

WARE RIVER NEWS

SERVING THE WARE REGION FOR 129 YEARS

Vol. 138 No. 3

USPS 666100

\$31 PER YEAR - \$1.00 A COPY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

www.warerivernews.turley.com

Community, town officials rally against hate crime

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – School Committee Chair Brian Winslow read a statement from its members condemning an anonymous, racially charged letter targeting Superintendent Dr. Michael Lovato.

“It is not okay, it is not acceptable, and it is not the majority point of view.”

– Aaron Sawabi

“Recently, several incidences of harassment directed toward Dr.

Lovato have occurred and the Ware School Committee is committed to addressing them,” Winslow said at the Feb. 12 meeting. “Racism and hatred have no place in our schools, our community or our society...such behavior does not reflect the values of Ware, a community that has

always strived to be inclusive and welcoming to all. We urge everyone to join us in speaking out against these acts, standing in solidarity against hatred and fostering a culture of respect and unity in our schools and beyond.”

A police investigation is ongoing into who wrote this letter, which was placed on Lovato’s vehicle.

Committee member Christopher Desjardins made reference to the anonymous note, which named both himself and Winslow as agreeing with what Desjardins called, “disgusting thoughts.”

“This is not who I am as a person, who we are as a committee,

Please see **CRIME**, page 12

A Valentine's Day celebration

Knights of Columbus served chicken dinner Saturday night

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – It was a Valentine’s Day celebration as guests gathered at St. Mary’s Church Hall for a baked stuffed chicken dinner prepared by members of the Knights of Columbus Ware Council 183.

Fifteen members of the council were on duty in the kitchen preparing the meals that featured chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, cranberry sauce and a dinner roll. Grand Knight of the Ware Council 183, Paul Harper was at the dinner and said the Knights made a total of 159 meals.

“Meals assist the Knights in paying for the community events we do throughout the year,” Harper said.

There are 150 members of the Knights of Columbus Ware



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago
Sonny K, left, with Rachel and Ed Mace enjoying their baked stuffed chicken dinner cooked by Knights of Columbus Ware Council 183 at St. Mary’s Church Hall.

Forum explores CDBG projects

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Town of Warren is working with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission to pursue fiscal year 2025 Community Development Block Grant funds for some proposed activities.

There are several projects currently underway in Warren, including a Design Improvement Project for Cutter Park and the town common and infrastructure improvement projects for River Street and Central Street. This community forum was an opportunity for residents to learn about these projects and share their thoughts.

Please see **FORUM**, page 6

CDA considers projects to benefit from CDBG funding

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – The Community Development Authority and Pioneer Valley Planning Commission held a public forum to discuss use of Community Development Block Grant funding for fiscal year 2025.

At the Feb. 10 forum, Erica Johnson, Principal Planner with PVPC, said CDBG funding is available every year and gives towns the opportunity to apply for a broad range of grant opportunities. She said the purpose of the forum is to talk about what com-

munity needs can be covered by the funding.

This year, the town can seek up to \$850,000 in CDBG funding, of which no more than 20% can be used for social services.

“It is federal funding that comes through the state,” Johnson said. “There’s a lot of regulation that comes along with it.”

Director of Planning & Community Development Paralee Smith said CDBG funding is how the town is able to help pay for social services, which have included the Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force, The Literacy Project, Behavioral Health Network, the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation’s Senior Outreach Program and more. The town is

Please see **CDA**, page 2

Cards & Cupcakes enjoyed at Ware Library

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The feeling of love was in the air at the Ware Library as guests got to enjoy making cards and decorating cupcakes.

Children’s Room Librarian Cathy Goulet provided crafting materials and treats during a weekday craft called Cards & Cupcakes. Many of the supplies were generously donated by patrons of the library as card making is a fun annual activity the library puts together around Valentine’s Day.

Goulet recalls helping with starting the idea of card decorating at the library sometime around the years 2018 and 2019. Making Valentine cards in the Children’s Room is not only for kids, but adults love getting involved too.

Please see **CUPCAKES**, page 8



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago
Brantley is shown with his Valentine’s Day card that he made during Cards & Cupcakes at the Ware Library.



Celebrity Bartender & Wait Staff Night!!!

MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2025 at HANNA’S ON MAIN

5:15 P.M. to 7:30 P.M.

All Tips will be going toward the

Ware Fireworks Spectacular on August 8th!!!!

Help make this year’s show even bigger!!! Limited menu.

Come and enjoy the music of Neil Diamond featuring Charlie Lask

MARKET SPOTLIGHT

Microgreens and Ginger from Brimfield, Goat Milk Soap from Princeton and the band played on

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

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

WEST BROOKFIELD – The deities that control the weather continue to favor those attending the West Brookfield Winter Farmers Market.

The 12th of February was not unpleasant and those who wanted to come downtown found it no problem to approach the The First Congregational Church, 36 North Main St. beginning at 3 p.m. and finishing up 6 p.m., and enter the winter oasis of a bazaar of vendors and shoppers.

On this day, the first thing one noticed was the noise. It was hardly cacophony, but the enthusiasm of a string trio playing with gusto.

The three men were members of a popular local band known as the Otters.

Still. It was a task to get them to identify themselves as they were sans the other three bandmen. After some jocularly we settled on "Half Otters." The men, Rich, Wally and Ken were all topped by scally caps that made them look like extras from the 1935 John Ford movie, *The Informer*.

The lads described their musical genre as eclectic acoustic Americana. Whatever it was, the assembled seemed to enjoy it.



Turley Photos by Richard Murphy

Chloe is shown with a soap dish and what it holds.

At one corner of the room was market regular, except when traveling out west to see grandchildren, Linda Fuchs and her Flourish Farm. If ever there was a valid excuse for absence, that, most would agree, is it.

Linda is a fixture at the West Brookfield Summer Market. Here at the Winter Market, she had fresh organic ginger and the microgreens she is known for.

Despite it being winter, Flourish Farm still grows its microgreens with the sun and not artificial light. Thus, they are highly nutritious.

Later on, in coming markets, she will have salad bowls and growing lettuce in containers available.

At the summer market on the West Brookfield Common, there will be the microgreens as well as starter plants in June. She will have more cold tolerant starter plants at the Brimfield Market in April if one can't wait, but summer can't come soon enough for most of us.

On the other side of the room was Elzire's Acre, known for the popular goat milk soaps they bring to market.

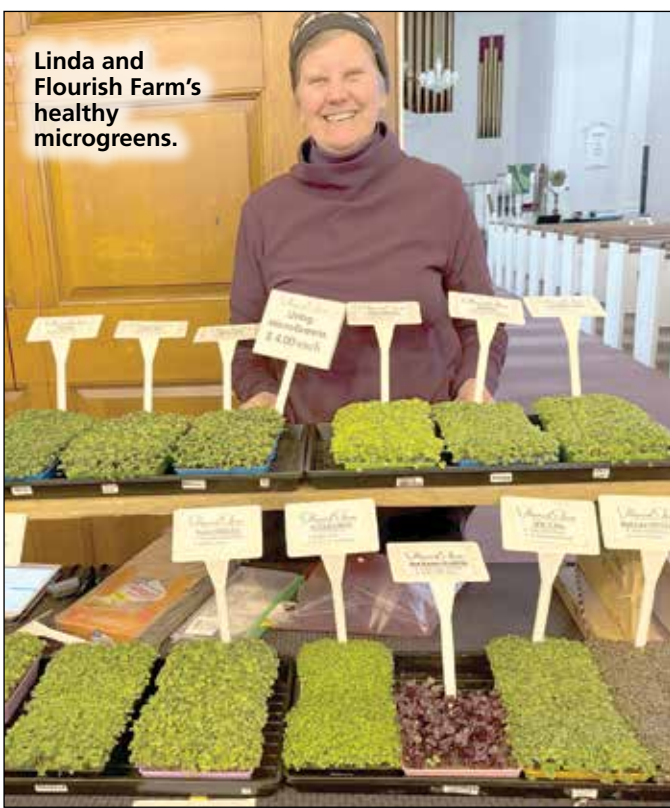
Elzire's Acre goat farm is located up in Princeton and is the operation of Chad and Terri Steiner. Staffing the table is Chloe, as she does most weeks. This week, she had something new.

So, you have these lovely, fragrant soaps, shouldn't you have something classy to hold them? Terri has come up with soap dishes made out of resin. Chloe had two examples to show off. They actually look like they were sculpted out of marble, and are a lovely complement to the soaps they can hold.

Elzire's Acre will be here for the rest of the markets and back for the summer market.

Most of the other usual suspects were on hand. Maple syrup and honey were available for those with a sweet tooth. Gourmet coffee was available for, dare we say it, the gourmets. Pork products, eggs and chicken were there as well, and baked goods. Don't forget the tulips.

So, enjoy the venue as the last winter market of March 12 will be here before you know it.



Linda and Flourish Farm's healthy microgreens.

Are You Old News?



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

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



File Photo
Last week's photo from 1989 showed 7-year-old Nancy Kittredge of Ware with different scales used by model railroad hobbyists in making their models. All three scales were represented at the Amherst Railway Society hobby show.

CDA from page 1

able to divide funding amongst five social service organizations.

Johnson said they will extend an invitation to the town's social service organizations to alert them of the funding opportunity.

CDBG funding can also be used to address infrastructure projects and housing rehabilitation.

"Through the years, the town has done a lot with housing rehabilitation and also a lot of infrastructure projects," Johnson said.

Smith read a letter submitted by Carol Zins, requesting that the CDA consider including housing rehabilitation in this year's CDBG application, noting that many senior citizens are having trouble making repairs to their homes.

CDA Chair Brandy Bruso agreed that housing rehabilitation should be a top priority.

"When you look at some of the areas in town, they can really use the funding," Bruso said. "We really should focus on housing rehab again."

Johnson said if the CDA decided to focus on housing rehabilitation, they would need to find a way to draw in program participants. She said the program has seen a

decline since the pandemic due to lack of participation and the high cost of labor and materials.

The average housing rehabilitation project has increased from \$20,000-30,000 up to \$50,000-60,000.

Johnson said many senior citizens are hesitant to participate due to the 15 year differential property lien, which is placed on a property following completion of CDBG-funded housing rehabilitation project. She said there is still housing rehabilitation money remaining from the town's FY 21 grant cycle that has not been spent.

"It's a challenging place both to attract people and keep them in," Johnson said. "Money doesn't go as far as it used to."

Smith said she will research possible funding sources to help residents in need of housing rehabilitation, outside of CDBG funding.

The CDA also discussed infrastructure projects, including the Cottage Street Project, which is estimated to cost approximately \$2 million to complete.

A previous CDBG award was received for the engineering design of this project, which is now com-

plete and shovel ready. Due to this, the Cottage Street Project would make for a strong application for the FY 25 grant cycle.

Smith said she believes this project will be funded and should be included in the application, but that it will need to be broken up into multiple phases to complete. The project includes drainage, water and sewer work.

Johnson also noted that if CDBG funds pay for the design of a project and it is not started in five years, it is possible the town will be asked to return that money.

The CDA members agreed they should focus this year's grant application on the Cottage Street Project and social services, due to the challenges with housing rehabilitation and the readiness of the infrastructure project.

A public hearing regarding the FY 25 application will be held on Monday, March 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall, 126 Main St. Those unable to attend the hearing are encouraged to send written comments to: Community Development Authority, Planning Department, Ware Town Hall, 126 Main St., Ware, MA 01082, Attn: Paralee Smith.



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

Our advertisers make this publication possible.

Let them know you saw their ad in the

Ware River News



CANTERBURY TAILS VETERINARY CLINIC

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

Proudly serving Ware and its surrounding communities

DOGS 🐾 CATS 🐾 REPTILES 🐾 EXOTICS 🐾 AND NOW BIRDS!

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



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



UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Enjoy your old favorites with some new touches

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

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

Suzanne Plescia receives Excellence in Teaching Award

WARE – Suzanne Plescia has been selected by the Ware Public Schools as 2025 Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award Winner.

Plescia has worked at Ware Public Schools since 2016 at the Ware Junior Senior High School as a Special Education Teacher. She goes above and beyond to build and maintain relationships with not only her students, but their families as well.

Plescia and her students have revitalized CAFÉ 171. Students take pride in preparing recipes, taking orders and handling the money for each customer interaction.

If you talk to Plescia about her students, she will undoubtedly shed tears of joy. Her hard work, kindness, and unwavering commitment to her students have made a lasting impact on all those around her. The school district is beyond fortunate to have Plescia as part of its learning community, and her students are lucky to learn from someone so caring and dedicated.

Plescia will be honored at an in-person banquet at the Log Cabin in Holyoke on April 30. The program will feature a festive awards presentation honoring the winners, who will each receive an engraved plaque and a check for \$250, along with



Ware Public Schools Special Education Teacher Suzanne Plescia was named a 2025 Grinspoon Excellence in Teaching Award Recipient. Shown in the back row is Keith Abete, Andrea Adams, Dr. Ginger Coleman, Suzanne Plescia, Dr. Michael Lovato, Michael Fazio and Scott Slattery.

generous tuition incentives and scholarships offered by eight major colleges and universities in the region: American International College, Bay Path University, Elms College, Mount Holyoke College, Springfield College, Western New England University, Westfield State University, and the University of Massachusetts.

Winners also receive a three-month membership at the Springfield Jewish Community Center or one of the six regional YMCAs.

The Excellence in Teaching Awards program, now in its 22nd year, is made possible by the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation in partnership with the Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation and

supported by the American International College, Arrha Credit Union, Country Bank, and Meyers Brothers Kalicka.

“Teachers are some of the hardest working people. We are privileged to honor and celebrate these extraordinary individuals whose dedication and impact reaches far beyond the classroom and who deserve all our

appreciation and acknowledgement,” said Uli Nagel, Program Director, Excellence in Teaching Awards at the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation

For further information about the Excellence in Teaching Awards Program, contact Program Coordinator Michelle Roberts by emailing mroberts@hgf.org.

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. 24

- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch

Tuesday, Feb. 25

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

Wednesday, Feb. 26

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

Thursday, Feb. 27

- 9 a.m. Walking Club. Meet at Senior Center.
- 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
- 9:30 a.m. Line Dancing for Beginners
- 10 a.m. Line Dancing
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. Cornhole
- 2:30 p.m. Art Class

Friday, Feb. 28

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

LUNCHES DINE IN 11:30 a.m.

All meals \$3.50 unless otherwise noted

Required: call 413-967-4595 by noon on the business day before, to put your name on the lunch list.

Monday, Feb. 24

Hot Dog with Baked Beans, Cucumber Salad, Dessert of the Day

Tuesday, Feb. 25

Sloppy Joe Sandwich, Macaroni Salad, Potato Chips, Dessert of the Day

Wednesday, Feb. 26

Kentucky Stuffed Peppers, Fruit Salad, Dessert of the Day

Thursday, Feb. 27

Brunch
French Toast, Scrambled Eggs, Corned Beef Hash, Dessert of the Day

Friday, Feb. 28

Baked Haddock, Scalloped Potatoes, Veggie of the Day, Dessert of the Day

Beaver Lake Club Corp. offers scholarship

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

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

The scholarship is given in the memory of Louis Healy a long time and well-respected member of the Beaver Lake community and the town of Ware. Lou was an active leader and participant in both town and community matters and his family and friends continue to celebrate his thoughts, ideals, and memory by awarding this yearly academic scholarship.

