

WARE RIVER NEWS

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Community Reading Day

Students at Ware schools enjoy annual event

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARE – Students at Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School and Ware Middle School took part in an annual tradition that goes back decades when they welcomed guest readers for

Community Reading Day last Friday morning.

Director of Accountability for Ware Public Schools Jan Yardley, who is also the Title I director for the school district, said Community Reading Day is an opportunity for students to meet and learn from the people in their town and beyond.

“I love to have the kids meet people from all walks of life,” Yardley said.

This includes local and state officials, a tree warden, public safety per-

sonnel and law enforcement, a police K-9, athletes, radio and TV hosts, bankers, local authors, animal shelter volunteers, a college president and many more.

The readers can share a story, but they can also talk about their lives and careers, giving students a glimpse into someone else’s world.

“It’s a good thing for them to meet different people,” Yardley said.

Please see **READING**, page 8

Turley Photo by Derick Veliz
Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School Principal Pamela Iwasinski speaks with students as they prepare to escort community readers to their classrooms.

Planning Board reviews questions about Casella proposal

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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HARDWICK – The Planning Board received a proposal from the Select Board to change existing zoning bylaws received from Casella Waste Systems, Inc.

Casella is a waste management company based out of Rutland, Vermont and provides resource management and services to residential, commercial, municipal and industrial customers.

According to a proposal from Casella’s Vice President Brian Oliver, Casella is seeking to reopen and expand the solid waste landfill on Patrill Hollow Road. Oliver believes the reopening and expansion of the Hardwick landfill would provide significant benefits to the town.

In order to proceed with the proposed project by Casella, the company needs support from the residents in the form of town meeting votes.

During their Feb. 27 meeting, the Planning Board had some concerns and questions regarding this proposal from Casella, and wanted more information regarding the proposal and a better understanding of how to review it and enforce the general and zoning bylaws.

The Planning Board created a bullet point list of questions regarding the Casella proposal. These questions pertain to the timetable that was given after receipt of the proposal.

Questions were also in relation to general bylaws and zoning bylaws.

Other questions relate to the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, Section 5 and how it covers this procedure of reviewing a zoning change proposal. There is also a flow chart that seems out of date and board members questioned if there was a more up to date copy or a current flow chart

Please see **HARDWICK**, page 3



The Paige Memorial Library held its first meeting of the new Cookbook Club last Wednesday.

Paige library kicks off a Cookbook Club

By Emily-Rose Pappas
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HARDWICK – Everyone has a favorite food or a recipe that is a staple to their family and traditions, and it is through food that we can find community.

“Food is always a good way to get together with people,” Julie

Bullock, the director of the Paige Memorial Library, said. And so, the Cookbook Club was born.

Bullock held an interest meeting last week to open the club out to the community, and several people attended with a delicious meal to kick off the club.

There were cheese and crackers and a homemade beef and barley stew with a salad, bread, butter

and a sweet dessert.

The group will meet on the last Wednesday of the month at the library at 5:30 p.m., and each month will feature a new topic or theme for the recipes that will be tried out.

“I want this to be a good way for people to meet new people, to have a pleasant experience (which

Please see **COOKBOOK**, page 5

Town kicks-off ADA plan update

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARREN – The Board of Selectmen held the kickoff of the town’s Americans with Disabilities Act Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan update.

At the Feb. 29 meeting, Chair David Dufresne said it’s a “very important subject,” adding that the town has been working to address known issues.

Connor Robichaud from Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission said the town was able to secure a grant of \$32,890 to fund the plan through the Massachusetts Office of Disability. The grant deadline is June 30.

Joining Robichaud were Mike Kennedy and Jim Mazik.

Kennedy works at the Center for Living and Working in partnership with Mazik through

Please see **ADA PLAN**, page 6



Aidan Mahoney, right, was recognized for his role as the Ringmaster in Quabbin Regional Middle High School’s production of “Silenced on Barbour Street”.

Area students partake in Drama Festival

By Nick Boonstra
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Students from Quabbin Regional Middle High School and Eagle Hill School participated in the Massachusetts Educational Theatre Guild’s annual High School Drama Festival on March 2, putting on exceptional performances that demonstrated a remarkable ability and maturity from the youth participating.

For the Festival’s preliminary round on Saturday, Quabbin performed “Silenced on Barbour Street” at Leominster High School, while Eagle Hill took their production of “Horse Girls” to Westford Academy. Unfortunately, neither school moved on to the competition’s semi-final round, but a number of students from both schools were recognized for their efforts in shaping their respective productions.

The METG High School Drama Festival is an annual competitive one-act play festival, with preliminary, semi-final, and State Final rounds, the latter of which occurs over the course of three days in Boston. The history of Festival traces back almost 100 years to 1928, according to the METG website.

This year, a total of 94 schools participated at 13 different host schools in the preliminary round. Most sites had seven performances on the day, three of which moved on to the semi-final round, while three schools had eight shows performed and four moving on. Ultimately, 14 schools will participate in the State Finals at the end of this month.

Eagle Hill’s show “Horse Girls”, directed by Will Gelinas, told the story of seven equine-ob-

Please see **FESTIVAL**, page 7

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COMMUNITY

Stone Church hosts piano concert

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SCHOOLS

African drummers visit Quaboag

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SPORTS

Ware wins preliminary round

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SUNDAY, MARCH 10

Ware River News
**OBITUARY
POLICY**

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$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.

Diana Fanning works 'Piano Magic'

Acclaimed pianist shares her gifts at Stone Church



Pianist Diana Fanning

HARDWICK – Friends of the Stone Church invites the public to hear gifted pianist Diana Fanning presenting an inspiring program of Romantic music by Maurice Ravel, Lili Boulanger, Frederic Chopin and Franz Schubert, at 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 9, at the Stone Church Cultural Center, 283 Main St., Gilbertville.

Tickets: \$25 at the door or through www.tickettailor.com/events/friends-of-stonechurch/943173. Youth under 18 and holders of the Mass Cultural Council "Card to Culture" will be admitted at no charge. A public reception will follow the concert.

Fanning has toured extensively as a solo performer and chamber musician throughout the U.S. and in England, France, Austria, Switzerland, Holland, the Czech Republic, Canada and Germany. In recent years she has performed at the "Sound of Music" castle in Salzburg, and in Prague at the invitation of the International Dvorak Society.

After a solo recital in Munich, a critic wrote "Diana Fanning stunned her listeners with the rich spectrum of subtle colors and tonal nuances she revealed. Her recital seized the audience with a veritable deep magic."

Fanning's principal teacher was Ruth Geiger of New York City. She also studied with Marcelle Heuclin at the Paris Conservatory. Now an Affiliate Artist at Middlebury College in Vermont, Fanning has performed on numerous occasions as a concerto soloist with the Vermont Symphony Orchestra.

She was featured as soloist in a performance of Beethoven's "Piano Concerto No. 3" in the debut concert of the Champlain Philharmonic Orchestra and was invited back for performances of Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue". She appears regularly on Vermont public radio, has been a featured soloist on Vermont Public Television, and has appeared live on public radio in Boston and New York.

As a chamber musician, Fanning has performed with the Takacs, the Schumann, the Jupiter and the Alexander String Quartets, and with ensembles from Point Counterpoint Music Camp, which she owned and directed for 10 years with her husband Emory Fanning. As a member of the Davydov-Fanning Duo with the outstanding cellist Dieuweke Davydov, she has performed widely in the U.S., and completed eight concert tours of Europe.

Her recordings with Davydov and as a piano soloist have received enthusiastic reviews.

Although an international performer, Fanning is no stranger to Hardwick and Gilbertville. Her husband Emory Fanning appeared at the Stone Church in Don Boothman's "FOGO" (Friends of the Gilbertville Organ) series in 2004 and in 2011, its last year, to celebrate the inspiration of Gwen and David Huntress in promoting beautiful music in this venue. Barbara Boothman Grofic and Laura Boothman Stamm, Boothman's daughters, are sponsoring this special appearance.

Fanning's concert is also sponsored by a grant from Boston Financial Management.

Additional funding for our series comes from the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency; and by grants from the Local Cultural Councils of Barre, Oakham and Petersham, which receive support from the Mass Cultural Council.

About FOCS

Friends of the Stone Church, Inc. is a public charitable corporation and community group organized in 2015 and open to all. Its mission is to preserve and protect the Gilbertville Stone Church Cultural Center and to make it available as a place of community enrichment.

The Friends are currently in Phase 4 of stabilizing the stone tower, with funding, in part, from the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund, a program of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, administered through a collaborative agreement between MassDevelopment and the Mass Cultural Council.

The Friends welcome donations toward the ongoing preservation project and programs at FriendsOfTheStoneChurch.org, or by mail to FOCS, P.O. Box 347, Gilbertville, MA 01031.

Are You Old News?



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

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



File Photo
Last week's photo from 1967 showed the graduating class from Mount Carmel school. Shown with Rev. Francois Dufresne were Craig Stevens, Marguerite Pageau, Diane Anair, Barbara Harper, Patricia Hevey, Janet McHugh, Theresa Bezio, Richard Kupiec, William Fountain, William Bradley, Bernard Novak, George Staiti, Richard Letendre, Arthur Lavallee, Richard Harper, John Ghidinelli, Francois Cote, Phillip Martowski and Richard Flamand.

Wine tasting event benefits Town Hall restoration

WARE – Friends of Ware Town Hall is excited to announce they will be hosting a wine tasting fundraiser at It's Wine O'clock, located at 164 D West St. on Saturday, March 16 from 1-4 p.m.

"We are so excited about this free event, our first wine tasting last year was so much fun for everyone we just had to do it again," said Pat Skutnik, Friends of Ware Town Hall president in a press release. "Melissa and Dave Stevens, owners of It's Wine O'clock are so knowledgeable and were so helpful.

