

WARE RIVER NEWS

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Joint meeting discusses MLH property

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARE – The Hospital Review Committee and the Historical Commission held a joint meeting to discuss updates to the Baystate Mary Lane Hospital property, and the steps going forward during the nine-month demolition delay.

At the Feb. 21 meeting, Town Manager Stuart Beckley gave an overview of the demolition delay that was enacted by the Historical Commission back in January.

The delay applies to the hospital and one house. The delay does not prevent the demolition of a house on Marjorie Street.

During the demolition delay hearing, Baystate Health representatives said they would not be providing information to the Historical Commission about any potential buyers they had contact with, due to non-

Please see **MLH PROPERTY**, page 12

Booster Club offers dinner and a show at Quaboag

By Haileigh Swistak
Student Intern

WARREN – Quaboag Performing Arts Booster Club will host “Dinner and a Show” Saturday, March 9.

The doors open at 5 p.m. and dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. This includes spaghetti, salad, drinks, and dessert.

During dinner, The Comical Mystery Tour will perform their PG-13 show “Unhappy Days”.

Because of the age restriction, Quaboag Performing Arts students will be offering babysitting for \$15 per child under 13 years old. The maximum capacity is 40 children and will include dinner, crafts, and games.

The children must be able to separate from their parents and must be potty-trained.

Tickets are \$25 each and are only available on Eventbrite, the link to which is available on the Quaboag Performing Arts Booster Club’s Facebook account. There are 120 tickets available so get them while you can before March 6.

The proceeds of this event will benefit the Quaboag Performing Arts Booster Club, which supports the Band, Chorus, and Drama departments of Quaboag Regional Middle High School.



Isaiah Porter, age 12, Naadiyah Freeman-Odell, age 11 and Josiah Porter, age 9, hold signs outside of Kingdom Business R.E.A.C.H. Ministries on Main Street advertising the Sunday School’s bake sale.

Children’s Bake Sale

benefits

Sunday School

WARE – The children of Kingdom Business R.E.A.C.H. Ministries at 58 Main St., held a bake sale this past Saturday to help raise money for their Sunday School and field trips.

Brothers Isaiah Porter and Josiah Porter joined Naadiyah Freeman-Odell outside to hold signs and call out “bake sale” to those passing by. Inside, Silas McCoy was managing the cash box while customers made their purchases.

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette
Silas McCoy, age 10, collects money for the bake sale, which featured a variety of breads, cupcakes, cookies and more.



Superintendent presents proposed FY 25 budget

By Paula Ouimette
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WARREN – Quaboag Regional School District Superintendent Stephen Duff presented the proposed fiscal year 2025 school budget.

Duff said the budget subcommittee has met multiple times over the past month to put together a budget proposal, which was presented to the full School Committee on Feb. 12. The budget was presented to the town of West Brookfield on Feb. 15 and Warren on Feb. 22.

“Our goal is to get it in the hands of the towns as quickly as possible,” Duff said of the proposed budget. “This is as tight of a budget as we’ve come in with.”

Duff said the line items in their control came in with less than a 1% increase over last fiscal year, and contractual obligations like salaries increased by 3%.

Duff shared some of the accomplishments the school district has seen with its programs,

including a high number of students attending college after graduation, and a top-ranked fire service program. The school district will also be offering an EMT program, at no cost to taxpayers.

“That speaks volumes not only to the Fire Department, but also to the school district and our community for putting their best foot forward to give our kids these opportunities, which is outstanding,” Duff said.

Warren’s total operating assessment is proposed at \$4,375,731 (\$21,644 or 0.5% over last year) and West Brookfield’s total operating assessment is \$4,560,838 (\$81,386 or 1.76% over last year).

“When you look at the overall net assessment to the town,” Duff told Warren Board of Selectmen. “We’ve never been at .05% before.”

Duff credited part of this to regional transportation reimbursement.

Duff said it’s also important

Please see **BUDGET**, page 13

Residents hear update on Hazard Mitigation Plan

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

HARDWICK – Representatives from Jamie Caplan Consulting, LLC hosted an information session about the status of the town’s Hazard Mitigation Plan update.

At the Feb. 26 meeting, Project Manager Jamie Caplan said her firm has been contracted to work with many communities throughout the commonwealth to update their Hazard Mitigation Plans, including Hardwick.

“Our experience is pretty vast,” Caplan said. The firm also works on these plans nationally.

She explained that Hazard Mitigation is a sustained action to reduce or eliminate risk to people and property from natural hazards and their effects. One dollar invested in mitigation equals \$6

saved in future costs. “We’re trying to understand all of the different natural hazards and what their impact may be, and then based on that, what we can do about it so that you don’t have a disaster,” Caplan said.

Hazard Mitigation can also save lives, in addition to reducing future expenses.

Caplan asked residents in attendance whether they would rather be hot or cold. Two residents said they would prefer to be cold, since it is easier to wear extra layers and warm up, than it is to cool down.

Caplan said the town’s elementary school, which could serve as an emergency shelter or heating and cooling center, has back-up power, but does not have air conditioning.

“That’s the kind of thing that

Please see **MITIGATION**, page 13

Town receives zoning change proposal from Casella

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

than 60 people attending the meeting.

Once the Planning Board reviews the proposal, a public hearing notice will be posted by the board and held within 55 days of receipt of the proposal. A town meeting vote would take place within six months after the public hearing.

Casella’s proposal would require voters to act on three separate articles at a town meeting.

Casella’s Vice President Brian Oliver accompanied his proposal to the Select Board with draft articles, and an explanation of Casella’s request.

“The reopening and expansion of the Hardwick Landfill

Please see **ZONING**, page 10

Family Resource Center hosts Mardi Gras event

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – Getting creative with craft activities, the Behavioral Health Network’s Family Resource Center hosted a Mardi Gras themed crafting day for children and their families.

Mardi Gras is the final day of Carnival or Shrove-tide before Ash Wednesday and includes fun celebrations with colorful features consisting of bracelets, masks, and dancing to music.

The Family Resource Center welcomed many families to their 82 Main St., location to get involved with making their own bracelets and masks.

Please see **MARDI GRAS**, page 7



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago
Randy Guertin leads the children during the Mardi Gras parade through the halls of the Behavioral Health Network’s Family Resource Center.

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Students and staff mark 100 days

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SPORTS

Lady Panthers take title

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**OBITUARY
POLICY**

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries

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

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

Harvard Forest hosts presentation on solar energy and land

PETERSHAM – Massachusetts state energy policy has inadvertently encouraged the clearing of 4,800 acres of forest – an area larger than Cambridge – for ground-mount solar infrastructure since 2010. In response, Harvard Forest Research Director Jonathan Thompson will lead a talk on solar energy development in Massachusetts on the evening of Tuesday, March 5 from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Harvard Forest in Petersham and online.

In a 2023 research report, *Growing Solar, Protecting Nature*, Thompson and co-authors from Mass Audubon identify a path for Massachusetts to build the solar energy it needs and protect the nature it has. On March 5, Thompson will be joined by co-author and Mass Audubon Vice President for Policy and Advocacy Michelle Manion to outline policy recommendations from the report that would be cheaper for society as a whole when compared to the current pattern of solar development.

Following on the heels of UMass Clean Energy Extension's Western Massachusetts Solar Forum last fall, *Growing Solar, Protecting Nature* was developed in response to statewide greenhouse gas goals that continue to fall short of protecting the existing carbon storage afforded by Massachusetts forests.

The presentation on March 5 will focus on key report recommendations that are specifically relevant to central and western Massachusetts municipalities, which have been key stakeholders



Submitted Photo by Lucas Faria
This solar farm was built in Mendon. The property was previously undeveloped forested land and partially used for farming. The total system size is about 4.1 MW DC.

in response to developer proposals that have often challenged the capacity of small-town governments statewide.

The event is free and open to the public. The event will be hybrid – hosted in person in the Harvard Forest Fisher Museum at 324 North Main St. and also streamed online via Zoom.

For more information and to register, visit <https://harvardforest.fas.harvard.edu/solar-event>. Those without the ability to register via the internet but who would like to attend in person may also call Clarisse Hart, Director of Education, at 978-756-6157 to register with their name and number of attendees.

The Harvard Forest welcomes individuals with disabilities to participate in its programs and events. The Fisher Museum is a universally accessible building.

If you require additional visitor accommodations or assistance, please note this in your registration.

Are You Old News?



File Photo
Last week's photo from 2014 showed Dave Gravel and Chris Murphy at the Ware Business and Civic Association's "Your Vision, Make it Happen" event. 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.

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

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

Opacum Land Trust receives grant

BRIMFIELD — For half a century, generations of local youth spent their childhood making memories on the 86-acre Sleepy Hollow property, situated between Wales Road and Paige Hill Road in Brimfield. Though its popularity waxed and waned over the years, groups of Boy Scouts were still camping on the property right up until access was cut off due to damage from the June 2011 tornado. Thanks to an \$85,000 grant from an anonymous foundation, Opacum Land Trust is poised to move ahead with a multi-year plan to reopen and revitalize Sleepy Hollow and will be working to permanently protect and preserve it for current and future generations.

The first phase of this ambitious project includes transferring ownership of the property from current owners, Brimfield Trail Association, to Opacum, developing and implementing forest management plans, and working

on securing funds to assist with replacing damaged infrastructure to allow safe access to the property.

Future phases of the plan include reopening of hiking trails, youth camping areas, and picnicking areas, as well as the installation of an accessible trail system. The addition of an immersive accessible trail is a particularly exciting step towards ensuring that the legacy of Sleepy Hollow lives on and that everyone in the community, regardless of physical ability, can experience its unique history and natural beauty.

In addition to reopening and revitalizing the existing trail network, including camping and picnicking areas, Opacum plans to install an accessible trail loop at Sleepy Hollow. This final phase of the project, which is in the early planning stages, is a proposed accessible loop that will take visitors on an immersive experience in nature. Creating an accessi-

ble trail system on this property will allow trail users with limited mobility a chance to experience the unique and uncommon native little bluestem meadows and early successional forest habitat, along with scenic views of a wetland complex and beaver pond and views of the surrounding area including scenic views of downtown Brimfield and the eastern side of Brimfield State Forest.

Opacum Land Trust is a regional non-profit land conservation organization that protects local land, water, and wildlife in south-central Massachusetts. Founded in 2000, Opacum currently protects 3,852 acres of land and is actively working to conserve more land for current and future generations. For more information about Opacum Land Trust, reach out to us at PO Box 233, Sturbridge, MA 01566, visit our website at www.opacumlt.org, or email info@OpacumLT.org.

The Recovery Center of HOPE

(RCH) is a community run for and by people in recovery.

We welcome those in or seeking recovery from alcohol, drugs, or any other addiction, whether that be personally and/or with a loved one.

Our community recognizes

Multiple Pathways because we understand that one size does not fit all.

RCH is open Monday through Friday, with occasional weekend events.

52 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082
(413) 277 6290 • RCHinfo@wmtcinfo.org



RCH strives to create a safe, inclusive environment conducive to healing and growth. Our families and allies are valued members of our community.



Recovery on Main, a cozy and comfortable space with plenty of room for everyone to enjoy.

Building your recovery capital? Need a ride to move forward.

We're here to help! RCH is also home to Guiding Rides, a free recovery transportation support. This includes Monday through Friday transportation to nearby methadone clinics, as well as rides to treatment, providers, and other recovery supports.



Join us in community for:

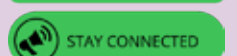
- Daily All Recovery Meetings
- Flapjack Fridays
- Art Hour
- Game Nights
- Holiday events
- Wellness planning
- Recovery Coaching

Coming soon..

- Recovery Dharma
- Yoga
- Nutrition in Recovery
- Meeting exploration trips
- ...and more!



For current hours and offerings:



A theatrical evening with the 'Notorious' RBG

The Center presents 'All Things Equal' on March 9

HARDWICK – On Saturday, March 9, The Center at Eagle Hill presents "All Things Equal: The Life & Trials of Ruth Bader Ginsburg".

Supreme Court Justice "RBG" welcomes a friend of the family to her cozy chambers to convey, over the course of 90 minutes, a sense of her life and its many trials: losing her mother the day before she graduated as valedictorian of her Brooklyn high school, being one of only nine young women studying law at Harvard while also raising a daughter and helping her husband battle cancer, fighting for women's rights in the 1970s before condescending all-male courts and taking courageous stands for human rights as a voice of reason amid a splintering and increasingly politicized Supreme Court.

In this one-woman show written by Tony Award-winning playwright Rupert Holmes, we meet an RBG who is not only "notorious" but victorious as she takes a stand for ordinary people facing the many challenges of a changing world.

The Center at Eagle Hill presents "All Things Equal: The Life & Trials of Ruth Bader Ginsburg" on Saturday, March 9 at 7 p.m.



Submitted Photo
Michelle Azar plays the role of Ruth Bader Ginsburg in "All Things Equal: The Life & Trials of Ruth Bader Ginsburg", to be performed at The Center at Eagle Hill on Saturday, March 9.

Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$30 for students and seniors. The Center also offers discounted \$10 tickets to EBT cardholders through Massachusetts' Card to Culture Program.

For tickets and information, visit www.thecenterateaglehill.org or call the Box Office at 413-477-6746.

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

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



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago
Baystate Mary Lane Hospital has been closed since the fall of 2023 and the site is currently under a nine-month demolition delay. This view of the site is from its entrance off Marjorie Street.

Historical Commission continues to work on Mary Lane plan

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The Historical Commission meeting on Feb. 26 focused on figuring out a plan for reviewing the reuse of the Baystate Mary Lane Hospital property during the current demolition delay period.

Mary Lane Hospital, which served the community of Ware and neighboring communities for nearly a century, is currently under a nine-month demolition delay. In this nine-month period, the Historical Commission is to collaborate with Baystate Health to consider alternatives to demolition of the buildings and uses that would be most beneficial for the redevelopment of the site.

Baystate Health plans to demolish the property and possibly sell it to Westmass Development. Westmass manages large-scale development projects, prepares district development strategies, and has successfully developed financing and incentive packages.

Based on company information, Westmass Development has experience in site planning and analysis, green infrastructure and low impact development and historic preservation projects.

The Historical Commission was informed that Baystate Health was planning to sell the Mary Lane Hospital property to Westmass Development for \$1 to

redevelop the property for uses beneficial to the community. The Historical Commission questioned if other companies were offered a similar opportunity.

Representing Baystate Health on Monday was Attorney Peter Barry of Bulkley, Richardson & Gelin, LLP alongside President of Baystate Regional Hospitals, Ronald Bryant. In regard to selling the property for a low price, Barry suggested it is part of Baystate's willingness to sell the property for less than the property's fair market value with the intent of it being used to benefit the town of Ware.

"Baystate's purpose is to redevelop the properties for the better of the community," said Barry.

According to residents and Commission members in attendance, while Mary Lane Hospital was operational in 2016, the town of Ware was under the understanding that the hospital was still going to remain open for a good while. Baystate Health would make its initial announcement about the closure of Mary Lane Outpatient Center in January of 2021.

The Historical Commission has a plan in progress during the demolition delay.

"The intention is to save the historic building," said Chair Lynn Lak.

The Historical Commission wants to meet with the Hospital Review Committee and architects to help devise a plan. The com-

mission is looking to craft a letter to send to potential healthcare companies who may express an interest in the property.

The Historical Commission is still unsure of Baystate's intentions and if they are truly willing to work with the town on the future of the 21-acre property.

Barry said that Baystate Health does want to work with the town of Ware and would consider a plan they'd present.

"Baystate wants what's best for the community," said Barry. "Provide a plan that makes sense, we'll consider it."

According to the Historical Commission, the front Wetherbee building of Mary Lane Hospital should be saved and as it was stated in previous meetings, the Historical Commission does value the hospital as historically significant.

"We want something great for the town", said Wanda Mysona, Vice-Chair of the Historical Commission.