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

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

Paige Memorial Library lists upcoming events

HARDWICK – Hardwick is 286 years old, the Paige Memorial Library building located at 87 Petersham Road is 120 years old, but Hardwick’s libraries came before the Paige building.

This celebration will include the history of all the libraries, the Hardwick villages, those who lived here (a Human Library), and events over the years that impacted Hardwick residents.

Be part of a year of fun events. On June 7 the Westfield Wheelmen, a vintage baseball team, will challenge the library’s players. Help form a team.

To join the fun and the planning, call 413-477-6704 or email director.paigelibrary@gmail.com.

On Feb. 22 at 11 a.m. at the Paige Library, come speak with Hardwick’s own Ridge Shinn, Executive Director of the Northeast Grass-fed Beef Initiative, co-founder and CEO of Big Picture Beef. Shinn has developed markets and distribution systems through-

out the northeast and has consulted all over the U.S. and for the Argentine government on the production and marketing of grass-fed beef.

His work has been recognized in Time Magazine, Atlantic Monthly, New York Times, Wine Spectator, and Smithsonian.

Shinn is also the co-author of “Grass-fed Beef for the Post-Pandemic World: How Regenerative Grazing Can Restore Soils and Stabilize the Climate”. Register by calling 413-477-6704 or emailing director.paigelibrary@gmail.com.

Ongoing activities offered at the library currently include the Paige Library Book Club, the weekly Story Hour with art and science activities, the Cookbook Club, the Paige Writers’ group, and the Fundamentals of Art, a multi-media workshop to foster creative activity and socialization.

For more information call 413-477-6704 or email director.paigelibrary@gmail.com.



Friends of Ware Town Hall offer 2025 lotto calendars

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

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

Calendars are being sold locally at the following locations: Changes Hair Salon, Crystal Springs Dairy Bar, It’s Wine O’clock, Moulton Insurance Agency, Nat Falk,

Otto Florist, Platform Hair Design, Silhouettes on Main, Talk of the Town, This n That 2, Ware Library, Ware River Club, Ware Senior Center, Ware Town Hall, Town Clerk’s Office and Wilton Children’s Store.

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

The Jazz Bones will perform free concert at Trinity Episcopal

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

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

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

Music you may hear: “Eleanor Rigby”, “All of Me”, “On A Clear Day”, “Don’t Get Around Anymore”, “Bad Bad Leory Brown”, “Here’s

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

Please visit the Jazz Bones web site to listen to the group: www.Premierentertains.com. For more information about the Jazz Bones contact David Neill by calling 413-686-5027 or emailing tbn8@aol.com.

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

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

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

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

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

Saturday, February 22 ~ 7pm-11pm
Uncle Country

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

Friday Nights ~ 8pm-11pm
Karaoke

Upcoming Events
Saturday, March 29th
7pm-11pm
A.S.B.

EVERY SUNDAY DARTS
LUCK OF THE DRAW
5:30pm • All Welcome

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

viewpoints

Oliveira leads call for urgent review of energy rate increases

BOSTON – In response to unprecedented spikes in energy bills across Massachusetts, state Sen. Jake Oliveira (Hampden, Hampshire & Worcester District) is leading a coalition of state legislators to jointly call on the Department of Public Utilities to immediately reassess recent rate hikes approved for investor-owned utility companies, including Eversource and National Grid.

In a letter addressed to DPU Chair James Van

Nostrand, Oliveira was joined by more than 80 legislators who expressed grave concern over the financial strain these increases place on households and small businesses.

“Residents across our districts have reported alarming increases in their utility bills, with some seeing their costs double,” said Oliveira in the joint letter. “A senior constituent of mine’s Eversource bill jumped to \$449.91 in January, nearly \$300 of which was due to supply costs alone. These excessive

rate hikes are unsustainable for working families, seniors, and small business owners who are already struggling to keep up with the rising cost of living.”

The letter highlighted the burden on vulnerable residents, including seniors on fixed incomes who are experiencing an astonishing 27% increase in their heating costs. Despite claims from Eversource that the spikes are due to colder temperatures and increased usage, many ratepayers who have maintained consistent energy

consumption are still seeing drastic hikes.

“Families are having to make the impossible decision between putting food on the table and heating their homes. This is unacceptable,” he said.

Oliveira and the legislators are demanding that the DPU conduct a comprehensive and transparent review of Eversource’s pricing structure to determine whether these rate increases are justified.

“Time and again, we see profits prioritized over the

well-being of Massachusetts families,” said Oliveira. “We cannot allow utility companies to impose unpredictable and excessive financial burdens on ratepayers without proper oversight. The DPU must act now to protect consumers and ensure fairness in energy pricing.”

As winter continues, Oliveira and the legislators are calling on the DPU to take immediate action to hold Eversource accountable and implement measures that prioritize affordability for all Massachusetts residents.

WARE RIVER NEWS TEAM



EDITOR
Paula Duimette
pouimette@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES
Dan Flynn
dflynn@turley.com



SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com



STAFF WRITER
Ryan Drago
rdrago@turley.com

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



@WareRiverNews



www.warerivernews.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

DEANNA SLOAT
Graphics Manager



www.turley.com

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

Reader asks about claiming Social Security when I have a Health Savings Account



because, as you have found, Medicare will back-date your Part A coverage by six months. And because Part A is not a high deductible plan (a requirement for HSA), any contributions you make after the effective date of Part A will be subject to an IRS penalty, and your HSA contributions won't be considered tax-exempt. This will mean the IRS will likely assess a 6% excise tax on any contributions made after your Part A effective date and you'll need to pay income tax on those contributions.

What you may wish to consider is stopping your HSA contributions now and waiting an additional six months or so to claim your Social Security benefits (to get beyond the HSA penalty phase). This would have the advantage of avoiding the IRS penalty on your HSA contributions and would also increase your Social Security benefit due to Delayed Retirement Credits. You earn DRCs at the rate of .677% for each month beyond your FRA that you wait to claim, which means an SS benefit about 4% higher if you wait six months longer to claim SS.

Dear Rusty:

I have reached my full retirement age (66 plus 8 months) and plan to apply for Social Security this month, but I've seen articles, which say that when I apply, I must also take Medicare Part A.

This, even though I am continuing to work and am covered by my employer's health insurance (a high deductible plan). I contribute bi-weekly into an Health Savings Account. I've read that Medicare back dates Part A coverage by six months, which suggests I would have had to stop contributing to my HSA six months ago.

If this is true, will I need to pay penalties and such to the IRS? I'm not able to find anything else about this topic and I'm wondering what you might have to say. I have my wife and two children on my employer's HDHP. We contribute \$6,000 annually to our HSA and my employer contributes \$1,250 on Jan. 1 each year. We can live without the HSA, but the taxes and IRS penalties concern me.

Signed: Wanting to Claim SS (but concerned)

Dear Wanting to Claim:

I'm afraid that what you've read is correct – it is mandatory for you to take Medicare Part A (inpatient hospitalization coverage) when receiving Social Security benefits after age 65. Medicare Part A is free to you and even though you are still covered under your employer's creditable high deductible healthcare plan and can delay taking Medicare Part B, you must take Medicare Part A to collect Social Security after 65. Medicare and your employer's plan will coordinate healthcare benefit payments.

That does, however, also mean your Health Savings Account will be affected

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



Leave it to fate

I never thought I would say this, but I am out of ideas for this week's column.

Every topic I come up with has been covered at one time or another. So, as the snow falls every so furiously outside, I am going to resort to the “stick your finger in the gardening encyclopedia, and see where it lands” trick.

I'll leave the topics of the week to fate.

Here goes: For the first topic, my finger landed on a funny picture of geranium plants with their rootballs wrapped in newspaper hanging from the beams in someone's basement. I have written before about my success in bringing my geranium plants inside for the winter and placing them in a south facing window.

Just yesterday I was looking at the plants more closely, knowing that soon enough, I will be snipping the tips to take some cuttings. But I digress, the picture I saw is just another way to overwinter your geranium plants, especially if you don't have a sunny window or a lot of indoor gardening space.

Many old timers used to talk of this method a lot and had great success with it. You could either try and pot the plants up ahead of time or go right from the basement to the outdoors after the threat of frost has passed and after a thorough hardening off process, of course.

Second topic: My finger landed on the herb Lovage (Levisticum officinale). I have started lovage from seed nearly every year for the last 30 years.

This celery substitute is always on the list of transplants needed for the herb

garden at Old Sturbridge Village. Lovage seed is not viable for long, so new seed



is needed each year, or germination will be sparse.

The plant is considered a perennial, meaning it will return year after year, but in my experience, the best foliage production will be in the first year. The flowers are “umbells” like dill and fennel but flowers only take away from foliage production, so they are best snipped off.

The hollow stems are used in place of celery in soups and stews. My mom always enjoyed drying the leaves for use during the winter months. Topic three: Hostas! I was never a big fan of Hostas until I had a yard that had substantial amounts of shade. These versatile plants are a perfect companion for many shade loving perennials, especially if they are planted in fertile soil with ample moisture.

Like other perennials, Hostas need a period of dormancy to succeed, so they will do well in our climate, and down to Zone 8 or so. Most varieties are grown for their foliage only; I find it funny that some gardeners snip off the flowers as they begin to form, saying that it actually takes away from the look of the plant.

There are so many types to choose from and in colors ranging from grass-green to yellow and even blue-gray! Some are variegated or splashed with color.

Leaf sizes range from minuscule to huge! One pest that loves Hosta leaves is the slug. To lessen their interest in the plant, be sure to remove decomposing foliage.

Use any number of traps, homemade or otherwise to keep your plants damage free.

And the last fate-filled topic is: Chile peppers! There are all kinds of hot peppers out there for the gardener to experiment with. You might think that growing instructions may differ for fire-hot peppers, but they are grown in the same manner as regular bell peppers.

Start the seeds inside, or purchase transplants. Warm the soil ahead of installing the plants, and don't overdue it fertility-wise. Provide supplemental water if the summer gets droughty.

Harvest when the peppers turn color, and do so wearing gloves being ever mindful not to touch your eyes. I had always heard that a milk bath should help ease the sting of an accidental burn; others say ingesting starchy food does the trick.

Well, I hope this unconventional column was an enjoyable read. It's never too late to pull out a reference book or two for some interesting factoids.

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

OPINION POLICY

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

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

The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

Turley Election Policy

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

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

NEWS & FEATURES

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

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

A TURLEY PUBLICATION
www.turley.com

support community journalism

Selectmen discuss water district costs

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Board of Selectmen began their meeting with a discussion with the Warren Water District regarding waterline replacements and hydrant costs.

Speaking to the board was Warren Water District member Cynthia Baxter. The waterline replacements and hydrant costs are part of the Water District's asset management program to replace two water hydrants in town every year.

There are 127 hydrants in own and 12 private hydrants, according to the water district. For fiscal year 2025, Baxter says the assessment fee would have been increased to 6% and the cost per hydrant would be \$336, same cost for the private hydrants as well.

Baxter mentioned the district got a good price for some of the hydrants last year, considering the substantially high increase for hydrants as of now. The vendor FW Webb told the water district that "all unit prices are subject to change up to the day of delivery."

This year the assessment increase would be 8% instead of 6% making the increase be \$26.88 per hydrant and now the cost per hydrant would be \$362.88. The Warren Water District is currently identifying the hydrants that appear the oldest and are looking to replace those old hydrants to better serve the town.

As for the waterline replacements, Baxter was wondering if funding from the Community Development Block Grant would help with the cost of fixing or replacing the waterlines. Baxter mentioned the work done on Richardson Street as an example.

Warren Fire Chief Adam Lavoie made a comment regarding the hydrants, since it is a necessity for fire department use. From Lavoie's standpoint the

departments uses water the most for structure fires or any similar emergencies. However, the use and metering of the hydrants is unknown to the department due to the water departments being a private entity.

"We have no say over the hydrant system," Lavoie said.

Vice Chair David Dufresne's main concern involves the increases going up and how much the town residents are impacted. Dufresne mentioned that the town has been helping the water department over the years, and it seems the water department is going up on their prices even though the town has helped them save money.

Waterline replacement involves infrastructure, and the town relies on grant funding to help pay for that infrastructure.

Baxter commented that the Water District is an independent municipality and not a big corporation charging a substantial amount of money for profit. Baxter believes the district is making enough money to pay their personnel and any extra goes towards capital planning and some for piping.

According to Baxter, grant money is always appreciative, and the water district does their best to manage piping.

"We try to be good partners with the town," Baxter said.

Dufresne wants to know if it's possible the Water District can reduce the rates. Baxter responded and said those kinds of decisions are made by the committee of the water district. For waterline pricing by the foot mentioned as an example, Baxter said she'll ask these questions to the water commissioners.

When mentioning the amount of water being monitored, Baxter said the district has not metered the water in years. When they ask the fire department how much water they collect, Baxter says they

take their word for it on how much water is being pumped.

The board will get back to the water district about their numbers on what they feel the town should be charged and present it to the Water District. Baxter wanted to inform the board to let them know and understand that the owners of the water district make the ultimate decisions and not the commissioners.

"Final decisions are the people who own the water district," Baxter said.

Selectmen Richard Eichacker said the district should consider looking into finding a grant writer to help apply and receive grants. This funding source could benefit the district to have money saved to replace waterlines in the future and help balance the scales.

Currently, there are 638 houses in the water district, some of which are multifamily homes.

Raymond Kopacko from the Finance Committee wanted to comment on the Water District discussion and hopes the board takes into consideration that the grant funding for infrastructure "can't be so cleanly sorted out for waterlines." In addition, Kopacko believes the water district isn't exactly the entity charging the town money for water related services.

"It's not the Water District charging the town," Kopacko said. "You're saving the rate payers that money."

According to Kopacko, though the town and the Board of Selectmen may see the Water District as a private entity, but the actual amount of money they're charging the town could be minimal.

The discussion with the Warren Water District about waterline replacement and hydrants will continue at a later Board of Selectmen meeting.

Proposed wage scale

Town Administrator James Ferrera talked to the board about the proposed wage scale with a possible

vote amend the proposed wage scale. This was a discussion for some departments to comment on the newly proposed wage scale and address any possible updates to wages for certain positions.

One of the recommendations was made by Lavoie about an EMT position that needs a name change to part-time EMT hourly position in training.

The board reviewed wages from other communities, including neighboring communities of Warren, to help average out what all the communities have compared to what wage Warren is giving the positions.

Lavoie commented, saying the department always pays the minimum for new EMTs coming in. According to the Fire Chief, the new first step on the wage scale will not allow the department to hire a junior EMT.

Lavoie clarified that with the board that the position he recommended was not labeled properly and he wants to give an hourly rate for a qualified EMT filling a part-time position and be able to attend trainings.

In response to the board's idea to find an average using other communities, Ferrera commented "other communities are larger than Warren. It's a balancing effect."

The board accepted the amended wage scale. Other members from several departments spoke during this agenda item regarding the newly proposed wage scale.

The board suggested to any department heads that they should advocate for their employees if they're requesting a step in pay on the wage scale. The board insisted they have some form evaluations in place and they have to be fair evaluations. Comments are valuable and help the board when deciding the proper wage for a position.

Planning Board reviews updates for fee schedule

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Planning Board reviewed and discussed making updates to the board's fee schedule.

During the meeting on Feb. 10, Planning Board Chair Richard Eichacker brought up this discussion while he was going over the budget with Building and Planning Secretary Laura Sherris. According to Planning Board members, the fee schedule has not been updated in a while and Eichacker thought it would be appropriate to review the schedule and see what is no longer needed and what should go up in cost.