With a focus on choosing wines to celebrate the coming of spring and with St. Patrick's Day and the Easter holiday in mind, Melissa's expertise in her field will assure a pleasant and learning experience for all attending."

Admission to the tasting is free, with light refreshments served and a nice selection of wines for tasting which will also be available for purchase. A percentage of wine sales during the event will be donated to Friends of Ware Town Hall.

Raffle tickets will be sold during the event with gift card prizes to It's Wine O'clock. Lotto Calendars will also be available for sale, with the drawing for the calendars beginning April 1 and continuing through the entire month of April.

"We invite everyone to join us on March 16. It's Wine O'clock is such a nice venue with a knowledgeable and helpful staff. Wine, food, good people; we can't think of a better combination for fun!" Skutnik said.

Friends of Ware Town Hall spring 2024 Lotto Calendars on sale

WARE – "Another fun fundraiser," is how Pat Skutnik, President of Friends of Ware Town Hall describes the group's current Lotto Calendar campaign.

"These Lotto Calendars are very popular," said Skutnik. "We've had a tremendous positive response to them in the past."

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

"Each person who buys a calendar has multiple chances to

win, since winners names are put back into the pool," Skutnik said. "These calendars are fun to buy for yourself and also to give. These always put a smile in someone's day - everyone likes a game of chance."

Calendars are being sold locally at the following locations: Changes Hair Salon, Crystal Springs Dairy Bar, DeSantis Garage, It's Wine O'clock, Moulton Insurance Agency, Nat Falk, Silhouettes, Subaguru, Sunny & Shears Beauty Salon,

Talk of the Town, Ware Library, Ware River Club, Ware Senior Center, Ware Town Hall (Town Manager's Office) and Wilton Children's Store.

Skutnik added, "anyone from out of town wishing to purchase a calendar may do so by mailing a check for \$10 for each calendar to: Friends of Ware Town Hall, P.O. Box 692, Ware, MA 01082. We will be happy to complete the calendar stub with your information and mail you the calendar. Good luck to all!"

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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 Ascentria 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 & THE TOWN OF WARE

QUABOAG VALLEY

Food Policy Council

VISION
"THE QUABOAG VALLEY FOOD POLICY COUNCIL WILL MAKE NUTRITIOUS LOCAL FOOD EASILY ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS"

MISSION
THE QUABOAG VALLEY FOOD POLICY COUNCIL MISSION IS TO CONNECT LOCAL RESOURCES, PROVIDE EDUCATION SURROUNDING NUTRITIOUS FOOD, PROMOTE AND ADVOCATE FOR LOCAL FOOD AVAILABILITY, INCREASE COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC AWARENESS, AND IMPROVE THE LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM FOR ALL"

Serving the towns of: Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Holland, Monson, North Brookfield, Palmer, Wales, Ware, Warren, and West Brookfield

Anyone is welcome to join the Council! You don't have to have prior experience or knowledge of the local food system and food policy to be involved.

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

Social Science Club accepting scholarship applications

WARE – Each year the Social Science Club of Ware/Young Men's Library Association offers scholarships to one or more graduating seniors who are residents of the Town of Ware, attend any area high school and meet the following criteria:

The student must be in good standing throughout their high school career.

The student must be involved in school and community activities.

The student must be furthering their education at an institution of higher education in the fall of their graduating year.

The application procedure is as follows: Student must submit a properly typed, formatted, one-page letter, indicating how they have fulfilled the scholarship criteria. If applicable, please mention in the letter any employment held by the student and any special financial circumstances (i.e. sibling(s) in college, family illness or hardships, etc.).

Please also submit a high school transcript showing overall grade-point average, a Student Activity sheet, letter of acceptance from the college or university where the student has been accepted and one letter of recommendation from a teacher or advisor.

Applications are due May 1, either by dropping them off at the Young Men's Library, or by mail to "The Scholarship Committee-Social Science Club of Ware," 37 Main St., Ware, MA 01082.

The scholarship awards will be made at graduation, and the monetary award will be given after successful completion of the first semester. A transcript of the recipients' grades must be submitted to the Library in order for them to receive the award.

Workshop13 welcomes poet Oliver de la Paz

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – Workshop13 welcomed poet and educator Oliver de la Paz to the stage for the monthly poetry open mic, The Word.

The poetry open mic is held every first Friday of the month and has a featured poet for the evening.

de la Paz is the Poet Laureate of Worcester for 2023-2025, and he is the author and editor of seven books and finalist for the Massachusetts Book Award in Poetry.

His books include "Names Above Houses", "Furious Lullaby", "Requiem for the Orchard", "Post Subject: A Fable" and "The Boy in the Labyrinth".

The poetry open mic started with host, Adam Grabowski, author of the chapbook "Go On Bewilderment", who is a poet himself.

The open mic operates in a round robin format. Every reader performs several times, but alternates in every round with other readers who signed up for poetry open mic.

Grabowski started off with a reading of his own and then the stage was set for other local poets. After a couple rounds of poets sharing their stories, a brief intermission took place where writers got to collaborate and share their work and stories.

After the intermission was complete, Grabowski introduced de la Paz as the featured poet.

de la Paz did a reading of some of his poems from his newest work, "The Diaspora Sonnets", published by Liveright Press in 2023.

de la Paz is also an educator and teaches at the College of the Holy Cross and in the Low-Residency MFA Program at Pacific Lutheran University.

At the start of his presentation, de la Paz enjoyed hearing the poets during the open mic and how well Workshop13 highlights the work of poets.

"It is a treat to see Workshop13," de la Paz said. "I'm blown away by the work you have done."

"The Diaspora Sonnets" highlight several stories of de la Paz's family and early life moving from the Philippines to the U.S. In some of those stories, de la Paz talked about his mother who was working as a physician while living in the small town of Ontario, Oregon back in the 1970s and 1980s.

A lot of the stories from "The Diaspora Sonnets" were also about de la Paz's parents. One of the poems was about his father putting away his suits and another was about de la Paz's mother getting hit on while doing laundry.

After completing his featured readings, de la Paz was joined on stage by Grabowski. The host did a brief interview with de la Paz and asked some poetry related questions and how de la Paz's journey inspired his writing.

de la Paz said poetry was very important to him as he felt it was important to share work when life is so unpredictable.

While dealing with cancer, de la Paz felt as if he was writing on a deadline. However, after going through that experience, de la Paz is now able to share poetry with the world.

One of his recent achievements



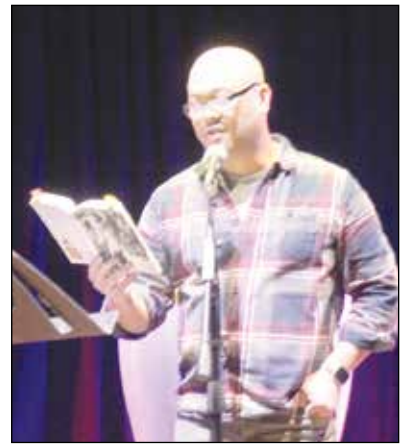
Oliver de la Paz, right, is shown being interviewed by Poetry Open Mic host, Adam Grabowski after his featured readings during the monthly Poetry Open Mic at Workshop13.

is being selected to be the Poet Laureate of Worcester. A poet laureate is a poet officially appointed by a government or conferring institution, typically expected to compose poems for special events and occasions.

de la Paz is proud to currently serve as Poet Laureate of Worcester and use his experience as a poet and as an educator to further expand the arts.

"Poetry is an essential opportunity to construct meaning between me and you," de la Paz said.

The Word: Poetry Open Mic is held every first Friday of the month at 7 p.m., with sign-up sheet available at 6:30 p.m. and takes place at the Grand Hall of Workshop13 at 13 Church St.



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago
Oliver de la Paz shared several poems from his new work, "The Diaspora Sonnets". de la Paz is the Poet Laureate of Worcester.

Paige Memorial Library lists upcoming events

HARDWICK – On April 13 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., the Friends of the Paige Memorial Library will launch their 2024 Seed Library.

Paige Memorial Library offered one of the very first Seed Libraries and they will do it again with a Bake Sale, a Book Sale, and a garden themed raffle basket. If you would like to donate to the bake sale or raffle or have any questions, please email director.paigelibrary@gmail.com, call 413-477-6704, or stop in.

for one week until they are completed or disassembled. For more information email director.paigelibrary@gmail.com, call 413-477-6704, or stop in.

Needle felting workshops

On March 16 Brianna Lamb will run two needle felting workshops sponsored by the Friends of the Paige Memorial Library, but hurry to sign up for the one spot left at 1:30 p.m. Email director.paigelibrary@gmail.com, call 413-477-6704, or stop in.

Ongoing programs

Explore the library's ongoing programs, the Paige Writing group on Tuesdays at 3 p.m., Knitting on Saturday mornings, the Paige Book Club at 2 p.m. on the last Wednesday of the month, the Cookbook Club at 5:30 p.m. on the last Wednesday of the month.

People are also welcome to join the Friends, suggest a new program or present a new workshop.

Let's GO with LEGOS!

On March 14, 21 and 28 from 4-5 p.m. the library will offer an open-ended free-building program for children over age 5. No registration is required.

Anyone under the age of 9 must have a grown-up with them. Come build whatever you want on the beautiful Lego table purchased by the Friends of the Paige Memorial Library.

Constructions will be displayed

STM scheduled for March 21

HARDWICK – A Special Town Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 21 at 6 p.m. in the Myron E. Richardson Municipal Building, 307 Main St.

The last day to register to vote for the Special Town Meeting is Monday, March 11 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Town Clerk's office.

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.



HARDWICK from page 1

that they must follow.