There is a disagreement between Baystate Health and the Historical Commission in regard to the layout of the buildings. After going over the ages of each part of the building, Barry found out that three building parts are under the age of 75 years and are not considered eligible for demolition delay.

Members of the Historical Commission believe that the

Please see **MLH PLAN**, page 6

Town Clerk lists early voting hours for primary

WARE – Town Clerk Nancy J. Talbot announced early voting hours for the March 5 Presidential Primary.

The Commonwealth has allowed for early voting for all state elections and state primaries prior to the actual election dates. The Board of Registrars voted to set the polling location to be the Town Hall, 126 Main St. in the auditorium.

Early voting will take place on the following dates and times: Thursday, Feb. 29 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Friday, March 1 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Parking is available on Main Street or at the Municipal Parking Lot directly across the street adjacent to Veterans Park.

Ware Polar Plunge benefits Special Olympics March 16

WARE – The Ware Polar Plunge, a Special Olympics fundraising event will be hosted at West Beach at Beaver Lake on Saturday, March 16.

Festivities will begin on the beach at 11 a.m. and the plunge will take place at noon. School Resource Officer Jeannine Bonnayer will be taking the plunge.

Donations can be made by scanning the QR code.



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, March 4

9 a.m. Tai Chi
9 a.m.-3 p.m. Foot Nurse Allison Williams. For appointment, call 413-967-9645.
10 a.m. Scat
11:30 a.m. Lunch

Tuesday, March 5

9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
9 a.m.-3 p.m. Foot Nurse Allison Williams. For appointment, call 413-967-9645.
10 a.m. Scat
11:30 a.m. Lunch – Birthday Party with Music by Chet Kurr. Dessert and entertainment by the Friends of the Ware Senior Center Inc.

Wednesday, March 6

9 a.m. Tai-Chi
9 a.m.-3 p.m. Foot Nurse Allison Williams. For appointment, call 413-967-9645.
9:30 a.m. Quilting Club
10 a.m. Scat
11:30 a.m. Lunch
2:30-3:30 p.m. Knit-Crochet-Laugh

Thursday, March 7

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
2:30 p.m. Art Class

Friday, March 8

8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Dental Hygiene of Western MA. Free screening, fluoride and cleaning. For appointment, call 413-967-9645.

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

LUNCHES DINE IN 11:30 a.m.
All meals \$3.50 unless otherwise noted

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

Monday, March 4

Steak & Cheese Sub, Potato Chips, Carrot-Raisin Salad, Dessert of the Day

Tuesday, March 5

Birthday Party
Roast Pork, Oven Roasted Potatoes with Gravy, Veggie of the Day, Dessert of the Day, Music by Chet Kurr. Entertainment by the Friends of the Ware Senior Center Inc.

Wednesday, March 6

Cheeseburgers with Toppings, French Fries, Mandarin Orange Salad, Dessert of the Day

Thursday, March 7

Chicken Jambalaya, Caesar Salad, Dessert of the Day

Friday, March 8

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

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.

United Church hosts turkey dinner March 25

WARE – United Church of Ware, 49 Church St., will host a turkey dinner on Monday, March 25 from 5-6 p.m., take-out only.

The cost is \$15 per meal; payable

with cash or check.
Reservations are not required, just park on the side of the street (same side as the church) and stay in your car. A runner will come to take your order.

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

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Sponsor Information

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For more information contact Dan Flynn
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About Medicare's dreaded 'IRMAA' provision

Dear Rusty:

My wife is on Medicare and receiving Social Security benefits each month. We built a house and used money from our investments to pay for it.

We knew we would pay taxes on that withdrawal, but my wife got a letter from Social Security saying that because the money we withdrew was listed as income, her 2024 Medicare premium went up over \$500. Since Medicare is taken out of her Social Security, that results in a \$6,000 loss to our budget.

Is there anything that can be done about this situation?

We sent a letter to Social Security, but they responded that unless her situation was one of only a few categories (loss of house, divorce, etc.) nothing could be done for the year.

The money was used strictly on another investment, our new house. It wasn't like we took it out and spent it wildly. Can you please advise?

Signed: Frustrated Homeowner

Dear Frustrated:

Unfortunately, it sounds like your wife is a victim of the Medicare provision known as "Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount." Each person's Medicare Part B premium, coverage for outpatient healthcare, is determined yearly from their income from all sources as reported to the IRS two years prior.

IRMAA sets income thresholds, depending on your IRS filing status and if those thresholds are exceeded you must pay a higher Medicare Part B premium and also a higher Part D premium if you have prescription drug coverage.

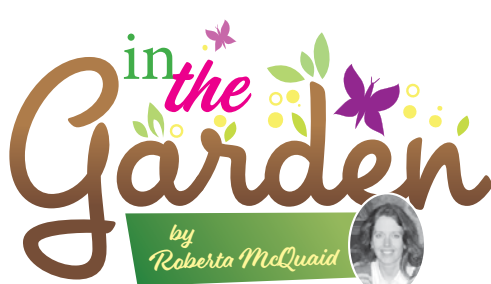
Assuming you file your taxes as "married/jointly," if your combined 2022 income as a couple was between \$206,000 and \$258,000 your wife's 2024 Part B premium is \$244.60, instead of the standard \$174.70; if your combined 2022 income was between \$258,000 and \$322,000 then your wife's Part B premium for 2024 is \$349.40; if your combined in 2022 was between \$322,000 and \$386,000, her Part B premium is \$454.20; if your combined 2022 income as a married couple was between \$386,000 to \$750,000 then your wife's 2024 Part B premium is \$559 and if your 2022 income as a married couple was over \$750,000 your wife's Part B premium is \$594.

If your wife also has private Part D prescription drug coverage, IRMAA also increases those premiums. Note that the IRMAA thresholds are different for other income tax filing statuses.

As the Social Security office has already explained, you could appeal your wife's IRMAA premium increase if she had a "life changing event," but the list of acceptable life changing events is quite small (see form SSA-44). The only good news is that your wife's Medicare premium will be calculated anew for next year, so her Medicare premium for 2025 will, if your 2023 joint income is less than the first IRMAA threshold, revert to the standard 2025 premium.

For Your Information, it doesn't matter what you used the money for. Your withdrawal was reported to the IRS as taxable income, which is what caused IRMAA to apply to your wife's Medicare premium for 2024. Many people don't realize that Medicare premiums are higher for those with a higher income, but since your withdrawal was a one-time event, your wife's Medicare Part B premium next year should be much less and her Social Security benefit correspondingly higher.

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



Get a head start the old-fashioned way

Just about a week ago I was presenting a Seed Starting Workshop for members at Old Sturbridge Village, and someone asked a question about how seedlings would have been pre-started in the mid-1800s.

It was a logical question considering we have heat cables, supplemental light and greenhouses at our disposal these days. We can grow any number of plants pretty much any time of the year.

How then, did innovative gardeners of old get a head start? Cold frames and hot beds, of course! These season extenders continue to be useful today.

Read on to learn how these are constructed and used successfully.

The easiest way to describe a cold frame is this: a rectangular box fitted with a window sash. It can be as simple as an old storm window on top of hay bales.

Better yet would be to construct your cold frame to capture as much passive solar energy as possible. We achieve this by angling the window sash 35 to 45 degrees to catch the sun.

The window sash you obtain will determine the size of the frame. Keep in mind that you have to be able to reach inside to work; therefore, it is recommended that you make the box no deeper than three feet.

Construct the frame using rot resistant

woods like cedar or redwood. Pine is an inexpensive and readily available option, but should be painted with exterior paint prior to assembly to ensure years of use.

White paint will not only make an attractive cold frame, but one that will reflect light to the plants growing in it. The walls should be at least an inch thick, preferably two inches, to further insulate the plants growing inside.

Locate your cold frame in full sun, facing south or southeast. The soil under the cold frame is a "mini plot" that should be enriched as I would any other part of the garden by incorporating an inch or two of compost and a sprinkling of lime and balanced organic fertilizer into the soil prior to use.

The window sash will likely stay shut on overcast days. On sunny days, however, be sure to prop open the window to ventilate the space - it can get quite hot inside and young seedlings could easily be harmed.

The sash can be opened completely (or removed altogether) on very warm days. Don't forget to provide water within the frame - if it is covered it is exempt from the rain.

The cold frame is a great place to start spring greens. There are other uses as well.

Some plants prefer to germinate at cool temperatures and simply won't grow well inside the house, even off the heat cables. Try growing flats of cole crops like kale, broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower right in the cold frame - they'll be the sturdiest plants you ever grew!

Likewise, start small pots of sweet peas, pansies, forget-me-nots and bachelor's buttons inside of it; they germinate better in cool soil. Many native perennials need to chill for a month before they are able to germinate - "stratify" these seeds in the cold frame and then move them to the border once they are off and growing.

You can also harden off plants that were started indoors inside the cold frame.

What about getting a head start with

heat-loving vegetables, such as tomatoes or peppers? Or even herbs like basil or flowers such as celosia, marigold or amaranths? Here is where the hot bed comes in.

If you have access to free, fresh manure, you are all set. The general idea is to build a mound about two feet tall of manure and bedding materials not older than six weeks and top it with soil you will be growing your seedling in, then top that with one of the frame setups described above.

The heat generated from the manure will warm the soil and the surrounding air. Seeds should germinate easily and readily.

It's important not to set up your hot bed too early - mid April to early May is perfect because you will still need to be past the frost free date before planting the seedlings you've grown into the garden. Hot beds take a little trial and error, but are worth the experiment.

When we used them at OSV, the seedlings grown within were always greener and sturdier than those I provided from our fancy greenhouse!

It was fun to think about getting a head start. Soon enough, soon enough!

Over the last decade, tremendous gains have been made in rose breeding, resulting in rose bushes that blend well into landscape plantings and require less maintenance for the homeowner. I still enjoy my heirlooms, and grow the Rugosa to remind me of the beach.

Still others prefer climbers or hybrid teas. Whatever your sweetheart may fancy, indulge this Valentine's Day in a gift that will keep on giving!

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



Big decisions and American history

Big decisions have shaped the United States; we wouldn't be who we are as a nation without the decisiveness shown by America's founders and by our leaders in times of crisis.

It's an essential quality of successful countries: the ability to make big, consequential decisions.

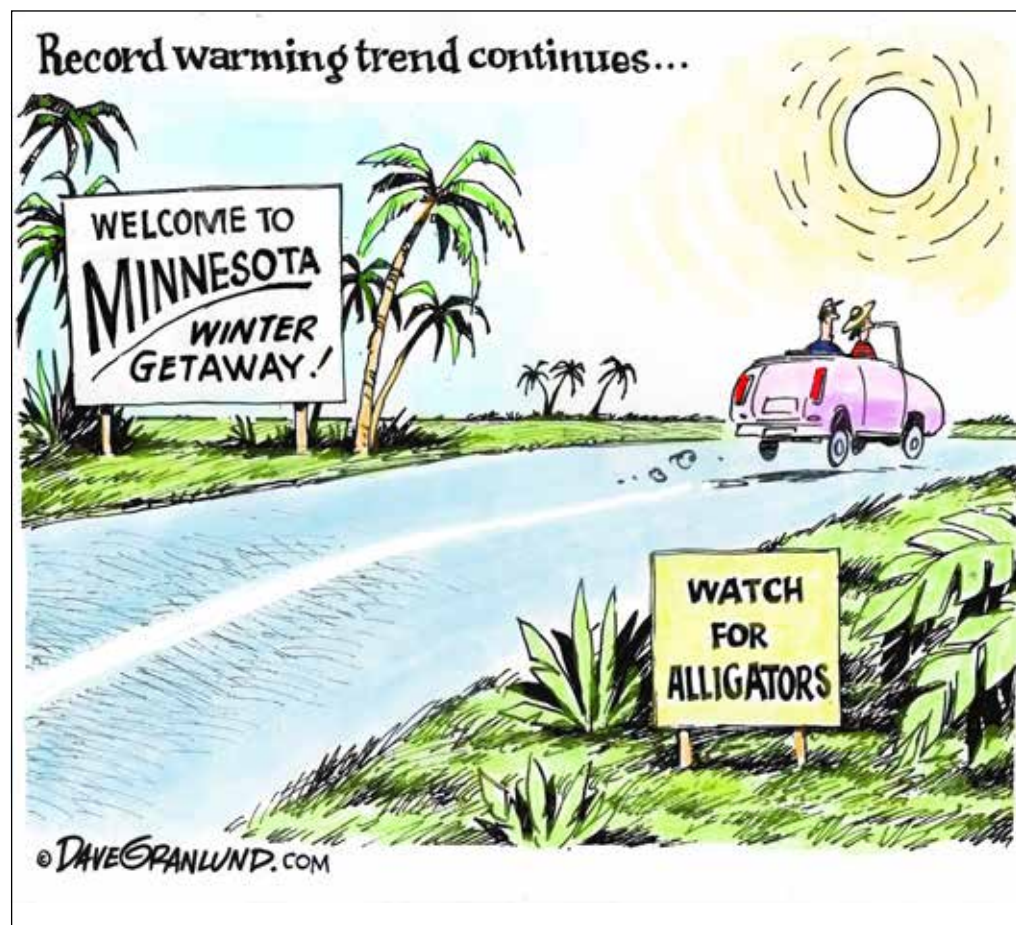
We can start at the beginning, when the colonists made the enormous decision to break away from Britain and form an independent nation. Then, 85 years later, U.S. leaders decided it was essential to preserve the Union against secession by the Southern states.

Another big decision came in the 1930s and 1940s when President Franklin D. Roosevelt persuaded Americans to abandon isolationism and engage with the world. U.S. participation in World War II and our leadership in creating security and economic institutions shaped the post-war international order.

This isn't an all-encompassing list of big decisions. There are many others we could mention. But these decisions stand out for their influence on American history.

The colonists' decision to break with Britain wasn't inevitable, nor was it easy. It meant defying the most powerful empire in the world, and it put the colonists at severe risk.

Benjamin Franklin supposedly said, "We must all hang together or most assuredly we shall all hang separately."



Inspired by Enlightenment principles and prodded by British oppression, the Continental Congress voted to declare independence and ratified the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. Thomas Jefferson's idealistic words - "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights" - set a high bar.

The founding ideals were tested when divisions between North and South led to

the Civil War. While Confederate leaders made it clear that protecting slavery was their primary objective, Abraham Lincoln framed the conflict as a battle to preserve the Union. Again, there was nothing preordained about this.

There were strong forces pulling the country apart.

Lincoln, celebrated as the Great Emancipator, insisted his duty was to main-

Please see **HAMILTON**, page 5

GUEST COLUMN

Obesity and diabetes have impact on heart health

SPRINGFIELD - The numbers tell the story in what is being called a twin epidemic of obesity and type 2 diabetes worldwide, something which endocrinologists and other physicians across the country and at Baystate Health are helping their patients to battle.

In the United States alone, nearly one in three adults (30.7%) are overweight. More than two in five adults (42.4%) have obesity.

About one in 11 adults (9.2%) have severe obesity.

Obesity is also increasing in children. Roughly one in six youths ages 10-17 have obesity. Also, more than 38 million people in the U.S. have diabetes, most with type 2 which can be fueled by obesity and other factors.

This number continues to rise, and we are seeing type 2 diabetes diagnosed at younger ages in children and adolescents.

"Diabetes is an independent risk factor for heart disease without even considering other risks a person might have such as obesity, high blood pressure, high cholesterol,

sleep apnea and excess inflammation which can all increase the risk for cardiovascular disease and stroke. And with cardiovascular

disease the leading cause of death today, it is very important for anyone with diabetes to maintain a healthy heart," said Baystate Health endocrinologist Dr. Michele Gortakowski, who treats both adult and pediatric patients.

February is American Heart Month, a reminder for all Americans to keep their weight and diabetes in check.

