:16 p.m. Complaint, School Street, Officer/Chief Advised

Monday, Jan. 26

9:17 a.m. Motor Vehicle Hit and Run, Crescent Street, Report Filed
 11:45 a.m. Complaint, Comins Pond Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 1:12 p.m. Falls, Main Street, Mutual Aid Transport
 2:09 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Old West Brookfield Road, Mutual Aid Transport
 2:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Keys Road, Report Filed

Tuesday, Jan. 27

7:06 a.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Comins Pond

Road, Report Filed
 9:12 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 9:28 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 2:57 p.m. Safety Concern, Main Street, Report Filed
 8:21 pm. Neurological/Head Injury, Main Street, Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, Jan. 28

9:06 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Cronin Road, Transported to Hospital

Thursday, Jan. 29

12:21 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 4:38 p.m. Falls, Cottage Street, Transported to Hospital
 7:08 a.m. Odor/Gas Leak, Crescent Street, Investigated
 7:32 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Brookfield Road, Report Filed
 8:30 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Maple Street, Transported to Hospital
 9:47 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned, Keys Road, Investigated
 10:55 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Cronin Road, Mutual Aid Transport
 12:45 p.m. Welfare Check, Mechanic Street, Report Filed
 1:08 p.m. Falls, Winthrop Terrace, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 1:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle

Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 3 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 8:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Written Warning

Friday, Jan. 30

7:21 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Winthrop Terrace, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 8:23 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Mechanic Street, Transported to Hospital
 9:58 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Citation Issued
 1:27 p.m. Safety Concern, Keys Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 3:04 p.m. Falls, Southbridge Road, Transported to Hospital
 4:10 p.m. Suspicious Package, Old West Warren Road, Recovered
 5:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Bridges Avenue, Written Warning

Saturday, Jan. 31

9:10 a.m. Falls, Winthrop Terrace, Transported to Hospital
 12:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 1:01 p.m. Threats, Crescent Street, Officer/Chief Advised
 6:26 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Forest Avenue, Transported to Hospital

DIARY

from page 1
 tioned at least 45 times.
 "Illness plays a great role in that time," Larkin said.
 Northrop would write down the illnesses of not only herself, but the illnesses her loved ones and friends went through. A big thing about being sick was it took away Northrop's time to go to school, which was really important to her.



A display of belongings that were owned by Nellie O. Northrop of Warren. These items, including her diary, were found in the home of Library Board of Trustees member Barbara Larkin, who gave the presentation, "Nellie O. Northrop: A Diary of Teenage Life in 19th Century Warren". LEFT: Items that appear to be gloves that were possibly mended by Nellie Northrop.



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Another important subject for Northrop was attending church. Her Sundays were taken up by church, almost the entire day. Her daily activities included mending gloves and doing various chores around the house with her grandmother.
 There was a story about the new house being built, a summer vacation at her uncle's home in Ashland, and taking a horse car to go shopping in Boston and Quincy Market.
 Another unique story shared was about a sleigh ride to Spencer to an old hotel that no longer exists. The space where the hotel was is now home to a CVS pharmacy.
 The diary also shared how Northrop learned in school about the Battle of Lexington & Concord, which reached its 100th anniversary at the time in 1875. Northrop reflected on the bells on the Commons going off during the celebration of Independence Day, and on New Year's Day.
 At some point, Northrop and her family moved to a new house, which was off High Street. Northrop would hide her diary in the rafters.
 In 1880, Northrop's grandmother would pass away, and Larkin explained there were many years missing on what happened to Nellie afterwards. What contributes to these missing

years of what happened to Northrop was the 1890 census for Massachusetts burning in a fire.
 More about Northrop would not come until the year 1900. At that time, she was working in the Town of Saugus. She would then move to Canton in 1920 and then years later find herself moving back to Warren.
 Northrop had various jobs throughout her life. She was a bookkeeper, a clerk, worked for a salesperson, and in a dry goods store. Her dream job was to become a teacher.
 Her uncle, Frank E. Nichols, was the Postmaster of Warren for 33 years. Shortly after retiring, he passed away at the age of 75. In 1944, Northrop passed away in Warren.
 Larkin had also found some old schoolbooks when she moved into the house but is not sure if they're connected to Northrop
 Larkin finds this diary as an important find in the town's history as it helped bring Northrop's history and memory back to life.
 "This is a reminder that we are all important in this great matrix of life," Larkin said.
 Larkin feels the biggest lesson we can take from Northrop and her diary is that we should all tell our story.
 On a display table were various belongings that were

found in the former household of Northrop. In addition to the actual diary, there were threads, gloves, and a photograph of her home.
 As part of the Warren Public Library's 150th anniversary year, there are several upcoming programs.
 In celebration of Lucy Stone Day, storyteller Judith Black will be appearing as Lucy Stone to give a presentation for all ages about the life and legacy of the influential women's rights advocate and abolitionist. This event will be at the Warren Senior Center, Saturday, March 7 at 3:30 p.m.
 Local author and Library board member Ed Londergan will be presenting the life of General Joseph Warren, the founding father and Revolutionary War figure that the Town of Warren is named after. This will be held at the Warren Public Library, 934 Main St. on Saturday, April 9 at 6:30 p.m.
 Storyteller Diane Edgcomb will arrive for her presentation called "Once Upon a Fairy Tale". This will be held at the Warren Senior Center on Saturday, May 9 at 3:30 p.m.
 Thursday, May 14, at 6:30 p.m. will be A History of Local Capitalism in Warren, Ma (1870-1900). Former Quaboag Regional Middle High School social studies and history teacher and Quaboag Historical Society board member Jeffrey Robbins will be giving this presentation at the Warren Public Library.