The Planning Board will submit these questions to Town Administrator Nicole Parker to receive more clarification and know the key components of when reviewing the topic of zoning changes.

"Let's get questions answered," said Chairperson Jenna Garvey.

The Planning Board members agreed to acknowledge the receipt of the zoning change proposal and will await confirmation from their asked questions.

More information on Casella's proposal and a flow chart of the zoning amendment process, visit the town's website, hardwick-ma.gov and the link "Bylaw

Amendment Proposal from Casella."

Verizon Wireless tower

The Planning Board held a pre-application conference regarding Verizon Wireless Proposed Collocation at the Hardwick Rod & Gun Club, 59 Thresher Road.

The owner of the Hardwick Rod & Gun Club is also the owner of the existing tower that is need of improvements for updated services.

The Planning Board will go over a site plan review with not only Verizon, but the owner of the tower and the Rod & Gun Club.

One of the improvements to the tower is a 12 foot by 16 foot snow shed and concrete pad to keep snow off the equipment. Weather can deeply impact the structure of

satellites, antennas and other transmitters and could cause power outage.

The board is hoping this new project could improve service in the town.

In addition to the site plan review, the Planning Board will go over the telecommunications act and review the policies of modifications at a wireless tower.

Creamery Road bridge plan

The Planning Board moved on to the discussion of a bridge replacement plan for Creamery Road. This request was from the town's Select Board and are aiming to do a full bridge replacement.

The Planning Board agreed to submit this replacement plan as an article for town meeting.

ACCURACY WATCH

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.

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WINTER FUN FOR EVERYONE!

Join Us For the 2nd Annual Senior Resource Fair

Date: Saturday, March 23rd
Time: 11am-1pm
Place: Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road, Ware

NO COST! It's FREE!

Participants include

- Home Modifications Specialist
- Realtors
- Ware Senior Center
- Home Modification Loan Program
- Senior Placement
- In-home Care Services
- Movers
- Estate Appraisers
- Legal & Financial Planning
- Senior Living Options
- QVDC Senior Outreach Program
- Senior Health Services
- Hospice & Palliative Care
- Funeral Services
- Supplemental Benefits
- Junk Removal
- Housing Authority
- SSDI Support
- Community Development Authorities
- And Many MORE

Light Lunch Will Be Served!

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GUEST COLUMN

Let's all end stigma around getting mental health care

By state Rep. Aaron L. Saunders, 7th Hampden District.

I grew up in a home where it was OK to ask if you were OK, mentally or physically, at the dinner table.

This was not common during the 1980s when a stay in a psychiatric ward could be a mark against you for life, but my dad was a psychologist and my mother, a teacher.

They knew the importance of conversations with their boys about feelings, expectations, and disappointments, not just a skinned knee and how you got it.

I was reminded of this recently during a visit to the newly renovated adolescent unit of MiraVista Behavioral Health Center in Holyoke. Its recent reopening brought back on line 16 much needed inpatient beds in western Massachusetts for youth ages 13 to 17.

The redesigned environment enhances the delivery of care and healing for this population in which recent government data estimates that nearly 50% have had a mental health disorder at some point in their lives.

Last year Massachusetts' Roadmap for Behavioral Health Reform introduced a 24/7 Behavioral Health Phone Line and network of Community Behavioral Health Centers that provide broader access to mental health services for those in crisis. The state, too, has added inpatient psychiatric beds to ease emergency department boarding for all age groups.

We, as legislators, need to ensure that there is ongoing funding for such services and adequate reimbursement rates for such beds as well as for addiction treatment programs. Mental health and substance use disorders co-occur frequently and it is important for both to be treated.

We also need to continue to consider policies that address staffing shortages and issues like educating students and their families on the importance of mental health care.

Yet, there is another barrier – stigmatization – around lessening disabling behavioral health conditions. Massachusetts has a campaign that seeks to educate that addiction is a chronic illness and not a personal choice, but stigma and misinformation continue to prevent individuals with behavioral health issues from seeking treatment.

You can't legislate all stigma away. We all need to be better educated on the reality that mental illness can be treated and that there are steps to be taken to prevent poor mental health from progressing to where it interferes with daily life.

This is what I reflected on during my recent visit to MiraVista, which offers inpatient treatment for both adults and adolescents as well as outpatient recovery services, in seeing the renovated unit and learning what evidence-based treatment is offered there.

I hear from my constituents of the need for such services close to home and, in applying the lessons learned from my parents in asking my own three children about their feelings, I get a look into their day in an age when bullying and pressure to engage in unhealthy behavior can come from anywhere.

We all need to be more open to talking with our families, friends, and health care providers about our mental health and that of those in our care as this, too, is part of the roadmap to raising emotionally healthy children and staying emotionally healthy, too.

in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer



Brown creeper

A brown creeper regularly visits an oak tree in my yard.

The other day I watched the creeper fly to the bottom of the tree and make his way up the tree. A few minutes later a white-breasted nuthatch made its way down the same tree.

I think the creeper also grabs some mealworms, which I have out for the bluebirds and any other birds that wants them.

The brown creeper is a small brown bird about 5 1/2 inches long. It has brown streaking above and white underneath and a long, downward, curved bill.

Noticeable behavior is creeping up a tree

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 5

in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid

Blueberry pruning 101

My blueberry bushes came to me as full grown plants uprooted from an acquaintance's yard.

He needed the space for something else, so I happily agreed to take the eight bushes off of his hands. They struggled a lot the first few years of being in their new home, I think because the move was a stressful one.

Over the last couple of seasons we've seen more fruit production, thankfully, but I know there should be more. I think I may need to improve my pruning practices.

We are nearing the end of the dormant season, but if I get right to it, the job can still be accomplished this year.

There are many good reasons to prune in the dormant season. Because there are no leaves on the bushes, you can really take a good look at what you have to work with. You can notice off-colors, bent branches and the like when there is no leaf cover.

Late February into early March is perfect timing because theoretically the coldest part of the winter has passed. Sometimes pruning

reduces cold hardiness, but like I mentioned, we should be OK since we are nearing winter's end.

Some rules transfer from pruning one type of plant to another; in other words, you'd make these same type of considerations for pruning roses or other woody plants. Let's call these the obvious cuts.

First concentrate on dead wood. Prune away any entirely dead branches all the way to the ground.

If parts of branches are dead, make a cut to the next living part of the branch. If you see anything that looks diseased or a little "off," cut that section or branch away too.

Sometimes branches get damaged from animals or ice storms. Likewise, cut damaged branches back to a section that shows no signs of damage.

Now it gets a little more tricky, but it still should be straightforward and it applies to mature blueberry plants, not new plantings or super old neglected bushes.

Look at the base of your plant. Is it wider than 18 inches in any direction from the center? If so, cut away these stems at ground level or try to dig them up, roots and all in the coming weeks, then move them to a new spot, preferably a nursery bed where they can grow up a bit. I'm into a whole new topic, so let's get back to the task at hand.

Once the plant has been cut back to within its limits, look for growth coming from the base that is on an angle or crossing over other branches. Cut that away too, so that we encourage upright growth instead.

Okay, with that behind us, let's dive into more difficult territory. Here is when you begin to rejuvenate the plant (listen carefully, self).

Old canes will be gray in appearance and thick. You probably don't want to cut away every one, but perhaps removing one-third of these stems would be a good plan.

Cut them back to ground level. Your next cuts will be what I can "fine tuning," or making cuts that thin out older twiggy growth in the upper part of the plant by cutting back stems to a younger, upright branch.

Go by color here. Younger growth is reddish in appearance. Hand pruners are your desired tool of choice, while bypass loppers or a hand saw is essential for the bigger cuts I mentioned first.

You'll be surprised by how great your blueberry bushes will look and just how productive they will be with this type of maintenance pruning accomplished annually. I think there is just enough daylight for me to get to my own pruning.

I can almost taste the blueberry pie come July. Yum.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Resident asks drivers to slow down

We live in a country neighborhood. There are no sidewalks.

Our houses are not close together. That doesn't mean that we don't live here.

There are families with children and pets. There are farms with animals, gardens and businesses with big equipment operating every day.

Drivers, please slow down. I have two large dogs that I try to walk every day on our roads. The neighbors also like to go for walks, some with dogs, other for exercise. Some like to go for a run.

We enjoy the beauty that is around us. Just because there aren't many posted speed limit signs these roads are not highways – drivers slow down!

When walking and I hear a vehicle approaching, I respectfully step to a safe spot on the side of the road with my pets and their leashes in hand and wait for you to pass.

If I shake my head and frown at you as you pass you are going too fast. If I give you a nod and smile, I'm saying thank you.

What most drivers don't know is the sound of the wind blowing through the trees, water rushing down streams or brooks, farmers operating equipment or planes/helicopters overhead can make hearing your vehicle hard to hear. There isn't always time to get to a safe spot, especially if you are driving too fast.

Now you don't like drivers speeding



through your street where you live nor do we. Show some respect – drivers slow down!

When you speed by you cause a rush of wind and dirt to fly up on us. Remember we live here: we know and care about our neighbors.

I hope you do too. Please I ask, drivers slow down.

Kathy Hoisington
Ware

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

Why must I pay into Social Security when I'm collecting benefits?

Dear Rusty: I am collecting full Social Security benefits at age 72 and also working full time.

Why is the Federal Government still taking money from my paycheck? I have written to Social Security experts on this issue and they tell me "It's the law." That is not a good answer for me. Approximately \$4,400 was taken from my pay in 2023 for Social Security and, yes, I get a pittance of a Cost Of Living Allowance increase, but not equal to what I pay. No one has been able to fully explain the Federal Government's thought process on taxing me for Social Security when I am getting full Social Security benefits. Can you?