Endocrinologists like Gortakowski, who are specialists in hormones and metabolism, evaluate and treat obesity as well as related diseases, such as type 2 diabetes.

She noted that obesity is about more than just what you eat. Obesity is a complex, chronic condition that involves interactions

between one's health, genetic, environmental, social and lifestyle/behavioral factors.

"There is a complex system of hormones that come from your brain, your gut, your fat cells, and your pancreas that can lead to both appetite stimulation and suppression. This hormonal signaling can become maladaptive when you gain excess weight or become obese and can be part of why it is difficult to lose weight and maintain weight loss," said Gortakowski.

"The last few years have brought about several new medications that target some of the hormones involved in these complex pathways that are beneficial for diabetes, weight loss and heart health," she added.

These new classes of medications, known as GLP-1 and GIP/GLP-1 receptor agonists, include liraglutide (Victoza, Saxenda), exenatide (Byetta, Bydureon), dulaglutide (Trulicity), semaglutide (Ozempic,

Please see **HEART HEALTH**, page 5



Dr. Michele Gortakowski



Dr. Kathryn Jobbins

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The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

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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.

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Planning Board goes over Agilitas site walk

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Planning Board met earlier this month to go over their observation of the Agilitas Energy work during a site walk. Agilitas Energy is a leading renewables and energy storage company with a mission to accelerate the transition to clean energy. For a while, the company has been working on a solar project right on the border between Warren and West Brookfield. Recently, the Planning Board scheduled a site visit and walk-through of the Agilitas work site and went over what they observed. According to Vice-Chair, David Dufresne, Agilitas has been actively working on the West Brookfield side of the work site. However, on the Warren side of the work site, the Planning Board had some concerns. During their site visit on Feb. 2, members of the Planning Board stated that their concern was about elbows in the basins that were removed by Agilitas. Elbows are used to prevent any construction

material sediment getting into wet-land jurisdiction. Agilitas supposedly removed these elbows without permission or approval by the Planning Board. “The applicant has to come to us,” said Dufresne. Any decision or emergency that occurs at a work site must be addressed to the Planning Board first in a meeting. Representatives of Agilitas Energy were in attendance at the Feb. 12 meeting to explain the decision behind removing elbows in certain locations at the worksite. Representatives of Agilitas were Daniel Gunther, Council to Agilitas, Christopher Davin, Experienced Project Manager, and Nick Pazendola, Engineer. Pazendola explained the site plans and had images provided during the Planning Board meeting. Pazendola stated that mulch socks were added a few days after the board’s site walk. It was also discovered by the engineering team that there was a disturbance around the basins, but they are still stabilized. Despite this disturbance in these areas of the

Agilitas work site, the team is planning on re-seeding and raking the area once work is completed. Agilitas is planning on re-seeding the area in the spring when the weather is warmer. “We’re taking more sufficient measures to minimize erosion,” said Pazendola. The Planning Board informed representatives of Agilitas to be more informative when a situation or an emergency occurs on the site. “It’s a courtesy to let the Planning Board know of any emergency,” said Derick Veliz, chair of the Planning Board. Another site visit will be scheduled sometime in the next couple weeks. Dufresne stated that during their earlier site visit, they were denied access by Agilitas to observe some of the basins at the work site. The basin that supposedly has a spillway under it is basin one. When it comes to making serious adjustments, a meeting with the Planning Board must be done first and approved first. “You have to have a meeting to approve it,” said Dufresne.

Improvements to North Street multi-family building stalled

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARREN – Daniel Thibodeau of the Board of Health gave the Board of Selectmen an update on a multi-family property at 24 North St. He said the property owner has had difficulty finding available licensed contractors to work on the building. At the Feb. 22 Board of Selectmen’s meeting, Thibodeau said the property owner has been notified that he will be fined going back to the original two-week grace period the Board of Health had allotted him. Fines will total \$300 a day per apartment. “Right now, it’s at a standstill,” Thibodeau said. Thibodeau said he has not been granted access to the property owner’s adjacent building as requested. Thibodeau said while visiting 24 North St., he was approached by a neighboring tenant and there are also problems with a property at 27 North St. Attempts to mail a corrective order to that property owner were unsuccessful. Thibodeau said the tenant has taken the landlord to court over heating issues, but is still facing rodent and plumbing issues. There are broken windows and glass in the bedroom as well. Thibodeau said the house is set-up for two apartments, but has an additional illegal unit. He said hot water temperatures in the shower are not controlled. If a first floor tenant turns on the water, it creates scalding temperatures in the second floor shower. Thibodeau said the plaster ceiling in the bathroom has moisture damage which is causing it to crack and fall. The bathroom fan is not operational. A kitchen sink drain trap

is also leaking and there are no rodent control measures being taken to address rats. The property owner’s contact information is not current or properly posted. Thibodeau said he will issue seven-day enforcement orders for the issues found at 27 North St. **Town Administrator’s report** Town Administrator James Ferrera said the final interviews were held for the Accountant position. “We are making progress,” he said. The position of Assessor Clerk has been posted after being vacant for a month. It is a 19-hour week part-time position. Ferrera said he has also been working with the Sewer Commissioners to fill the operator mechanic position and a conditional offer is pending with a candidate. He said he is working with the chief operator to address building safety issues, including emergency lighting, some of which was nonfunctional. “There’s still some areas of the building that need some emergency lighting, such as the basement and stairwell...but the current emergency lighting is now all functioning,” Ferrera said. Emergency lighting will be added to the basement and stairwell and emergency exit signs will be installed in the main common area. Ferrera said the Finance Committee approved a reserve account transfer in the amount of \$20,000 to fund the town’s legal account until a year-end transfer can be done in May. **MIIA renewal** Ferrera said he and Treasurer Dawn Swistak met with represen-

tatives from the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association to go over health insurance benefits renewal trust for fiscal year 2025. Ferrera said at the annual conference, it was announced that towns could be see health insurance premium increases between 2.25-10%. “We’re pleased to report that for health insurance, the premium change for the town of Warren is only 3.26%,” Ferrera said. “There is no increase for dental or vision.” **Pathfinder budget** The annual Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School budget presentation will be held at the school on Wednesday, March 13 at 6:30 p.m. **Change to constable policy** Police Chief Gerald Millette presented a change to the special traffic constable policy. The change would remove “full-time” from the language related to Fire Department personnel covering traffic detail. This change would allow all fire personnel to cover traffic details, not just full-time. The board voted to accept the policy as amended. **Appointments** The Board of Selectmen appointed Patric Gillespie and Brian Pfister to full-time positions with the Police Department. **Correspondence** The board read a letter received from the town of Hardwick, thanking the Fire Department for their response to a structure fire on Feb. 9.

HAMILTON from page 4

tain the Union, not to end slavery. In 1862, he declared: “If I could save the union without freeing any slaves I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone, I would also do that.” Preserving the Union was a big, costly decision. By the time the Civil War ended, 617,000 Americans had died. Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation to free Southern slaves in 1863 and slavery was, in fact, abolished with the 13th Amendment. Over 100,000 more Americans died in World War I. When Franklin Roosevelt took office in 1933, the country was exhausted by war and suspicious of foreign

entanglements. Isolationism was at a high level. Roosevelt spoke forcefully about freedom and democracy, but his foreign policy was cautious, deferring to popular sentiment. But when World War II broke out, the president pushed America to support our allies. Pulled into the conflict by Japan’s attack on Pearl Harbor, the U.S. played a leading role in fighting and, later, in creating the institutions that would rebuild Europe and Asia and restore peace and security. The postwar world order owes much to FDR’s decision to engage assertively with the world. What big decisions does America face today? It’s an open question, but issues that called for tough decisions in the past are still with us. With the nation deeply divided, can we unite and preserve the

Union? With many Americans increasingly skeptical of involvement in international conflicts, will we engage with the world or return to the “America First” attitudes of the 1930s. Successful countries must make big decisions, even when they involve risk and controversy. Our well-being and that of the world depend on our ability to make these decisions when necessary. *Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.*

HEART HEALTH from page 4

Rybelsus, Wegovy), and tirzepatide (Mounjaro, Zepbound), respectively. Approved initially by the FDA to treat diabetes, liraglutide, semaglutide and tirzepatide also have FDA approval to treat adults with obesity or with excess weight and weight-related medical problems. These drugs mimic the action of the hormone called glucagon-like peptide 1 (GLP-1), which helps lower blood sugar. It also helps promote fullness and satiety by working on the hormonal signaling from the brain and gut. Tirzepatide is the first dual agonist and is a GLP-1 and a glucose-dependent insulinotropic polypeptide (GIP) agonist, which has further glucose lowering and weight loss effects. “These are exciting medications for diabetes and weight loss. Some individuals can experience a 15-20% weight loss which can have a significant impact on their risk for cardiovascular disease. As a physician who prescribes these medications for my patients with diabetes who also struggle with

obesity, I have seen individuals have significant improvement in their glycemic (sugar) control. Some patients significantly reduce their insulin or come off it entirely. However, we must keep in mind that these medications do not work the same for everyone, and there is a variation between individuals on how much weight they may lose. They also come with side effects. So, it is important to work with your doctor on deciding which medication, if any, is good for you,” said Gortakowski. But you can’t rely on medications alone, noted Baystate Health internist Dr. Kathryn Jobbins, trained in internal medicine and fellowship trained in obesity medicine. Her role is to discuss behavioral and lifestyle interventions to be used in conjunction with medications or on their own to help with weight management and reducing the risk or cardiac disease. She calls what is needed as a mindset for change asking yourself, “What am I doing on a daily basis to have a healthier lifestyle for the rest of my life?”

“You don’t have to go out and run a marathon. Instead, place your focus on how you live your life and introduce behavioral modifications such as reducing your tobacco intake or drinking less alcohol. Thinking about the food you are putting into your body and how much you move your body is also important. Traditionally, it has always been about counting calories. But it is so much more than that. It is educating ourselves to make realistic changes that are sustainable - finding a way with tangible things that we can do to make small steps toward a healthier life,” said Jobbins. It’s not one size fits all. “We need to consider what we do with our bodies – how we move it and what we put into it. If you walk 10,000 steps a day you will increase your longevity. But if you look at the data, 5,000 steps is also enough to support a healthy lifestyle for some. Sedentary lifestyles can be as harmful as smoking cigarettes for your heart health. Also, the idea of what we put into our bodies matters. The best approach is to find harmony on your plate,

color matters. If you eat the rainbow, you are going to get all the minerals, the proper micronutrients, important for maintaining a healthy lifestyle such as tomatoes, raspberries, carrots, spinach, fish, rice, and chicken. It was previously thought that alcohol - including one glass of wine a day - was good for heart health. But research shows there is not a safe level of any alcohol that benefits our health. Also, as we get older, most of us will probably need more protein to make sure we are not losing muscle mass instead of fat,” she added. Jobbins offered some additional thoughts on weight loss and behavior: It’s about the small wins, such as eating a large bowl of pasta then feeling terrible and exhausted afterwards and noting that a smaller portion may not make you feel the same way. It’s not only about the numbers on the scale or your BMI per se. Think about measuring the circumference of your body around the waist, arms, hips and

thighs. You want to see a shift in distribution, for example, those who have a large abdominal girth have a greater risk for heart disease, so that is where you want to lose your fat. It is not just getting rid of the weight, but body fat while not losing muscle. Half of our body weight is water and it is important to drink between 64 to 120 ounces of water a day in order to stay hydrated and help improve weight loss. If you don’t like plain water, try adding slices of your favorite fruit to add some flavor. Consider forsaking a large dinner plate for a salad plate that contains all the colors of the rainbow. It is easy to reduce your calorie intake that way, while not eliminating essential nutrients that we need to maintain good health. Over time, you will find that smaller portions are actually enough for you to feel full and mindfully recognize that you don’t need that big plate piled

high with food. Find a weight loss partner for accountability, someone who can help keep you motivated, and perhaps share in your goals of walking more or choosing wisely when you eat together. The addition of fiber to your dietary intake can also aid and improve the effectiveness of weight loss medications and reduce your cardiovascular risk. Ensuring you have 25 grams per day is all you need. “Once again, the hope is that over time making these behavioral changes in conjunction with medications will help you reach a point where you are feeling better, you have lost weight and decreased your cardiovascular risk, and you may be able to come off the medications you are taking,” said Jobbins. For more information on Baystate Health, visit baystate-health.org.



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Recovery Center of HOPE hosts community Game Night

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – Community members and staff at the Recovery Center of HOPE joined together for board games and a night of smiles and laughs for its first Game Night.

At the Feb. 20 Game Night, staff and dedicated volunteers of the Recovery Center of HOPE provided a comfortable space for all guests to enjoy the social atmosphere.

In addition to the games, the Recovery Center of HOPE provided a wide assortment of snacks and beverages.

The biggest surprise of the evening was the dessert, featuring a cake decorated like the famous board game, Monopoly.

Happy with the turnout, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator Susan Daley and her associates plan to offer more game nights in the future.

Daley said they are hoping to make game nights a quarterly event.

Helping with the set-up of game night was volunteer Julia Whalen. Whalen alongside Recovery Center of HOPE staff made the first game night possible by putting all the games, tables and refreshments together.

While guests gathered to participate in various games, Whalen joined her friends in a fun game called Heads Up. Players slip on a headband and load it with different cards; the one wearing the headband tries to guess what the card they're wearing says based on other players' clues.

Other games played throughout game night included Uno, Scrabble, Operation, Trouble, War and Yahtzee. Guests also enjoyed playing Rummikub, a tile-based game that is a mixture of the card game rummy and mahjong.

Joining in on the fun were Recovery Center of HOPE staff Kellyann Kaiser, Daley, Erika Bentley, Maureen Babineau and Julie Lutz.

The Recovery Center of HOPE also hosts weekly Feel Good Fridays, every Friday morning at 10:30 a.m. All are invited to enjoy flapjacks, fruit and pastries.

An All Recovery meeting takes place after Feel Good Friday at 11:30 a.m. All Recovery meetings welcome all who struggle with addiction, are affected by addiction or anyone who supports the recovery lifestyle.

Many social supports are offered at the Recovery Center of HOPE and honor all pathways to recovery.

Visit the Recovery Center of HOPE at 52 Main St. and its additional space at 78 Main St.



Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator Susan Daley holds up a Monopoly themed cake, which was the main dessert during the Recovery Center of HOPE's first Game Night.



Recovery Center of HOPE staff, from left to right, Kellyann Kaiser, Susan Daley and Erika Bentley put together a fun game night for the community.



One of the popular games that brought a lot of laughter was Heads Up.



Kellyann Kaiser enjoys a game of Uno with some of her friends.



The Recovery Center of HOPE provided numerous games for guests to enjoy. Games included Yahtzee, Operation, Trouble and many more.



The first ever Recovery Center of HOPE's Game Night featured a lot of popular board games, including Scrabble.



Refreshments and decorations were put together thanks to the staff and volunteers of the Recovery Center of HOPE.



Many snacks were provided by the Recovery Center of HOPE.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Sound Bath workshop offered March 7

WARREN – Experience sound healing - "bathing" in sounds and vibrations produced by different instruments - at the Warren Public Library on Thursday, March 7 at 6 p.m.

A Sound Bath can help you reduce stress and anxiety in addition to physical benefits like reduced pain and better sleep.

During a sound bath, the brain's state is altered from normal waking

state to a relaxed state. In this state, deep healing can occur.

Bring a yoga mat, blanket, or cushion. Please call 413-436-7690 or email warrenpubliclibrary@hotmail.com to register for this free program.

Library hosts fraud prevention seminar March 9

AMHERST – Learn to protect yourself from the newest fraud schemes at this fraud prevention seminar on Saturday, March 9 from 3-4 p.m. in the Woodbury Room at the Jones

Library. From identify theft to fraud schemes and cybercrime; the ways criminals target you, your information, and your money are growing. Join library staff as

Madison Kinney, from the local branch of BankESB, shares the latest news on the most prevalent scams and what you can do to prevent being taken.