WooSox Foundation honors Country Bank's Jodie Gerulaitis

WORCESTER – The WooSox Foundation recognized Jodie Gerulaitis, First Vice President of Community Relations at Country Bank, during its Fourth Annual WooSox Foundation Honors Gala.

Gerulaitis was honored for her outstanding contributions to the community, particularly in advancing education across Central and Western Massachusetts.

Although Gerulaitis was traveling internationally at the time of the event, her devoted parents proudly accepted the award on her behalf, while she joined the celebration virtually.

In her role at Country Bank, Gerulaitis leads the Bank's community relations and financial literacy initiatives,

delivering education programs that empower chil-



Submitted Photo
Shown from left are Dr. Charles Steinberg, President, WooSox & WooSox Foundation; Jodie Gerulaitis, First Vice President of Community Relations at Country Bank; and Brooke Cooper, EVP/General Manager, WooSox.

dren with essential money management skills. She also spearheads Country Bank's

partnership with the WooSox Foundation Most Valuable Teacher program, an initiative that celebrates and elevates educators who make a meaningful difference in students' lives throughout the region.

"Jodie's passion for education and her commitment to recognizing the true MVPs in our communities, our teachers, reflect the very heart of what this award represents," said Dr. Charles Steinberg of the WooSox. "Her impact reaches far beyond the classroom and continues to strengthen our region for generations to come."

Country Bank and the WooSox Foundation extend their congratulations and gratitude to Gerulaitis for her unwavering dedication to children, educators, and local communities.

QRSD Committee approves 2026/2027 school calendar

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
edowner@turley.com

BARRE – The Quabbin Regional School District Committee approved the 2026/2027 school calendar at their Jan. 8 meeting, which the teacher's union already approved.

QRSD Superintendent Colleen Mucha said Labor Day is late this year, Sept. 7. Teachers would attend school on Thursday, Aug. 27 and Friday, Aug. 28. Students would begin school on Monday, Aug. 31 through Sept. 3. Teacher would have Friday, Sept. 4 and Monday, Sept. 7 off.

She said the last day of school would be Wednesday, June 16, 2027 if there were no snow days, an unlikely occurrence and Thursday, June 24, 2027 with five snow days.

Agricultural program

Superintendent Mucha said she would be meeting at the New Braintree Grade School with someone from the Department of Agriculture this month as the school district moves forward with a plan to offer a vocational agricultural program. She said most likely the New Braintree school would be the site for an agricultural program. She also said it would likely be a collaborative with another school district or districts to get enough students to make it worthwhile.

The district also seeks community input through a survey on the proposed agricultural program. Residents from Quabbin community towns along with neighboring towns may answer an online survey by visiting the district's website at qrdsd.org.

New course offerings

Superintendent Mucha said in her report to the school committee that the guidance department planned to hold more face to face meetings with high school students to help them with the new course offerings available. She said it is a busy time for the students and she hoped these meetings would mean fewer course changes among students.

Renewal of drug free community grant

She said the drug free community grant was up for renewal. She said it was highly competitive and the application process entailed a lot of work. She said Q-DRUG, who were involved in the grant, recently changed their name to Quabbin Community Care. With the name change, they will expand their focus beyond drug awareness to community endeavors such as community closets at all the schools and addressing food insecurity.

EV charging station

Building, Grounds and Security Director Kevin Clark discussed with the Building, Grounds, Safety and Technology Subcommittee the possible installation of Electric Vehicle charging stations at the Quabbin schools. They met with a sales person from a company that provided EV charging stations for a cost of about \$50,000. School Committee member and a member of that subcommittee said the charging stations must be available for hook up 24 hours. They discussed possible fees, reduced fees and higher rates for night time use. The next step, which was non-binding, would be for

someone to come out and look at the school locations to see if EV charging stations would be feasible.

Policy Review/Reform

School committee member Debra Chamberlin of the Policy Review/Reform Subcommittee asked that the following policies were removed from the table: IKF graduation requirement, IKFE competency determination and KJF Sunday/weekend schedules/programs and required a vote. The school committee approved those policies.

Trip approval

The school committee approved a change in location of the Nature's Classroom trip for the Hubbardston Center School from Charlton to Swanzey, New Hampshire. For years, Hubbardston students went to the Charlton location. They opened a new Nature's Classroom at the New Hampshire location and recommended Hubbardston students attend their new location. It was also less money.

Other business

The superintendent said she participated in a meeting with 23 schools and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Twenty-one of the 23 school are schools with low enrollment and "held harmless" by the state. They received less state funding.

Superintendent Mucha said the North Brookfield School Committee would be meeting this month to discuss the proposed tuition agreement from the Quabbin District. The District should hear from them sometime in February. She also reported the high school track team broke eight records.

QMHA from page 1

to give them a lot of flexibility."

Dawson said the nonprofit also offers roundtable discussions and peer exchanges.

"That's a chance for you to sit collectively and talk about a topic," he said.

He said webinars are offered monthly, and the use of artificial intelligence has become a big topic of discussion for many employers.

"We constantly are looking for something you'll find interesting and beneficial," he said.

Dawson said grants for the trainings are available to employers, offering reimbursement up to 75% of the cost.

Dawson said the Employers Association of the NorthEast offers human resources services too, including employee handbook services, and a hotline that can provide crucial support for "HR departments of one."

"Many companies have one person in HR," he said.

The nonprofit also hosts a human resources conference at MGM in Springfield. On April 9, a leadership summit will be held at the same location.

"It's our biggest event of the year," he said.

Dawson said the Employers Association of the NorthEast provides services throughout Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

Dawson said one of the things his organization helps employers with is bridging the "critical skills gap," and helping to develop "power skills" in employees.

"We're seeing more and more gaps," Dawson said.

The Employers Association of the NorthEast also provides leadership training and technical training. The goal of these trainings is to create "confident, capable leaders."