Signed: Working Senior

Dear Working Senior: Far be it from me to try to explain the federal government's thought process on anything, but I can explain why those already collecting Social Security benefits must continue to pay Social Security payroll taxes while working.

It actually goes back to 1935 and the panel

commissioned by President Roosevelt to create America's Social Security program. Said panel determined how the program would be financed, Congress approved it and FDR signed it.

That methodology was essentially this: Workers who earn and their employers must contribute to Social Security via payroll taxes to fund the program (we now know this as FICA for employees and SECA for the self-employed). When the program first started, certain employees and their employers were required to each contribute 1% of the employee's first \$3,000 of earnings.

Obviously, those amounts have risen over the decades. For clarity, only certain workers originally participated in Social Security, which has also changed over the decades so that now nearly everyone, who works must pay Social Security payroll taxes.

Starting in 1937 and still today, SS payroll taxes paid by those now working are used by the federal government to pay benefits to those who are currently receiving. Said another way, Social Security is a "pay as you go" program where income from those working and their employer is used to pay benefits to those receiving.

Payroll taxes collected aren't put into a personal account for the worker; rather they are used to meet current SS payment obligations. Any excess money collected is invested in special issue government bonds as reserves for future use, although current annual SS income is less than annual program costs – an entirely different topic.

So, the financing method enacted in 1935 and started in 1937 still applies – those who work and earn and their employers must pay

into the system to fund benefit payments to those, who are now receiving and that includes those workers who are already collecting their Social Security. FYI, there was a time when, if someone worked after starting their SS benefits, they lost all of their benefits. Fortunately, that rule no longer exists, so those, who are collecting SS benefits can now continue to get benefits if they work, but they must also still pay into the program from their work earnings to help pay benefits to SS recipients.

I hope this provides some insight for why you must continue to contribute to Social Security even after you have started collecting your benefits. It is a result of how the program is financed predominantly by workers through payroll taxes on their earnings and to a lesser extent from interest on Trust Fund reserves and income tax on Social Security benefits. With very few exceptions, everyone who works helps pay benefits to those now receiving.

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

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The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

Turley Election Policy

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

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



By Lee Hamilton

Hamilton on Foreign Policy

Foreign policy rises in public attention

Americans seem to be more interested in foreign policy than usual.

Four in 10 U.S. adults named it as an important issue to address in 2024, according to a recent poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs. That's twice as many as a year earlier.

That sounds right to me. From what I can tell, Americans are paying closer attention to foreign policy than they have for some time.

Part of it, no doubt, is driven by media coverage of the wars in the Middle East and Ukraine. When the media pay attention to a topic, the public pays attention; and when the public pays attention, the media pay attention.

It works both ways.

Of course, what really captures the public eye is the prospect of U.S. casualties, as we saw in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, which killed thousands of Americans. There's been nothing like that yet in the current conflicts, although about 30 U.S. citizens were killed in Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Israel and an estimated 300 Americans were stranded in Gaza by the fighting.

In the AP-NORC poll, 20% of respondents said they were concerned about U.S. involvement overseas, up from 5% a year earlier. That's a significant increase, and it's reflected by debates in Congress over helping fund the wars.

But whether foreign policy has much of an impact on the 2024 elections is an open question.

Even if Americans follow foreign policy, I don't have the sense that they vote on those issues. Problems at home are more meaningful to most voters, by far.

They're worried about inflation, affordable health care, gas prices and the cost of housing and food. They are concerned about crime and public safety. They pay attention to interest rates, jobs and other

economic indicators.

Many Americans are deeply concerned about immigration, especially at the southern border. Immigration is a domestic matter, but it's entwined with foreign policy.

Immigrants and refugees often are fleeing dire conditions in their home countries. We need to work with those regions to address the issue.

I learned early in my time in Congress that foreign policy wasn't something most constituents were eager to discuss. I rarely spoke about foreign policy on visits to the district, where people were more likely to want to know about a local dam project or government actions that directly affected them.

Interestingly, I was most likely to get questions about foreign policy when I spoke at high schools. High school students were well prepared for my visits, and they would zero in on foreign policy issues.

With current issues, most Americans were outraged by Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 and inspired by Ukraine's brave resistance. But, as the war dragged on, it receded from the headlines, and interest in the U.S. has flagged.

Recently, center stage has gone to Hamas' attack on Israel, which killed 1,200 people, and Israel's response, which has reportedly killed 25,000 people in Gaza. The Middle East is almost in a category by itself for public attention.

Many Americans feel strongly about Israel's importance in U.S. foreign policy. Conflicts in the Middle East, and relations between Israel and its neighbors, get more coverage in U.S. news media than news from Asia, Africa or even from Europe.

Wars and conflicts draw news coverage, but other foreign policy issues also matter a lot. Our relationship with China is the most important bilateral relationship in the world, and problems there can have a global impact.

Climate change is an existential issue that transcends national borders. Trade, terrorism, cybersecurity and global migration require multinational cooperation.

Foreign policy issues may not rise to the top of the public's concerns, but voters — and politicians — should pay attention to them in this election year.

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.

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.

2024 dog licenses available and due by March 31

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

Dog licenses are now available for sale and must be purchased by March 31. The last date to purchase in person at the Town Clerk's office will be Friday, March 29.

If you are licensing by U.S. Mail, the Town Clerk's office must receive your request to license prior to March 31. The drop box will also be available, but requests must be received by March 31.

Fees for licensing are \$10 for spayed/neutered and \$15 for males/females.

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

You may purchase your dog license daily in the Town Clerk's office during normal business hours between 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Friday. The office sometimes close for lunch between noon-1 p.m.

Licenses may also be obtained through the U.S. Mail. If your dog was licensed last year, please check the printed license you were issued as follows:

Each dog is listed separately on the paperwork by name

Has information on the rabies expiration date (if the date is current, you do not need a new Rabies Certificate; but if it has expired then you will need to include the Rabies Certificate for Town Clerk use (it will be

returned with the license when it is issued).

Your mail in request must include a check or money order made payable to the Town of Ware for the correct amount. Please contact the Town Clerk's office at 413-967-9648 extension 177 if you failed to license last year.

Please provide the Town Clerk's office with a self-addressed, postage paid envelope if you are licensing through the mail or using the drop box. Be sure to put adequate postage on the envelope if you are licensing more than one dog.

It is also recommended that you use a business sized envelope as the license and tag(s) must fit in the envelope when they are returned to you.

Mail the request to: Town Clerk, 126 Main St., Suite F, Ware, MA 01082

Please note there is a blue drop box outside the Town Hall which may be used to drop off your information, but you must provide a self-addressed postage paid envelope for this also.

If you are licensing a dog or dogs for the first time the information needed is the name of the owner, street and mailing address if different; a telephone number and a Rabies Certificate issued to you by the veterinarian; a Spayed/Neutered Certificate unless it is stipulated on the Rabies Certificate; a check made payable to the Town of Ware for the appropriate fee; and a self-addressed, postage paid envelope.

Recipes wanted for church cookbook fundraiser

WARE – The United Church of Ware is putting together a cookbook as a fundraiser.

People are invited to share their favorite recipes in these categories: appetizers, beverages, breads, breakfasts, condiments and sauces, desserts, international cuisine, main courses, preserves and canning, salads, side dishes, snacks, soups and special diets.

Send your recipe with your name (or the recipe creator's name) to Karin at admin@unit-edchurchofware.net All recipe submissions are due by March 12.

Trinity Episcopal hosts St. Patrick's Day dinner

WARE – Trinity Episcopal Church, 17 Park St., will host a St. Patrick's Day corned beef and cabbage dinner on Sunday, March 17 from 5-6:30 p.m.

The cost is \$15 per meal, and is available drive-up or take-out. The menu includes corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, bread and dessert.

For reservations, please call 413-967-6100 and leave your name, phone number and the number of meals you'd like to order.

All proceeds from the dinner benefit parish mission and ministries serving the community.

COOKBOOK from page 1

food often provides), and to share knowledge, experiences, and conversations with others," Bullock said.

She wants all who come to feel inspired and enjoy what the club has to offer and be able to take home some wonderful new recipes and learn something new about food.

The group is a fun-loving bunch who share a passion for learning to cook, and eating good food. The next theme will be "savory pies," and will meet on Wednesday, March 27 at 5:30 p.m.

Turley Photo by Emily-Rose Pappas

Justine Grant shows her enthusiasm for more delicious soup.



BACKYARD from page 4

trunk, then dropping down to the base of the same tree or another tree to start the process all over again. It probes bark for insects and larvae.

Sometimes it visits feeders for chopped nuts or suet.

The brown creeper blends in with the tree bark. When alarmed it will flatten itself against the tree and remain motionless. Its song is a series of high pitched whistles, "see wee see to wee" and the call is a high "tsee."

The female lays five to six white eggs with dark spots in a hammock style crescent shaped nest of bark, twigs, mosses and lined with feathers. It constructs the nest behind a loose piece of bark on a dead tree or in a natural cavity about five to 15 feet above the ground.

Brimfield resident

I received an email from a Brimfield resident, who keeps me up to date on his bird sightings.

He said in a recent email, "I did a walk yesterday at Quabbin gate 43. A small group walked to the area where people can rent or launch boats. Not much about."

He said some folks heard pine siskins and saw a few white-throated sparrows. On the water, there were a few hooded mergansers and black ducks and in the distance some gulls flying about. On the way home he stopped by the ponds in Warren and the water was not open, so no birds.

He also took part in the Great Backyard Bird Count on Feb. 16 and 17. Here are his results: one red-tailed hawk, four mourning doves, two red-bellied woodpeckers, two downy woodpeckers, one hairy woodpecker, three blue jays, two black-capped chickadees, three tufted titmice, two European starlings, two American robins, three house finches, 97 dark-eyed juncos, four white-throated sparrows, one common grackle and three northern cardinals.