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MLH PLAN from page 3

buildings are one whole building, since all systems are intertwined making the building one connected entity.

The ownership and use of the Gilbert Trust is also a factor in the discussion and is being reviewed by a local resident. More information about the continued use of the trust will be reviewed by the Historical Commission and the Hospital Review Committee.

Memorializing options are still under advisement and Baystate Health said they would be willing to memorialize the building in some way if it is not

preserved.

The Historical Commission also wants to stay in contact with state officials on all aspects of the Baystate Mary Lane work. Additional meetings will take place between the Historical Commission, the Building Inspector, the Hospital Review Committee and HKT Architects.

Town Hall

The Historical Commission met with the Friends of Ware Town Hall to go over future repairs of the town hall. Sitting in with the Commission were Friends Treasurer Jane Desjardins and President Pat Skutnik.

The Friends of Ware Town Hall and the Historical Commission agreed to make window repairs the main priority. The two parties discussed how some windows and areas in the Great Hall are in need of updates. The railing on the balcony needs an upgrade as well in order for people to use the balcony space.

Inventory project

In order to update the Town's inventory of historic homes in the town of Ware, the Historic Commission wants to collect photographs of homes. The streets being reviewed include Church Street, Chestnut Street

and South Street.

The Historical Commission is going to start with taking photos of their homes first before beginning photo shoots of other residents' homes. For community outreach, the Commission is asking residents to donate a picture if they live in a historic house.

Book Hunt

The Historical Commission's annual Book Hunt will occur on May 6. More details will be released after the Commission's March meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 25 at 6 p.m.

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Behavioral Health Network's Family Resource Center celebrated Mardi Gras with fun crafts and a parade. Children are shown getting ready to parade around the halls of the center.

MARDI GRAS from page 1

"It is a colorful thing for kids to do," said Lynn Guertin, Program Manager of the Family Resource Center.

This year was the second annual Mardi Gras celebration at the Family Resource Center.

"A lot of families came back for these events," said Guertin.

Nine families signed up in advance to take part in the Mardi Gras celebration and the children were excited to get started.

Helping with the mask decorating and bracelet making was Randy Guertin, administrative assistant at the Family Resource Center.

To continue with the Mardi Gras celebration, he led the children in a fun parade through the halls of the center. Many parades take place during Mardi Gras, especially down in New Orleans.

After the parade, families got into a fun game of "Simon Says." The children took turns to play Simon and wore the masks they made.

To wrap up a fun Mardi Gras celebration, the families enjoyed Mardi Gras themed cupcakes provided by the Family Resource Center.

Starting in the month of March, the Family Resource Center is offering a family dinner and game night on Wednesdays from 5-7 p.m. Several rooms at the BHN Family Resource Center host numerous activities such as movie nights and game nights.

When the weather warms up, the center will begin offering

outdoor activities that will take place at Greenville Park. Most common activities the BHN Family Resource Center offers at the park include yoga, cornhole and various lawn games.

Lynn Guertin has been part of the BHN Family Resource Center for five years, since the very beginning of its opening in the town of Ware. Guertin mentioned that in 2023 the center has welcomed 237 new families and provides multiple services.

Services and activities for kids are a big part in the operation of the BHN Family Resource Center.

"More kid friendly activities to get more kids involved," said Guertin.

Behavioral Health Network, Inc. is a regional provider of comprehensive behavioral health services for adults, children and families.

Administrative Assistant Randy Guertin enjoyed helping children with their crafts.



Children had fun decorating masks and making bracelets along with their parents and Randy Guertin.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago



Children enjoyed these festive Mardi Gras themed cupcakes.



Children made jewelry using beads provided by the Family Resource Center

Cub Scouts complete Cast Iron Chef



Cub Scouts and their families lined up to enjoy the desserts made by members of the Webelos den.

Webelos practice outdoor, Dutch oven cooking

WARE – The Webelos den from Ware Family Pack 520 joined Cubmaster Chris Boos for some Dutch oven cooking this past Saturday, to complete their Cast Iron Chef requirement.

Boos led the Scouts in making two desserts; a Black Forest cobbler and a caramel apple cobbler. Both recipes were created using ingredients that would be easy to take camping, including canned pie filling, boxed cake mix and a bottle of lemon-lime soda.

Scouts and their families agreed that both desserts were delicious and would be added to their campout menu.



Webelos from Ware Family Pack 520 practiced the art of Dutch oven cooking this past weekend, fulfilling their Cast Iron Chef requirement.



Webelos made a Black Forest cobbler and a caramel apple cobbler to share with the rest of the pack.



Cubmaster Chris Boos sets the Dutch oven over hot charcoal briquettes.

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Death & Taxes

Theatre Guild performs murder mystery dinner theater

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Theatre Guild of North Brookfield performed a murder mystery dinner theater, “Death & Taxes” over two nights at Hardwick Crossing Country Club last weekend.

This comedic mystery featured a mysterious stranger found dead in Carl and Mattie’s living room in the quiet town of Hardwick. The cast relied on audience participation as the audience portrayed the townspeople attending a town council meeting and trying to solve the crime.

This was the first show the Theatre Guild of North Brookfield performed at Hardwick Crossing, with a cast of nine talented actors.

The victim was an out-of-town IRS employee doing research on the town. While investigating unusual activities going on, the man was later found dead in the living room of Carl and Mattie Johansen.

Every character was deemed a suspect as they all encountered this IRS employee, and it was up to the audience to help solve this mystery.

“Death & Taxes” was written by Pat Cook in association with Dramatic Publishing and directed by Jay Valencourt. Producer of “Death & Taxes” was Joe Chenevert and Paula Hinerth served as stage manager.

Starring in “Death & Taxes” was Ruth Honthumb portraying Kathleen Lyles, the mayor of Hardwick and one of the Town Council members suspected of murder.

Chenevert played the role of Eddie King, the editor of the Hardwick Herald newspaper. Although deemed a suspect, King is also working on a big story regarding this mysterious murder.

Shelley Ingalls played Lydia Kleft, a sweet old lady who serves

as secretary of the Town Hall. The audience will try to find out if Lydia is really a sweet old lady or if she is the culprit behind the mystery.

Derek Ingalls portrayed Wesley Thorne, the sheriff of Hardwick. Thorne can’t solve this case alone and must rely on his fellow Town Council members, even though they’re all suspects.

Valencourt played Carl Johansen, citizen of Hardwick and a suspect to the murder. The body was found in his living room.

Amber King played Mattie Johansen, Carl’s wife.

Missy McDonald played Cora Sedgewick, a nosy neighbor and member of the Town Council who is considered the “eyes and ears” of Hardwick. With a beer in one hand, binoculars in the other, Cora is determined to find the murderer, unless she’s putting on an act and is the murderer herself.

Greg Afton played Dr. Efram Bishop, the town doctor of Hardwick. All in good time, the audience will figure out if Bishop is a good doctor or an evil doctor.

Anne Adams played Evelyn Martindale, a drama teacher who takes the responsibility of notetaker and investigator and asks all the interesting questions.

During intermission, the audience enjoyed a chicken parmigiana dinner or rice and veggies as the main course. Salads and bread rolls were the appetizers and chocolate chip cookies were the dessert.

During the dinner portion of the dinner theatre, guests got to tour around the stage area to find clues and determine who might be the murderer. Guests would then ask questions during part two of “Death & Taxes”.

Towards the end of the show, guests received ballot cards to vote for who they thought the suspect was. For those who chose the correct guilty party, were entered into a drawing to receive a prize to go see the next show presented by the Theatre Guild of North Brookfield.

The cast really enjoyed their first time performing at Hardwick Crossing Country Club and they always seek new locations to perform in.

“We roam wherever the audi-



The Theatre Guild of North Brookfield performed the dinner theatre show, “Death & Taxes” at Hardwick Crossing Country Club.



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago
Cora Sedgewick, portrayed by Missy McDonald, was the nosy neighbor in “Death & Taxes” and made her way through the dining hall during dinner time and intermission.



The cast was interacting with the audience throughout the entire evening.



The scene was set as the characters were in a town council meeting to discuss a mysterious murder that happened in town.

ence expects us,” said Valencourt.

The Theatre Guild of North Brookfield usually performs two dinner theatre shows a year and intends to return to Hardwick Crossing.

The most common performance spot for the Theatre Guild of North Brookfield is the auditorium of North Brookfield Elementary

School. The school is mostly used for musicals.

The theatre group also performs at Common Ground Ciderworks in North Brookfield and the North Brookfield Sportsman’s Club.

According to Valencourt, one of the best parts about performing with the Theatre Guild of North Brookfield is its everlasting bonds

of friendships.

“The friendships that are formed over the years is the best,” said Valencourt. “We always love welcoming new talent.”

The next production from the Theatre Guild of North Brookfield will be the musical, “Mamma Mia” during the first couple weeks of May. Shows will take place at

the North Brookfield Elementary School Auditorium on May 3 and 4 at 7:30 p.m.; May 5 at 2 p.m.; May 10 and 11 at 7:30 p.m.; and May 12 at 2 p.m.

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Healthy Quaboag:

Improving Quality of Life for the Quaboag Hills Community

For those who live, work, and play in the Quaboag Hills region, we know that it is an area of scenic beauty, rural perseverance, and caring for our neighbors with hopes and concerns about the quality of life, including health, in our communities. Recognizing that the health and well-being of its residents are paramount to community prosperity, the Town of Ware launched the Healthy Quaboag initiative in 2022 to elevate the quality of life for everyone living within Quaboag Hills.

Healthy Quaboag embodies a collective movement toward healthier and more vibrant Quaboag Hills. The primary goal is to address health disparities and uplift the well-being of the region’s residents through collaborative efforts and impactful health interventions. By forging partnerships with various community members and organizations, including the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation, Substance Use Alliance, and Baystate Health, Healthy Quaboag fosters cross-sector collaboration to tackle complex public health challenges.

Using a multi-sector approach, Healthy Quaboag concentrates on key priority areas crucial for the health and vitality of the Quaboag Hills region. One such area is the reduction of poverty and the improvement of access to resources essential for educational and vocational success. Through programs like the Education to Employment Project, Healthy Quaboag aims to empower youth and young adults, paving the way for a more equitable and prosperous community, while helping boost the local economy.

Additionally, Healthy Quaboag is dedicated to long-term strategic planning to improve community health outcomes. We are creating roadmaps that address pressing health issues while also laying the foundation for sustained improvement in the years to come. The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), developed collaboratively with community input, targets critical health issues related to four priority focus areas: 1) housing, 2) transportation, 3) mental health, and 4) access to healthcare providers. Our community members and partners are invited to join a CHIP working group where you help determine goals, objectives, strategies, and measures to address these focus areas through regular meetings and events.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Healthy Quaboag has played a pivotal role in support-

ing rural communities, implementing measures to curb the virus’s spread. Initiatives like the Rural Vaccine Equality Initiative (RVEI) ensure equitable access to vaccines and flu shots through community clinics, emphasizing the importance of long-term planning. We hosted several clinics throughout the year where residents received free COVID-19 vaccines and Flu shots in a confidential manner. We had a great response, with residents young and old taking advantage of this amazing resource. Our focus on long-range planning ensures that we are not only addressing immediate needs, but also building a more resilient community prepared to withstand future crises.

Acknowledging the significance of a healthy and equitable food system, Healthy Quaboag’s Food Policy Council (FPC) endeavors to address food insecurity while promoting overall well-being. Through education, policy advocacy, and partnerships with local farmers and organizations, the FPC strives to enhance food accessibility and equity within the community. Anyone can take part in the FPC! You can find a growing list of local farmers markets in Quaboag Valley, as well as a variety of virtual cooking demonstrations in partnership with SNAP-Education Program out of Ascendria Care Alliance that highlights tasty culinary creations with a healthful twist on our website.

Led by a diverse team of passionate public health professionals, Healthy Quaboag exemplifies the power of community in effecting positive change.

“Healthy Quaboag has provided me with an incredibly supportive and fulfilling environment to work in the public health field. Every day, I am excited to collaborate with our team and other impactful organizations in our area, all dedicated to making a difference in our local community,” said Caitlin Geaghan, Food Policy Health Coordinator.

From its roots in Ware, Healthy Quaboag has blossomed into a beacon of positive change for the entire Quaboag Hills region. Join us as we build a healthier, more resilient Quaboag Hills for generations to come.

To find out more about Healthy Quaboag and learn how you can get involved, please visit www.healthyquaboag.org or contact Nisha Humayun, our Project Coordinator for Community Health, at nhumayun@townof-ware.com.

Healthy Quaboag
Improving quality of life in the community

HEALTHY QUABOAG & THE TOWN OF WARE

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For more information, email Caitlin at cgeaghan@townofware.com

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Owen McKeever makes a pass in mid-air instead of shooting.



Jack Gaudreau gets a shot ahead of a block.



Benjamin Torres follows through on a shot.

Boys rebound for win in finale

WARE – Last Tuesday evening, Ware boys basketball defeated rival Palmer in a nonplayoff game 69-48.

The matchup was a consolation game for Ware, which compete against Athol in the quarterfinals of the Western Mass. tournament and lost. Against Palmer, Jack McKeever scored 19 points while Jack Gaudreau had 17 points. Ware would finish with an 11-9 record overall and the state tournament coming up this week.



Brady Guimond gets a shot off.



Justin Grout is attacked from two sides while trying to shoot.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Richie Gula heads for the layup.

Pioneers fall in finale before playoffs

PALMER – Last week, Pathfinder boys basketball participated in nonplayoff action, hosting Mt. Greylock. The Pioneers would be tied at halftime, but ultimately were edged by the Mountie 60-57 last Wednesday night. In the loss, Richie Gula had 27 points while Hunter Griswold scored 17 points. Adam Slonka added 10 points. The Pioneers drew a local matchup for the Division 5 state tournament, and played at Palmer High School earlier this week.



Cayden Bousquet tries to get around a Mt. Greylock guard.

Pathfinder girls lose in finale

PALMER – Last Saturday evening, Pathfinder girls basketball was defeated by Franklin Tech 50-28 in the finale for both teams prior to the start of the state tournament. Pathfinder qualified for the state tournament this year with an overall record of 11-6. It was one of the best records Pathfinder girls basketball has attained in recent years. The Pioneers drew a local opponent for not just the first round, but the second round as well. Pathfinder was scheduled to travel to neighbor Ware for a preliminary round matchup in the State Division 5 Tournament. If Pathfinder wins, their next game would be up the street at Palmer High School in the Round of 32. Go to miaa.net for updated brackets.

Ware girls make state tournament

WARE – Last Wednesday evening, Ware girls basketball participated in nonplayoff action, facing Putnam for the second time this season. The Indians suffered a tough loss 28-17. The Indians struggled mightily on offense, limited to single digits in every frame, and none of the Indians scored in double digits. Emily McGrail led the team with eight points. Despite a sub-.500 record at 8-12, Ware girls basketball had a tough enough schedule that it qualified for the state tournament by being in the top 32 teams ranked for Division 5. Ware was scheduled to host Pathfinder in the opening round of the state tournament on Tuesday evening with the winner staying local and heading to neighbor Palmer High School later in the week.

Lady Panthers take Central Mass. title

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WORCESTER—The fans of the Quabbin girls' varsity basketball team who attended last Wednesday night's Central Mass. Athletic Directors Association Class B championship game at Worcester State University witnessed a little bit of history.

The top-seeded Lady Panthers captured the Class B championship title by posting a 35-23 victory over the second-seeded Notre Dame Rebels.

"It took a special group of kids to achieve this championship," said Quabbin head coach Evan Barringer. "Tonight's game is kind of a microcosm of our whole season. It was a very close game until our four seniors and sophomore Mia Ducos, who always plays like a senior, took over. Our senior leadership was probably the biggest difference in tonight's game."