"The town collects the fees and puts them in the general fund," Eichacker said.

Sherris went over the schedule with the Planning Board and highlighted certain fees for special permits, peer reviews and hearing notices. Sherris said for the Planning Board, public hearing notices currently cost \$211 per two weeks of publication. For special permit legal notices, the cost is around \$350.

The special permit application fee is currently \$300.

Vice Chair Ed Londergan believes the board should review the fee schedule annually in case of any high increase in the future.

"We should look at these every year," Londergan said. "Anticipate some sort of cost increase."

Londergan suggested the application fee should go up by \$50. The board agreed to discuss the changes to the fee schedule and vote at their next meeting. Sherris was asking for clarification on what the terminology is regarding a site plan review.

"Some special permits have site plans, some don't," Sherris said.

The fee schedule hasn't been updated in 15 years according to Londergan. Earth removal is also a charge in the fee schedule and that usually runs through the building inspector.

Approval not required fees will be \$75, plus an additional \$25 per lot created. Earth removal will be \$200. According to board member David Dufresne, the building inspector handles earth removal.

"You can only move so much yardage," David Dufresne said.

Subdivisions will be \$500 plus an additional \$30 for every lot. Special permit will be \$350 and site plan application fee will be \$300. Sherris will implement these changes as the fee schedule was tabled until the next Planning Board meeting. Eichacker said if there are any questions from the public they can email or call Sherris.

Quaboag Historical Society seeks scholarship applicants

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

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

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

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

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

Nomination papers for town elections now available

WARREN / WEST BROOKFIELD – The Town Clerks' of Warren, Laura Stockley, and West Brookfield, Heather Gough, announce that nomination papers are available for the Annual Town Election,

which will be held on Tuesday, May 6.

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

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

Quaboag Regional School Committee nomination papers will be available for pick up on Tuesday, Feb. 4 at the Quaboag Regional Middle High School front

office between the hours of 8 a.m.-3 p.m. School Committee positions open are: two members from Warren for a three-year term and two members from West Brookfield for a three-year term.

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

Do you have old Home Movies that are in DANGER?

Let's save them from OBLIVION

so you can share with family & friends

email for a quote:
ModelRogers+VHS@Gmail.com

NOTICE

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

PRESIDENT'S DAY SALE!
INSTANT FINANCING - HUGE REBATE PACKAGES AVAILABLE!

WE INSTALL TV'S, MICROWAVES AND DISHWASHERS!

MATTRESS SALE!
TWIN: \$199 (REGULARLY \$299)
FULL: \$269 (REGULARLY \$499)
QUEEN: \$299 (REGULARLY \$599)

LG #3400 WASHER & DRYER Front Load, Reg. \$1599.99 **\$1399.99**

G.E. DELUXE COIL TOP STOVE Reg. \$599.99 **\$499.99**

SAMSUNG WASHER & DRYER #46300 Reg. \$1599.99 **\$1299.99** AFTER REBATE!

DELUXE FRIGIDAIRE INDUCTION STOVE Reg. \$1299.99 **\$999.99**

GE DELUXE DISHWASHER Reg. \$499.99 **\$399.99**

WHIRLPOOL WASHER & DRYER Front Load, Reg. \$1599.99 **\$1299.99**

G.E. DELUXE AIR FRY GAS RANGE Reg. \$899.99 **\$699.99**

FRIGIDAIRE DISHWASHER Reg. \$399.99 **\$299.99**

SAMSUNG TOP LOAD WASHER & DRYER Pair - Reg. \$1199.99 **\$1099.99** AFTER REBATE!

G.E. 27 CU. FT. FRENCH DOOR REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$1999.99 **\$1499.99**

5 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER **\$159.99**

10 CU. FT. FREEZER Reg. \$459.99 **\$399.99**

WHIRLPOOL 21 CU. FT. TOP MOUNT REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$899.99 **\$699.99**

FRIGIDAIRE 18 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$699.99 **\$599.99**

FAMOUS MAKER OVER THE STOVE MICROWAVE Reg. \$249.99 **\$199.99**

LG 24 CU. FT. BOTTOM MOUNT REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$1599.99 **\$1399.99**

MAYTAG DELUXE WASHER OR DRYER Reg. \$699.99 **\$549.99**

LG 20 CU. FT. BOTTOM FRENCH REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$1299.99 **\$1299.99**

WHIRLPOOL SIDE BY SIDE Reg. \$1499.99 **\$1099.99**

INSTANT FINANCING UP TO \$10,000!

WHITCO

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

Store Hours: Mon. through Fri: 10am-9pm • Sat: 9am-8pm • Sun: 12 Noon-7pm **FOR 100's OF DEALS!**

warren

Sewer Commission purchases new computers

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Sewer Commissioners had a discussion and a vote to purchase new computers from Entre Technologies.

These computers would be for the wastewater treatment plant and the office for the Sewer Commission secretary, Lisa Digris. The computer system will be up to date and will not be at risk of any cybersecurity threats.

The commissioners saw that the three computers cost over \$4,500, and some of the commissioners were hesitant to spend that much in case they have an increase in operating costs or an increase in sewer repairs.

Town Administrator James Ferrera reminded the Sewer Commissioners that their current computers are out of date and will soon be obsolete.

“The current operating system will not update,” Ferrera said.

The provider suggested to upgrade all computers in town and the commis-

sioners should consider the quote they received from Entre Technologies. The current computers the Sewer Commission has will not be able to run Windows 11, come October of this year.

“Take action on this in getting these computers,” Ferrera said to the commissioners.

Ferrera believes come October, their current computers could be exposed to cybersecurity threats. According to Ferrera the Sewer Commission is budgeted and is set up to purchase these new computers. The commissioners discussed possibly waiting until July to get the computers, but Ferrera mentioned the price of computers could change at that point. Most likely, the price of computers will be higher.

After some brief discussions, the Sewer Commission approved the purchase of new computers for the wastewater treatment plant and the office.

Compensation Study discussion

Ferrera brought the clas-

sification and compensation study to the Sewer Commissioners’ attention to give a finer look at everyone’s wages, steps and classification. According to this new scale, the secretary to the sewer commission is owed steps for payment.

Ferrera reminded the sewer commissioners, Howard Moulson (Chair), Joan Lavigne (Vice Chair) and Lisa Digris (secretary) that it is the board’s responsibility to put a staff’s pay into their budget. During some final calculations, Ferrera found out that Digris is owed two steps in pay. This error was made sometime back in 2020.

With any information regarding pay Ferrera suggests the sewer commissioners check with the town accountant and when it comes to budgeting, they have to coordinate with the Chief Operator, Ralph Zebrowski.

Sewer Chief Operator report

The commissioners heard the report from Ralph Zebrowski regarding the

scum pump replacement. Zebrowski brought up the amount of \$85,000 that is supposedly used for the purchase of the replacement for the scum pump. Ferrera suggested the board check with the accountant if this amount of money is used for what Zebrowski is proposing.

After going over the quote they got from Tighe & Bond, the amount of money for work services for the scum pump replacement project would be around \$34,300.

Bill authorization

The Sewer Commissioners had a discussion regarding authorizing a commissioner for a signature on bills. Digris wanted to discuss the idea of designating one person to sign off on bills in case of any situation where members are absent.

According to Digris, one signature is required to sign off on bills or payments. Digris does not want to have the Sewer Commission fall behind or have late bills. This discussion was tabled to the next meeting.

Local author presents writing/publishing workshop on March 9

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

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

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

“The workshop will cover the entire process of writing and publishing, including idea development and sources of inspiration, drawing from storytelling traditions, developing the story, structure, and flow, conceiving and bringing characters to life, dialogue, editing, short fiction, writer’s block, and the publishing process,” Londergan said. “The publishing process can be confusing and frustrating. I’ll take the group through the various publishing options available. There will also be some fun writing exercises.”

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

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

“One of the things past attendees have enjoyed and learned from is the writing exercises,” Londergan said. “The writing exercises this year are different than what I’ve done in the past. I enjoy seeing the creative ideas that come out of them.”

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

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

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



Photo submitted

QUABOAG REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL LISTS NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY MEMBERS

On Jan. 15, the newest members of Quabbin Regional High School National Honor Society, Excelsior Chapter were inducted. This special event recognizes students for their outstanding Scholarship, Service, Leadership, and Character. Pictured from left are front row, Andrew Warfield, Abigail Ure, Emma Kahlau, Luke Salvatore, Vanecia Tarquinio, Ruby Gatulis, Sophia Gagne, Elizabeth Matheson, Grace Manna, Hunter McQueston and Hannah Zereski and back row from left are Jin Xi Jou, Garrett Erickson, Collin Lindley, Richard Tucker, Rylee-Ann Harty, Adelaide Harmon, Micah Cerezo, Mia Ducos, Kalina Dyer, Owen Brewer and Brianca Wilder.

Aromatherapy 101 program to be held March 1

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

This free program is sponsored by Warren Public Library with a grant from the Warren Cultural Council and the MA Cultural Council. Craft and take home an aromatherapy dream pillow, bath salts and soap.

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

Polar Plunge to benefit Special Olympics is March 8

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

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

To register, scan the QR code or visit www.polarplunge-ma.org.



Weir River Jazz to perform Mardi Gras celebration concert

WARE – Weir River Jazz will present “Speak Easy and Carry a Big Band,” a celebration for Mardi Gras, in the Grand Hall of Workshop 13, 13 Church St. on Sunday, March 2 at 2 p.m.

Come join the band to hear the great sounds of a traditional Big Band playing N’Orleans Jazz and Blues in a speakeasy setting. Adult beverages and soft drinks as well as popcorn will be available for purchase.

This program is open to the public and there is no charge for admission. Donations to Workshop13 are appreciated to help them continue their support of the arts.

FORUM from page 1

There were some proposed activities presented in the forum: a Neighborhood Infrastructure Planning Study for Washington Street, Infrastructure Improvement Project for Hillside Avenue, and Engineering Design Improvement Project for Spring Street and Summer Street.

Giving the presentation is CMRPC Director for Community Development & Resiliency Planning, Andrew Loew. Regional Planning Agencies, such as CMRPC, can assist with preparation and management of CDBG grant projects on behalf of the town.

The CMRPC representatives for Warren are Chris

Dunphy and John O’Leary.

There are several ways a project can qualify for CDBG funding. The high-lighted qualification that applies to Warren is benefiting a majority of low- and moderate-income residents.

The available FY25 CDBG funding consists of \$850,000 for a single community application and \$1,050,000 for joint (two) community applications. Warren will be leading an application with the town of Millbury, which has projects they wish to be completed with help from CDBG funding. Millbury is looking to do a parking lot design study for the Millbury Senior Center.

The presentation had a timeline on how long

some of the proposed projects will take if Warren were to include them in addition to the current projects underway. The Engineering Design for town common kicked off with Weston & Sampson engineers back in December of 2024.

Leow would then move forward to the Community Development Strategy. This strategy summarizes recent strategic planning efforts, highlights the town’s relevant planning documents, identifies development goals and listing potential funding sources to implement priority projects.

A CDS presents an action plan which is consistent with the state’s sustainable development principles. With this strategy and potential for more CDBG funding, CMRPC along with the Community Development Advisory Committee is helping with shaping

Warren’s future.

In addition to CDBG funding, the presentation listed other community development programs that help with funding. Community One Stop, Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grants, Green Communities and Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant programs.

Residents who attended the forum at the Warren Senior Center would share their thoughts on the current and potential projects. CMRPC provided a map of Warren with highlights of the village centers, Warren Center and West Warren.

The presentation also shared previous CDBG projects from fiscal year 1999 to fiscal years 2022-2023.

There has been outstanding progress in developing several streets in Warren over the years. In recent

years School Street underwent two phases during its improvement project and Moore Avenue and Lombard Street had streets repaved.

“Various improvements, public facilities improvements and public social services,” were listed by Loew during the Community Forum. The town of Warren has experienced tremendous improvements in the last 25 years and will soon experience more thanks to the support from CMRPC and from the FY25 Community Development Block Grant.

To learn more about the current projects and potential projects reach out to Office of the Board of Selectmen by calling 413-436-5701 or visiting the website www.warren-ma.gov. For CMRPC, contact John O’Leary, Principal Planner of CMRPC by calling 508-459-3331 or emailing joleary@cmrpc.org.



ROBINSON

TREE SERVICE

LLC

Professional - Reliable - Fully Insured

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

*All Major Credit Cards Accepted
100% Financing Available*

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



FIVE ISLANDS

Georgetown, Maine
2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathroom
Washer/Dryer, Fully Equipped

- Walk to Five Islands Wharf and Ledgewood Preserve Beach
- Close to Reid State Park

\$1200/week
207-607-9333



A Valentine's Day CELEBRATION

DINNER from page 1

Council, and they do several community events throughout the year. Many events feature them cooking meals, featuring some Knight family recipes.

The meals were \$15 a piece and the celebration had a sensational turnout with dozens of community members gathering in the church hall for a nice meal. In addition to the meal, there was a Valentine's Day themed table featuring flowers and a dessert option. The dessert featured a variety of cookies.

There was also music being provided by DJ Sonny Raine while guests sat at their round tables for a delicious meal. The tables were decorated with Valentine flair, featuring sheets in the color of red, pink, purple and white.

The Knights have several events taking place soon. The next upcoming meal will be before St. Patrick's Day on March 15 and will feature corned beef. This dinner will also take place at St. Mary's Church Hall.

The Knights of Columbus are known for putting on many great events, including the annual Halloween at the Park at Grenville Park. The Knights also provide a hot dog and hamburger concession during the Ware Veteran Fund Carnival at Memorial Field. The Knights also participate during National night out and provide free hotdogs, soda and school supplies for all the kids that come.

Every year, the Knights cook and deliver Thanksgiving meals on Thanksgiving for the families in need or for people alone. During the first two weeks in April, the Knights offer an Easter egg hunt for kids at All Saints Hall. If the weather is nice the egg hunt will be outside.



Jean and Stan Ciukaj enjoying their stuffed chicken meal at St. Mary's Church Hall.



The Knights of Columbus made over 150 meals for this Valentine's Day celebration at St. Mary's Church in Ware.



There were desserts available after dinner featuring a variety of cookies.

The Knights of Columbus want to thank their fellow members, volunteers and additional supporters for making their Valentines Day

dinner a success this year. For more about the Ware Knights of Columbus visit their Facebook page, Knights Of Columbus Ware MA.



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

The dining hall at St. Mary's Church Hall was full this past Saturday night.

Gilbert Players' performance of 'Love Letters' hits the right note

By Donlyn Larson
Submitted Article

HARDWICK – Remarkable things happened in the small intimate theater in The Center at Eagle Hill.

Linda Tomasi and Carl Mercier, decided to share their talent and hearts as they opened the small black box theater showing off a simple but masterful small stage harboring two very different and distinct apartments.

Mercier as Andrew Makepeace Lad the third, has a tastefully appointed office with an expensive taste for mid-century furniture. While Tomasi as Melissa Gardner, wallows in a somewhat cluttered but creative space surrounded with her own art work, a box of tissues and an ashtray.

Although she uses her suggestive family's wealth a lot, she is very aware that her life belongs to her and not purse strings.

Mercier and Tomasi obviously realized that they had to leave their minds off stage and become unrecognizable to the familiar audience. The two actors sit on opposite sides of the small stage reading letters and cards that had been shared between them over the last

50 years.