He reported his first sighting on Feb. 16 at 1:40 p.m. and watched for 25 minutes and his second sighting on Feb. 16 at 3:30 p.m. was for one hour. On Feb. 17 his sightings were 8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., both for 45 minutes at a time.

Missed species, ones he has seen before, included pileated woodpecker, white-breasted nuthatch, brown creeper, American crow and American goldfinch.

Bluebirds

The bluebirds continue to come to my feeder for the mealworms. I am purchasing more mealworms for the bluebirds than when I had chickens.

I used to purchase the mealworms as a daily treat to my small flock. One hen would jump up and eat them out of my hand before I could put them in their feeder.

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

What should you do with your tax refund?

It's almost that time of year when many people start receiving their tax refunds. If you get one, what will you do with it?

Of course, the answer will depend somewhat on how big your refund is. Last year, the average refund amount was about \$2,750, according to the Internal Revenue Service's Filing Season Statistics report.

Whatever the size of your refund, you'll want to maximize its benefit. Here are a few suggestions:

• **Contribute to your IRA.** If you were to receive about \$2,750, it would go a long way toward funding your IRA for the year — but any amount would help. You still have until April 15 to contribute to your IRA for the 2023 tax year, but if you've already "maxed out" on it, you could use your refund for 2024, when the annual contribution limit for a traditional and Roth IRA is \$7,000, or \$8,000 if you're 50 or older. And by getting an early start toward fully funding your IRA for the year, you can reduce the pressure of having to come up with large amounts later.

• **Build an emergency fund.** Your tax refund could help you start or expand an emergency fund. It's a good idea to keep up to six months' worth of living expenses in such a fund, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account, separate from the funds you use for your daily expenses. You might need to draw on this fund for unexpected expenses, such as a major home or car repair or a medical bill that's not fully covered by your insurance. Without such an emergency fund in place, you might be forced to dip into your IRA or other retirement accounts to pay for these types of costs, and such a move could be expensive, resulting in taxes, penalties and lost opportunities for growth.

• **Contribute to a 529 plan.** If you have children or grandchildren and you'd like to help them further their education someday, you might consider investing in a 529 education savings plan. With a 529 plan, earnings and withdrawals are federally tax free, provided the money is used for qualified education expenses. Based on where you live, your 529 plan may provide state tax benefits, too. (It is possible, though, that 529 withdrawals could affect financial aid packages, depending on who owns the account.) A 529 plan can be used to help pay for college, accredited trade school programs, some K-12 expenses and even to help repay some student loans.

• **Pay down debts.** Most of us probably wish we could reduce our debt loads. Your tax refund may give you a chance to do just that. But which debts should you tackle first? You could follow the "snowball" method by paying off the smallest of your loans or debts as quickly as possible. Or you could choose the "avalanche" route by making minimum payments on all debts and using extra funds — such as your tax refund — to pay off the debts that carry the highest interest rates. Either method could help you save money in the long term.

Your tax refund can be a valuable asset — so use it wisely.



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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

IT company presents service proposal to Selectmen

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARREN – The Board of Selectmen heard a proposal from an information technologies provider that is interested in providing services to the town.

At the Feb. 29 meeting, Jolene Hart, account manager and Craig Slozak, service manager with Entre Technologies presented a proposal for IT services to the town.

Hart said Entre Technologies is based out of West Springfield and has been in business for over 40 years, providing coverage throughout New England. She said the company currently has over 50 employees and continues to grow.

“We know the business, we’re familiar with working with towns...not only working with towns, we also work with the school systems, we work with commercial businesses as well,” Hart said.

Hart said the monthly cost of IT services through Entre Technologies includes regular monthly visits, and a dedicated account manager. The contract runs month to month, rather than annually.

Slozak said the service also includes remote monitoring of devices, and regular reports to track the age of equipment that

may need replacing or updating. Lease options are also available for computers through Entre Technologies.

Cybersecurity training is also offered monthly along with test phishing emails which are sent to town employees at random.

Board of Selectmen Chair David Dufresne said the town has been working to make improvements and updates.

“This is another thing we need to get updated and make more efficient for our town,” he said.

Town Administrator’s report

Town Administrator James Ferrera said he met with Chris Collins, president of Energy Conservation Inc. Collins is a project expeditor with National Grid and Green Communities.

“He was able to bring in his team to do an assessment to look at the Warren Senior Center and the Shepard Building...looking at weatherization projects, looking at energy-saving heat pumps with potential upgrades to HVAC units at the Senior Center...kind of looking at a whole analysis of both buildings,” Ferrera said.

This analysis will be used to apply for a new round of Green Communities grants.

Ferrera said he met with the Finance Committee, and they have begun compiling the departmental budgets and reviewing them.

Ferrera said the town is work-

ing on its quarterly report for the Parklands Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities grant.

He said they have a conditional offer that has been accepted for the Town Accountant position, and he is hoping to have the candidate appear before the board in executive session to finalize the offer.

“I am really thinking that the board is really going to like this candidate,” Ferrera said.

New sewer hire

Ferrera said there is a conditional offer with Christopher Elmore for an operator mechanic position at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, which has been vacant for three months.

He said while the candidate is not certified as a wastewater treatment operator yet, he is willing to get that license within six months.

The board approved hiring Elmore at step one on the PW-2 wage scale.

Appointment

Kathleen Odiorne was reappointed as an Election Registrar for a three-year term.

Resignation

The board acknowledged the resignation of Paula Keefe from her position on the Board of Assessors.



Dancers performed several pieces that showcased African culture.



Submitted Photos
Students received a lesson in African drumming.

Quaboag Regional hosts African drummers, dancers

WARREN – Recently the Quaboag Regional Middle High School auditorium was filled with the thunderous sound of over 30 African drums being played by students in a rhythmic beat along with professional African drummers.

The assembly was for grades seven, eight and nine and attended by more than 300 students who were cheering, drumming, and dancing along with the professional Ammaya Dance and Drum troupe.

The Ammaya Drum and Dance Troupe brought their high energy show that showcased African culture of music and dance. The troupe played and danced several amazing performances and then had students and staff come up on stage to drum and dance along with them.



The Ammaya Drum and Dance Troupe performed for students at Quaboag Regional Middle High School.

The performance was made possible for the students by the generous support of the Warren Cultural Council, a Department of Elementary and Secondary Education grant and the Quaboag Regional School District administration.

FinCom reviews department budgets

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARREN – The Finance Committee reviewed department budgets that had been submitted for fiscal year 2025.

At the Feb. 27 meeting, committee members discussed some of the changes highlighted in the budgets and noted areas they had questions about prior to the budget being finalized for town meeting approval.

The Finance Committee is scheduled to meet with the Board of Selectmen on April 27 to present the budget.

Town Accountant budget

Town Administrator James Ferrera said the town is close to negotiating a contract for the full-

time Town Accountant positions. The job salary was posted up to \$66,000.

“That could be changing,” Ferrera said. He said the salary wouldn’t go higher than that and it could be less than that.

“Everything else is pretty much budgeted for,” he said.

Ferrera said the town has a new auditor, which has been calculated in the budget.

The procurement expense budget has decreased for the coming fiscal year, by \$500. He also anticipates less advertising costs.

Actuarial services for other post-employment benefits have been set at \$5,000, which is mandated by the state.

Conservation Commission budget

Ferrera said the town was

able to secure a computer for the Conservation Commission through the Selectmen’s information technologies hardware account. The computer was originally part of the commission’s budget, but has since been removed.

The budget includes the cost of a porta-potty for four weeks.

Overall, expenses for the Conservation Commission increased by \$280 and clerical wages increased by \$80.

Board of Health budget

The Department of Environmental Protection requires the town to monitor two wells on South Street, at houses neighboring the landfill. Ferrera said

Please see **BUDGETS**, page 7

ADA PLAN from page 1

CMRPC. Kennedy said his agency completed the town’s first ADA plan in the early 2000s.

“This is the first municipal building I ever took part in surveying,” Kennedy said.

Mazik said he is a professional planner with several decades of experience, and he has previously worked on the town’s Community Development Block Grant projects.

“I’m familiar with Warren quite a bit,” Mazik said, having grown up in neighboring Ware.

Mazik and Kennedy have worked together on creating about 50 of these plans for close to 20 years.

Mazik explained that the ADA is a civil rights law, providing equal access to programs and services to all, regardless of physical or mental impairment. The current standards went into effect in 2012.

He said there are five titles under the ADA, including Title 1, equal employment opportunity; and Title 2, access to programs and services for municipal and local jurisdictions. He said the ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan is required under Title 2.

“The Self-Evaluation is policy, procedures, programs and the Transition Plan piece is actually looking at your facilities and the physical characteristics of those facilities throughout the municipality,” he said. This includes recreational areas, municipal buildings,

playgrounds, streets and sidewalks and curb ramps.

Mazik said the commonwealth also has its own state building code, known as 521 CMR, a specialized section.

“It is strictly a building code, it is different than ADA which is civil rights,” Mazik said. “521 is strictly building, it is only triggered by construction. If the work being done is less than 30% the value of the building and under \$100,000, then only the work that’s being done must be accessible compliant. If it’s under 30% and over \$100,000 then the works that’s being done, the entrance, bathroom, drinking fountain...a couple other things, those must be accessible compliant. If the work being done is more than 30% the value of the building, then the whole building must be brought up to compliance.”

Mazik said there is work being done to bring 521 CMR in alignment with ADA.

Mazik said ADA also allows the town to address modification or relocation of programs or services in order to comply with ADA.

The plan is broken into four sections: front end, Self-Evaluation, Transition Plan and appendices. “This document should be your ‘go to’ for ADA compliance and your reference guide,” Mazik said.