The last time that the Quabbin girls' basketball team won a sectional title was during the 1975-76 season when they were the District 3 small schools champions.

"Winning this championship game is extremely special and it goes beyond just putting a banner on the wall in our gym," said Quabbin senior co-captain Hannah Baxter, who scored nine points in the Class B. Finals. "The four seniors have changed the culture of this basketball team for the better during the past couple of years. We've come so far, and we've worked so hard to achieve this championship. I hope this is something that our younger basketball players can strive for in the coming years."

The other three Quabbin senior-co-captains are Meg Doyle (9 points), Riley Bassett (6 points), and Brianna Whitelaw.

"We did start off the game



Mia Ducos faces off with an opponent as she looks for a path to the hoop.



Riley Bassett goes for a layup.

slowly because we hadn't played a game in this type of atmosphere before," said Doyle, who was the Lady Panthers leading scorer during the regular season. "We played much better during the second half, especially in the third quarter. We just played the game at our pace."

Ducos scored nine of her team leading 11 points during the second half.

"All of our points were spread out between several different players," Barringer said. "Everyone did their job and that's why we're champions."

The Lady Panthers, who had a 16-4 overall record, advanced into the CMADA championship game following a 53-41 semifinal home victory over fourth-seeded Blackstone Valley Tech on February 16.

Quabbin also defeated Notre Dame, 50-44, in a non-league road game at the beginning of February.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Hannah Baxter tries to get out of the paint after making a rebound.

Ducos scored a team-high 21 points while the four Lady Panthers seniors combined to score the other

29 points in that contest.

Please see **PANTHERS**, page 10



Adrien Moskovitz angles toward the left side of the court as Pathfinder takes over on offense.



Seth Mitchell drives into the paint.

sports

T-Birds suffer loss at Bridgeport

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. – The Springfield Thunderbirds (24-22-3-2) fell to the Bridgeport Islanders (16-28-6-1) on Sunday afternoon at Total Mortgage Arena by a final score of 5-3.

Things appeared to be starting well for the T-Birds on this day, as Sam Bitten cashed in for his first career AHL goal at the 8:19 mark of the first period when he arrived at the top of the crease and jammed a Drew Callin centering pass through Henrik Tikkanen's legs to make it 1-0 for the visitors.

Springfield increased the lead to 2-0 at 12:54 when Ryan Suzuki sent an alley-oop through the neutral zone that landed inside the Islander blue line. Jakub Vrana accelerated to beat the Bridgeport defender to the puck and then slid a backhand shot through Tikkanen to extend the lead on his ninth goal of the season.

55 seconds after the Vrana tally, though, the Islanders made their way to the scoresheet as Tyce

Thompson got a step behind the defense and lifted a perfect backhand shot over Colten Ellis to cut the lead to 2-1 heading into the first intermission.

The second period began uneventfully, but Suzuki changed matters when he powered down the right wing, protecting the puck before elevating a forehand chip shot over Tikkanen to make it a 3-1 game at 6:34 of the period.

Ellis remained busy but strong as the period entered its final three minutes en route to a career-high 49 saves. Unfortunately for the T-Birds, Bridgeport All-Star Ruslan Iskhakov snapped a goal drought dating back to Jan. 15 to single-handedly pull the Isles even. First, the crafty centerman made his way to the edge of the crease near the right circle, beating Ellis on a second chance after the T-Bird goalie made a strong reactionary save on the first attempt. That tally cut the score to 3-2 at 17:08.

Not even two minutes later,

now with under a minute to go in the period, Iskhakov delivered the equalizer with a one-time rocket off a circle-to-circle pass from Matt Maggio, and Bridgeport headed into the dressing room with new life in the 3-3 game.

The Islanders were relentless in the final 20 minutes, managing 22 shots on the T-Birds net. Ellis and the Springfield defense held the fort as long as they could before a Sam Bolduc point wrister glanced off traffic and skipped past Ellis to give Bridgeport the lead for good at 11:34 of the third. Hudson Fasching rounded out the scoring with a power-play marker into an empty net in the closing seconds.

The T-Birds' busy stretch continues next Friday in Providence as they tangle with the Bruins at Amica Mutual Pavilion. Springfield returns home on Saturday when they host the Laval Rocket at 7:05 p.m. at the MassMutual Center.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – The third and final round of the 2023-2024 league season began for the Commercial Elks League.

Finishing in first place was Life is Good with a record of 30-10 to secure a playoff spot at the end of the season. The Champs R Here finished in second place at 26.5-13.5.

Acres finished in third place at 23-17, Compression at 19.5-20.5, Blue B's at 19-21 and Last in Line at 17-23. Life is Good will be joining Compression in the playoffs at the end of the season.

To start off the new round, Life is Good bowled against The Champs R Here. In game one, The Champs took the first game by a score of 371-353. In game two, Life is Good evened up the match by winning the second game 391-373.

Filling in for Life is Good is Bryan Surprise who had a big game in the second scoring 134. In game three, Champs R Here won the last game by a score of 381-372. Champs R Here won total pinfall by a final score of 1125-1116.

Last in Line bowled against Blue B's in week one of round three. In game one, Blue B's won

373-333. In game two, Blue B's won again 354-352. In game three, Blue B's won for a three-game sweep over Last in Line by a score of 363-358.

Total pinfall was won by Blue B's 1090-1043.

Thursday Night Mixed League

The Thursday Night Mixed League continues in the second round of the candlepin league season. As of Feb. 15, Team One is in a tie for first place with Team Four. Both teams have a record of 19-13.

Team One bowled against Team Three on the night of Thursday, Feb. 22. In game one, Team One took the first game 455-402. Sean Comerford of Team One bowled his best game of the season, 127.

In game two, Team One was the winner yet again by a score of 413-392. In game three, Team One took the third game 430-364. Team One took total pinfall by a final score 1298-1158.

Team Four bowled against Team Six. In game one, Team Six won the first game by a score of 399-369. In game two, Team Six won again by a score of 428-402. Ron Restaino of Team Six led the team in game two by bowling a 109.

In game three, Team Six won the third game for a three-game sweep over Team Four. Team Six scored 430 and Team Four scored 413. Team Six won total pinfall by a final score of 1257-1184.

Registration now open for Quabbin Valley baseball

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to infuse new talent into its league for the 2024 season.

Registration for the 2024 season is now open and any interested players can go to www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org to get registered, or to seek more information or make inquiries about the league. The league website will also be updated over the next month with information about the upcoming season.

There are many open roster spots available in the league for the 2024 season, which is tentatively scheduled to begin on Sunday, April 21. The league plays most Sunday from late April through late August with playoffs following that. The league plays a 15-game schedule and typically fields six teams each year. Games are usually played at 10 a.m. with fields in Easthampton and South Hadley normally used.

The Quabbin Valley league is an all-abilities league and all are welcome to join. Eligibility is players who are age 28 and over. You must be 30 to be eligible to pitch in the league. Your age for eligibility is whatever age you will turn in 2024. The league is also able to entertain taking in an entire group as a team to add to the league. Please email the league board for to inquire about entering a team.

The league is currently in the process of preparing for the 2024 season and held a meeting on Feb. 18 to discuss plans for the upcoming season. The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday March 24 at 11:40 a.m. at the Hangar Pub & Grill in South Hadley. All are welcome to attend the meeting, ask questions and express interest in joining.

Worcester wraps up road trip with loss

ESTERO, FL – The Worcester Railers HC (22-22-4-2, 50pts) lost to the Florida Everblades (27-15-7-2, 63pts) on Saturday night by the final score of 5-3 in front of a crowd of 7,650 at Hertz Arena. The Railers have wrapped up their six-game southern road trip and return to the DCU Center against the Trois-Rivieres Lions on Saturday, March 2nd at 7:05pm.

The Everblades opened the scoring with goals from Sean Josling (1-2-3) and Joe Pendenza (1-1-2) just 2:43 apart to grab a 2-0 lead. Worcester responded 27 seconds later as Jack Quinlivan (1-0-1) wrapped a backhand behind the net past Johnson to make it 2-1 going into the second. Worcester kept the pressure on the Everblades in the second as they added on two more from Zsombor Garat (1-1-2) and Andrei Bakanov (1-0-1) to take their first lead of the night going into the third at 3-2. Florida took the lead in the third thanks to goals from Will

Reilly (1-0-1), Mark Senden (1-0-1) and an empty netter from Brett Davis (1-0-1) to take the game 5-3.

Florida controlled the pace of play across the first fourteen minutes in the first, culminating in the game's first goal. Sean Josling (14th) received a backdoor pass from Oliver Chau who received the puck from Pendenza below the goal line to bury it past Cole Ceci in net for Worcester to put the Everblades ahead 1-0. With Florida on the power play 2:43 later in the period, Joe Pendenza turned on a one-timer and sent it past Ceci as Florida led 2-0 late in the period. Jack Quinlivan (4th) responded for Worcester just 27 seconds later. He took the puck off the stick of Zsombor Garat and wrapped it with his backhand inside the near post from beneath the net to get Worcester to within one heading into the second.

Worcester picked up the only goals in the second. Zsombor Garat (1st) hammered a heavy one-tim-

er on the power-play from Trevor Cosgrove for his first professional North American goal. His marker tied the game at the 7:29 mark of the second. Later in the period with 4:51 left in the second, Andrei Bakanov (7th) ripped a wrister past the blocker of Cam Johnson following a perfect drop pass from Anthony Callin to give Worcester the 3-2 lead entering the third.

The Everblades would be the only team to score in the third period. First it was Will Reilly (6th) on a wrister from the point that beat Ceci blocker side to tie the game 3-3 just 7:49 into the frame. From there, Mark Senden (9th) found the puck barreling down the left wing and buried it through the legs of Ceci to make it 4-3 Florida. Brett Davis (3rd) sealed the deal for Florida with an empty netter with just 1:31 remaining in the game to give Florida the win and the final score of 5-3.

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.

PANTHERS from page 9

Just like she has done before home games this season, Quabbin junior Leanna Leger sang the National Anthem prior to the opening tipoff of the Class B finals.

Playing under the bright lights of a college size basketball court for the first time did take the Quabbin players a little while to get used to.

"We were a little bit nervous at the start of the game," Ducos said. "Our main goal was to win tonight's game and we executed a lot better in the second half."

The Rebels (7-13), who lost to Tyngsborough, 54-47, in last year's Class B finals on the same court, held the lead for almost the first three quarters.

Maddie Dugan, who's the only senior listed on the Rebels varsity basketball roster, scored seven points in the opening quarter, which helped her team build an 11-6 lead entering the second quarter.

Dugan finished the game with 11 points and was the Rebels only player to reach double digits.

Notre Dame junior Addison Pong, who entered the Class B

championship game as the second-leading girls' scorer in Central Mass. was held to a season low of five points.

"Addison Pong is a great basketball player, but we stepped into the lanes and drew several charges in tonight's game," Barringer said. "We also switched from 3-2 to a 2-3 zone in the second half and we didn't let her have very many shot attempts. We always try to shut down the other team's leading scorer in every game that we play."

A Doyle 3-pointer from the left side and a Baxter base-line jumper, which were Quabbin's only field goals of the second quarter, tied the score for the first time at 11-11 with 3:05 remaining in the opening half.

In the final seconds of the first half, eighth grader Julianne Kelly (5 points) made a free throw sending the Rebels into the locker room holding a slim 12-11 halftime lead.

The turning point of the game took place during the final three minutes of the third quarter and the first three minutes of the final quarter, as the Lady Panthers put together an 11-0 run.

After receiving a pass from



Meaghan Doyle goes for a jump shot in traffic.

Bassett, Baxter made an inside basket closing the gap to 17-15.

Then the score was tied for the

second time following a fastbreak lay-up by Doyle.

Ducos also made back-to-back



Brooke Austin circles the perimeter.

lay-ups giving Quabbin a 21-17 lead with 1:55 left in the third quarter.

Baxter scored the final three points of the Lady Panthers run early in the fourth quarter.

NDA couldn't get any closer than five points the rest of the way.

With 42.9 seconds left on the scoreboard clock, Ducos made a pair of free throws pushing the Lady Panthers advantage to twelve points (35-23), which was their largest lead of the ballgame.

Following a turnover, Ducos dribbled the ball as the final seconds ticked off the scoreboard clock before celebrating with her teammates.

"I knew that we could win this game," Ducos said. "Once we took the lead in the second half, we played with a lot more energy and we executed a lot better."

Quabbin, who won their fifth consecutive game, had a week off before beginning their journey in the Division 3 state tournament. The 18th-seeded Lady Panthers were scheduled to play a road game against the 15th-seeded East Bridgewater Vikings (14-8) in a round of 32 contest on Wednesday night.

The Southbridge Softball league is now enrolling teams and players for the 2024 season.

Games are played at Henry Street Field (located off Rt. 169) in Southbridge.

We have 3 levels of Mens Leagues (A, B & C) that play weeknights starting @ 6:30 PM, a Mens JB draft league (for players age 39 by Sept. 30th) that plays Sunday AM starting at 9 AM

and a COED league (5 & 5) that plays Sat & Sun evenings starting @ 6 PM. The potential for a Women's league or a weekday COED league (6 & 4) exists depending on the number of teams we receive – a minimum of 4 teams would be required for either to be considered.

THE FEES FOR 2024 ARE AS FOLLOWS:

\$425 team roster fee and a \$125 forfeit fee for a total of \$550.

If your roster is turned in on or before 3/5 the fee is \$550.

If your roster is turned in between 3/5 + 3/12, the fee is \$600.

No rosters will be accepted after 3/12/24.

Player fees for 2024 will be \$55 and a \$5 additional fee will be charged to those players playing on (2) or more teams.

Please email info@southbridgesoftball.org or check out our Southbridge Softball Association Facebook page for more information.

ZONING from page 9

would provide significant benefits to the Town of Hardwick," Oliver stated in the proposal. "We expect that a Host Community Agreement between Hardwick and Casella would provide substantial revenue to the town. Casella would also continue to provide revenue to the Gilbertville Wastewater Treatment Facility for leachate treatment and disposal...in order to proceed with the landfill project Casella seeks support from the town in the form of certain

Town Meeting votes."

The first article would see if voters would approve the amendment of the town's general bylaws under Article XV: "Landfill," Section 2, "Landfill Height Limit" by deleting the number "670" and substituting it with "850."

"The peak elevation of the existing landfill is approximately 610 feet above Mean Sea level. The peak elevation of the future landfill (at final cap) is expected to be approximately 800 feet above Mean Sea level...having the bylaw reflect a maximum

height of 850 feet is necessary to allow for changes in height during daily waste placement and stockpiling activities," the proposal stated.

According to the proposal, the total height of the landfill at its highest elevation is expected to be 350 feet from ground level.

The second article starts by asking voters to amend zoning bylaws and maps for seven parcels of land on Patrill Hollow Road; from Agricultural Residential to Industrial. The proposed use of these parcels would be for solid waste landfilling and associated setbacks.

This article also asks voters to change the schedule of land intensity regulations for building, structures and uses (Section 2.3.2 of the town's zoning bylaws), by adding the language "Solid waste landfills and supporting uses are not subject to

the limitation on height for the 1-40 zoning district." It also seeks to allow solid waste landfilling in the Industrial District.

The third article seeks to terminate or reconfigure a portion of Patrill Hollow Road.

"The conceptual plan is to terminate the road at two points at the northwest and southwest boundaries of land owned by Hardwick Landfill, Inc. on the east side of Patrill Hollow Road...we expect that the roadway modifications and improvements, which would be at no cost to the Town, would not likely take place until 2026 or later," the proposal stated.

Casella's complete proposal and a flow chart of the zoning amendment process are posted on the town's website, hardwick-ma.gov, under "Important Notices."



Quaboag Historical Society seeks nominations for awards

The Quaboag Historical Society requests nominations for the annual Lucy Stone Achievement Award and the Irving and Jane England Award.