Dawson said the nonprofit also provides training and solutions to improving interpersonal relationships in the workforce.

"Conflict resolution skills are always at the top of the list of needs for our members, and also emotional intelligence," he said. "The ability to have a professional presence."

Dawson said a complete calendar of available trainings is posted on the nonprofit's website, EANE.org.

"We're happy to customize the content to make sure we're speaking the way you want to speak," he said.

Mackenzie Diaz, Workforce Solutions Specialists at the Employers Association of the NorthEast, said the nonprofit works to empower employers to be



Mackenzie Diaz, Workforce Solutions Specialists at the Employers Association of the NorthEast, spoke about membership options.

better "people" people.

She said employers don't need to be members of the nonprofit to benefit from its trainings and services, but that membership helps provide more incentives to employers. Membership fees are based on the number of employees an employer has.

"We try to be as affordable as possible," she said.

For more information, visit EANE.org.

Upcoming QHMA events

The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce will host its inaugural women in business event, EmpowHer, on Thursday, March 12 in the chamber's office at Pathfinder Tech, Four Corners, 191 Sykes St., Palmer starting with breakfast from 8:30-9 a.m. followed by a panel discussion from 9-10 a.m. Space is limited and registration is required.

A Bingo Night fundraiser will be held on Friday, March 20 at AMVETS Post 74, 2150 Main St., Three Rivers at 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m.

Online registration ends at noon the day of the event and walk-up registrations (cash only) will be accepted from 6-6:25 p.m. You must be 18 years old to register/play.

Prizes include designer handbags, premium power tools and a large screen television.

An Intro to AI session will be offered free to chamber members on Monday, March 30 at the chamber office. Advance registration is required and participants must bring their own laptops.

An Open House and Members Showcase will be held on Wednesday, April 29 at the chamber's office from 5-7 p.m. and the Choice Awards Dinner will be held on Wednesday, May 6 at Steaming Tender Restaurant, 28 Depot St., Palmer from 6:30-8 p.m. Registration deadline is April 24.

For more information



Turley Photos by Paula Quimette
Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce's CEO James Przypek welcomed attendees to the chamber's breakfast, held at Cedarbrook Village at Ware.

about the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce, or to register for an upcoming event, visit QHMA.com.

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Hardwick Crossing Country Club

GILBERTVILLE – The former Duanomus Country Club, a 9-hole golf course, reopened at 262 Lower Road, known as "Hardwick Crossing" and has a five-star quality restaurant without the price tag.

Hardwick Crossing golf course opened in July 2022 with a 9-hole golf course, a restaurant and banquet hall for weddings and special events.

The newly renovated restaurant, known by regulars as "The Clubhouse," opened in September 2022 and provides a full-service bar and gourmet food. Choices include sautéed dishes, clam chowder, prime rib, fish and chips, Buffalo chicken dip, Buffalo tenders, Gnocchi, Bourbon steak tips and salmon.

The executive chef is Thomas Simons. He was at Entos Brick Oven Pizzeria for eight years as well as Tower Hill Botanical Gardens for many years. Their Sous Chef Neils Anderson took over that position when Simons got promoted to executive chef. Anderson comes from Southridge Hotel and Entos's and been at Hardwick Crossing from the beginning.

A 3,600 square foot banquet venue, which seats 170 people is open for special events and weddings. It has a panoramic view of the golf course. Chef Jeff Nicholas assists in the regular kitchen and runs the events and weddings kitchen. They also have outdoor seating for 125 overlooking the golf course.

The motto they follow at Hardwick Crossing is "from the sea, from the table" and "from the family," so fresh and local products are a top priority.

General Manager Courtney Letendre said the restaurant has food delivered six days a week. Alex Symons is Assistant Manager and Cassandra Hobbs, Bar Manager. They offer products and produce from Gibson Farms, Midtown Meats, West Boylston Seafood, local farm stands, Frost Yard Farms.

The restaurant is open Sunday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. People may follow them on Facebook and Instagram at hardwickcrossing.com.

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'For the Longevity'

Lift for Longevity held grand opening party

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – A new business has arrived in Ware as Lift for Longevity celebrated with its grand opening party on Jan. 31.

The company was founded by Rose Doldoorian, a personal trainer who began the business six years ago out of her garage in Brimfield. Doldoorian focuses on offering personal and small group fitness training, which involves small group workouts for every ability level.

Lift for Longevity helps adults aged 40 and older feel their best when they are either getting back to fitness or new to fitness.

Doldoorian attended Syracuse University and studied health and exercise science and nutrition. She is now an ACE Certified Personal Trainer and Behavior Change Specialist. At the start of her career, Doldoorian's business went by the name Flow Fitness.

Her gym began with one client and soon grew to around 60 clients working out in her garage. A lot of Doldoorian's clients come from many neighboring communities.

Fast forward, Doldoorian wanted to move to a space that was closer to their clients.

Doldoorian alongside her family, looked at a lot of places in Ware, West Brookfield, and other neighboring towns. Soon they got word from a friend of the family that the space located at 2 Vernon St. in Ware was available. The space used to be home to a hobby store.

The space worked out greatly to become the new home of Lift for Longevity. Doldoorian said the name came from what they represent providing personal fitness training to help those enjoy longevity.

"That's who we are," Doldoorian said.

Doldoorian's husband Joe was at the grand opening party and helped do all the renovation work inside the space. Members of the family came together to celebrate the grand opening of Lift for Longevity.

As part of the celebration, Doldoorian and her family were welcomed by



Standing left to right were Dustin Pennington of Pennington Painting, JJ, Joe Doldoorian, Rose Doldoorian, Hailey Judd, and WBCA & Beyond President Dan Flynn during the ribbon cutting ceremony and grand opening party of Lift for Longevity.