Kennedy said the Self-Evaluation survey is a six page form with 13 short answer ques-

tions. “We just review the town’s policies, procedures, programs, services...and just make sure as a whole, that these policies, procedures, aren’t discriminatory toward people with disability,” Kennedy said.

This includes making sure the town’s ADA coordinator is posted for residents, that there’s a grievance procedure on file and that the town has a reasonable accommodation policy.

“Those are the things that we look for, and if there aren’t any in the town...we’ll actually have samples,” Kennedy said.

Kennedy said he also recommends that towns have a website dedicated to ADA.


Mazik said each facility will have its own report, giving a description of the building, when it was built, how many levels it has, its scope of services and the party responsible for it. A narrative summary of areas of noncompliance will also be included.

The summary prioritizes areas of noncompliance and includes a timeline and rough cost estimate.

Town Administrator James Ferrera said it’s been almost 17 years since the town had this plan updated.

“This will be a great tool for a resource for us to go to see how we can address some of these deficiencies,” he said.

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Parks and Rec. sponsors free adult hip hop class

WARREN – The Warren Parks and Recreation is sponsoring a free adult hip hop dance class for Warren and West Warren residents on Friday, March 22 from 6-7:30 p.m. at Diva Dance School, 954 Main St.

Space is limited; register at <https://forms.office.com/r/KYsRSL5RzK?origin=lpLink> or by following the link on the Warren Parks Department’s Facebook page.

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warren

CDAC discuss Master Plan process, CDBG projects

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Community Development Advisory Committee welcomed Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission consultant, Sarah O'Brien who has been working with CMRPC Representative, Chris Dunphy and discuss phases of the town's Master Plan.

At the Feb. 28 meeting, O'Brien went into detail on how the Master Plan can be used and how it can be designed to work best for the town.

Essential pieces to the Master Plan apply to housing, economic development, transportation, natural and cultural resources, and land use. During this process of developing a Master Plan, O'Brien hopes to stay in consistent communication with all town boards and departments.

This process provides "a great chance to get on board with all departments and boards," O'Brien said.

The Master Plan does require a timeline to be drawn up in order to complete possible projects in an efficient manner. Dunphy mentioned any One Stop for Growth funds are due by the month of June and should be included in this master plan timeline.

CMRPC and the CDAC also plan on doing a survey review before being sent out to residents. The goal of the survey is to get an idea of what residents would like to see be worked on over the next couple years.

The survey is being planned to be confirmed at the next CDAC meeting.

Through the timeline of July 2024 through January 2025, the CDAC hopes to cover each chapter, including housing. There are nine categories to analyze, and the One Stop for Growth funding program supports many areas such as housing, economic development, transportation, and other town services.

Phase two of funding will involve finalizing the Master Plan in September of 2025.

CMRPC and the CDAC have the expectation of keeping communication open and fulfill the timeline currently being planned out.

The steps being followed in the Master Plan process includes doing the survey and hosting a workshop. The workshop is a way to get residents involved of deciding on what should be included in the master plan.

The town roles involve getting CMRPC connected with the town stakeholders, identifying needs from boards and committees.

CMRPC roles include survey development, workshop development and workshop facilitation. For the workshop, the CDAC is scheduling a possible date for the workshop and will soon take place at the Warren Senior Center; to get in touch with residents and stakeholders in the town. These steps also involve confirmation of chapters, a period of public commenting and will ultimately lead to a

select board vote.

Dunphy pointed out that the survey will help set up the Master Plan process.

"The survey is the primary tool in which residents will have the opportunity to share what they think is the vision," said Dunphy.

Grant updates

Dunphy went over other grant program updates including the Municipal Vulnerabilities Preparedness. MVP is a state initiative trying to prepare communities for things associated with weather and climate change.

Open Space and Recreational Planning was recently completed for the town and was accepted by the state. Lucy Stone Park got updates such as signage and new native species planted.

One Stop for Growth also funded a new water line for Prospect Street and Otis Street. For this fiscal year, the CDAC is examining what can be possible projects for this year's one stop for growth program.

The CDAC have decided to focus on completed streets, sidewalks, improved parking, bike and pedestrian travel.

"We're working on more of the safety of transportation of people," said Jeremy Olson, chairman of the CDAC.

Another update talks about the Green Communities Initiative. The senior center and municipal building are some of the infrastructure locations being looked at for weatherization, HVAC, roofing and window improvements.

Another infrastructure being considered for future development is the Wright's Mill property, which is currently up for sale. Certain pieces of the building's infrastructure have to be addressed first before any concrete decision on what could be put in the property.

CMRPC also runs a regional program focused on accessibility with funding through the Massachusetts Office of Disability.

CDBG application

Dunphy said there is "a lot of activity this coming year," involving the Community Development Block Grant.

In fiscal year 2024, projects are being identified in West Warren, including River Street and Central Street as priority projects for the next CDBG application.

The CDAC is looking to add a new waterline for River Street and a new road surface. The CDAC is looking to do all updates possible for Central Street.

Also, Cutter Park is another potential project for this year. Play equipment is being observed and needs updating.

There is also the possibility of adding public parking, a water feature to the park and a possibility of having a pickleball court.

"It's a team effort," said Dunphy to the CDAC regarding these future projects that will assist in developing the town.



"Silenced on Barbour Street" revolves around the true story of a fatal circus fire in Hartford, Connecticut on July 6, 1944.

FESTIVAL from page 1

essed middle schoolers, concerned with fitting in with each other and protecting their beloved horses, who proved they had a dark side when the going got rough.

The all-female cast delivered a performance that was at some points gut-busting and at others heart-wrenching. The performances were accented by a simple, yet beautiful set made to resemble a quintessential teenage girl's bedroom circa 2014, complete with posters of Taylor Swift and One Direction.

Despite not progressing to semis, the production was recognized with a number of All-Star Awards, which are given by each site's three judges in acknowledgement of student excellence and must be unanimous among the judges.

The entire cast received All-Star Cast awards for their excellence as an ensemble. On the technical side of things, awards were given to Alec S., Huck R. and Sam J. for excellence in Sound, Lighting Design and Stage Management, respectively.

Quabbin's production of "Silenced on Barbour Street",



"Horse Girls" told the story of seven equine-obsessed middle schoolers.



Eagle Hill School performed "Horse Girls", featuring an all-female cast.

directed by Julia Tuttle and Lisa Payne, revolved around the true story of a circus fire that killed over 100 people in Hartford, Connecticut on July 6, 1944.

The larger ensemble cast was driven forward by Aidan Mahoney in the role of the Ringmaster, a twisted overseer of the show's purgatory for those who caused and fell victim to the blaze. The backdrop of a minimalistic but artistically compelling set fostered the imaginative setting of the show's circus, and gave the actors the freedom to inhabit a variety of spaces through their performances.

Mahoney also received an All-Star Cast award for his dedicated performance, as did Irene Stogitis, who played the role of Mae, a passionate character who refused to let her own secrets stop her from standing up to the menacing Ringmaster and his dark games.

Quabbin was also recognized for the technical aspects of their show, with Student Director and Stage Manager Em Gentile being recognized with an All-Star Award for their significant role in crafting the show.

Both schools were gracious in

defeat, recognizing the quality of all of the shows they each got to see performed, and enjoying the opportunity to have participated in the event.

The semi-final round will be held on Saturday, March 9 (snow date March 10), with seven different locations playing host to six schools each. State Finals are scheduled to take place from March 21-23.

Further information about METG and the High School Drama Festival can be found online at <https://metg.org>.

BUDGETS from page 6

the Board of Health and the town should be working to get those residents on to the town's water system.

"We could be saving on the monitoring and the testing costs, if the homeowners that are on those wells connect to town water or to West Warren water," Ferrera said. "It would be in the town's interest to try to work out some solution to that, because you're going to save approximately \$30,000 a year in testing."

Ferrera said the salary increase for the Board of Health's secretary needs to be reviewed. He said the secretary was hired for 32-hours, but had asked for a reduction in hours.

"I believe we should budget her for the 32 in case there's a transition back to those hours," Ferrera said.

The committee will also look into leachate expenses.

Highway Department budget

Committee members discussed looking at increasing the department's snow and ice removal expense, which is currently set at \$134,560. Chair Madeline Witaszek said the last time this amount was increased was 2009.

Ferrera said once this figure is increased, it cannot be low-

ered. Witaszek suggested increasing snow and ice salaries to \$28,000 and snow and ice expense to \$125,000 for a total of \$153,000 or \$18,440 over prior years.

Library budgets

The budget for the libraries included salary increases for staff, as they have not received one in several years.

Town Administrator budget

Ferrera's contract as Town Administrator was renewed in January for an additional three years. His new salary will go into effect March 14, 2025

Parks Department budget

Ferrera said the Parks Department is looking to create a new coordinator position at 12 hours a week, with a suggested rate of \$25 an hour. He said there isn't a section on the pay scale that starts at that rate.

Witaszek said because it's a new position, it will need to be approved through a town meeting article. The Board of Selectmen will determine the pay scale based off of the job description and classification.

Ferrera said the coordinator would handle daily operations during the summer, answer inquiries, make flyers to promote events and more.

Tree Warden budget

Ferrera said the cost of tree cutting services has increased and the expense account was increased by \$500 to maintain the same level of services.

Benefits

Ferrera said the benefits package presented for Police and Fire includes a new full-time staff member for each respective department. He said they have to budget for the positions, in the event voters approve these positions at the annual town meeting.

Ferrera said the town's medical insurance rate is set at 3.26% for fiscal year 2025.

Easter egg hunt at Lucy Stone Park is March 30

WARREN – The annual Easter egg hunt will be held at Lucy Stone Park, Old West Brookfield Road, on Saturday, March 30.