The QHS recognizes its most impressive community leaders and volunteers each year with these two awards. The Lucy Stone Achievement Award is given annually in observance of the commonwealth's designation of Lucy Stone Day on March 8.

Born on Coy Hill in West Brookfield, Stone worked tirelessly throughout her life to obtain equal rights for all individuals. She was a lecturer for abolitionist and equal rights groups and

the founder and editor of "The Woman's Journal".

For the Lucy Stone Award, the QHS requests nomination letters for anyone living in one of the six Quaboag Plantation area towns (the four Brookfields, New Braintree and Warren). Residents are asked to nominate individuals whose volunteer efforts have helped make their communities better places to live.

The nominating letters should provide a brief explanation of why the writer believes the nominee is deserving of the award. The name, address, and phone number of the nominator and the nominee must be included in the letter.

"For this award, we are seeking nominees who have done an exemplary job of giving back through community service," said QHS Co-President Amy Dugas, who described the motto of the Lucy Stone Award as honoring residents who make the world a better place.

The Irving and Jane England Award, also presented annually by the QHS, is given each year to a resident of West Brookfield who has helped better the community through community service. Nomination regulations for this award are the same as those for the Lucy Stone Award.

Dugas and other QHS leaders

feel it's important to take a few moments each year to honor those who contribute countless hours to improving their communities.

"Those people willing to put in the time, get involved, and make a significant contribution to the community should be recognized," Dugas added.

All award nomination entries should be submitted to the QHS by Friday, March 15. The recipients will be invited to attend a dinner which will be held at Salem Cross Inn in West Brookfield.

Nomination letters should be mailed to The Quaboag Historical Society, P.O. Box 635, West Brookfield, MA, 01585.

Dan Hamilton presents 'The Tapestry of Life'

Historical Society hosts Emmy-winning director on March 15

NEW BRAINTREE – The New Braintree Historical Society presents "The Tapestry of Life" a presentation by Dan Hamilton on Friday, March 15 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the New Braintree Historical Society Museum/1939 Grade School, 10 Utley Road.

This is a free presentation sponsored by the New Braintree Historical Society.

A personal journey through historical, genealogical, and DNA research using a live demonstration of online tools, often used reference books, and ample time for Q & A.

Hamilton, a retired professional actor, and Emmy-winning director has spent the last 25 years exploring the genealogy and history of his own family, and that of friends and clients. He is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogy, The National Genealogical Society,

Please see **HAMILTON**, page 13



How to find the right fit for summer camp

Many adults fondly recall their days at summer camp. The increase in households with two working parents has made it more important than ever to find a camp to accommodate youngsters who need to remain engaged and entertained throughout over summer vacation. That reality has led to more summer camp options, but it's not always so easy finding one that's the right fit for a child.

No two children are the same and kids change quite a bit as they grow up. So a camp that worked for an older child or even one that accommodated a younger camper may not make the perfect fit this summer. With that in mind, parents can consider these tips to find the right summer camp for their children.

• Ask around. Even if no two campers are the same, it can benefit parents to ask around when shopping for a summer camp. Summer camp spots are limited and it's not uncommon for competition for available spaces to develop, which

can make it more difficult to gather information. However, ask neighbors whose children have outgrown summer camp if there's one they might recommend (or would not recommend).



• Pursue a package deal. Though package deals might not result in lower rates, approaching a camp with the parents of your child's friend or friends may work in your favor. Kids undoubtedly

will be more excited about camp if their friends will be there as well. Camp officials may see these quasi-package deals as beneficial and a quick and easy way to fill spots.

• Ask kids how they want to spend summer. Specialized camps run the gamut from sports camps focusing on a particular sport to general outdoor recreation camps to camps that cater to young musicians. More general camps offer a wide range of activities throughout the summer, and that might appeal to children less interested in specialized camps. Ask youngsters for their input before making a final decision. Involve kids in the search by showing them websites of prospective camps and asking them what they think of each one. If attending an in-person consultation, bring kids along so they can form their own impression.

• Make sure the camp suits your schedule. Kids' preferences are not the only opinions to consider. In households with two working parents, moms and dads must find a camp that aligns with their work schedule. Many camps offer half-day sessions and/or full-day sessions, but some offer just one or the other. If parents need full-day sessions, they might need to begin their search early to ensure they can secure a spot before they fill up.

• Identify what you can afford. Camp costs vary significantly, so parents should identify how much they can afford before they begin their search. Doing so may

eliminate various camps right off the bat, saving parents precious time as they try to find a camp for their children before spots fill up. Many towns offer local camps at schools, and these may be an affordable option. Parents also should know that many camps allow them to pick certain weeks or days of the week a child will attend rather than insisting kids attend camp for the duration of the summer.

Summer camp season is right around the corner. Parents and children can work together to identify a camp that will ensure this summer is filled with fun.

Greene Acres Equestrian Center L.L.C.
April Vacation Riding Camp - April 16-18
2024 Summer Riding Sessions
 June 25-28 • July 22-25 • July 29-Aug 2
 Aug 5-9 • Aug 12-16 • Aug 19-22
 9AM - 3PM LUNCH NOT PROVIDED
 Basic Horse Care, Daily Riding, English & Western, Ages 5 & up
 Call to Register (413) 813-9291
 53 Ware Road, Belchertown
 Email: Amanda.greeneacres@gmail.com

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 Be part of this year's camps and discover the true meaning of summer...having fun and making friends!
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 Monday-Friday 9am-3pm • Area fields trips and lunch included
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 SESSION 3: JULY 8-12
 SESSION 4: JULY 15-19
 SESSION 5: JULY 22-26
 SESSION 6: JULY 29-AUG 2
 SESSION 7: AUG 5-9
 Visit Bement.org/summer for more information and to register. Register early!
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public safety

Ware Police Log

During the week of Feb. 19-27, the Ware Police Department responded to 17 miscellaneous calls, 32 administrative calls, five traffic violations, 15 emergency 911 calls, three frauds, two trespasses, four harassments, one theft/larceny, one structure fire, nine motor vehicle accidents, two animal calls and 24 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

Monday, Feb. 19
 3:02 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Otis Avenue, Citation/Warning Issued
 3:13 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Monroe Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 3:25 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Monroe Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 7:45 a.m. Structure Fire, West Main Street, Investigated
 7:55 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Shoreline Drive, Dispatch Handled
 11:29 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pulaski Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 2:05 p.m. Fraud/Deception, Maple Avenue, Services Rendered

Tuesday, Feb. 20
 1:21 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Sczygiel Road, Report Made
 7:41 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Street, Unfounded
 8 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Street, Services Rendered
 9:10 pm. Abandoned 911 Call, River Road, Advised
 9:54 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Prospect Street, Investigated

Wednesday, Feb. 21
 2:59 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Main Street, Assist Given
 3:21 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Highland Village, Services Rendered
 5:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Eagle Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 11:36 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Old Belchertown Road,

Services Rendered
Thursday, Feb. 22
 2:38 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Milner Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 2:54 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Church Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 3:03 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Dale Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 11:04 a.m. Fraud/Deception, Greenwich Plains Road, Advised
 12:48 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Services Rendered
 8 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 9:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Arrest Made
 Arrest: Luis Crispin, 25, Worcester
 License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With

Friday, Feb. 23
 12:05 p.m. Assault, North Street, Advised
 2:10 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Cummings Street, Advised
 4:26 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Maple Street, Dispatch Handled
 6:14 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Dale Street, Advised
 7:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Belchertown Road, Citation/Warning Issued

Saturday, Feb. 24
 1:52 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Gilbertville Road, Report Made
 7:08 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, North Street, Vehicle Towed
 1:32 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Pleasant Street, Arrest Made
 Arrest: Judith Barry, 53, Auburn
 Abuse Prevention Order, Violate
 4:28 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Palmer Road, Services Rendered

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.

6:16 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Advised

Sunday, Feb. 25
 1:56 a.m. Bylaw Violation, West Main Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 2:09 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 2:19 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 3:35 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Vigeant Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 5:51 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, River Road, Services Rendered

Monday, Feb. 26
 3:51 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Route 32, Unfounded
 4:41 p.m. Fraud/Deception, West Street, Investigated
 5:15 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Palmer Road, Report Made

Tuesday, Feb. 27
 2:53 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 9:05 a.m. Assault, Greenwich Road, Report Made

Warren Police Log

During the week of Feb. 11-17, the Warren Police Department responded to 163 building/property checks, 65 community policings, eight emergency 911 calls, one fraud/forgery, two complaints, two thefts/larcenies, one threat, five animal calls and 16 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Sunday, Feb. 11
 4:42 p.m. Larceny/Theft, Crescent Street, Report Filed

Monday, Feb. 12
 1:51 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
 Summons: Sage A. Horton, 24, Indian Orchard
 Uninsured Motor Vehicle; Name/Address Change, Failure Notify RMV of
 3:01 p.m. Falls, O'Neil Road, Transported to Hospital
 4:53 p.m. Complaint, South Street, Referred to Other Agency

Tuesday, Feb. 13
 6:26 p.m. Fraud/Forgery,

Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed
 11:38 p.m. Complaint, Main Street, Citation Issued

Wednesday, Feb. 14
 7:24 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle/Parking Issues, Comins Pond Road, Officer Advised
 4:20 p.m. Suspicious Person/Activity, Mill Street, Report Filed

Thursday, Feb. 15
 3:11 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Crescent Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 4:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Parkview Street, Written Warning
 5:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Friday, Feb. 16
 12:47 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Comins Pond Road, Transported to Hospital
 8:41 a.m. Larceny/Theft, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 4:25 p.m. Falls, South Street, Transported to Hospital

9:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Arrest(s) Made
 9:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Arrest(s) Made
 Arrest: Victor J. Delgado, 37, Indian Orchard
 Drug, Possess Class C
 9:45 p.m. Assault and Battery, Quabog Street, Public Assist
 10:34 p.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
 Summons: Andrew J. Fagerstrom, 21, Brimfield
 Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle; Inspection/Sticker, No

Saturday, Feb. 17
 1:23 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 7:28 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Pine Street, Transported to Hospital
 11:34 a.m. Threats, Old West Brookfield Road, Report Filed
 2:23 p.m. Unattended Death, Main Street, Report Filed

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Feb. 19-26, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 32 building/property checks, 36 directed/area patrols, eight traffic controls, five radar assignments, nine emergency 911 calls, three assist other agencies, seven citizen assists, one trespass, two motor vehicle investigations, one fire/other, one complaint and 11 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Tuesday, Feb. 20
 8:20 a.m. Medical Emergency, Lower Road, Transported to Hospital
 3:06 p.m. Trespass, Church Lane, Unfounded
 10:50 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, Feb. 21
 7:38 a.m. Assist Citizen, Police Department, Officer Handled
 10:22 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Main Street, Investigated
 1:02 p.m. 911 Unattended Death, Parker Court, Investigated

1:23 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Unknown Location, Spoken To
 8:17 p.m. Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

Thursday, Feb. 22
 7:50 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Bridge Street, Services Rendered
 8:28 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 11:50 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Unknown Location, Spoken To
 2:28 p.m. Assist Citizen, Greenwich Road, Officer Handled
 3:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Barre Road, Investigated
 5:27 p.m. Assist Citizen, Bridge Street, Officer Handled

Friday, Feb. 23
 9:21 a.m. Fire/Other, Greenwich Road, Services Rendered
 12:20 p.m. Assist Citizen, Parker Court, Spoken To
 3:16 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Bridge Street, Transported to Hospital
 3:44 p.m. 911 Medical

Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital
 5:27 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Barre Road, Transported to Hospital

Saturday, Feb. 24
 9:02 a.m. Assist Citizen, North Street, Services Rendered
 1:11 p.m. Assist Citizen, Lower Road, Officer Handled
 6:12 p.m. Parking Complaint, Main Street, Negative Contact
 11:16 p.m. 911 Assault, Patrill Hollow Road, Report Taken

Sunday, Feb. 25
 8:01 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Vehicle Towed
 1:43 p.m. Assist Citizen, Broad Street, Officer Handled

Monday, Feb. 26
 12:09 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Prospect Street, Transported to Hospital
 5:52 a.m. Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

MSB Ware team members transfer to Wilbraham Branch

MONSON – Monson Savings Bank has announced that Vicki Baldyga, former Ware Branch Manager, and Amber Messer, former Assistant Ware Branch Manager, have transferred to Monson Savings Bank's Wilbraham Branch to take the helm as the new management team of the 100 Post Office Park location.

"At Monson Savings Bank, we strive to offer our team members new opportunities. Whether it be a transfer to a new location, a role in a different department, or something else that better suits their professional goals, we're happy to support our team members throughout their journey with us," said Dan Moriarty, Monson Savings Bank President and CEO in a press release. "I am confident in Vicki and Amber's leadership based on the years of dedication and support they have provided our customers up to today. I know that they will help to make this a smooth transition and provide our customers with the same amazing service as the previous management of the Wilbraham Branch."

Baldyga is a resident of Bondsville. She has 25 years of experience in the banking industry, 17 of which have been in branch management.

Baldyga has been employed with Monson Savings Bank for five years.

Baldyga is always committed to expanding her knowledge and skillset. She is currently enrolled in the Massachusetts Bankers Association New England School for Financial Studies and holds several diplomas and certificates from the Center for Financial Training.

In her role as Wilbraham Branch Manager, Baldyga will be responsible for planning, organizing, and directing branch operations. She will foster an environment of teamwork and provide a high level of leadership to her team.

Baldyga will provide a high level of customer service with a positive, respectful, and courteous attitude.

Baldyga is very involved in the local community. When she is not at work, you can likely find her volunteering at Crossway Community Clothing Outreach,



Vicki Baldyga, former Ware Branch Manager at Monson Savings Bank has transferred to the Wilbraham Branch to take the helm of the new management team.



Amber Messer, former Assistant Ware Branch Manager at Monson Savings Bank has transferred to the Wilbraham Branch.

servicing on the Board of the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce, or donating blood to the Red Cross.

"I have always strived to help others grow and achieve their goals, both personally and professionally. I have a servant's heart and do my best to help others," said Baldyga. "Whether it is a new couple looking for their first home, a small business owner looking for the best products and services, a teen going off to college that needs financial literacy, or an elderly person that has just lost their spouse and needs help navigating their bank accounts - I truly love to help others and see them smile as they achieve their goals! I am so grateful for this opportunity to help people in the Wilbraham community reach their banking goals!"

To contact Baldyga for your banking needs, please call her at 413-267-1281 or email her at vbaldyga@monsonsavings.com.

Messer is a Monson resident. She began her banking career as a Customer Service Representative/Teller at Monson Savings Bank six and a half years ago.

Throughout her career she has proven to be an asset to the Bank and has achieved several promotions, ultimately attaining the position of Assistant Branch Manager.

In 2023, Messer was a nominee for Monson Savings Bank's President's Award. She was recognized by a peer for her commitment to customer and communi-

ty service, teamwork, and excellence.

She has also received several customer service excellence awards during her time with Monson Savings Bank for going above and beyond.

As the Assistant Wilbraham Branch Manager, Messer will be supporting Baldyga to manage the Branch. Additionally, Messer will assist customers with their banking transactions, drawing on her extensive knowledge of Bank products and services, while also promoting an atmosphere filled with positive staff morale by inspiring trust and respect.

"As I continue my career journey with Monson Savings Bank, I am looking forward to becoming an active member of the Wilbraham community and forming deeper relationships with our Wilbraham customers. I have enjoyed advancing my leadership skills and contributing to our overall team efforts. Through my patient and empathic personality, I can provide the highest level of customer service to help individuals achieve their financial goals. I like looking for opportunities to provide our customers with products and services that will make their banking easier," said Messer.

"I am excited to expand on my skillset and continue to do my part to lead the Bank to success."

To contact Messer for your banking needs, please call her at 413-267-1283 or email her at amesser@monsonsavings.com.

MLH PROPERTY from page 1

disclosure agreements. Baystate Health's Attorney Ryan Barry has been assigned to act as a liaison.