Neither could physically recognize that the other was close by and could not share glances or feelings of presence between each other. Every word counts and is carefully placed... and pauses orchestrated.

The play (reading) opens as the two children share birthday cards and summer camp letters. The show becomes more complex as they get older and will no longer be at each other's side, and they move into teenage angst and adventure.

They glide through their prep school and jealousy years, through their parents' affairs and deaths, their travels, their pets and their ambitions, their marriages, up until they are reaching the end themselves and that the real thing missing in their lives...was missing each other.

How could they be so in love with each other, and gently push it aside to continue their programmed life?

Up to this point Mercier and Tomasi have carried the full weight of life through comedy, sarcasm, jealousy, bitterness and fright. Each emotion being expertly portrayed on stage.

Not once did I doubt that these two characters were not experiencing these actu-

al emotions.

Now that the show is over, I can tell you, that as the show closes and Melissa dies, Andrew gently shares his grief and loss. Not so much for losing Melissa... but losing the time to let her know how important she was to him – she was his Parker Pen pal glue.

He won the senate election, but lost his love.

Although this review sounds sad and depressing it truly was not. A lot of the laughs came from the heart and not from the script.

Mercier and Tomasi captured and bottled all sorts of emotions during this show, which could only be done with actors who are sure of themselves. There is no standing or moving, no communication with the audience, and no freedom of speech.

To top all of this off, patrons were greeted with complimentary drinks, mouthwatering cheese and carrot cake cafe tables, raised seating and delightful lighting by Tim Ruggles along with charming hosts.

Yes indeed, this was a perfect evening starting with rich sweets and ending with a topping of real talent.

Rumor has it, there will be more of these.

Historical Society presents 'The Covered Bridges of Massachusetts' on Feb. 27

STURBRIDGE – On Thursday, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m., the Sturbridge Historical Society will present Rich Paradise speaking about "The Covered Bridges of Massachusetts" at the Publick House.

19th century New England covered bridges, those iconic wooden structures that feature a roof and siding to protect the bridge's wooden beams from harsh weather, are considered a testament to early American engineering. Once seen everywhere, today there are only about a dozen covered bridges left in Massachusetts and some of them are on private property.

Paradise has managed to photograph them all and will provide detailed descriptions of how to find them.

He will open his talk

with a brief discussion of the different methods of bridge construction, followed by a review of the existing Massachusetts bridges.

No talk on covered bridges would be complete without bringing up the Graton family's business in New Hampshire. During the flood control of the 1950s, Graton Associates was hired to remove covered bridges from the rivers that were in the floodplain. This process started their unique career of restoring and building new covered bridges.

Milton Graton who started the business wrote the book "The Last of the Covered Bridge Builders". Paradise has a signed copy of this book which will be on display at his talk.

Paradise, as many of you

may remember, was last year's "stone wall guy". He is also a huge fan of covered bridges and has studied them for years.

Since moving to Sturbridge in 2002, Paradise has been an avid hiker of our local trails. For the past 14 years he has been a member of the Town's Trails Committee. He has volunteered his chainsaw skills to the Committee, and at numerous places around town following the 2011 tornado.

He is also a recent member of the Historical Society and has worked to help development programs and presentations for the group.

This program, which is generously hosted by the Publick House, is free and open to the public.

McNeely Tree Service

Insured • References

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

H: 508-867-6119 • C: 978-888-1693

"WHERE THE FUN IS"

OPEN EVERY DAY AT 12 NOON DURING SCHOOL VACATION

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

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

WINTER FUN FOR EVERYONE!

FOR RENT

Quabbin Estates

41 Church Lane, Wheelwright, MA 01094

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

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

CORNERED BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER

Sunday, March 9th 2025

Sponsored by the
SONS of AMVETS Squadron 74
2150 Main Street, Three Rivers

CURB-SIDE PICK-UP ONLY

Serving 12 Noon to 3 p.m.
"While Supply Lasts"
Price: \$18.00

**DRIVE-IN ► PLACE ORDER
► PAY ► PICK-UP**

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

USDA INSP. FROZEN BONE-IN CENTER CUT PORK CHOPS	\$2.49/lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TENDERLOIN CUT FREE	\$10.10/lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF CHUCK STEAK or ROAST.	\$5.99/lb
USDA INSP. FRESH COUNTRY STYLE PORK RIBS	\$1.94/lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF PORTERHOUSE or T'BONE STEAK	\$7.99/lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG	\$1.99/lb
USDA INSP. BONELESS MCKENZIE'S CLASSIC 1/2 CARVING HAM	\$1.99/lb	USDA INSP. SLICED IN OUR DELI REDUCED SODIUM DILUSO HAM	\$3.99/lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CORNISH GAME HENS TWIN PAK	\$2.49/lb
USDA INSP. SLICED IN OUR DELI MONTEREY JACK CHEESE	\$4.44/lb	USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY DIET LEAN GROUND BEEF 5 LB BAG	\$4.99/lb	USDA INSP. KAYEM ALFRESCO ROAST GARLIC CHICKEN SAUSAGE 11 OZ	99¢ ea
USDA INSP. FROZEN PORK STOMACH	\$2.99/lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN BEEF BONE FOR SOUP	\$1.99/lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN COOKED SHRIMP 31/40 COUNT 1 LB BAG	\$6.67/lb

SOUP'S ON!

SALE DATES: 2/20/25-2/26/25

90 Meat Outlet
90 Avocado St. Springfield
413-737-1288
www.90meat.com

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

BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

We reserve the right to limit quantities.



The Ware Library provided delicious cupcakes while kids and their families made Valentine cards last week. Kenzie is shown alongside her mom picking out cupcakes.



Several families joined each other at the crafting table to make Valentine cards for their loved ones.

Cards & CUPCAKES



The Ware Library had card making supplies and hearts were stationed everywhere in the Children's Room.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

In addition to cupcakes there were clementines to enjoy during a Valentines-themed event at the library.



CUPCAKES from page 1

In addition to card decorating, Goulet would bring in delicious red, white and pink frosted cupcakes for guests to enjoy while they decorate. If no one wanted a cupcake there were also clementines to enjoy during the season of Valentines.

"There are plenty of cupcakes left over," Goulet said.

The kids and adults got busy designing their own Valentine cards and giving



Bruce is shown holding his Valentine's Day card that features a message from his mom.

them to their loved ones. Brantley had fun designing his card which featured multiple stickers, pompoms, hearts and his name written across the whole card. Bruce had a nice Valentine card featuring a nice message from his mom.

"Here's to you my son, Bruce," it read on the top.

For more crafts and activities at the library, call 413-967-5491 or visit warelibrary.org. Visit the Ware Library at 37 Main St. The Children's Room will be hosting a Bath Bomb Workshop on Thursday, Feb. 20 from 3-5 p.m. This is a drop-in workshop and is for ages 5 and up.

2025 dog licenses are now available

Licenses must be purchased by March 31 to avoid late fees

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

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

If you are licensing in person the Town Clerk's Office will be open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday each week during business hours. Town Hall is now closed to the public on Wednesdays.

If you are licensing by U.S. Mail, the license must be purchased prior to March 31 and your envelope must be also post-marked by March 31 or there will be a late fee.

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

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

Rabies Certificates for each dog must be presented at the time of licensing as in the past. If your dog was licensed in 2024 check the license to see if the Rabies Certificate is current (the information is on your 2024 license); if it is current, simply come into the office to license in person or license by mail.

If licensing by mail you must provide a self-addressed, postage paid envelope in order for us to return the license and tag to you. If licensing more than one dog be sure to add additional postage to your envelope to insure delivery.

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

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

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

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

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

Annual wine tasting event at Clapp Library

BELCHERTOWN—Have an open calendar for Saturday, March 1? The Friends of Clapp Memorial Library invite you to come by the Library on March 1, from 7 to 9 p.m., when they will be hosting their annual free wine tasting event.

Light refreshments and nonalcoholic beverages will be available. You must be 21 to attend.

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN!

PALMER PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS:

PALMER FOR

TOMORROW

Gathering




WHAT IS IT?

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

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

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

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

WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

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

To Join Our Group!

FREE FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED!

WHEN & WHERE

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

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

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

SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com

Boys basketball finishes up with pair of wins



Noah Perry attempts the left-hand layup.



Justin Grout carefully angles into the paint.



Jack Gaudreau lunges for a shot.

WARE – The regular season came to an end last week with Ware scoring two more wins, a 72-46 win at home against Smith Vocational, and an impressive offensive outpour in a 92-50 win over Libertas Academy Charter School. The Indians finished with a very impressive 14-4 record. They will enter the state tournament next week. But this week, the Indians were scheduled to face off with Lee in the quarterfinals of the Western Mass. Class C Tournament.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com Owen McKeever heads for the paint.



Brodie Koczur goes for an off-balance shot during recent action.

Amherst hockey gets top seed in tourney

WEST SPRINGFIELD – This week, the Amherst Regional High School ice hockey team will participate in the Western Mass Class B Tournament. The tournament, which will be held at Olympia Ice Center, will feature the top four teams in each class. Amherst, which co-ops with Pathfinder, will have the No. 1 seed, facing McCann Tech in the semifinals early this week. If the Hurricanes are successful, the Hurricanes would then face the winner of league rivals Agawam and Easthampton.

Amherst closed out its regular season with a 3-1 win against Taconic last Thursday evening at Orr Rink. All three goals in the game came from Benjamin Remensnyder. Amherst only allowed one first period goal to the Braves. The Hurricanes entered the tournament 11-5-1 and will be in action on next week in the state tournament. Seeds for that tournament will be announced this weekend.

Indians can't hold lead at Palmer

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—Holding onto a lead has been an issue for the Ware girls' basketball team this season.

The Lady Indians held a slim 19-18 advantage against archrival Palmer with 2:50 left in the third quarter.

"Hopefully, we can play better in the state tournament."

– Dan Orszulak

The Lady Panthers managed to score the final five points of the quarter, and they also added 14 more points during the fourth quarter for a 37-24 home victory on senior night, last Tuesday.

"We've had a hard time holding onto leads this season," said Ware head coach Dan Orszulak. "We struggled offensively in the second half of tonight's game. We missed a bunch of inside shots. We also gave up some easy shots defensively. It's a very frustrating loss."

While neither team qualified for the Western Mass. Class C tournament, the Lady Indians (10-8), who lost their fourth game in a

row, did qualify for the Division 5 state tournament because they finished the regular season with a .500 or better record. They were ranked 35th in the MIAA power rankings.

"We haven't played very well in two weeks," Orszulak added. "Hopefully, we can play better in the state tournament."

Freshman Amelia Orszulak scored eight of her team-leading nine points in the first half. Sophomore Reese McKeever checked in with five points and no other Ware player scored more than two points.

The only two seniors listed on the Lady Indians roster are Shelby Hogan and Tory Finocchio, who's sidelined with an injury.

Despite finishing the regular season with a 4-14 overall record, Palmer was ranked 32 in the latest MIAA Division 5 power rankings. The top 32 teams in each Division automatically qualifies for the state tournament.

"We're a young team this year and we really haven't paid very much attention to the power rankings," said Palmer co-varsity coach Denise Levasseur, who shares

the coaching duties with Amanda Theriault. "We won't be playing in the Western Mass. tournament, but we're still hoping to make the state tournament. You never know what's going to happen in the post-season tournament."

The four Lady Panthers seniors, who were honored in a pregame ceremony, are Jayda Pardo, Madison Rathbone, Nevaeh Solis, and Loretta Petrashewicz.

"We've been coaching three of the four seniors since they were in the second grade," Theriault said. "It's an end of an era for us, so it's a little bittersweet."

Solis, who didn't play basketball last year, is a first-year member of the Palmer varsity basketball team.

Loretta Petrashewicz and her younger sister, Addyson, led the way offensively against Ware with 10 points each. Pardo made a pair of 3-pointers for her 6 points.

Both teams had 5-0 runs during the first quarter.

The Lady Panthers took an 8-7 lead at the end of the opening quarter when 7th grader Anna King hit a 3-pointer from the top of the key.

Please see **INDIANS**, page 10

Cougars grab victory over Pirates

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARREN—Quaboag junior forward Isaac Cower was forced to come out of last Thursday night's home game against SWCL rival Oxford late in the first quarter after he chipped a tooth.

Cower, who had scored seven points, returned to action at the start of the second quarter. He scored 25 more points over the final three quarters, as the Cougars wrapped up the regular season with a 63-48 senior night victory over the Pirates.

"I've never had a player score more than 30 points in a game after losing a piece of his tooth. Isaac is a very tough kid," said Quaboag head coach Chris Reilly. "It was a hard fought battle tonight, and we just found a way to come out on top."

Cower wound up making a total of seven 3-pointers giving him a season-high 32 points. His previous season-high was 22 points in a non-league 56-49 home win against Blackstone Valley Tech on January 10.

Even though Quaboag finished the regular season with a 5-13 overall record, they still qualified for the Central Mass. Class C tournament. The third-seeded Cougars were scheduled to play at second-seeded Oxford (4-14) in a semifinal game on Monday night. The semifinal winner was scheduled to face either top-seeded St. Paul or fourth-seeded Douglas in the Central Mass. finals at Shrewsbury High School on Wednesday afternoon. The losers of semifinal games also faced each other.

Reilly Comptois and Hart Waz, who are the only seniors listed on the Cougars varsity roster, were honored in a ceremony held prior to the start of last Thursday's contest.

Comptois didn't get to play on senior night because he suffered a left foot injury in Quaboag's previous game against Tantasqua Regional.

"It's sad that Reilly Comptois wasn't able to start on senior night,"

Please see **COUGARS**, page 11

Panthers fall in Class B tournament



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli Bella Smith crosses midcourt.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

AUBURN — The Quabbin girls' basketball team captured the Central Mass. Class B championship title last February with a 12-point victory over Notre Dame Academy at Worcester State University.

The members of this year's Lady Panthers squad were hoping to make another visit to the WSU gymnasium.

Third-seeded Quabbin, who graduated four starters, was trailing second-seeded Auburn, 36-33, entering the final eight minutes of this year's Central Mass. Class

B semifinal game.

It didn't remain a close game for very long, as the Rockets built a 15-point lead three minutes into the fourth quarter leading to 52-38 home victory, last Friday night.

"We really wanted to get back to the championship game again and I'm very proud of these kids," said Quabbin head coach Evan Barringer. "Give Auburn a lot of credit because they shot the ball very well during the second half. It's very hard to win a playoff game on the road."

Please see **PANTHERS**, page 10



Brooke Austin reaches out for a loose ball.

sports

Pioneers finish with one of best records in team history



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Addison Doktor passes out of the paint.



Greenly Lagimoniere passes as she clears midcourt.

PALMER – Last week, despite a setback against Sci-Tech, the Pathfinder girls basketball team rebounded to defeat Hampden Charter 52-36 and finish with an overall record of 15-3. Its one of the best marks the girls basketball team has ever had. Earlier this week, the Pioneers were set to participate in the Western Mass. Class C Tournament, taking on Lee High School on the road in the quarterfinals. The Pioneers will also get to take part in the state tournament, which begins next week.



Taylor Allen fights to keep the ball.



Desiree Croteau eyes the hoop with a low dribble.



Megan Clark looks to shoot.

PANTHERS from page 9

The Lady Panthers (5-14) were scheduled to wrap up the 2024-25 campaign with a non-playoff home game against the loser of the other Class B semifinal game on Tuesday night.