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago
A raffle was held to determine the winner of this Lift for Longevity engraved mug.

A sign with the former business name Flow Fitness, prior to the birth of Lift for Longevity.

the Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond. WBCA & Beyond President Dan Flynn and Pennington Painting Inc. owner Dustin Pennington joined the Lift for Longevity group for a ceremonial ribbon cutting to officially welcome them to the community.

"It's good news when a new business opens in town," Flynn said.

Doldoorian was given the ceremonial scissors to cut the ribbon. Standing alongside her was her husband, their son JJ, and her Assistant Coach Hailey Judd as she cut the ribbon to kick off the grand opening party.

Lift for Longevity's grand opening party featured treats, vendors, and gift bags. Judd was running the Lift for Longevity table where the businesses was taking sign-ups and answering any questions future clients may have.

Judd has been work-

ing for Lift for Longevity the last couple of years and feels everyone works well together. The clients of Lift for Longevity have been with them for a long time and Judd says they put in the time to get to know their clients.

"The longevity," as Judd puts it describing the connection between the business and their clients.

Guests entered into a raffle for a chance to win an engraved Lift for Longevity mug. Gift bags were also put together to thank those who came to the grand opening party.

One of the vendors at the grand opening was Amy's Aromatics based out of Hardwick. This business offers organic homemade soaps made from natural, organic ingredients and essential oils.

Donna Holden of Lioness Energy Designs was at the Lift for Longevity grand opening. Lioness Energy Designs blends energy into neatly handmade jewelry such as bracelets and rings.

Nicole DaCampo is a Certified Nurse Practitioner who works in functional medicine and specializes in hormone health and wellness. DaCampo was one of the vendors at the grand opening party for Lift for Longevity and provides recommendations for training, working out, lifting, and ways maintain healthiness.

Another vendor was Renew Health based out of East Longmeadow. The owners of Renew Health are Dr. Alyssa Almeida, and Dr. Brianna Almeida. These sisters are Physical Therapists sharing information on pelvic health and have operated Renew Health for five years.

Lift for Longevity are all appointment-based and more information can be found at www.liftforlongevity.com. Lift for Longevity is also on Facebook and Instagram.

Lift for Longevity is now open for business and nicely settled at their new home, located at 2 Vernon St.



Bianna and Alyssa Almeida are physical therapists representing Renew Health of East Longmeadow.



Amy of Amy's Aromatics was a vendor during Lift for Longevity's grand opening party. Amy's Aromatics of Hardwick offers organic homemade soaps.



Donna Holden of Lioness Energy Designs.

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Ware boys advance to WMass semifinals

WARE – Last week, the Ware High School boys basketball team got the opportunity to enter the Western Mass. Class C tournament. One win in their final two games also guaranteed the Indians a game in the state

tournament as well. The Indians got that win last Thursday night in the quarterfinals as they beat Athol 46-38 at home. Brady Guimond led the Indians with 14 points while Kaleb Kanozek had 11 points. Brodie Koczur had

nine points. A few days later, the Indians fell to host Greenfield in the semifinals. Jack Gaudreau led the Indians with 14 points in the 62-57 loss. Ware, 10-10, now awaits its seeding in the Division 5 state tournament.



Kaleb Kanozek sizes up a shot.



Alex Orszulak takes a three-pointer.



Brodie Koczur gets a shot off.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Brady Guimond lifts a shot over an opponent during the quarterfinal matchup against Athol.



Jack Gaudreau seeks to get a shot off under pressure.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Reagan Grant looks to pass.

Cougars tipped by Panthers in non-league game

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—The most recent encounter between the Quaboag and Palmer girls' varsity basketball teams before last Monday night took place at the 2010 Spalding Hoopball Classic. The Lady Cougars edged the Lady Panthers 41-40 in that contest, which was held at Blake Arena situated on the Springfield College campus.

Led by eighth grader Harper Brouillette, who netted 13 of her game-high 19 points during the second half, the Lady Panthers managed to pull out a 41-36 non-league home victory over the

Lady Cougars in their only meeting of this season.

"Every win for us this season is big because we're such a young team," said Palmer girls' varsity coach Amanda Theriault. "We've been playing very well during the past couple of weeks."

The Lady Panthers finished the regular season with a 9-9 overall record.

Brouillette was Palmer's only double digit scorer against Quaboag (3-14).

"Harper has been playing really well in our past couple of games," Theriault said. "She's been one of our leaders this season."

Three other Palmer eighth graders combined to

score 16 points. They are Aria Nompleggi (8 points), Isabelle Braden (6 points), and Lainey Haley (2 points).

Freshman Anabelle Ladue (4 points), and junior Addyson Petraszewicz (2 points) rounded out the scoring column for the home team.

Senior Madeline Potvin (15 points) and eighth grader Caitlyn Toomey (14 points) combined to score 29 of their Lady Cougars 36 points.

"We really didn't shoot very well in tonight's game," said Quaboag head coach Bill Beauregard. "It's another disappointing loss for us."

The only other senior listed on the Quaboag varsity

basketball roster is Madeline Dufresne, who saw limited playing time in the road game.

Quaboag held a 6-5 lead in the middle of the first quarter following a jumper in the lane by sophomore Riley Corder (3 points).

The Lady Panthers' other scorer was sophomore Caitlyn Stevens, who finished the road game with four points.

Palmer, who scored the final four points of the first quarter, took an 11-6 advantage on an inside hoop from Braden less than a minute



Maddie Potvin heads down the court.