There will be three separate egg hunts by age, starting with the 5-7 year olds at 10:30 a.m., 8-10 year olds at 10:45 a.m. and ages 4 and under at 11 a.m. Rain date is Saturday, April 6.


There will be prizes for all ages groups, photos with the Easter Bunny and refreshments.

Please park at Quaboag Regional Middle High School, 284 Old West Brookfield Road, or on one side of the street.



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Menu Available on Facebook & Website

COMMUNITY READING DAY



Local author Ed Londergan poses with Administrative Assistant of the Accountability Department Heather Casey and Director of Accountability Jan Yardley.



Director of Student Services Ginger Coleman speaks with Dr. George Timmons, president of Holyoke Community College while Superintendent looks on.



UMass student/athlete Alison Kolaga is introduced during Community Reading Day.

READING from page 1

Community Reading Day took place one day before the birthday of beloved Springfield author Dr. Seuss in honor of Read Across America Week, which takes place during the first week of March.

Guest readers this year included UMass student/athletes, Cloe Mills, Nicole Jasmin, Grace White, Teagan Blue, Alison Kolaga, Nina Corwin, Kaia Miranda, Olivia Zadvinsky, Katie Gatzka, Sarah Baule and Marielsa McBride; Ware Public Library Director, Heidi Reed; Classic Hits 97.7 DJ, Bruce Marshall; Suzanna Haskins; Pam Aucoin; Linda Fleming; Country Bank Vice-President Jodie Gerulaitis; Ware Town Manager, Stuart Beckley; Ware Fire Chief, Jim Martinez; Monson Savings Bank Assistant Branch Manager, Lirianna Powers; Ware Tree Warden, Josh Kusnierz; Annette Leclair; Holyoke Community College President, Dr. George Timmons; Second Chance Animal Shelter, Carol Kelley; Ware School Resource Officer, Jeannine Bonnayer; Springfield Thunderbirds, Jim Lawless and Boomer; Martha Tuttle; Western Mass News Anchor/Reporter, Abby Carnivale; Hampshire County Sheriff, Patrick Cahillane; Quabbin Reservoir Program Coordinator, Justin Gonsor; Loomis Village Manager (hail-



Students visit with UMass Police Officer Ted Bonnayer and K-9 Parker.

ing from Wales, U.K.), Robert Bucknell; author, Ed Londergan; UMass Police Officer and K-9, Ted Bonnayer and Parker; State Senator, Peter Durant; Ware Police Chief, Shawn Crevier,;

State Representative, Todd Smola; Ware River News editor, Paula Ouimette; Physician's Assistant, Kim Lookner; and author, Elena Palladino.



ABOVE: Ware Fire Chief Jim Martinez talks with Tree Warden Josh Kusnierz before heading to their respective classrooms.



LEFT: School Resource Officer Jeannine Bonnayer stands with Boomer from the Springfield Thunderbirds.

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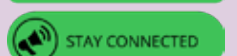
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Indians edge out Tahanato

WARE – The Ware High School boys basketball team qualified for the Division 5 state tournament, and traveled out to Tahanato High School in Central Massachusetts in the Round of 32. Ware scored a narrow 56-55 win over the hosts, thanks to a great offensive effort from Jack McKeever, who led the team with 19 points. Brady Guimond had 12 points while Jack Gaudreau finished with eight points. Ware was able to stay in Western Mass. for the Round of 16, heading out to Hoosac Valley in a matchup held earlier this week.



Clara Green brings the ball down court.



Reaghan Jacobs, Reese McKeever, and Kaylee Gardner-Carreau devour the rebound.



Shelby Hogan fires to the rim.

Panthers suffer loss in state tourney game

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

EAST BRIDGEWATER—When the MIAA announced the pairings for the girls' basketball tournament pairings on February 24, there were 40 teams trying to capture the Division 3 state championship title. One of those teams was Quabbin Regional.

Since losing back-to-back games at the beginning of January, the Lady Panthers entered the state tournament having won nine of their previous ten games.

The Lady Panthers, who entered the state tournament as the 18th-seeded team, season came to an end following a 43-31 road loss to 15th-seeded East Bridgewater in a round of 32 contest, last Wednesday night.

"I thought if we could hold them around 40 points, we would have a very good chance of winning the game," said Quabbin head coach Evan Barringer. "We played very well defensively, but we just didn't make a lot of our shots. We also missed a lot of free throws. If we faced them five times, the series would probably be tied 2-2 entering the fifth game. I really wish that we could play them again."

The Lady Panthers, who'll be losing four outstanding players, finished the 2023-24 campaign with a 16-5 overall record. It's also the third time that Quabbin lost in the round of 32 since the postseason format was changed in 2021.

A year ago, Quabbin celebrated a 62-49 home win over Lowell Catholic in a preliminary round home game before losing at third-seeded Bishop Fenwick in the round of 32.

The Lady Panthers lost to ninth-seeded Old Rochester on the road in the round of 32 in the 2022 state tournament.

"This was probably the first winnable round of 32 game that we've played in the state tournament," Barringer said. "You just have to give East Bridgewater a lot of credit because they made the plays. This loss doesn't take away anything that we've accomplished this year. I'm proud of my kids."

The Lady Panthers probably wouldn't have won 16 games or the Central Mass. Athletic Directors Association Class B championship without the services of Meg Doyle, Brianna Whitlaw, Riley Bassett, or Hannah Baxter. The foursome were starters and team captains this winter.

"The four seniors are incredibly special people to me," Barringer said. "They changed the culture of the Quabbin girls' basketball team. It's not only about the victories, which are awesome, but it's about the way that we do things now. I really don't want to think about next year yet, but you can't replace players like them."

Doyle, who'll be wrapping up her high school athletic career on the softball diamond this spring, scored seven points in her final basketball game. Whitlaw and Baxter scored six points each, while Bassett finished with three points.

The Lady Panthers other starter was sophomore Mia Ducos, who scored seven points in the round of 32 contest.

"This was an amazing season and I'm sad that it has come to an end," Ducos said. "I've been playing basketball with the four seniors for a very long time and

Please see **PANTHERS**, page 10

Lawsuit changes brackets in basketball tournament

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

FRANKLIN – Over the years, there have been issues with ineligible player use or other rule-breaking that has led to high school teams being left out of sectional or state tournaments.

This year, however, a school took action and it ended up halting the state tournament and changed opponents for several teams involved.

Oliver Ames High School, which competes in Division 2 in many sports, appealed it being left out of the State Division 2 Boys Basketball tournament due to a paperwork.

According to a representative from the MIAA, schools are required to submit certain paperwork for entrance into the tournament, and Oliver Ames failed to meet the requirement. They were thusly removed from the tournament and did not have a spot when seeds were released on Saturday, Feb. 24.

Some preliminary games in the tournament, of which Oliver Ames would have been a part of due to their projected lower seed, were scheduled to start on Monday, Feb. 26, but the tournament had to be halted due to an injunction being filed by Oliver Ames in a court. The injunction went through and the MIAA was ordered by a judge to include the ousted school in this year's tournament.

"One team from Eastern Mass. was headed for Amherst and had to be turned around because of this," Eric Castonguay, athletic director at South Hadley High School said. "It stopped the whole thing."

While it only affected a handful of teams in Western Mass. Division 2, Amherst and Agawam were among the teams that were locally affected.

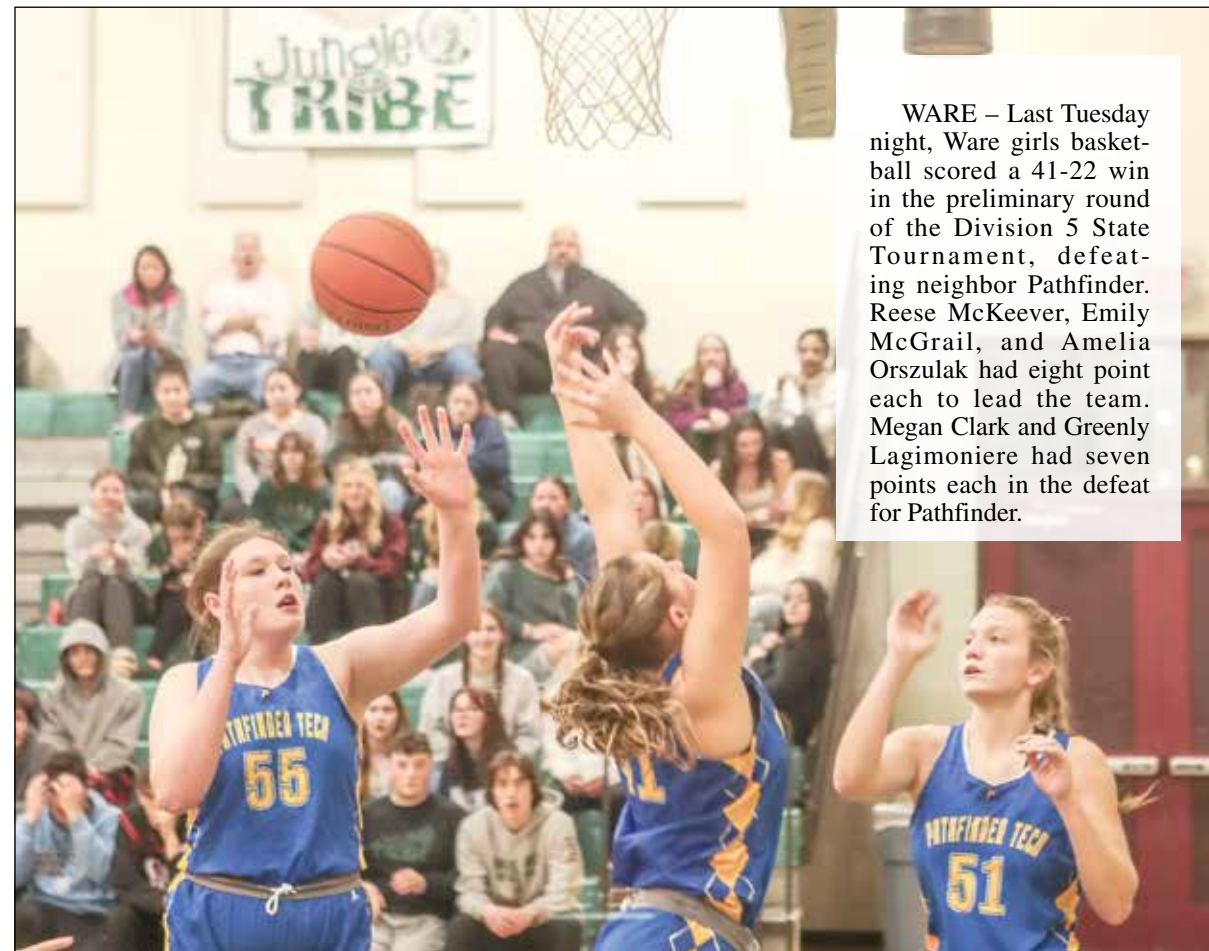
Karen Gomez, athletic director at Agawam High School, had to wait until a new opponent was announced in order to schedule her game.