“We’re hoping to end our season with a victory at home on Tuesday night,” Barringer said. “It’s going to be a fun night of basketball because the boys’ basketball team will be playing in the second game of the doubleheader.”

The seniors listed on the Quabbin girls’ basketball roster are Bella Smith (3 points), Brooke Austin (8 points), Christiana Dunn (6 points), Lianna Leger, and Makaylah Kingsbury.

“The five seniors are very special,” Barringer said. “They were a part of a championship team last year and they’ve faced a lot of adversity this season.”

Leading the way offensively for the Lady Panthers was sophomore Abby Rogowski, who scored eight of her 14 points during the first half. Junior Mia Ducos, who was the Lady Panthers only returning starter this winter, added seven points.

“Mia is one of the best girls’ basketball players in the history of the school,” Barringer said. “Abby is a three-sport all-star player. We’ll be building around them next year, but we still have one game to play this season.”

It has been more than 15 years since Quabbin and Auburn faced each other on the hardwood.

The Lady Panthers won the last meeting, 46-40, which was played during the 2008-09 regular season.

“I think we should play Auburn again next year,” Barringer said. “It’s only a 40 minute trip here, which for us is nothing.”

The Lady Rockets (12-7), who has qualified for the Division 3 state tournament, were led offensively in the semifinal victory by the trio of sophomore Taylor Goodrich (22 points), junior Samantha Jess (12 points), and senior Maeve Whittemore (11 points).

Last Friday’s contest was a homecoming game for Barringer, who graduated from Auburn High School in 1997. As a senior, Barringer was a member of the Rockets boys’ basketball



Lianna Leger fires a pass up the court.

team, which captured the Clark Tournament large school championship title. Barringer was also a member of the Rockets boys’ soccer and golf teams. His father, John, was an English teacher at Auburn High School for 35 years.

The duo of Ducos and Rogowski combined to score ten points during the opening quarter. Smith also buried a 3-pointer from the left corner, as the visiting team entered the second stanza holding a 13-11 advantage.

With 3:50 remaining in the opening half, Austin hit a jumper in the lane giving Quabbin a 15-14 lead.

Dunn followed with a 3-pointer and the Lady Panthers closed out the first half with a 12-5 run.

Auburn, who entered the second half trailing, 25-19, took a 33-27



Christiana Dunn makes an inbound pass.

lead following a Jess inside hoop with 3:55 left in the third quarter.

The Lady Panthers came storming back with a 6-1 run over the final two minutes of the quarter. Ducos began the spurt with a coast-to-coast lay-up. Rogowski, who also plays field hockey and softball, added the other four points with a put-back hoop and a lay-up, which sliced the deficit to 36-33, entering the fourth quarter.

The Lady Panthers supporters, which included several members of the boys’ varsity basketball team, saw the Lady Rockets score twelve unanswered points which gave the home team a 48-33 lead in the middle of the final quarter.

Quabbin’s only points of the fourth quarter was an Austin inside hoop and a Dunn 3-pointer.



Abby Rogowski goes after a rebound.

HoopHall announces award winners

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced the recipients of the 2025 Curt Gowdy Media Award and John Bunn Lifetime Achievement Award at NBA All-Star Weekend.

Legendary Detroit Pistons play-by-play announcer George Blaha, renowned CBS analyst Clark Kellogg, veteran women’s basketball writer Michelle Smith, and influential NBA journalist Adrian Wojnarowski are the 2025 Curt Gowdy Media Award recipients. Boston Celtics long-time Vice President of Media and Alumni Relations Jeff Twiss is the recipient of the 2025 John W. Bunn Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Curt Gowdy Media Award is named in honor of the late Curt Gowdy, a legendary sports broadcaster and former Hall of Fame Board member and President. This prestigious award is presented to members of the print, electronic, and transformative media whose efforts have made a significant contribution to the game of basketball.

The Bunn Lifetime Achievement Award was instituted by the Basketball Hall of Fame’s Board of Trustees in 1973 and is the most prestigious award presented by the Hall of Fame outside of Enshrinement. Named in honor of Hall of Famer John W. Bunn (Class of 1964), the first chairman of the Basketball Hall of Fame Committee who served from 1949-64, the award honors coaches, players, and contributors whose outstanding accomplishments have impacted the high school, college, professional, and/or the international game.

Blaha, Kellogg, Smith, Wojnarowski, and Twiss will be recognized for their contributions to basketball during the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame Enshrinement Weekend on September 5-6. For further details, including ticket information, visit hoophall.com/events/enshrinement-2025.

INDIANS from page 9

With 2:25 remaining in the first half, a McKeever inside hoop gave the visiting team a 14-11 advantage.

The Lady Panthers responded with a free throw from 8th grader Anabelle Ladue (4 points) and a lay-up from Addyson Petrashewicz, which tied the score, 14-14, at halftime.

Ware took the lead for the final time at 19-18 following an inside basket from junior Madisyn Slattery.

Then Ladue made a 3-pointer from the right side and a lay-up by Loretta Petrashewicz gave the home team a 23-19 lead entering the fourth quarter.

The Lady Panthers led by as many as 15 points (37-22) in the fourth quarter, as they outscored the Lady Indians, 14-5. Rathbone and Loretta Petrashewicz combined to score nine of those points.

The two rivals are scheduled to battle each other in a non-playoff game at Ware High School at 5:30 pm on Thursday night.

Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

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



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Mia Ducos looks to drive around an opponent.

Team Mass Boys & Girls AAU Basketball Tryouts

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

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

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

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

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

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

T-Birds suffer one-goal loss to Rockford

ROCKFORD, Ill. — The Springfield Thunderbirds (23-19-2-3) suffered a second straight gut-wrenching loss in the closing moments, falling 4-3 to the Rockford IceHogs (19-22-5-1) on Saturday night inside the BMO Center.

Things got off to a rocky start for the T-Birds, who fell behind 1-0 just 64 seconds into the game after a misplayed puck wound up on the tape of Joey Anderson inside the right-wing circle. Anderson made no mistake in snapping it through Colten Ellis on the stick side, giving Rockford the 1-0 advantage.

Ellis solidified things over the next 15 minutes, turning away the next nine IceHogs attempts while the T-Birds struggled to find offense. Finally, a pair of Rockford penalties afforded Springfield a 4-on-3 power play, and Matt Luff unleashed a perfect wrist shot that squeaked past Ben Gaudreau's

blocker to tie the game, 1-1, at 18:17.

Springfield's momentum would not last long, though, and just 32 seconds later, Brett Seney picked off a loose puck in the high slot and quickly wristed a try under the crossbar to restore the IceHogs lead, 2-1, heading into the intermission.

Anderson's hot hand carried over into the early stages of the second, as he found a gap through the five-hole of Ellis to make it a 3-1 score at 5:19 of the middle stanza.

Through the opening 30 minutes of play, the T-Birds had managed just six shots on goal. However, the visitors clawed their way back, beginning with Illinois native Hugh McGing tucking home a rebound outside the blue paint at 12:55 to cut the Rockford lead to 3-2.

Dylan Peterson thought he had brought the T-Birds back even when he shuffled a loose puck across the

goal line just over a minute later, but the call was changed to no-goal after the referees congregated. Nevertheless, Springfield pressed on, and on the next shift, Matthew Peca punched home a rebound off an Alek Kaskimaki shot, and the game was deadlocked at the 14:56 mark of the second.

Ellis and Gaudreau did their part to lock things down from that point, as the two netminders kept the score locked in the 3-3 stalemate into the game's final minutes. Unfortunately for Springfield, they succumbed to a late game-winner for a second straight game when Andreas Athanasiou broke up the ice in a 2-on-1 with Anderson and tucked a backhand around Ellis to win it for Rockford with just 1:59 left in the third. Ellis suffered only his second loss in his last 11 starts, and the Springfield goalie also saw his five-game win streak get snapped in the process.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER — The third and final round of the league season has started for the Commercial Elks League.

The winners of round two were the Daft Kings, consisting of Paul Tereso, Ken Trudel, Matt Bertelli and Dave Cobleigh. Daft Kings and Gutter Mouths have qualified for the championship roll off at the end of the season. With a new round beginning, Mailmen, Team BK, Last in Line and Compression are in pursuit of winning the final round.

Gutter Mouths bowled against Compression on the league night of Feb. 11. In game one, Gutter Mouths defeated Compression by a score of 350-322. In game two, Gutter Mouths were victorious again, 383-365. Leading Gutter Mouths to another victory was Stephen Manolakis with a 111.

In game three, Compression had two of their bowlers break the century mark, 120 and 108, on their way to a 384-345 victory over Gutter Mouths. However, Gutter Mouths managed to take total pinfall by seven points, 1078-1071.

Team BK bowled against the Mailmen on Feb. 11. In game one, Team BK defeated the Mailmen by a score of 371-317. Paul Nothe of Team BK began the match with a 107.

In game two, Team BK won again by and delivered another loss for the Mailmen, 381-349. Mark Fitzpatrick of BK had a 107 of his own and Tom Bedard of BK bowled a 104.

In game three, Mailmen won the last game 401-336 thanks to the 131 bowled by Bryan Surprise. Team BK won total pinfall by a final score of 1088-1067.

BK starts off the third round with a record of 3-1.

Bogey Doubles

EAST BROOKFIELD — A new high series was bowled this past Monday Night at Bogey Lanes. This took place during the doubles match between Aaron Halbedel & Aaron Fontaine and the team of Jack Talamini & Bill Gravel.

In game one, Talamini & Gravel won the first game by a score of 276-262. Aaron Fontaine began the match with a 121. Bill Gravel bowled a 110 to start the match.

In game two, Halbedel & Fontaine were victorious by a score of 310-269. Fontaine bowled a 153 and Halbedel bowled a 125. In game three, Talamini & Gravel put together a 300 to defeat Halbedel & Fontaine's 271.

Talamini bowled a 119 and Gravel bowled a 118. Fontaine finished with a 158 and a new high series of 432. However, the final score was 845-843 in favor of Talamini & Gravel.

Mondor & Brayton bowled against Gauthier & Clough. In game one, the score was 286-260 in favor of Gauthier & Clough. Phil Clough bowled a 118 in game one.

In game two, Gauthier & Clough won again by a score of 266-243. Mondor & Brayton won the last game by a score of 262-244. Gauthier & Clough won total pinfall with a final score of 796-765.

Renaud & Ward bowled against Clauson & Santora. In game one, Clauson & Santora were the winners by a score of 276-243. In game two, Renaud & Ward were victorious with a 289 to Clauson & Santora's 255. Steve Renaud Sr bowled a 123 and Tina Ward bowled a 121.

In game three, Renaud & Ward won a close game, 263-260. Renaud & Ward won total pinfall by a final score of 795-791.

Bonsignore scores third-place finish in opener

Four-time NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion Justin Bonsignore opened his 2025 NASCAR season with a third-place finish in the Whelen Modified Tour opener at New Smyrna Speedway last Saturday night. Now, his eyes will turn to the World Center of Racing.

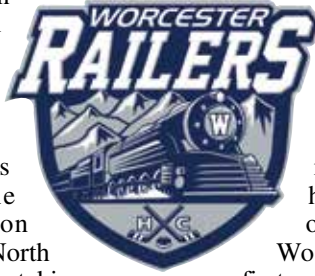
Bonsignore will make his second career NASCAR Xfinity Series start for Joe Gibbs Racing in Saturday's United Rentals 300 at Daytona International Speedway.

The New York native made his Xfinity Series debut in 2024 with Joe Gibbs Racing at New Hampshire Motor Speedway and ran inside the top-five for a long portion of the race. He also competed in the ARCA Menards Series event at Daytona in 2024, his only Superspeedway experience leading into this weekend.

"Running the ARCA race at Daytona certainly helps a bit with the learning curve of a Superspeedway and the drafting," Bonsignore said. "The Joe Gibbs Racing team and Toyota have proven over the years they have incredibly fast cars. I'm excited to get out there in practice and learn as much as possible in our No. 19 M3 Technology, USNE Power, Toyota GR Supra. I know our goal will be to get to the end of the race with a shot... that's about all you can ask for at a place like Daytona."

Railers take care of Americans

ALLEN, TX — The Worcester Railers HC (23-20-2-4 52pts) beat the Allen Americans (13-27-7-2, 35pts), on Sunday afternoon by a final score of 3-1 in front of a crowd of 3,144 at the Credit Union of Texas Event Center. The Railers are back on the ice next at the North Charleston Coliseum taking on the South Carolina Stingrays on Wednesday, February 16th at 10:30 a.m. EST.



Worcester got the scoring started as they tacked on the first three goals of the game in the first period. The first came from Jordan Kaplan (1-0-1), followed by Tyler Kobryn (1-0-1) and it was Lincoln Hatten (1-0-1) who finished off the first period trifecta. Brayden Watts (1-0-1) scored the first goal for Allen on the power play 11:35 into the second period making it 3-1. Neither team would net one in the third period leading us to the 3-1 Worcester win.

For the second time in the weekend series the Railers jumped out to a 3-0 first period lead. Jordan Kaplan (16th) started

the scoring party 11:21 into the first period. Tyler Kobryn (4th) followed up Kaplan 15:06 into the first, and it was Lincoln Hatten (5th) who scored the third Worcester goal in the period giving them a commanding 3-0 lead heading into the second. Shots favored Worcester 16-4 in the first period.

Allen had three power play opportunities in the second period, it was not until the third power play that they grabbed their first goal of the night. It was Brayden Watts (17th) who cut the Railers lead to two. Watts had the only goal of the period, giving Worcester a 3-1 lead heading into the third period. Shots favored Allen 17-10 in the second period.

Despite a 5-on-3 power play chance for Worcester as well as an Allen power play chance neither team was able to cash in on their respective opportunities. The scoreless period led to a 3-1 final, with Worcester walking away with the series sweep over the Allen Americans. Allen outshot Worcester 16-8 in the third, and 37-34 in the game.

Visit us on the web
www.turley.com

COUGARS from page 9

Reilly said. "We've dealt with a lot of injuries this season."

Waz, who's a guard, made a 3-pointer early in the second quarter, which was his only points on senior night.

While Hart hasn't had coach Reilly as a teacher, his parents (Brian + Tracy) did when they were students at Quaboag Regional.

"I've been a math teacher here for the past 42 years and I taught both of Hart's parents," Reilly said. "I've really enjoyed coaching both of our seniors this year."

Things didn't start out very well for the Cougars on senior night, as the Pirates raced out to an early 8-0 lead. The junior duo of Jeff Guzman and Nolan Remington led the visiting team with 18 points apiece.

With junior point guard Jacoby Labillois (9 points) leading the way, Quaboag outscored Oxford, 12-4 during the final five minutes of the opening quarter. The Cougars entered the second stanza trailing by just one point (15-14) following a lay-up by junior center Jack Steven (4 points).

"We started the game a little bit timid," Reilly said. "We did play a lot better once Jacoby figured out how to break their press. It was a very good learning experience for him."

The Cougars outscored the Pirates, 19-5, during the second quarter.

"We always pride ourselves on playing well defensively," Reilly said. "We held them without a field goal in the second quarter, which is very good."

The home team took the lead for the first time at 16-15 following an inside hoop by sophomore forward Liam McGrath (6 points) ten seconds into the second quarter.

A couple of minutes later, the Waz 3-pointer gave the Cougars a 21-18 lead.

Cowher made three 3-pointers during the final four minutes of the first half and the home team held a 33-20 halftime advantage.