Westmass Area Development Corporation, which has been working with Baystate Health to find potential reuse or development of the property, has removed itself from the project for the duration of the demolition delay.

"It's supposed to be a symbiotic relationship," Hospital Review Committee Chair Howard Trietsch said of Westmass Development's involvement with a town.

Beckley said Baystate Health indicated that the phase two study had been completed, including the environmental assessment. He said the environmental assessment showed there was "nothing major on site," aside from underground storage tanks.

Representing Baystate Health at the joint meeting was Attorney Peter Barry, who was filling in on behalf of Attorney Ryan Barry. Barry said Baystate Health will provide a copy of the phase two study to the town.

Beckley said residents have expressed concern about the condition of the hospital, with many noting that windows have been left open, exposing the building to the elements. He said the windows of the hospital were opened to remove contaminants.

A crane was recently seen on the property to remove Verizon Wireless equipment from the top

of the building. The dirt on site is fill for future demolition.

Building Commissioner Anna Marques said Baystate Health answered all of the questions she had, but said she was unable to go inside the buildings due to the contaminants.

"No permits have been issued for demolition of the buildings," Marques said.

Janet Slemenda and Amy Dunlap of HKT Architects Inc. have been working with the town to find possible uses for the site and they spoke about the challenges the site faced.

Slemenda and Dunlap said Baystate Health has been doing minimal maintenance at this point and that without care, the buildings have started to deteriorate.

Both agreed that the hospital could continue to be used for health care purposes, but another reuse would be difficult. A new health care facility could, "adapt it to their use" and abate the asbestos, Dunlap said.

Dunlap said some of the buildings were in worse condition than others when she completed her walk through last year, but that some areas were still occupied and in use.

During a visioning session in the fall of last year, Dunlap and Slemenda determined that health care was the top need outlined by residents.

"We're open to helping the town in any way we can," Dunlap said.

Hospital Review Committee

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member Cathy Cascio said she wants to make sure that the two committees did everything within their power to try to bring health care to the region and preserve the buildings.

"We just want to make sure we did everything we could here, and should here," Cascio said.

Barry said Baystate Health wanted to get an idea of what the priorities were for the community, which is why they approached Westmass Development.

"They have a lot of expertise," he said. "Westmass has withdrawn until the delay is over...as of now, they are still interested in developing this project."

Historical Commission Chair Lynn Lak said communication with Baystate Health has been challenging, and filtered through attorneys.

"So far, my feeling is that the cooperation has been all on our side," Lak said. "I thought there was going to be give and take."

Residents attending the meeting said that health care is a major issue in the region.

"The state reps. need to get involved," one resident said. "We don't want to lose sight."

Hardwick resident Stephen Granlund said that Baystate Health operates "pretty much in darkness."

"We need to understand that no matter what we do, they're going to resist," he said.

Granlund said his numerous attempts to contact Gov. Maura Healey have gone unanswered.

Beckley said local representatives are "well aware" of the situation involving Baystate Mary Lane Hospital, and that a meeting between them, Director of Rural Affairs Anne Gobi and Baystate Health, will be attended by himself and Hospital Review Committee member Nancy Talbot.

Trietsch said Baystate Health has committed to providing an integrated model of rural health care to the region, but will not commit to brick and mortar.

"I'm going to keep fighting for health care access," Trietsch said.

News from the Quabbin Regional School District

From the desk of Colleen Mucha, Superintendent of QRSD

100 days of learning

Students across the Quabbin Regional School District recently celebrated 100 days of learning, which means 100 days of building skills, 100 days of making friends, 100 days of doing hard things and 100 days of coming together as a community.

This milestone is typically celebrated in our elementary schools with students engaging in learning activities that help them develop a deeper understanding of the "value" of 100. It can be working with 100 objects or even dressing as if you were 100 years old.

This year our students and staff brought their best "100" game forward as evidenced in the photos.

For our older students, this marks the mid-way point in the year. They are thinking about their academic success and/or struggle. They wonder about what is the right path for them? What might they want to do upon graduation?

Many fear making the wrong choice or a choice that may not fit with what might be expected of them. When they see this article, they may yearn for the days of discovering the "value" of 100.

Many may even embrace dressing like they were 100!

It is normal for many high school students, especially underclassmen, to not know what career they are interested in beyond high school and which path is right for them. Students benefit from participating in internships, employment and other opportunities.

This allows them to learn about themselves – do they enjoy working as part of a team, do they prefer to interact with others in a social way, or do they like hands-on work?

Students can get these experiences here at Quabbin and they can participate in internships both within the school setting and outside in our community. We held a career fair on Feb. 28. Our students had the opportunity to learn about a variety of careers and talk to employers about possible opportunities for jobs and internships.

This time of year is important for our rising grade nine-12



These Quabbin elementary students dressed like they were 100 years old.

Submitted Photos

students as they begin to choose courses for next year. The majority of students report that their family members have the greatest influence on their post graduation plans.

I encourage you to take a moment to pause and reflect with your child, grandchild, neighbor, etc. - no matter what age they are. Acknowledge what you notice that is a strength and unique to them. Recognizing their ability to make others feel at ease or that they are artistic can help them to gain a sense of confidence and allow them to see their own strengths more clearly.

Ask them which classes they enjoy most and why? Finding little moments over the years to talk about their interests and their strengths will go a long way in helping students as they consider careers beyond high school.

Review the course offerings and talk about what might be a good fit. Sometimes, choosing something unexpected can open a world of possibilities.

One hundred days marks a different moment for our Class of 2024. They are only 72 days away from graduation. Some may feel like they are ready to take on the world and others may feel like they need a little more time.

What is true, is that there is tre-



Staff at the Quabbin District elementary schools made themselves look 100 years old.

mendous excitement amongst our Seniors. Some have been speaking with employers, recruitment officers and post secondary institutions.

Our students plan to enter the workforce, join the military and/or pursue college and educational experiences. At this point in the year, our seniors have been accept-

ed into 77 colleges and universities and these notifications keep coming.

Join me in celebrating the growth of all of our students in the Quabbin Regional School District. We can't wait to see what you accomplish in the second half of the year. #BeQuabbin.

MITIGATION from page 1

we look for when we're writing our Hazard Mitigation Plan, is sort of what is the town's capacity to mitigate risk, and if you're too hot or too cold, that is a risk, especially to vulnerable populations," she said. Vulnerable populations include elderly and disabled residents.

Caplan said input from the community is essential to developing the plan, which would need to be approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and adopted by the town. The approved plan is good for five years, and makes the town eligible for pre-disaster mitigation funding.

"So that's the big motivation for people writing these plans, or town's having these plans, is that without them, you're not eligible for a significant amount of grant funding," she said.

The process to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan started this past September, with the first public meeting held in December. A public review of the draft plan will be held in March and the plan will

be submitted to the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency in April.

Caplan said the town's last Hazard Mitigation Plan was written in 2019 and her firm has worked to update any changes that have happened in the town. She said they also look at the state's plan and the town's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan.

A Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee was formed, comprised of 15 residents and town employees, who have provided outreach and support to engage stakeholders. The committee also prioritizes the list of Hazard Mitigation actions and will review the draft plan before its available to the public to review.

Caplan explained risk assessment, which is determined by looking at a list of hazards that could impact the town, and the community.

A list of natural hazards that pose a risk include extreme temperatures, drought, earthquakes, flooding, hurricanes and tropical storms, invasive species, land-

slides, severe weather, severe winter storms, tornadoes, wildfires and brushfires. Climate change can also impact natural hazards, Caplan said.

Residents brought emphasis to the impact some of these hazards have on public health, pollinators and groundwater contamination.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan details each hazard including a description, location, previous occurrences, extent, probability of future events and vulnerability assessment. Critical facilities to protect include the town hall, fire station, highway department, schools, water facilities, wastewater facilities, libraries and fire hydrants.

Caplan said the town can list any facility to its list of critical facilities.

Caplan said there are 23 single-family homes, one industrial building and one municipal building at risk of flood exposure, with a total value estimated at \$3,608,900. Wildfires can also pose a risk to people, buildings and roads.

The greatest hazard risks the

town could face aside from flooding and wildfires include average or extreme temperatures, hurricanes and tropical storms and other severe weather. With a "medium" risk ranking are severe winter storms, tornadoes, invasive species and droughts.

"We look at what contributes to risk, and we want to consider changes in population," she said, which is impacted by the growing elderly population and the increased number of people living below the property line. Changes in land use also contribute to risk.

Mitigation actions are also included in the plan, including protecting open space and the surrounding water supply areas, reducing erosion behind beaver dams and tracking beaver activity, designating a town-owned facility as a heating and cooling center, developing a culvert replace-

Linda G. Baker, 75

WARREN – Linda G. (Dansereau) Baker of Warren, died on Sunday, Feb. 18, 2024, at UMass Memorial Health – Harrington, in Southbridge, with her daughters at her side, at the age of 75.

She was very loved and will be missed terribly.

She leaves her daughters, Paula B. Olender of Roslindale, Corey and her husband David Lathbury of Waltham; her sisters, Paulette Wojtowicz and her husband Peter of Palmer, and Joyce Dansereau of Ware; her brother, Robert "Bobby" Dansereau and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, Ronald Baker in 2010.

She was born in Ware, daughter of the late Paul and Irene (LaBrecque) Dansereau.

Linda worked as a direct care aide in resident care homes for the developmentally disabled. She truly enjoyed her job and considered the home to be her second family. She was kind and caring to those that she helped.

In her spare time, she enjoyed road trips and antiquing with Ronnie, searching for treasures while seeing the country from back roads. She also loved the Red Sox and her trips to Boston and Fort Myers to watch them play.

A graveside service for Linda will be held in Pine Grove Cemetery in Warren in the spring. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Breast Cancer Research at the Dana-Farber Cancer Center at dana-farber.org

Varnum Funeral Home, Inc., 43 East Main St., in West Brookfield is assisting her family with arrangements. An online guest book is available at varnumfuneral-home.com.

Death notice

Baker, Linda G. (Dansereau)
Died Feb. 18, 2024

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

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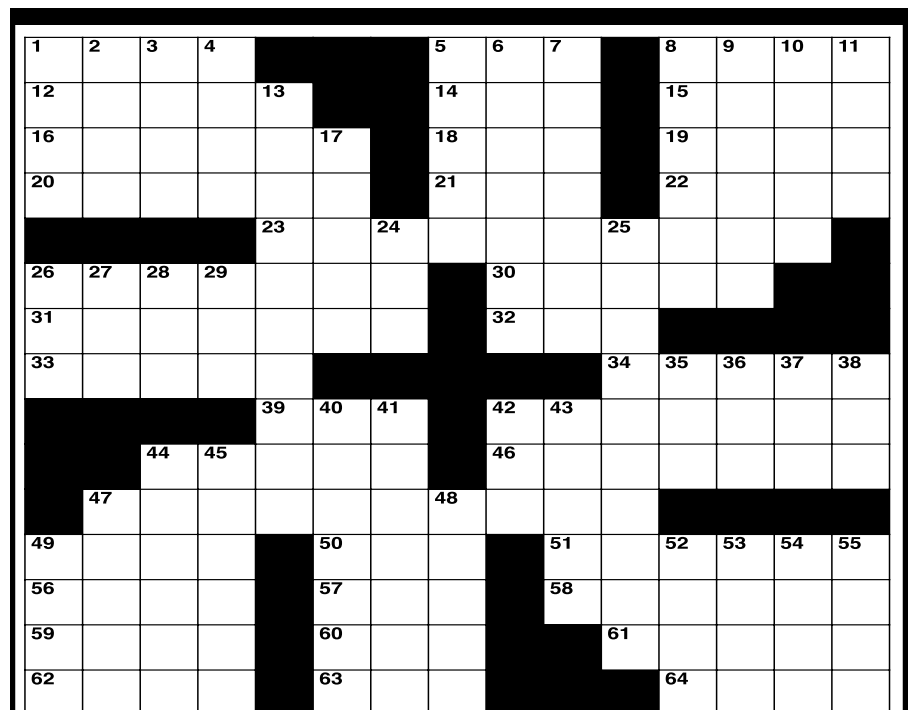
HAMILTON from page 11

and holds an A-Grade Certificate in Genealogical Research from Boston University.

He is a lifetime member of the New Braintree Historical Society, the Quabog Historical Society, served on the West Brookfield Historical Commission where he produced the Lucy Stone Bicentennial Celebration in 2018, and most recently, produced the Brookfield Historical

Commission's event; "A Robert Wilder Memorial Presentation: Honoring Brookfield's First Inhabitants."

He is also a member of the Massachusetts Archeological Society, the Archaeological Society of Virginia, the Planetary Society, and the Mayflower Society. He builds and maintains websites, creates video documentaries on YouTube, and occasionally appears as a speaker.



CLUES ACROSS

- Home of Iowa State University
- fi (slang)
- Mottled green and yellow fruit
- Capable of thinking and expressing oneself clearly
- Sports broadcaster Eagle
- Midday
- Kinsmen
- Cable network
- Simpleton
- Brunch beverage
- Fed
- European capital
- Native inhabitants
- Mechanical device
- Rare geese native to Hawaii
- Bedroom furnishing
- The products of human creativity
- Mass transit option
- Made a mistake
- Sacred sound symbol
- Large N. American reindeer
- Dull and flat
- Partner to huffing
- Written works
- Monetary unit of Serbia
- Midway between east and southeast
- Peninsula of southwestern Asia
- Widely used multiuser OS
- Aggressive dog
- Varnished
- Hindu queen
- Time units, abbr.
- Farm animals
- Capital of Latvia
- Where golfers begin
- Takes to civil court

CLUES DOWN

- One who graduated
- An inspired holy person
- Electronic counter-countermeasures
- A place to store things
- Indian instrument
- Spanish saloon
- Whole number
- Not fastened
- Gives a boost
- Lounges about
- Interested in
- Remove salt
- Type of sword
- Naturally occurring solid material
- Gets involved without being invited
- Feline
- Bobby ___, NHL champ
- "Kill Bill" actress Thurman
- Hawaiian dish
- Moroccan coastal region
- Baseball statistic
- Long period of time
- Moved earth
- Central Netherlands city
- Take stock of
- Central processing unit
- Distinctive qualities one generates
- Getting stuck
- Loss of bodily movements
- Abrupt
- What cats do
- Expresses pleasure
- Type of cheese
- Professional STEM organization
- Automatic data processing systems

BUDGET from page 1

ant to note the school district's efforts to be efficient including partnering with the towns for a Green Communities grants which helped fund and HVAC upgrade at Warren Community Elementary School and a lighting upgrade at West Brookfield Elementary School.

Energy and lighting upgrades through National Grid were also completed at Quabog Regional Middle High School and at each elementary school.

Since these upgrades have been completed, Duff said the school district has seen a decrease in daily heating oil usage. He said the school district will continue to track the gallons used per day to make adjustments to the fiscal year 2026 heating oil line item.

"The total project efficiencies were \$1.5 million that the district took on in one year," Duff said. "We're going from 140,000 to 40,000 kilowatts per hour...

[in five years] we're going to see some very significant savings for the towns, both in fuel and electricity"

The total projected cost to local assessments for these efficiency projects is \$56,000 (or \$942 per month) over five years.

Duff said the school district has received a number of competitive grants thanks to the efforts Assistant Superintendent of Development Madeline Smola and Facilities Director Marc Astrella. Total grants received equaled \$1,963,555.

Grants received include Growing Literacy Equity Across Massachusetts, Innovation Pathways, Social Emotional Learning, High Quality Instructional Materials, 21st Century, After School and Out of School Time, Acceleration Academy, Student Opportunity Act and Ignite!

"If you take that and combine it with what we've done in energy efficiencies, you're looking at roughly \$3.4 million in grants

and energy efficiencies, which ultimately help impact the local assessment," he said. Duff said the school district is looking at this as a long term solution because it's a six year project.