Please see **COUGARS**, page 10



Indians suffer WMass. quarterfinals loss

SPRINGFIELD – Last Wednesday evening, a 15-0 run at the start of the game by Renaissance hurt Ware's chances in the Western Mass. Class C quarterfinals. The Indians were not able to come all the way back and Renaissance pulled away 63-32. Reese McKeever would score nine points to lead Ware in the playoff game and Ware is 13-6 with the state tournament seeds being announced this weekend.

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 10.

Amelia Orszulak holds the ball just outside the arc.

Pioneers fall against Franklin Tech



Ian Squi Nieves heads down the court.

PALMER – Last Thursday night, Pathfinder Tech boys basketball was defeated by Franklin Tech 53-49 in a game that Pathfinder nearly came all the way back to tie. In the loss, Cassian Kowalik had a massive game with 28 points. He made seven free throws for the Pioneers. The Pioneers are still looking to qualify for the state tournament and need more wins this week to squeeze in.

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 10.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Grayson Griswold eyes an open teammate.



Dustyn Cook takes a free throw.

sports

Candlepin League NEWS

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Bondsville League

WARE – During week 22 of the Wednesday Night Bondsville League, Team UMass bowled against Ironmen.

In game one, Team UMass defeated Ironmen by a score of 489-451. Ryan Drago of Ironmen made a strong effort to keep the lead down by beginning with 130.

In game two, Team UMass stayed on course and won again, 473-454. Keith Ferez of Team UMass bowled well over his league average (91) with a 107 in game two. Drago remained over average with a 120 in game two.

In game three, going into the final few frames, Team UMass held on to a slim lead and won 476-468. Drago finished with another 120 and a three-game series of 370. Ferez finished with a 91, which included an important spare to stay in the lead.

The final score was 1438-1373 in favor of Team UMass, who now have a record of 77.5-76.5.

Sandri bowled against P&J Meats this past league night. In game one, P&J Meats ruled the lanes and won 487-466. Paige Stabach of P&J Meats was the hero of the team and began with 122. Brandon Lane of Sandri had the highest game on his team with 112.

In game two, P&J Meats won again by a score of 513-496. Stabach stayed in the 120s with a 120 game, and her teammate, Kristy Temple, bowled well with 115. Randy Harper of Sandri had the highest game on his team

with 117.

In game three, Sandri won by a score of 497-464. Sue Horton of Sandri finished the match strong with 134, which consisted of five spares in a row. Horton's three-game series for the evening was 356 (109, 113, and 134). Lane finished with 118 and a series of 326. Stabach finished with 93 and a series of 335.

The final score was 1464-1459 in favor of P&J Meats.

Zeke's Freaks bowled against Fire Mountain. In game one, Zeke's Freaks pulled off the upset and won 469-468. In game two, Fire Mountain returned the favor and pulled off a close win, 437-435.

In game three, Scott Brewster of Fire Mountain bowled 112 during his team's victory, 483-455. The final score was 1388-1359 in favor of Fire Mountain, who are in first place overall in the Bondsville League.

Slow Burners bowled against the Snappers this past week. In game one, Slow Burners won by a score of 483-469. Scott Radisic of Slow Burners fired up the burner with a 132 game to start the match.

In game two, Slow Burners won again by a score of 481-476. Andy Tombor of Snappers bowled well with 110 and his teammate Kevin "Kras" Krasnecky bowled 115.

In game three, Snappers snapped out of the slump and won 490-417. Eddie Stachowicz of Snappers finished with 119 to go with his 115 and 97 for 331. Krasnecky finished with 118. The Snappers win total pinfall with a final score of 1435-1381.

INDIANS SUFFER WMASS. QUARTERFINALS LOSS



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Reese McKeever forces the shot.



Madisyn Slattery looks to pass inside.

Gabrielle Kaczuwka keeps the ball moving around the perimeter.



Pioneers fall against Franklin Tech

Maddox Baer avoids the defense and goes for the hoop.

Brody Wetnicka holds the ball outside the arc.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Cassian Kowalik gets the tip-off.

Railers fall at home against Lions

WORCESTER – Worcester suffered a 4-1 loss to the defending Kelly Cup champions Sunday afternoon. The Railers earned just one point of a possible six for the series. They went into the weekend with 12 of a possible 14 points in their seven previous games.

They netted only three goals for the weekend and have 12 in their last seven games. Their power play betrayed them Sunday as they were just one for seven. That included a wasted four-minute man advantage on a high sticking double minor to Mathias Laferriere at 7:02 of the second period.

Worcester put only three shots in the direction of the net in those four minutes. It was 1-1 going into the third period but the Railers could not beat Hunter Jones, who stopped 29 shots for the game. With the victory, Jones became the first opposing goaltender to beat Worcester in every game of a 3 in 3 series.

The Railers had five power plays in the first period and scored on one of them.

Lincoln Hatten got his 12th goal of the season at 17:03. It was his fifth on the power play and first of any kind since Jan. 24. Jesse Pulkkinen set up Anthony Repaci at the right point and the captain put a shot on net.

There was traffic, a good thing for Hatten, and he popped a rebound home from in close.

After the Railers failed to take advantage of their power play time early in the second period, Trois-

Rivieres began to dominate the action. The Lions finally tied it at 12:15 on Joe Dunlap's goal. He scored on a rebound from the bottom of the left circle.

In the third period, Trois-Rivieres took a 2-1 lead at 2:17, then made it 3-1 at 8:44. Both were doorstep goals. Isaac Dufort had the first one, Cedric Desruisseaux the next one.

Morgan Moisan-Adams, who had a killer series, got

the fourth visitors goal at 10:54 on a penalty shot after being hauled down on a breakaway.

While the Lions arrived in town as a sixth place team, not resembling the ECHL defending champion, they are an entirely different team with Jones in goal. Trois-Rivieres improved to 13-5-0 with him as the goaltender of record. The Lions are 21-20-4 overall.