After Guzman made a 3-pointer and a put-back hoop at the start of the third quarter, Cowher made three more shots from beyond the three point line, as the Cougars scored 17 unanswered points.

With 2:40 left in the third quarter, junior guard Kadin Dufault made a lay-up which increased the Cougars lead to 50-25.

Quaboag's largest lead was 60-39 in the middle of the fourth quarter, and they were able to celebrate a senior night victory.



THE JOURNAL REGISTER & WARE RIVER NEWS

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

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

ALL FOR ONLY \$275

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

Ad deadline: March 19, 2025

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

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

Nat Falk offers best men's clothing for 88 years

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

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

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

Nat Falk carries name brands such as Carhartt, Levi's, Huggo, Florsheim, Fred, Van Heusen, Arrow and Columbia, just to name a few. They carry big and tall sizes and are a proud Boy Scout supplier. Nat Falk is the place to go for formal wear with a full selection of suits and rentals for that all-important day.

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

NAT FALK
64 Main Street, Ware • 967-6721

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

public safety

Ware Police Log

During the week of Feb. 9-18, the Ware Police Department responded to 25 miscellaneous calls, 22 administrative calls, 13 traffic violations, 21 emergency 911 calls, seven motor vehicle accidents, two safety hazards, five frauds, two harassments, five animal calls and 22 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

Sunday, Feb. 9
 1:53 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Street, Investigated
 2:07 p.m. Assist Other Agency, River Road, Investigated
 5:06 p.m. Fraud/Deception, North Street, Advised
 6:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Anderson Road, Citation/Warning Issued
 8:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued

Monday, Feb. 10
 11:27 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Street, Could Not Locate
 11:29 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Street, Report Made
 4:36 p.m. Fraud/Deception, North Street, Services Rendered
 5:19 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Maple Street, Could Not Locate
 9:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Belchertown Road, Citation/Warning Issued

Tuesday, Feb. 11
 2:45 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Parker Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 2:54 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 5:02 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Cummings Street, Dispatch Handled
 6:31 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 6:55 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 12:34 p.m. Fraud/Deception, North Street,

Services Rendered
 12:53 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Dale Street, Advised
 2:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Greenwich Plains Road, Report Made

Wednesday, Feb. 12
 2:29 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 1:46 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Services Rendered
 5:04 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Could Not Locate

Thursday, Feb. 13
 9:08 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Pleasant Street, Report Made
 9:13 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Gilbertville Road, Services Rendered
 10:11 a.m. Fraud/Deception, North Street, Assist Given
 10:31 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Bacon Road, Assist Given
 5:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 8:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Citation/Warning Issued

Friday, Feb. 14
 2:18 a.m. Safety Hazard, Church Street, Services Rendered
 3:48 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 8:17 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Fourth Avenue, Services Rendered
 9:51 a.m. Fraud/Deception, Fourth Avenue, Services Rendered
 12:24 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Homecrest Avenue, No Action Required
 1:42 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Monroe Street, Services Rendered
 6:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 9:48 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Doane Road, Dispatch Handled

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.

Saturday, Feb. 15
 9:06 a.m. Traffic Violation, North Street, Vehicle Towed
 5:40 p.m. Disturbance, North Street, Arrest Made
 Arrest: Philip E. Leblanc Jr., 56, Springfield
 OUI-Liquor or .08%, 2nd Offense; Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle
 8:38 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, East Street, Investigated

Sunday, Feb. 16
 2:51 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Vigeant Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 3:01 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Sherwin Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 4:35 a.m. Traffic Violation, Crescent Street, Removed Hazard
 2:06 p.m. Suspicious, South Street, Complaint Taken Care Of

Monday, Feb. 17
 12:09 p.m. Safety Hazard, Greenwich Road, Services Rendered
 12:12 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Vigeant Street, Unfounded
 1:10 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, South Street, Dispatch Handled
 2:36 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Advised

Tuesday, Feb. 18
 2:35 a.m. Disturbance, Aspen Street, Investigated

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Feb. 10-17, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 38 building/property checks, 38 directed/area patrols, seven radar assignments, seven traffic controls, eight emergency 911 calls, five citizen assists, two complaints, eight safety hazards, one motor vehicle investigation, one larceny/theft/shopping, one animal call and 12 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, Feb. 10
 2:13 p.m. Safety Hazard, Petersham Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 5:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old Turnpike Road, Citation Issued

Tuesday, Feb. 11
 2:41 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Lower Road, Spoken To
 4:11 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Services Rendered
 11:34 p.m. Parking Complaint, Sullivan Avenue, Officer Handled

Wednesday, Feb. 12
 9:53 a.m. Assist Citizen, Hardwick Road, Negative

Contact
 1:10 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Church Street, Services Rendered
 2:07 p.m. Assist Citizen, Unknown Location, Officer Handled
 10:44 p.m. Safety Hazard, Townwide, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Thursday, Feb. 13
 7:12 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Pine Street, Services Rendered
 2:43 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Services Rendered
 6:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning

Friday, Feb. 14
 12:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled
 8:37 a.m. Safety Hazard, New Braintree Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 10 a.m. 911 Misdial, Old Petersham Road, Services Rendered
 11:19 a.m. Assist Citizen, Church Lane, Officer Handled

Saturday, Feb. 15
 8:19 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Prospect Street, Transported to Hospital

12:05 p.m. 911 Larceny/Theft/Shoptlifting, Hardwick Road, Report Taken
 1:11 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Collins Road, Transported to Hospital
 3:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Summons Issued
 4 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Citation Issued
 9:45 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Barre Road, Negative Contact

Sunday, Feb. 16
 12:39 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Pine Street, Transported to Hospital
 6:55 p.m. Safety Hazard, New Braintree Road, Services Rendered
 7:08 p.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Main Street, Merge
 10:37 p.m. Safety Hazard, Greenwich Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 11:32 p.m. Safety Hazard, Petersham Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Monday, Feb. 17
 1:44 a.m. Safety Hazard, Czesky Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Ware residents reminded to look for annual census forms

WARE – The Annual Census for Ware residents will be received in mailboxes within the next week. Please take the time to review, make changes or additions as needed, sign, date and return in the enclosed envelope provided. Forms may also be dropped off in the Blue Drop box outside the lower level offices of Town Hall. Please note – you cannot register to vote by filling out the census form, you

cannot change your voter registration address on this census form either. Voter registration forms are available online at www.ma.gov under "Elections & Voting." It is very important to complete and return your census in a timely manner so that we may compile the information required by law. Your help is greatly appreciated. This year there is a survey included for the Charter Review Committee which

is working on editing and making minor changes to the current charter as allowed by law. Please complete the survey and enclose it with the census form. If you wish to do the survey electronically simply follow the directions. If you have questions, or if you failed to get a census, please do not hesitate to call Nancy Talbot, Town Clerk at 413-967-9648, extension 103.

Open burning season now open through May 1

WARE – Open burning season is now open by permit and runs through May 1. Permits will be available online only at ware.firepermits.com. If you are already registered for the site from last year's open burning season, you only need to log in and apply for a 2025 burn permit. Please make sure you link your bank account for UniPay for a smoother process. The bank requires time to process your payment and your permit will be inactive until payment is approved. Cash will not be accepted at the fire station for a burn permit. All processing fees are required through the online website.

think
OUTSIDE
 of the
BIG BOX
 SUPPORT
 COMMUNITY
 BUSINESSES

CRIME from page 1

as a school district, as a town, or as human beings," Desjardins said. Committee Vice-Chair Aaron Sawabi said this type of behavior will not be tolerated, and he said he's never witnessed anything like this before. "This hate crime is designed to bolster negative emotions, incentivize the ruin of the Superintendent's reputation, and create contempt against him simply because of his race," Sawabi said. "It is not okay, it is not acceptable, and it is not the majority point of view." Committee member Julie Slattery said the letter received by Lovato was "appalling." Lovato sent out a memo regarding the incident prior to the start of the School Committee meeting, and said he will not lower himself to the same level as the letter writer. "Hate is not just about racism," he said. "Hatred can come in ways of trying to discredit people, it can come in ways of trying to attack people. There are multiple ways to try and hurt people." Lovato said he has never experienced such hate in his life, and that he wouldn't wish this incident on anybody. "This is disgusting," he said. Town Manager Stuart Beckley, members of the Selectboard, town employees, business and community leaders attended the meeting to show support for Lovato and the School Committee. "Ware is a passionate community, which cares

for and looks out for its residents...that's the way it's always been," Beckley said. "This written act of hate and utter disrespect... it's not who we are, it's not what Ware is about. It needs to be called out, addressed, and stopped. It's up to us to make sure it doesn't happen again in the future." Ware Teachers Association President Amber Boucher also spoke out against the letter, and said it is not what the community is about. "We denounce this kind of behavior – among our staff, among our students, among our community," Boucher. **Independent investigation** Winslow said the School Committee is looking to hire an independent investigator to look at the allegations brought forward about Lovato by the teachers' union. "It either clears Dr. Lovato...finds things. We don't know," he said. "It's clean hands." The independent legal expert the committee is looking to hire is Attorney Mary-Lou Rup, who is also a retired judge. Lovato said he has been facing false accusations, which he said are without fact or evidence. These accusations range from him not having a doctorate degree, the validity of his citizenship, and his treatment of female staff. Lovato said he has even been advised to carry his passport on him, to prove his citizenship. "This stuff has to stop, an independent is the best

way to go," Lovato said. "Nobody should get a pass on making a false accusation." Lovato said he also wants the investigation to look at the allegations made by the union, and whether or not they were made with malice or not. Sawabi said the investigation is "a taxpayer-funded fishing expedition," based on accusations without evidence. He offered four solutions to avoid the investigation, which he said is a financial burden to the school district and taxpayers. He said he is not against the independent investigation, but believes they can resolve this internally. Desjardins said he agreed with Winslow that hiring an independent investigator is the right way to go. "We need to be sure that everything is done legal," he said. The committee voted to hire an independent investigator. **Comments and concerns** Resident Jessica Rohan shared a petition to keep School Committee meetings available in-person, rather than virtually. The petition has been signed by over 100 people. "Every other board in the town of Ware meets in person," she said. "I'm hoping that you listen to all of us, and I hope that you continue on with these in-person meetings and listen to the townspeople." Boucher began to share her concerns, however Sawabi called point of order, stopping her from continuing. Winslow overruled

Sawabi's point of order and instructed Boucher to continue speaking. Boucher said even though the superintendent's position does not require a doctorate's degree, she questioned whether Lovato had achieved this degree or not. Resident Dave Moriarty said the recent conflict between the teachers' union, school committee and superintendent has been a "black eye" on the school district. He talked about the need for transparency. **Special education audit** Desjardins said the auditor has reviewed 106 special education files under a number of different categories. The auditor is working with 10 parents and six teachers who have requested to be interviewed. "There were some findings," Desjardins said. "She [the auditor] said that there's been less findings as we move on from the beginning of the audit which would be July of 2023." Desjardins recommended expanding the audit to include data going back to July 1, 2022. The results of the audit should still be presented to the School Committee within the same timeframe of approximately late March. "I think if we go back one, that would give a pretty good idea of what the climate was at that point in time," he said. The committee members voted to expand the scope of the audit by one additional year. **Superintendent's report** Lovato said attendance

rates dipped in January. He said these rates were lower this year than they were last year. He said in terms of school choice, the numbers remain steady. "Our numbers continue to stay consistent. We're not gaining kids but we're not losing kids," Lovato said. Lovato spoke about the school district's report card in regard to discipline. He said in-school suspensions only occur in middle and high school, with the majority happening at the high school. He said there are six seniors who are in danger of not meeting requirements to graduate, being more than three and a half credits behind. He said 73 seniors are on track to graduate. Lovato said a math interventionist is now working with middle school students and he said he is excited to see that make a difference. **Safety update** Lovato said a recent meeting of the safety committee discussed concerns voiced by staff, students and parents. The results of the meeting have been posted on the school district's website and on social media. **Use of facility** The School Committee heard a request from the Fireworks Committee to use school grounds for the town's annual fireworks display to be held on Aug. 9, with a rain date of Aug. 10. The committee members voted to wave the use of facilities fee, pending receipt of the application.

Richard A. Gauthier, 81

WARE – Richard A. Gauthier, age 81, passed away suddenly at his home on Sunday, Feb. 16, 2025.



Richard was born on Feb. 3, 1944, in Ware. Richard was the son of the late Wilbrod and Lydia (LaCroix) Gauthier. He was the brother of Roger Gauthier and Dolores Roy. He was born and lived his entire life in the Town of Ware.

Richard was known to all his family and friends by his nickname "Nitch." Nitch worked many years and retired from the custodial department of UMASS in Amherst.

When Nitch wasn't working, he enjoyed watching the many Boston sports teams. What Nitch truly loved most was the great outdoors, where he spent most of his time hunting and fishing.

His family and friends can recall the countless times he

would take anyone that wanted to go hunting or fishing with him, out in the woods or to his favorite place, fishing the Quabbin.

Nitch was a member of many clubs, but his favorite was the Aspen Street Rod and Gun Club. He was a regular helper at the Kid's Fishing Derbies and would volunteer routinely for the Quabbin Fishing Derby for the disabled.

Besides his brother Roger and sister Dolores, Nitch leaves behind his nephews and their family, and many friends.

Nitch will be laid to rest on Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2025, with a Graveside Service at 11 a.m. in Mount Carmel Cemetery in Ware. Funeral Services are under the direction of Cebula Funeral Home, Ware.

For more information and an online guest book, please visit: www.cebulafuneralhome.com.

Theodore E. Podkowka, 79



WARE – Theodore E. "Teddy" Podkowka, age 79 passed away on Monday, Feb. 17, 2025, at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, after a period of declining health.



Teddy was born in Ware on March 1, 1945, son of the late Adam S. Podkowka and Wanda H. (Drega) Podkowka. He was raised and educated in Ware, a graduate of the former St. Mary's School.

Teddy enlisted in the United States Army on July 19, 1965, and honorably served his country in Germany and Vietnam.

While in the Army, Teddy attended the United States Army Aviation School and was awarded a diploma in Aircraft Maintenance. He also received a Certificate of Achievement in Germany from a training course provided by the Bell Helicopter Company.

Teddy was Honorably Discharged on July 6, 1967, with the rank of SP/4. He served with the 498th Medical Company in Vietnam and received the following: Air Medal, with First Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal with Second Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal with Third Oak Leaf Cluster, for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight. The Citation read "for distinguishing himself by meritorious achievement while participating in sustained aerial flight in support of combat ground forces of the Republic of Vietnam during the period 10 March 1967 to 22 March 1967".

"During this time, he actively participated in more than twenty-five aerial missions over hostile territory in support of counterinsurgency operations. During all of these missions he displayed the highest order of air discipline and acted in accordance with the best traditions of service. By his determination to accomplish his mission in spite of hazards inherent and repeated aerial flights over hostile territory and by outstanding degree of professionalism and devotion to duty, he brought credit upon himself, his organization, and military service" as was written on a Presidential Citation awarded to Teddy.

He also received the Republic of Vietnam Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and the Vietnam Combat Medal. Teddy was always proud of his country and his service to it.

On Sept. 18, 1971, in St. Mary's Church, Teddy entered into Holy Matrimony with Sophie Dziegiel, and together they have been together through good times and bad for 53 years.

Teddy was employed for many years at Kanzaki Specialty Paper in Ware as a millwright. He retired in 2007 and spent countless hours working around his home. Teddy loved his yard and his flowers; he loved teaching his grandchildren all that he knew about gardening and fixing what needed to be fixed.