Duff said the total operating assessment increased by \$103,051, with \$21,644 to Warren and \$81,386 to West Brookfield.

For Warren, the transportation assessment is expected to decrease by \$118,603 and for West Brookfield by \$90,170.

Contributing factors to budget changes for FY 25 include salary increases (an increase of \$357,857 or 3%), Medicaid (\$5,188 or 2.8%), transportation (\$29,191 or 2%), special education tuition (\$117,738 or 7.5%), insurance (\$171,899 or 6.4%), special education transportation (\$8,851 or -1.1%), fuel (\$54,525 or -15%) and electricity (\$83,530 or -26%).

"There's pros and cons," Duff said of these factors.

The School Committee will vote on the proposed budget on March 18.

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

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Legislation helps access medically necessary formulas

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Representatives James P. McGovern (D-MA), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee and co-chair of the Cystic Fibrosis Caucus, and John Rutherford (R-FL), co-chair of the Crohn's and Colitis caucus, led their colleagues in introducing legislation to remove barriers to access for all Americans who require medically necessary foods to lead healthy lives.

The Medical Nutrition Equity Act would require coverage of specialized formulas, vitamins, individual amino acids, or other medically necessary foods under Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, Medicare, the Federal Employee Health Benefit Program, and private insurance for patients with spe-

cific gastrointestinal and inherited metabolic diseases and disorders.

It is narrowly drafted to focus on individuals for whom medically necessary nutrition is the treatment for their diseases.

"I've heard devastating stories from constituents struggling to access medically necessary foods to keep themselves or their child healthy," said McGovern in a press release. "As a dad and husband, I can't imagine not being able to access the food your child or your partner depends on to live. To me this is simple: no one should struggle getting medically necessary food, and insurance companies shouldn't be creating more barriers to receiving proper care. Our bill cuts through the red tape and ensures those with

inherited metabolic diseases or gastrointestinal conditions can access the nutrition they need."

"Our health systems must be structured to support innovative treatments," said Rutherford. "As co-chair of the Crohn's and Colitis Caucus, where I advocate for those living with digestive diseases, I am excited to join Rep. McGovern to introduce this important legislation that would make medically necessary nutrition more easily accessible to patients across our nation."

Approximately 2,000 infants every year are diagnosed with an inherited metabolic disorder. When left untreated, inherited metabolic diseases or gastrointestinal conditions can cause the body to fail to absorb necessary nutrients and food can even

become toxic.

An inability to access specialty formulas forces patients to go without adequate nutrition or seek hospitalization to maintain nutrition levels. Already, 40 states require coverage of medically necessary nutrition, but coverage is highly variable from state-to-state and does not apply to patients covered by private sector health plans governed by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act.

This bill builds on the precedent of the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act which improved coverage for medical nutrition for military families enrolled in TRICARE, so more Americans can access medically necessary nutrition.

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HILLTOWNS – MONDAY AT NOON

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13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
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Senior Resource Fair returns on March 23

WARE – The 2nd annual Senior Resource Fair will be held on Saturday, March 23 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road.

This free event will include a number of vendors, organizations, service providers and more. A light lunch will be served.

Participants include home modifications specialist, realtors, Ware Senior Center staff, home modification loan program, senior placement, in-home care services, movers, estate appraisers, legal and financial planning, senior living options, Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation Senior Outreach Program, senior health services, hospice and palliative care, funeral services, supplemental benefits, junk removal, housing authority, Social Security Disability Insurance support, community development authorities and many more.

Free rides to the fair will be provided by the Quaboag Connector. Pickup times and locations to attend the event will be as follows: 10 a.m., Highland Village Office; 10:15 a.m., Hillside Apartments Office; 10:20 a.m. Church Street Senior Housing Office; 10:25 a.m. Valley View Office; and 10:45 a.m. Winthrop Terrace, outside mail room (Warren seniors should call 413-544-3401 to confirm a ride).

Return ride times are as follows: 12:15 p.m. to Winthrop Terrace in Warren; and 12:45 p.m. to all Ware locations. Please wait for rides outside the Senior Center front door.

For more information about the Senior Resource Fair, contact Danielle Souza by calling 413-949-0422 or emailing danielle.souza@fairwaymc.com.

Fundraising for Kids in the Congo to be held March 2

PALMER – A pasta and meat-ball dinner to benefit the Kids in the Congo nonprofit organization will be held at St. Paul's Church of Palmer, 1060 Central St. on Saturday, March 2 at 5:30 p.m.

Kids in the Congo is a local group that works in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to build and furnish classrooms for Congolese children. It is also engaged in farm animal and well building projects.

The dinner will be hosted by St. Paul's Church of Palmer.

Kids in the Congo (www.KidsInTheCongo.org) is based in Fiskdale and provides educational support to children in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In addition, they have provided school sponsorships, uniforms, backpacks and school supplies.

They also raise money to build classrooms, purchase school furnishings and establish libraries. Another current project is the

“Farm Animal Project.” A future project will entail drinking well creation for two nearby villages.

Lynne Brouillette of Fiskdale, the organization's president, has taken various trips to the Congo. Board members and other volunteers are located in western and central Massachusetts.

Kids in the Congo is partnered with the Augustinians of the Assumption (Assumptionists), a religious order with priests and brothers working in parishes throughout Congo.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo with a population of 112 million people is one of the poorest and most dangerous countries in the world.

In a report by the Global Conflict tracker “the DRC is home to nearly 7 million people who have been internally displaced due to the threat of violence and atrocities, extreme poverty, and mining

expansion. The displaced population urgently needs security support, medical aid, and other humanitarian aid.” Since 1996, conflict in eastern DRC has led to approximately six million deaths.

Fr. Salvator Musande, who is one of the cofounders of Kids in the Congo said “the education of Congo's young people is the key to lifting Congo out of poverty. Education opens doors for the student, his/her family, their village and eventually the broader community. It brings hope where otherwise, there is only a bleak existence.”

According to Rev. Steven Sousa, minister of the dinner's host St. Paul's Church said, “The overarching purpose of the dinner is to benefit an important local non-profit organization that is helping children in one of the most impoverished and dangerous areas of the world. We can make a small yet

significant impact in people's lives, who may live a continent away, yet are an intimate part of our human family.”

Tickets for the Kids in the Congo dinner are only available in advance by calling 413-283-8185, or online at www.StPaulsPalmer.org “Events” page. Ticket prices are \$15 per person, \$25 per family and children are free.

The dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres served before the meal. A presentation by Lynn Brouillette of the Kids in the Congo, will follow the meal.

About St. Paul's Church of Palmer:

Since 1937, St. Paul's has faithfully served the greater Palmer community through various outreach and spiritual avenues. At its heart is the message of grace, acceptance, and love.



Mobile Blood Donation Team lists upcoming drives

PALMER – The Baystate Health Blood Donation team will host blood drives at Baystate Wing Hospital from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Blood Drives will be held every other month on Wednesday throughout the year at Baystate Wing on April 10, June 5, Aug. 7, Oct. 9 and Dec. 11.

“There continues to be an urgent need for blood, when you donate blood to Baystate Health, your precious gift remains in our local communities,” said Nicole VanZandt, MLT III, Supervisor, BRL Blood Donor Services, in a press release. “Please help us to ensure a safe and adequate blood supply is available by donating blood with the Baystate Health Blood Donor Program. There is no substitute for human blood.”

Blood donations take approximately one hour to complete,

including the interview, donation, and refreshments. To donate blood, you must be at least 17 years old; weigh at least 110 pounds have a photo ID; be in good health (no colds, or sore throat); and have not donated blood within the past eight weeks.

Blood drives will be held at Baystate Wing Hospital, 40 Wright St., in Snow Conference Room C. In appreciation, all eligible donors will receive a \$10 gift card.

For more information or to book an appointment to donate blood please call the Blood Donor Center at 413-794-4600. Please be sure to note the Baystate Health hospital location where you would like to make your donation when you make your appointment.

Fine art sought for 'Celebrating the Figure' at ArtWorks Gallery

WARE – ArtWorks Gallery invites artists from throughout the northeastern U.S. to celebrate the human figure in the upcoming 3rd Annual Celebrating the Figure exhibition.

As in previous years, this show focuses on the realistic interpretation of the human figure and is open to all forms of applied mediums, sculpture, and printmaking. Photography and electronic media are not accepted mediums for this exhibition.

The deadline for entry is Thursday, March 7, by midnight. The entry form and full details can be found on workshop13.org.

ArtWorks Gallery is located at 69 Main St. The 3rd Annual Celebrating the Figure exhibition will be on display from April 6-28, opening with a reception on Saturday, April 6, from 3-5 p.m.

Gallery hours are Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m. Currently on display is All Things Animal, which is on display from March 2-30 and opens with a reception on Saturday, March 2, from 3-5 p.m.

The juror for the 3rd Annual Celebrating the Figure exhibition is Jeff Stauder. Stauder was born in Cambridge and raised in eastern Connecticut.

He received a bachelor's degree in art from the University of California at Santa Cruz and a

master's degree from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, where he won the 1996 Dana Pond Painting Award.

Following graduate school Stauder moved to New York City where among other things, he created the Artists Theoretical Racing Circuit, a collaborative conceptual art project. He moved to western Massachusetts in 2008, where he finally indulged his true nature by reveling in imagistic historicism.

That work has been exhibited widely in New England, including a solo exhibition at the University of Massachusetts. In 2022 he was awarded a Massachusetts Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Grant in Painting.

About ArtWorks Gallery and Workshop13

ArtWorks Gallery is Workshop13's gallery on Main Street. This space features numerous art exhibitions each year and is also available to rent for individual or group shows.

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

Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary seeks scholarship applicants

PALMER – The Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary is making scholarship applications available for the 2023-24 academic year.

The Auxiliary will award scholarships of \$1,000 to seniors graduating from Belchertown, Ludlow, Monson, Palmer, Pathfinder, Minnechaug, and Ware High Schools who are pursuing higher education in a healthcare field. The students will be chosen based on their academic excellence, volunteer efforts and related community service, work experience, and dedication to their goals.

Applications and instructions for completing the application forms are available in each school's guidance department and must be completed and submitted by April 12. The Auxiliary Scholarship Committee will select student recipients and recommend them to the Auxiliary board for final approval.

Throughout the years, a wide variety of healthcare fields have been represented by area students who have received these scholarships, including premedical, den-

tal hygiene, health system management, nursing, pharmacy, and radiology.

“Growing careers in healthcare is now more important than ever,” said Evelyn Glabicky, president of the Baystate Wing Auxiliary in a press release. “We are so proud when we hear from our former scholarship recipients who are now providing healthcare throughout the region and Massachusetts.”

For over 65 years, the Auxiliary has been actively supporting Baystate Wing Hospital through its sponsorship of special events and management of the gift shop. This diverse group of women and men includes teachers, nurses, and business owners, both young and retirees, who live in many different communities and are united by a shared commitment to support the mission of the hospital.

“We are thankful to the Auxiliary members for their continued commitment and support to our hospital and the many communities we serve,” said Teresa Grove, philanthropy officer for Baystate Health's Eastern Region.

public notices

LEGAL NOTICE

The Ware Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **March 13, 2024 at 6:30pm** pursuant to the Wetlands Act, M.G.L. 131 c40. The hearing will include consideration of a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) by Tim Czech, for construction of a New Replacement Retaining Wall and Tree Removal at his home address at 35 Beaver Road. Said hearing will be held in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082. To view application and related plans, contact the Conservation office at 413-967-9648.

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 4, Section 13, a copy of this legal notice can be found on the Massachusetts Newspaper Publisher Association's MNPA website; <http://masspublicnotices.org>. 02/29, 03/07/24

Notice of Public Hearing Planning Board LEGAL NOTICE SPR-2024-01

NOTICE is hereby given that the Ware Planning Board, acting as the Site Plan Permit Granting Authority, will hold a Public Hearing on **THURSDAY, March 7th, 2023 at 7:15 PM** on the application of Michael D. Parker, Esq., for James M. Malandrinos, for a Major Site Plan Review for Permit for the construction of a truck washing facility under section 4.1.1, of the Zoning Bylaw, and pur-

suant to MGL Chapter 40A. Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this hearing will be conducted in person and via remote means, in accordance with applicable law. This means that members of the Planning Board as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means. In person attendance will be held in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, 126 Main Street, Town Hall, Ware, MA. It is possible that any or all members of the public body may attend remotely, with in-person attendance consisting of members of public. The meeting may be accessed remotely via zoom. Go to <https://zoom.us/join> or join by phone. Phone Number: 929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 784 604 1861; Password: 01082.

SITE LOCATION: 60 East Street (rear), Ware MA. Said premises being further described in deeds recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 5525, Page 221, and Book 5525, Page 223, and Book 11055, Page 41, and Book 11140, Page 324. Property is also identified as Assessor's Parcel # 61-0-178. Zoned: Industrial (I).

A complete copy of the application can be found at the Town Clerk's office and on the Planning & Community Development Department website under Recent Filings. Anyone interested or wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.

WARE PLANNING

BOARD Ed Murphy, Chairman 02/22/24, 02/29/24

LEGAL NOTICE

The Ware Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 6:30PM** pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. 131 c40. The hearing will include consideration of a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) by Joseph E. Metcalfe, for construction of a barn at 198 Fisherdick Road. Said hearing will be held in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Hall, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082. To view application and related plans, contact the Conservation office at 413.967.9648.

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 4, Section 13, a copy of this legal notice can be found on the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association's (MNPA) website: <http://masspublicnotices.org> 02/29, 03/07/24

WARE CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the authority of MA General Laws and Local Wetland Bylaws the Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at its regularly scheduled meeting at 6:30pm at the Town Hall Meeting Room.** The purpose of the hearing is to review a Request for Determination for

the removal of dead and dangerous trees in the buffer zone, located at **22, 24 and 26 Beach Rd and 7 Horseshoe Circle, Ware, MA**, submitted by Stephen Muniec, Administrator and Applicant in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act and the local Wetlands Protection Bylaw. Any person interested in this matter should appear at the time and place posted by the commission schedule. 02/29/24

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HS24P0107EA Estate of: Tadeusz J. Ciezadlo Date of Death: October 20, 2023 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Sophia Glogowski of Ware, MA.** **Sophia Glogowski of Ware, 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 regard-

ing 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. 02/29/2024

Notice of Public Hearing Planning Board LEGAL NOTICE SP-2024-05

NOTICE is hereby given that the Ware Planning Board, acting as the Special Permit Granting Authority, will hold a Public Hearing on **THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2023 at 7:05 PM** on the application of Greenwich Road Realty, LLC, for a Special Permit for annual renewal (SP-2024-05) of an

approved earth removal operation under Section 4.8.5, of the Zoning Bylaw, and pursuant to MGL Chapter 40A. Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this hearing will be conducted in person and via remote means, in accordance with applicable law. This means that members of the Planning Board as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means. In person attendance will be held in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, 126 Main Street, Town Hall, Ware, MA. It is possible that any or all members of the public body may attend remotely, with in-person attendance consisting of members of public. The meeting may be accessed remotely via zoom. Go to <https://zoom.us/join> or join by phone. Phone Number: 929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 784 604 1861; Password: 01082.

SITE LOCATION: Greenwich Road, Ware, MA. Said premises being further described in deeds recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 14542, Page 232.

Property is also identified as Assessor's Parcel # 35-12-1. Zoned: Rural Residential (RR).

A complete copy of the application can be found at the Town Clerk's office and on the Planning & Community Development Department website under Recent Filings. Anyone interested or wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.

WARE PLANNING BOARD
Ed Murphy, Chairman
02/29/24, 03/07/24

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampshire Division Docket No. HS24P0080EA Estate of:

Ralph R. Young, Jr.
Date of Death: January 6, 2024
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Patricia A. Young of Ware, MA.**

Patricia A. Young of

Ware, 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. 02/29/24

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