Caitlyn Toomey sends a pass inside.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Madeline Dufresne is pressured as she enters the paint.

COUGARS from page 9 into the second quarter.

A Toomey lay-up with 3:55 remaining in the first half closed the gap to 11-10.

Another lay-up from Stevens tied the score at 14-14 before the visitors from Warren retook the lead with 46.3 seconds left in the second quarter when Potvin made one of two shots from the free throw line.

Potvin also buried a 3-pointer from the right corner giving the Lady Cougars a 20-18 lead with 6:50 remaining in the third quar-

ter. The Lady Panthers then responded with a 7-0 run.

Brouillette scored five of those points and Nompoggi also chipped in with a put-back hoop.

The Lady Panthers, who outscored the Lady Cougars, 18-11, in the third quarter, entered the final eight minutes of regulation holding a 32-26 lead.

After a Braden inside hoop increased Palmer's lead to 34-28, Potvin knocked down a 3-pointer from the right side.

With 20 seconds left in

Registration underway for QVBL

SOUTH HADLEY – Registration has opened for the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, an over-28 recreational league, held its first meeting of 2026 to prepare for the upcoming season.

For the 2026 season, the cost will be \$215 and will include a 16th game added to the regular season schedule.

During the 2025 season, the league experimented with playing on Mother's Day Saturday as well as a week-night game to allow players an opportunity to play under the lights. While the night games were very successful, the Mother's Day Saturday games were rained out.

Those elements will return along with a 16th game with an opponent to be determine as the league's board explores possibilities for interleague matchups with another league in the region.

For returning players to the league, the deadline is Mar. 22 at 12 noon to be registered for the 2026 season in order to be guaranteed a roster spot. There will be open practices for all players but specifically targeted at new players scheduled for March 29 and April 4 at times and locations to be announced. The draft is currently scheduled to take place on April 4 following that practice.

The season is currently slated to start on Sunday, April 19 and following the success of the six-team fall league last year, the league will also have a fall league in September and October this season.

The registration is live at www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. Players must register and then pay the league dues via Venmo or contact the league leadership if an alternate form of payment is needed.

Aside from the weeknight and Mother's Day games, other games take place Sundays at 10 a.m. outside of Mother's Day, Memorial Day and July 4 weekends. Playoffs will be in August.

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Town Clerk releases 2026 dog licensing information

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Friends of Ware Town Hall offer Spring Lotto Calendars

WARE – The Friends of Ware Town Hall are now selling Spring Lotto Calendars to raise money to restore the beautiful large windows in the Great Room of the Town Hall.

Lotto Calendar sales will continue through March 31. Drawings will be made weekly beginning April 1 and winners will be notified by phone.

The cost of each calendar is \$10 and there are multiple chances to win since winning stubs will be put back into the drawing. Cash prizes range from \$25 to one \$500 prize on the final day of drawing, April 30.

Calendars may be purchased from members of

Friends of Ware Town Hall, as well as the following locations in town: Ware Town Hall, Town Clerk's Office; It's Wine O'clock; Crystal Springs Dairy Bar; Ware River Club; Ware Senior Center; Changes Hair Design; Ware Library; Moulton Insurance Agency; Nat Falk; Otto Florist; and Silhouettes on Main.

Anyone who would like to purchase a calendar but is unable to do so locally can mail a check for \$10, payable to Friends of Ware Town Hall, along with their address and phone number to: Friends of Ware Town Hall, P.O. Box 692, Ware, MA 01082. The calendar will be mailed to you.

M. Richard Pluta, 79

WARE – Richard Pluta passed away suddenly, on Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2026 while doing what he did throughout his life: quietly helping others with the practical devotion and strength that defined him.

Born and raised in Gilbertville, Richard was the son of Jane (Jablonski) and Matthew Pluta, who both preceded him in death. He graduated from Hardwick High School in 1964 and later earned a bachelor's degree in business from American International College in Springfield.

Richard lived a hard-working and purposeful life. Professionally, he co-owned and was President of GBG Propane in Ware, for decades followed by 13 years as safety trainer for Osterman Propane.

He was known as a reliable and honest businessman and a steady presence in his community. He served as a respected member of the Propane Gas Association of New England, worked as a gas inspector, and sat on the board of the Ware Co-operative Bank.

His hands, often cracked and carrying the scent of propane, were a testament to the long hours and dedication he gave to his family business.

Richard was also a talented singer and trumpet player who performed throughout his life. While playing in a polka band in the 1960s, he spotted a black-haired beauty in the audience - Helen (Burgoyne) - who would become his beloved wife of 52 years and mother to his children. Her passing in 2020 left an unfillable void in his life.

As a father, Richard was deeply dedicated to his four children. He was a provider, coach, philosopher, psychologist, and cheerleader for them.

Despite his demanding work, he always made time for church, family, and later for his grandchildren. He gave his family a wonderful life and remained a steady source of guidance and encouragement.

His Catholic faith grounded him, and he lived it sincerely. In his later years, Richard formed close friendships in the senior independent living community where he resided.

Proud of his heritage, he delighted in speaking Polish with anyone willing, whether fluent or simply curious and loved teaching phrases to those who wanted to learn. Richard leaves four devoted children: daughter Marlene

Adamsky and her partner Christopher Robidoux of Ware; son Michael Pluta and his fiancée Christina Riberdy of Paxton; son and daughter-in-law Andrew and Shannon Pluta of Boylston; and daughter and son-in-law Anne and Brian Walsh of Frankestown, New Hampshire. He also leaves his beloved grandchildren of whom he was so proud: Alex and Kerriann Adamsky; Drew and John Patrick (J.P.) Pluta; and Rowan and Charles Walsh, and his great-grandchildren, Billy and Alexia Azmat, who lit up his later years. He is also survived by his sister Sue Demore and her family of Vermont, and his brother David Pluta and his family of Florida.