Teddy and Sophie enjoyed traveling after their retirement. His Catholic

faith was a big part of his life. He spent many hours in Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays at St. Mary's Church. Teddy was a devout communicant of St. Mary's Church and was a member of its Holy Rosary Sodality.

Teddy leaves behind his family, his loving and devoted wife of 53 years, Sophie (Dziegiel) Podkowka, his loving children; his daughter Terri Martin and Ryan Breen, son Richard Podkowka, and son Christopher Podkowka and his wife Megan. Teddy also leaves behind his pride and joy, his grandchildren: Christopher "CJ" Podkowka, Jacob Martin, Nataleigh and Charleigh Podkowka. He also leaves behind his sisters-in-law, Stasia Bronner and Anna Smith, and brother-in-law, Larry Bronner, as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Teddy was predeceased by his parents, Adam in 1975, Wanda in 1991, his brother Frank in 2018, John "Jack" in 2020, and sister-in-law, Beverly in 2024.

A Visitation Period will take place on Monday, Feb. 24, 2025, from 9-11 a.m. in Cebula Funeral Home, 66 South St., Ware. A Funeral Mass will be offered on Monday, Feb. 24, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. in St. Mary's Church, 57 South St., Ware. Prayers of Committal with Military Honors will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery, Ware.

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

Death notices

Butcher, Arthur Charles
Died Feb. 17, 2025
Cebula Funeral Home Service

Gauthier, Richard A.
Died Feb. 16, 2025
Services Feb. 26, 2025

Podkowka, Theodore E.
Died Feb. 17, 2025
Services Feb. 24, 2025
Ware, MA

OBITUARY POLICY

Ware River News

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The outdoor activities will

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

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

About the East Quabbin Land Trust

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

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

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

Antique appraisal event offered at historical museum

NEW BRAINTREE – A much anticipated "Antiques Roadshow"- like event has been scheduled at the New Braintree Historical Society museum, 10 Utley Road, on Saturday, March 22 from 1-3 p.m.

Renowned appraiser and auctioneer, Kenneth Van Blarcom from South Natick (<https://kwvbauctions.com/about/>), will conduct an individual appraisal and history of your item, for all to learn about.

The Society is thrilled to have Van Blarcom's expertise here in New Braintree. His impressive credentials include

antique appraisal positions with Shreve, Crump and Low, Co. and a Boston Directorship at the fine art and antique company of Skinner Auctions. Van Blarcom went on to start his own auction and appraisal business conducting over 850 auctions over a 40 year period.

So, dust off your favorite treasure, and prepare for some historical entertainment. Limit of two items. Cost per appraisal \$5. No jewelry, please.

Refreshments will be served. For more information, visit <https://newbraintreehistoricalsociety.org/> or call 508-867-3324.

Cold weather clothing drive ongoing through spring

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

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

socks.

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

Ware Library hosts cooking and nutrition program

WARE – The Ware Library, 37 Main St., will host a cooking demonstration and nutrition education program on Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 5:45 p.m.

Join library staff as they welcome a Nutrition Coordinator from the Food Bank of Western

Massachusetts.

There will also be a budget-friendly cooking demonstration. The Food Bank of Western Mass, in partnership with SNAP-Ed, offers free nutrition education programs to member agencies. Learn about MyPlate healthy eating guidelines,

decipher nutrition labels, and more.

Reservations requested by not required. Contact Cathy Goulet by calling 413-967-9691.

All programs are free to the public, no library card necessary. Some programs require advanced registra-

tion (they will be noted if so), otherwise just drop in.

Follow the library on Facebook for updates, or you can grab an event calendar at the library. Call 413-967-4858 or email warelibrary1881@gmail.com with any questions.

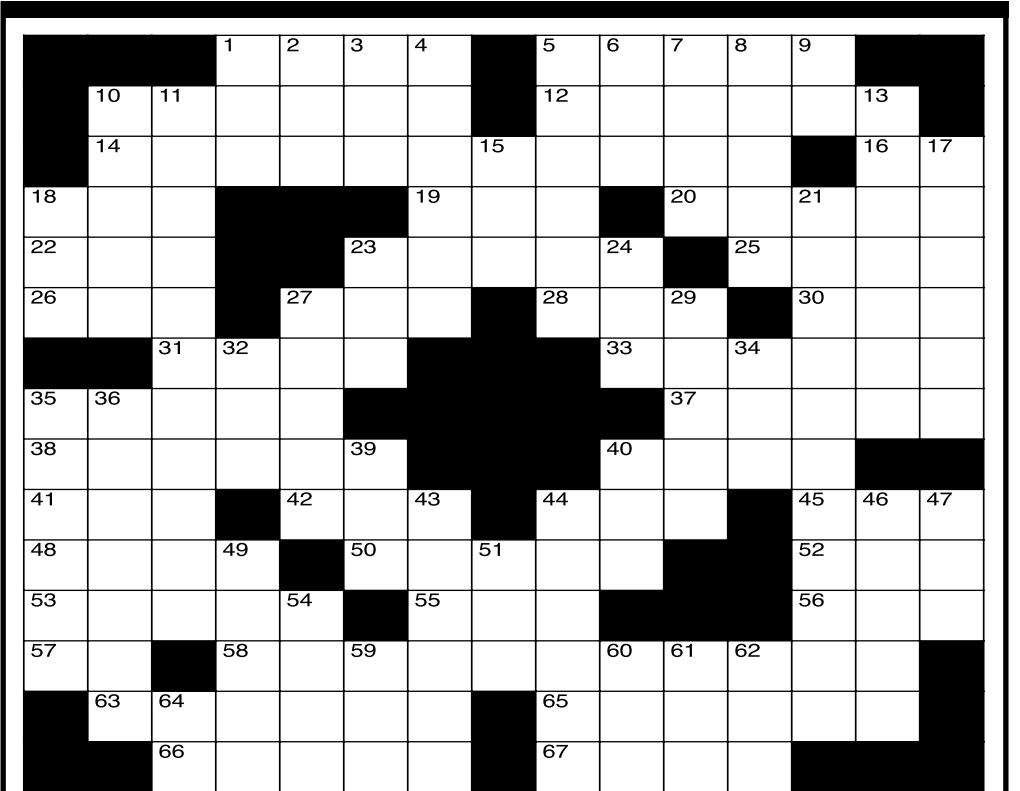
QHMA invites public to Bingo Night fundraiser

PALMER – The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce, the non-profit organization that promotes business and development within surrounding communities of Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester counties, has announced its Handbag & Hand Tool Bingo Night fundraiser.

The event will take place on Friday, March 21 at AMVETS Post 74 in Three Rivers. The Chamber will produce 10 exciting bingo rounds, each with a grand prize featuring one of seven designer handbags or one of three premium tools up for grabs.

Tickets can be purchased on QHMA.com. The registration fee is \$40 per person and includes 10 bingo cards, bingo dauber, delicious snack platters, bonus raffle ticket and a cash bar.

Proceeds from the bingo event will benefit the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce and its on-going mission to assist its more than two-hundred member businesses succeed and grow with programs and initiatives throughout the year.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Tropical Asian plant
5. Yankees' slugger Judge
10. Helps to preserve food
12. Plant disease
14. One who predicts
16. Equally
18. Burundian franc
19. Pouch
20. Arizona city
22. Surround
23. Hard, heavy timber
25. Witnessed
26. They —
27. French river
28. A way to drink
30. Small constellation
31. Peruse a written work
33. Type of hound
35. Plant of the goosefoot family
37. Evade or escape
38. A way to confine
40. Volcanic crater
41. Weekday
42. Women's service organization (abbr.)
44. Local area network
45. Sensory receptor
48. Posted
50. Tibetan pastry
52. Licensed for Wall Street
53. Very willing
55. Golf score
56. Consume
57. Touchdown
58. Tends to remind
63. In a way, smoothed
65. Poke holes in the ground
66. Herbaceous plants
67. Taiwanese river

CLUES DOWN

1. Body art
2. Boxing's GOAT
3. Film for posterity (abbr.)
4. Prayer
5. Calculating machine
6. Keyboard key
7. Outburst
8. Man-eating giants
9. Rope used to lasso
10. Type of sword
11. Counting
13. Pants style
15. Political action committee
17. U.S. government legislative branch
18. Civil Rights Act component
21. Contractors take one
23. Spanish soldier
24. A person's brother or sister
27. Expressed pleasure
29. Song of praise
32. Shock treatment
34. Patti Hearst's captors
35. Counteract
36. Goes over again
39. Popular Dodge truck
40. Male adult
43. A part of a river where the current is very fast
44. Rope used to lasso
46. Become less intense
47. Subway rodent
49. Lead alloy
51. Japanese honorific title
54. Advise someone
59. Famous NYC museum
60. Ocean
61. Cathode-ray tube
62. Cologne
64. It starts with these two

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

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

FIREWOOD

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

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

MISCELLANEOUS

TWO VINTAGE ARCTIC CATS, 73 Panther, 75 Puma. Both have 440 engines. Need a little TLC. \$500 each. **413-768-7226**.



BUY/SELL GRIN REPEAT
WITH THE CLASSIFIEDS!

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY

ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

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

JUNK REMOVAL

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

SERVICES

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

SERVICES

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

ELECTRICIAN

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

HEATING & MAIR COND.

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

HOME IMPROVEMENT

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

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

SERVICES

WALKER HOME IMPROVEMENT
Interior and exterior: Carpentry, woodworking, porches, stairs, windows, doors, painting, drywall, clean outs. Competitive pricing. References. Please call Brendan at **413-687-5552**.

INSTRUCTION

FADER'S FITNESS
"We can always work something out."
Offering tailored exercise and nutrition services for adults, specializing in active and static exercise. Fully certified in personal training and nutrition and insured in the state of MA. Call **914-708-7849** or send inquiries to **faderci@gmail.com**

LANDSCAPING

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

BUY LOCALLY
support our community!

SERVICES

MASONRY

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

PAINTING

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

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

PLUMBING

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

RUBBISH REMOVAL

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

TREE WORK

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

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

STUMP GRINDING

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

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
FRIDAY AT NOON

AUTO

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

HELP WANTED

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

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM

SEASONAL SPRING & SUMMER VACANCIES: ADMISSIONS & CONCESSIONS WORKERS ASSISTANT CAMP DIRECTOR BASEBALL & SOFTBALL UMPIRES SUMMER BASKETBALL SCOREKEEPERS CAMP DIRECTOR CAMP COUNSELORS FENWAY GOLF PROGRAM COUNSELORS JUNIOR CAMP COUNSELORS LIFEGUARDS

Looking for several reliable seasonal employees. For application and more information please visit www.wilbraham-ma.gov. Application deadline 3/21/2025. EOE

Worthington Police Department Full-time Police Officer

The Worthington Police Department is seeking qualified candidates for **Full-time Police Officer**. Applicants must be a minimum of 21 years of age or older, a U.S. Citizen and possess a valid driver's license. They should also have a high school diploma/GED, license to carry and be certified by Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee and be POST certified.

This is a benefited position with a salary range of: \$52,000.00 - \$75,733.00. The successful candidate shall be highly motivated, self-disciplined, possess a community policing philosophy and live in or near Worthington. This position has the potential to be elevated to Police Chief.

Send letter of interest, resume and three references with relevant contact information to:
Worthington Police Department P.O. Box 247 Worthington, MA 01098
Or via email to: **sboard@worthington-ma.us**
Subject line: Employment

Responses will be accepted and reviewed until the position is filled.
The Town of Worthington is an Equal Opportunity Employer

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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

FOR RENT

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings 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.

Post your job openings in our classifieds. We get results! Call 413-283-8393

2025 TAX TIME

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

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

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

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

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

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

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

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

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

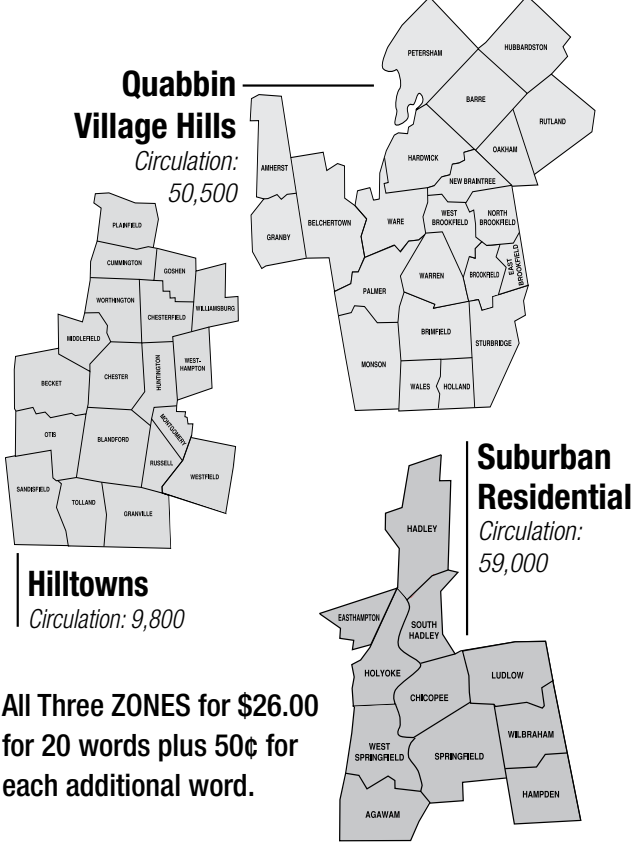
OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

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



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

Quabbin Regional High School lists second quarter Honor Roll

BARRE – The Quabbin Regional High School lists the Honor Roll for the second quarter.

Grade 9, High Honors

Brent Benoit, Abraham Brown, Nicholas Carroll, Maya Fontaine, Chloe Howarth, Ellie Poulin and Erin Trotter.

Grade 9, Honor Roll

Nicholas Antonio, Mary Asiedu, Anyiah Bergeron, Josephine Buck, Carlmorisia Campbell, Eleanor Carroll, Brian Colleton, Michael

Condry, Aiden Crane, Kayla Curran, Adrien Cyr, Oliver Davis, Aliyah Edouard, Maya Edouard, Andrew Erickson, Audrey Faucher, Samuel Feldman, Sydney Freeman, Daniella Gaudreault, Matthew Labrousse, Alison LaRoche, Emma Lindsey, Lynn Diarra Michel, Niki Nikakhlagh, Anthony Noborini, John Orsini, Moira Powers, Kristen Schur, Ava Sobol, Haley Stoll, Benjamin Thompson, Catherine Tucker and Matthew VanScoy.

Grade 10, High Honors

Jacob Bassett, Madeleine Boisselle, Isabel Doty, Tess Dunphy, Kathryn Ford, Anna Hautala, Kirk Kaelin, Ella Reeves and Jennavicia Roseberry.

Grade 10, Honor Roll

Klavdiya Antonian, Skyler Bard, Halo Bissonnette, Makenzie Casey, James Cook, Leah Doucette, Katelyn Durant, Brody Faucher, Grace Flamand, Alijah Flint, Kaylie Howland, Sadie Kennan, Jillian LaMontagne, Audrey

Laursen, Anna Metcalf, Mia Miville, Jesse Newton, Samantha O'Connor, Blake Parmeter, Arianna Riendeau, Abigail Rogowski, Emma Ryan, Sienna Shaw, Aubrey Thorpe, Owen Twarog, Grace Vanoudenhove, Brendan Welch, Ellary White, Carlo Zolla and Leanna Zou.