Calling hours are from 5-7 p.m., Friday, Feb. 20, 2026 at Cebula Funeral Home, 66 South St., Ware, MA. A Funeral Mass will be offered at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 21, 2026 at Saint Mary's Parish Church, 57 South St., Ware, MA.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations in memory of M. Richard Pluta to St. Jude's Children's Cancer Research Center (stjude.org/donate.)

Cebula Funeral Home of Ware is in charge of arrangements and funeral services. For more information and an online guest book, please visit: www.cebulafuneralhome.com.

Death notices

Comeau, Johann E.
Died Feb. 13, 2026

Pluta, M. Richard
Died Feb. 11, 2026
Services Feb. 21, 2026

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

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Ware River News

Johann E. Comeau, 82

WARE – Johann E. Comeau, 82, died in the early morning hours on Friday, Feb. 13, 2026, in Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center.

She leaves her husband of 43 years, Roger J. Comeau; her brother, Neil Poulin and his wife Rachel of Essex Junction, Vermont; her sister-in-law, Rita Hamelin and her husband Ernie as well as

two nieces and two nephews.

Johann worked as an elementary school art teacher in Warren for 36 years prior to retirement.

She enjoyed gardening around her home and was member of the Wilbraham Garden Club where she also served as President for two years. In addition to her green thumb, she was also a talented needlepoint crafter.

A Graveside Service for Johann will be held in the spring in Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cemetery in Ware.

Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St. in Ware is assisting her family with her care and arrangements.

An online tribute page is available at charbonneauafh.com.



Bluebirds in winter

A pair of eastern bluebirds perched on a dead tree in Gilbertville. Several eastern bluebirds spend the winter in this location every year. According to Mass Audubon, eastern bluebirds are increasingly becoming a more common winter sight.



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette
A male eastern bluebird enjoyed the warmth of the sun one day after the groundhog predicted six more weeks of winter.

NBSB held successful Food and Toy Drives

NORTH BROOKFIELD – In the spirit of Season of Giving, North Brookfield Savings Bank is proud to announce the success of its annual Food and Toy Drives, made possible by the generosity of their customers, community members and employees.

These initiatives reflect the Bank's ongoing commitment to supporting the communities it serves and making the holidays brighter for those in need.

During the annual Food Drive the Bank's communit-

ies came together to donate over 950 non-perishable food items and over \$1,000 in monetary donations to support families in need. These generous donations have had a profound impact this season of giving, providing crucial assistance to individuals facing food insecurity.

To further amplify the impact, NBSB contributed an additional \$3,000 in support of the food pantry operations. NBSB's annual Food Drive benefitted the following food pantries: East Brookfield Baptist Church Food Pantry, Sharing Cupboard Food Pantry - First

Congregational Church, St. Joseph's Parish Food Pantry, First Congregational Church of North Brookfield, Trinity Episcopal Church - Jubilee Cupboard, St. Francis of Assisi Parish Food Pantry and Palmer Food Share, Inc.

The generosity from their communities continued through the annual Toy Drive, where community members, employees and neighbors stepped up to the plate again to donate over 430 toys for children in need, alongside more than \$1,600

Please see **DRIVES**, page 13

Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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CLUES ACROSS

- Cut quickly
- A way to state clearly
- River in NE Scotland
- Expansive
- Lacking social polish
- Amount of time
- Frame
- Automobile
- Toadstools
- High school dances
- Utilize
- Experimented with
- One-sided
- Acquisitive
- Potted plants
- Everyone has one
- Kalahari Desert lake
- Unidentified flying object

CLUES DOWN

- Brushed
- Small water spirit (Germ.)
- Heroes
- Monetary units
- Some don't want to share theirs
- Free-swimming invertebrate
- Litigates
- Outer
- Parallelograms
- Uneasy feelings
- Cross
- A way to remove dog_
- Ukrainian city
- A citizen of Denmark
- Month
- Hindu queens
- Group of chemicals
- Rider of Rohan

- Wet dirt
- Southwestern Russia city
- Observed
- Angry
- Drivers' licenses
- Musical composition
- Auction
- They _
- Women
- Be filled with love for
- Thick-soled sock
- Appears
- Old World lizard
- The leading performer
- Protein
- "Gunga Din" script writer
- Art __, around 1920
- _ Blyton, children's author
- Abnormal breathing
- A place to rest

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HELP WANTED

The Town of Huntington is seeking a **PART-TIME COUNCIL ON AGING CLERICAL AIDE**
\$20-\$22 per hour based on experience. 6 hours per week. Application and complete job description are available online at www.huntingtonma.us or by emailing admin@huntingtonma.us. Position is open until filled.
Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

The Town of North Brookfield is looking for a **PART-TIME PROGRAM ASSISTANT** for the Senior Center. Please submit a resume with a letter of interest to the **Selectmen's Office, 215 North Main St., North Brookfield, MA 01535** or by email to: selectmen@northbrookfield.net.

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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 advertising 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.

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Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
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Hilltowns
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Suburban Residential
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Volunteers stood near a pile of trash and debris collected during a cleanup.



Paddlers made their way down river during a group paddle.



Paddlers explored the Quaboag River Blue Trail.



BLUE TRAIL from page 1

improved, our rivers were cleaned up a great deal.

Yet the job is not done, and some practices still impact healthy rivers in undesirable ways. Today we enjoy rivers recreationally and realize they serve wildlife and people in many important and healthy ways.

The new effort started with going community to community sharing the idea and inviting people to get involved. We held many local meetings at town halls, libraries, and community centers and it stirred interest and awareness.

We hosted river paddles and clean ups. Some joined the effort!

To give this effort focus and connect people in meaningful ways to the rivers, C4R inaugurated two programs: Water quality monitoring and Paddling trail development.

We would monitor the basic bacterial health of the river for recreational use and enjoyment. This would invite people to see these special places and learn if they were a healthy place to enjoy.

We started with six sites on two rivers in 2015 and are now at 20 sites on all four rivers. We have created four Blue Trails, routes on and maps of the rivers that high-



Submitted Photos

A paddler is shown enjoying a day on the river.



Keith Davies led a discussion about the Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council.

light both historical and natural places that people can explore to see how special our four local rivers are.

Knowing their special character and health benefits reveals their value.

Good progress, yet just a start. The initial excitement of renewing the idea has worn off a bit.

But once something of value is recognized, it needs to be maintained, cared for, what a handful of people had started needs more hands to keep things going. Could you help?

Next week we share our vision going forward...

Support the local businesses that support your local newspaper.
Let them know you saw their ad in the Ware River News

DRIVES from page 11
in monetary donations. To extend this support further, NBSB contributed an additional \$1,250 to support those who need it the most and bring joy to children in the communities it serves this holiday season.
NBSB's annual Toy Drive benefited the following toy organiza-

tions: North Brookfield Police Association's Toys for Joy Program, East Brookfield Toys for Joy Program, West Brookfield Police Association Holiday Toy Program, Ware Police Department "Christmas for Kids" Program, Belchertown Firefighters Association Adopt-a-Family Program and Palmer Lions Club Holiday Toy Program.

"Community is at the heart of everything that we do, and the success of this year's Food and Toy Drives is a testament to the compassion and generosity of our customers, employees and community members," said Audrey Shampine, Marketing Manager at North Brookfield Savings Bank. "We are proud to come together to create a

positive difference for those in need during this Season of Giving."

To learn more about North Brookfield Savings Bank's Community giving efforts and the convenient banking products and services offered, visit www.NorthBrookfieldSavingsBank.com.

Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

Come Join Our Team and Grow With Us

The Town of Warren has immediate openings for the following Full & Part-Time positions...

Assistant Assessor: The Warren Board of Assessors is seeking to fill this full-time, Town benefited position of Assistant Assessor. The successful candidate will perform administrative work, provide excellent customer service, maintain detailed records of property assessments, maps, new growth, and assist with setting the annual tax rate under the general direction of the Board of Assessors. One of the Town's goals is to transition this position to a Principal Assessor in the future.

Hourly wage range: \$30.44 - \$37.08
Monday to Thursday, 32 hours per week
\$1,000.00 annual stipend offered with MAA certification

Executive Assistant: This position is responsible for providing administrative and clerical support to the Town Administrator's Office and Board of Selectmen. This is a full-time, Town benefited position. Candidate should be able to demonstrate excellent customer service skills, being proficient with Microsoft Suite and have superior writing skills. Attendance at evening meetings is required.

Hourly wage range: \$24.78 - \$26.69
Monday to Friday, 40 hours per week

Sewer Plant Operator / Mechanic: This position is responsible for operating, maintaining, and cleaning machinery, equipment, and generators. Performs building and grounds maintenance. This is a full-time, Town benefited position, with required on-call and overtime hours. Candidate must possess a Grade 4 or higher Wastewater Treatment Plant License within the first six months of employment.

Hourly wage range: \$24.78 - \$26.69
Monday to Friday, 40 hours per week

Full-Time Police Officer: Applicants are preferred to be academy trained and must be willing to work weekends, nights, and holidays. It is also preferred that applicants currently possess valid certification as a Police Officer. The Patrolmen's contract provides for an education incentive. Please send resumes and cover letters to the attention of Lt. Kyle Whitcomb, WPD PO Box 606, Warren, MA 01083 or whitcomb@warren-ma.gov.

Hourly wage range: \$28.64 - \$34.24 Overtime Available
**Starting hourly will be based on years of municipal police service.*

Part-Time COA Custodian: This position is responsible for all aspects of cleaning, light maintenance of the building and Senior Center grounds. Must have scheduling flexibility to meet the daily operational needs of the Senior Center. Prior custodial experience preferred.
Hourly wage range: \$17.70 - \$18.05
Monday to Friday, 15 hours per week

Please email or mail your resume and cover letter to the
Town Administrator, Jim Ferrera, townadministrator@warren-ma.gov
or by mail to 48 High Street, P.O. Box 609, Warren, MA 01083.

For a complete job description of any of these positions please visit the Town's website
www.warren-ma.gov.

All positions will be open until filled.
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Docket No. HS26P0071EA
Estate of:
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Also known as:
John Michael Delargy, Sr.
Date of Death: 06/21/2023
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by John Delargy, Jr., of Ware, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that John Delargy, Jr., of Ware, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/12/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Diana S. Velez Harris, First Justice of this Court.

Date: February 12, 2026
Mark S. Ames,
Register of Probate
02/19/2026

Town of Hardwick PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Under the provisions of the General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 166, and any additions or amendments thereto; please be advised that at their meeting on **Monday, March 9, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.**, at the Municipal Office Building, 307 Main Street, Gilbertville, MA 01031, the Hardwick Select Board will consider a request to give permission

to Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc, to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way:

Collins Road- National Grid to install 10 JO poles beginning at a point approximately 122 feet north of the centerline of the intersection of Campbell Road and Collins Road and continuing north.

02/19/2026

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

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.

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Mobile Home located in Waterwheel Village at 31 Edward Lane, Barre, MA 01005. This is a 55 and better community. This home includes a wonderful floor plan with very spacious rooms. Master bedroom includes a walk-in closet. Two full bathrooms. A four-season sunroom is off the kitchen. Includes two large woodsheds and a metal garage you can park under to fend off winter weather. Asking \$279,000. See listing on MLS # 73433198

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