Grade 11, High Honors

Tricia Bruso, Kalina Dyer and Elizabeth Matheson.

Grade 11, Honor Roll

Owen Breuer, Branden

Brooks, Troy Budreau, Micah Cerezo, Kylee Costello, Annabella DiMartino, Madeleine Hardy, Emma Kahlau, Anthony Landry, Collin Lindley, Grace Manna, Hunter McQueston, Parker Proulx, Aaron Rowell, Allison Sprankle, Madelyn Stauder, Cameron Vega and Bianca Wilder.

Grade 12, High Honors

Haley Ayer, Jordan Blanchard, Quinn Geary, Isabel LaBelle, Sadie Sheldon, Julia Smith and

Jaxon Warburton.

Grade 12, Honor Roll

Eamon Arnold, Benjamin Bibik, Kyle Clark, Ava Conlee, Teaghan Earle, Adam Faulha, Ellie Frost, Ruby Gatulis, Kyra Grummell, Samuel Guertin, Hunter LaBier, Travis LaRoche, Vincent Marinelli, Ethan Salvatore, Sydney Slattery, Isabella Smith, Irene Stolgitis, Vanecia Tarquinio, Jake Thao, Kevin Thompson, Richard Tucker and Abigail Ure.

public notices

TOWN OF WARREN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Change of Ownership and Liquor Licenses for the Whiskey Hill Liquors

TOWN OF WARREN PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE OF TRANSFER OF LIQUOR LICENSE AND OWNERSHIP The Warren Board of Selectmen as the Local Licensing Authority will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, March 6, 2025, at 6:00P.M.** at the Shepard Municipal Building, 48 High Street, Warren pursuant to MA Gen. Laws Chapter 138 § 15A, on the transfer of the Application for licenses; and change of ownership for **Whiskey Hill Liquors** located at 2370 Main Street West Warren, from J & K Enterprises LLC to 2370 Main, Inc. and naming Pragnesh Patel as Manager.

Location of the Premises: 2370 Main St. West Warren, MA
Description of Premises: 1,000 Sq. Ft. of retail space plus an addition 530 sq. ft. of storage space and an additional 80 sq ft. of storage space outdoor shed. Walk-in cooler, front and rear exits and one bathroom. 02/20/2025

WARREN PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to MGL, Chapter 40A, Notice is hereby given that the Warren Planning Board acting as the Special Permit Granting Authority, will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, March 10, 2025 at 7:15 PM** on the application of 727 Brimfield Road LLC. The Hearing will be held in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at the Shepard Municipal Building located at 48 High Street in Warren and via digital platform Zoom Meeting.

The Applicant, 727 Brimfield Road LLC is requesting a Special Permit (#315) under Section 3.28, Earth Removal (pursuant to Section 8) of the zoning by-laws to allow earth removal and crushing operations at 727 Brimfield Road (Map 09, Lot 81) in the Rural district.

A complete copy of the application may be inspected in the Office of the Planning Board or the Town Clerk during normal business hours. Anyone interested or wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated. All interested parties are invited to attend via Zoom.

Meeting ID: 869 2706 4530
Passcode: 784772
Phone: 646-558-8656
Warren Planning Board
02/20, 02/27/2025

TOWN OF WARE Department of Public Works Legal Notice Invitation for Bids FY25-26 Materials & Services Contract

Asphalt Rubber Surface Treatment: DPW-25-01

The Town of Ware will receive sealed bids for furnishing materials and services as needed for the period from February 2025 to June 30, 2026. Specifications and Bid Forms are available at the Town of Ware, Town Manager's Office, 126 Main Street, Ware, Massachusetts 01082 during normal business hours or online at www.townofware.com/bids_procurements/2025. Bids shall be submitted and addressed to the Town of Ware and marked "FY25-26 Asphalt Rubber Surface Treatment". Bids will be received at the Town Manager's office until **11:30 A.M., on**

March 27, 2025, at which time they will be publicly opened and read. The Town of Ware reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and call for new bids. Bids shall be evaluated based on responsiveness to the criteria, terms and conditions contained in this IFB and its attachments. Failure to follow the instructions, meet the criteria, or agree to the terms and conditions contained in this IFS may be cause for rejection of the bid as non-responsive. Contractors are required to comply with the Commonwealth of Mass. Department of Labor and Industries Prevailing Wage Rates in accordance with Mass. General Laws, Chapter 149, Sections 26 and 270. The Town of Ware is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.
Stuart Beckley, Town Manager
02/20/2025

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT TOWN OF WARE FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT 56 PULASKI STREET

The Town of Ware invites sealed Bids for the Façade Improvement Project at 56 Pulaski Street. The Façade Improvement Project includes the furnishing of all labor, equipment and materials required to complete re-pointing of the building's front brick façade, rehabilitation of the front balcony, and repainting of painted surfaces.

This project is being administered by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) and funded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC), FY21 Ware Community Development Block Grant Program.

Contract documents including detailed specifications will be available electronically beginning February 19, 2025 from 9:00 AM through the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. Electronic copies may be obtained by contacting Sue Ortiz at sortiz@pvpc.org or 413-781-6045.

All bids for this project are subject to the provisions and minimum wage rates required by M.G.L. c.30, §39M as amended, and M.G.L. c.149, §§26 to 27H, inclusive. All applicable Federal minimum wage rates and applicable Federal labor standards shall also apply pursuant to the Davis-Bacon Act. When both State and Federal wage rates are applicable, the higher rate must be paid.

The Awarding Authority encourages, to the extent feasible, the use of minority-, women- and disadvantaged-owned businesses for work under this contract and likewise encourages, to the greatest extent possible, that all bidders take affirmative steps to ensure training and employment for lower-income project area residents and award of subcontracts to HUD-defined Section 3 businesses. Bidders on the work shall make a good faith effort to achieve the goals of the Federal Minority and Women's Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE) policy regarding utilization of MBEs and WBEs in order to be deemed a responsible bidder.

Bid security in the form of a bid bond, certified or cashier's check, payable to the Town of Ware, is required in a dollar amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the total bid amount. A performance bond and labor and materials bond for 50% of the total contract price, issued by a satisfactory surety company shall be required by the successful bidder. The Town of Ware reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to accept proposals deemed to be

in the best interest of the Town, and to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bids received. Bids may not be withdrawn within 30 days of the bid opening.

The Town of Ware, through its Selectboard, reserves the right to waive any informality in the bidding or to reject any and all bids in total or in part as may be deemed to serve the best interest of the Town.

The Town of Ware will not be responsible for any costs incurred by a bidder in preparing and submitting a bid in response to this IFB.

The Town of Belchertown Selectboard is the Awarding and Contracting Authority.

Bids may be changed or withdrawn prior to the bid opening, but not within the sixty (60) days subsequent to the bid opening, by submission of such a change in writing in a sealed envelope, identifying the submitting party and indicating that it contains a correction of the bid for the Façade Improvement Project at 56 Pulaski Street, Ware.

The submission and review of bids must comply with 2 CFR Part 200, MGL Chapter 30, Section 39M, Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities/Community Development Fund Program (EOHLC/CDF) policies and other laws and regulations of the Commonwealth. Acceptance of any bid is subject to the continued availability of funds through the EOHLC/CDF grant awarded to the Town of Ware. Questions regarding this procurement directed to Erica Johnson at PVPC, at ejohnson@pvpc.org.

Hard copy bids for the Façade Improvement Project at 56 Pulaski Street for the Town of Ware, Massachusetts, must be received by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress Street, 1st Floor, Springfield, MA 01104 by 2:00 p.m. prevailing time, on Monday, March 10th, 2025.
02/20/2025

TOWN OF WARREN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING New Liquor License Tropical Vibes & Grille

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

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampshire Probate and Family Court 15 Atwood Drive Northampton, MA 01060 (413)586-8500 Docket No. HS25P0080EA Estate of: Anne L. Kupiec Also known as: Anne Lillian Kupiec Date of Death: 01/17/2025 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 **Cheryl A. Kupiec 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: **Cheryl A. Kupiec 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 03/19/2025. 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 CODE (MUPC)

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, 2025
Mark S Ames, Register of Probate
02/20/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampshire Division Docket No. HS25P0026EA Estate of: Brian Jude McCormick Date of Death: October 26, 2024 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Brianne E. Ryan of Weymouth, MA**

Brianne E. Ryan of Weymouth, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
02/20/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampshire Probate and Family Court 15 Atwood Drive Northampton, MA 01060 (413)586-8500 Docket No. HS25P0076EA Estate of: Ann M. Motyka Date of Death: 09/01/2024 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 **Thomas E. Motyka of Hardwick, 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: **Thomas E. Motyka of Hardwick, 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 03/19/2025. 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 CODE (MUPC)

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.

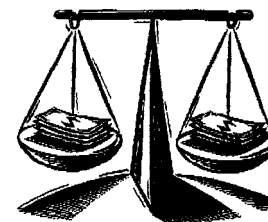
WITNESS, Hon. **Diana S. Velez Harris**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: February 11, 2025
Mark S Ames, Register of Probate
02/20/2025

Notice of Sale of Motor Vehicle under G.L. c. 255., Section 39A

Notice is hereby given by REGIN'S REPAIR 19 CHURCH ST GILBERTVILLE, MA 01031. Pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that on 3/10/2025 at 10:00AM at: Regin's Repair 19 Church St Gilbertville, MA 01031 by private sale, the following Motor Vehicle will be sold to satisfy the garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.

Vehicle description: 2006 Honda Accord
Registration#/State: 4HLF12/MA
VIN: 1HGCM56116A042504
Name and address of owner: **Branden Vega**
755 Worthington St.
Springfield, MA 01105
By: **James M. Regin**
Dated: 2/12/2025
02/20, 02/27, 03/06/2025



PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Nomination papers available for annual town election

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

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

Selectboard, one seat, three-year term; School Committee, two seats, three-year terms; Board of Assessors, one seat, three-year term; Board of Health,

one seat, three-year term; Park Commissioner, one seat, three-year term; Cemetery Commissioner, one seat, three-year term; Planning Board, one seat, five-year term; Planning Board, one seat, unexpired term, four years; Ware Housing Authority, one seat, five-year term; and Ware Housing Authority, one seat, unexpired term, one year.

All incumbent office holders have been notified of their term's expiration.

Current office holders are as follows: Selectboard – Joshua Kusnierz, School Committee – Christopher Desjardins and Brian Winslow, Board of Assessors – Gerald Fountain, Jr., Board of Health – Jennifer McMartin, Park Commissioner – Ryan Mulligan, Cemetery Commissioner – Paul Harper, Planning Board – Kenneth Crosby, Ware Housing Authority – Nancy Brown.

The Planning Board

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

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

Monday, Feb. 24.

To date there have been request for Nomination Papers for Selectboard (one), School Committee (four), Board of Assessors (one), Board of Health (one), Planning Board – five-year term (one), Ware Housing Authority – five-year term (one), and Ware Housing Authority – one-year unexpired term (one).

No one has taken papers out for Park Commissioner, Cemetery Commissioner, or

the Planning Board unexpired term (four years).

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

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

Your BUYLINE CONNECTION

**PRESIDENT'S DAY SALE
PRICES ALL MONTH!!!**

**VOTED #1 APPLIANCE STORE
IN WORCESTER COUNTY
4 YEARS IN A ROW!!!
SLEDS, SKATES, TOBOGGANS!**

SEE AD INSIDE!!!!

WHITCO TOY & BIKE
12 MONTHS 0% FINANCING
140 Main St., Spencer
www.whitcosales.com
508-885-9343
Open: Mon.-Fri. 10am-8:30pm, Sat. 9am-8pm, Sun. 12pm-7pm

POST ROAD REALTY
BUYING OR SELLING...
WE HAVE THE PERFECT FIT FOR YOU!
www.PostRoadRealty.com

**CHECK OUT OUR
NEW LISTINGS**

 \$489,900 129 East Rd. Warren	 \$599,900 1300 Bemis Rd. Warren	 \$549,900 78 East Main St. W. Brookfield
---	---	---

Cassie Paolucci
774-200-3523

Feel right at home!



*Find the home made for you.
Let us work with you to find
your dream home.*

Lisa Caron Real Estate
42 W. Main Street, PO Box 447 Brookfield, MA 01506
Cell : 508-341-8299
Search Homes Instantly: <http://www.lisacaron.com>



*Is It Time To Sell?
Is It Time To Buy A Home?
What Do I Think Your Home Is Worth?*

ASK ME
Your Local Neighborhood Realtor!

CENTURY 21 Century 21 North East
160 Main St., Spencer
Ready to Buy or Sell? Call Me!
1-978-434-1990

The Optical Shop
at Kelly & Velazquez Eye Center

"The Finest Quality at Reasonable Prices"

**The Most
Advanced Lens
Designs Available**

Frames to Fit Any Budget
Large Selection of
Designer Frames
For All Ages

SUNGLASSES
Maui Jim • Ray Ban

1504 N. Main St., Palmer, MA 362 Sewall St., Ludlow, MA
413-283-3511 413-589-1806
Expert guidance in selecting the right frame with the best fit
& lenses for every lifestyle.

**Country Canine
KENNELS**



**Boarding,
Grooming, Daycare**

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

84 Greenwich Plains Road
Ware, MA 01082
(413) 277-0334 Office Phone
countrycaninekennels@gmail.com

**WHERE EVERYONE GOES FOR
THEIR PIECE OF THE EARTH!**

WINTER IS COMING!
BULK ROAD SALT • BULK TREATED SALT
WASHED WINTER ROAD SAND • SAND/SALT MIX

STOCK UP NOW!

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

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

Bond
Sand, Gravel & Asphalt
www.bondsandandgravel.com

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

**CHECK OUT ALL THE
Turley Publications**
www.turley.com

Adventure tours of Warren
Share the Adventure with us!



Think Spring!

April 27	.....Some Like it Hot at PPAC.....	\$120
May 23	.....7-Night Bermuda Cruise.....	from \$1699
June 10-12	.....Hampton Beach Getaway.....	\$529
June 28	.....Boston Harbor Lunch Cruise.....	\$175
July 12	.....Escape to Rockport.....	\$110

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

**BUYLINE
CONNECTION**

3 Ads for 1 Low Price!!!
Ware River News, Barre Gazette
& Quaboag Current
Over 16,000 copies • Prints every Thursday

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

FULL COLOR INCLUDED!

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

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

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

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

23 Summer Street
North Brookfield
MA 01535

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

☕ COFFEE
☑️ GLUTEN FREE OPTIONS
☑️ BREAKFAST SANDWICHES
☑️ SOUPS
☑️ COOKIES
☑️ MUFFINS
☑️ PASTRIES



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

hardwickcrossing.com
262 Lower Road, Gilbertville
774-757-8907 • Pro Shop 774-261-2634

**BOOK
YOUR
EVENT
WITH US!**

KENO

**HARDWICK CROSSING
EST. 2022
COUNTRY CLUB**

OPEN 7 DAYS FOR LUNCH, DINNER & GOLF
Specials Posted on Facebook & Instagram

Prime Rib
Every Thursday,
Friday & Saturday
Online Ordering Available

**Monday - 6:30 p.m.
TRIVIA NIGHT**

**Wednesday - 6:30 p.m.
MUSIC BINGO**

Sip & Paint
Tuesday, February 25
Roses: Wine Glass Painting
Starting at 6:30 p.m.
Visit Our Website For More Details

February Special
Golf Memberships

St. Patrick's Day Specials
Check Our Facebook or Website

See Website for More Information