She was originally scheduled to play Tuesday, Feb. 27 and host Bay Path Vocational Technical. That opponent changed when Oliver Ames was inserted into the tournament. Masaconomet ended up visiting Agawam, and luckily, at short notice, agreed to come to Agawam and played at the same time the Bay Path-Agawam game was scheduled for.

Amherst was forced to postpone its game from Monday. One team unaffected was Chicopee Comprehensive, which did not see an opponent change and traveled to Scituate in the Round of 32.

The rest of the tournament went on as scheduled and was in the quarterfinals as of press time.

Ware wins preliminary round game



The rebounders, Addison Doktor, Megan Clark, and Greenly Lagimoniere gang up under the net.

WARE – Last Tuesday night, Ware girls basketball scored a 41-22 win in the preliminary round of the Division 5 State Tournament, defeating neighbor Pathfinder. Reese McKeever, Emily McGrail, and Amelia Orszulak had eight point each to lead the team. Megan Clark and Greenly Lagimoniere had seven points each in the defeat for Pathfinder.



Amelia Orszulak is focused on this outside jumper.



Taylor Allen fires up a bank shot.

Turley photos by Jack Cascio
NEAPsmugmug.com

RIGHT: Reese McKeever defends the net.



Madisyn Slattery drives to the paint.



Desiree Croteau drives to mid court.



Victoria Stephens splits the Lady Indians' defense.

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sports

T-Birds suffer loss to Isles

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (25-24-3-2) could not overcome a 3-0 hole in the opening period as the Bridgeport Islanders (18-29-6-1) skated off as 4-1 winners at the MassMutual Center on Sunday before a seventh straight sellout crowd of 6,793.

Not even a minute into the festivities, both Sam Bitten & Will Bitten got the Thunderdome engaged in the game with a pair of fighting majors in bouts against Seth Helgeson and Eetu Liukas respectively. However, the Islanders held a sizable edge in offensive zone time, and that translated into an early lead for the visitors.

At the 9:10 mark, Ruslan Iskhakov artfully slipped the puck to Matt Maggio in the left-wing circle, where the rookie swiftly moved the puck from backhand to forehand and uncorked a perfect wrist shot under the crossbar

past Colten Ellis to make it 1-0 for Bridgeport.

The penalty parade continued as two separate Springfield players were whistled for penalties just 45 seconds apart, opening the door for Bridgeport's power play. On the ensuing two-man advantage, Ellis made a save on an initial try by William Dufour, but Carsen Twarynski was positioned perfectly to slide the rebound home to make it a 2-0 score at 11:18.

In the final minute of the period, Brian Pinho further bolstered the Islander lead when he side-stepped a hit attempt before beating Ellis between the legs with a snapper at 19:23.

After being outshot 18-5 in the first, the T-Birds responded with some pushback in the second, but rookie Bridgeport goalie Henrik Tikkanen was steady in the crease. Mikhail Abramov finally dented the young goaltender at 12:11

when he deposited a loose puck in the blue paint after a Jakub Vrana slapper squeaked through Tikkanen's equipment. Abramov's second goal in as many days cut the margin to 3-1.

The T-Birds' best chance to get closer came in the middle portions of the third period, when back-to-back Bridgeport penalties handed Springfield a 5-on-3 advantage. However, Tikkanen and the gutsy Isles' PK unit stood up to the challenge, and a Springfield penalty would then nullify the advantage.

Karson Kuhlman put the game away at 16:48 with an empty-net goal to seal the visitors' seventh win in 11 tries this season against the T-Birds.

The T-Birds and Islanders complete their season series on Friday night for one final installment between the rivals inside the MassMutual Center. Puck drop is set for 7:05 p.m. at the Thunderdome.

Pioneers 2024 schedule released

LUDLOW — Earlier this week, the Western Mass. Pioneers have released their 2024 schedule. It includes potential participation in the U.S. Open Cup, which begins on March 19. The Pioneers have won an Open Cup match in the past. Later, the Pioneers have their "friendly" exhibition game scheduled for May 10. They will face 3rd Eye FC prior to the start of their USL-2 League schedule. Their opener for the regular season is against the Boston Bolts on the road May 14. Their home opener is scheduled for May 18 against Pathfinder FC of New York. The schedule continues through July 13 and includes a total of 14 games.

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 entertaining 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.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER — The third and final round of the candlepin league season rolls on for the Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League.

As of Feb. 20, The Champs R Here, Acres, Compression and the Blue B's started off the third round at 3-1. Life is Good, Team BK and Last in Line started off the round at 1-3. Compression was the winning team of round one and Life is Good was the winning team of round two.

The Champs R Here bowled against Last in Line on the league night of Feb. 27. In game one, Last in Line won the first game by a score of 364-360. In game two, The Champs got a win of their own by a score of 377-369. Taylor Colkos led the Champs R Here in game two by scoring 107.

In game three, Last in Line won the last game by a score of 394-368. Last in Line won total pinfall by a final score of 1127-1105.

The winners of round two, Life is Good, bowled against the Blue B's. In game one, Life is Good defeated Blue B's by a score of 344-318. In game two, the Blue B's won by a score 368-348. In game three, Blue B's won the last game by a score of 379-341.

Mike Zwirecki of Blue B's bowled a 128 to lead his team to victory.

Blue B's won total pinfall by a final score of 1065-1033.

Acres bowled against Compression. In game one, Acres won the first game 399-371. Dave Cobleigh of Acres started off the evening with a 113. In game two, Acres won again by a score of 430-333. Cobleigh bested his first game by scoring 136 in game two, his best game of the season.

In game three, Compression won the last game 385-372. Acres won total pinfall by a final score of 1201-1089. Cobleigh's three game series for the evening totaled 329. Cobleigh's teammate Matt Bertelli had a consistent night of bowling. Bertelli scored 102, 106 and 106.

Thursday Night Mixed League

The Thursday Night Mixed League bowled their last league night in the month of February.

Team Two bowled against the round one winning team, Team Six. In game one, Team Two defeated Team Six in a close first game, 397-390. In game two, Team Six returned the favor and won game two by one pin, 394-393. In game three, Team Six won the last game by a score of 412-399.

Team Six won total pinfall by a final score of 1196-1189.

Team Three bowled against Team Five. In game one, Team Five won the first game 421-367. In game two, Team Three won the second game by a score of 418-403. Tyler Moore of Team Three led the team by scoring 110.

In game three, Team Three won the last game of the evening 408-372. Moore repeated his second game by scoring 110 in game three.

Thanks to a big lead after game one, Team Five managed to win total pinfall by a final score of 1196-1193.

Team Four bowled against Team One. In game one, Team Four won the first game by a score of 395-393. In game two both teams tied at 403. In game three, Team Four won the last game by a score of 420-417. Sean Comerford and Kris Rickson of Team One finished strong by scoring 112 and 113.

Team Four won total pinfall by a final score of 1218-1213.

Baldwin gets modified win as he prepares for New England return

FLORENCE, S.C. — Tommy Baldwin Racing drivers Jack Baldwin and Luke Baldwin both had success Saturday night at Florence Motor Speedway.

Jacked sealed the night by capturing the victory in the opener of the Carolina Crate Modified Series, driving the No. 7NY in a final lap dash battle to the finish. Luke made his Tour-Type Modified debut in the SMART Modified Tour Peanut Patch 99 with Sadler-Stanley Racing and scored a top-five finish.

Jack qualified on the pole earlier in the day, inverting to fourth and running inside the top-five for the whole 62-lap Crate Modified race, before making the move for the win in the final corner.

Luke posted the fastest lap time in his first official Tour Modified practice in the PSR No. 7VA for the Sadler-Stanley Racing group. The team, owned by former NASCAR driver Hermie Sadler and Attorney and Virginia State Senator Bill Stanley, is Luke's official home for the full SMART

Modified Tour season in 2024. He also qualified the car in third spot in time trials and started second after the redraw.

"Excited to win another Crate Modified race, especially being able to get to Victory Lane at Florence," Jack Baldwin said. "Slate (Myers) had a fast car tonight. I hate that it came down to him spinning, but I was as low as I could possibly go without hitting the inside wall. Florence is a fun track. We were able to ride a bit early then close a large gap over the final 30 laps to be in position to win. I can't thank everyone on the TBR team and PSR enough."

Both Baldwin brothers attended Florence events with the help of their respective team members and PSR Chassis members, with Tommy Baldwin Jr. at Las Vegas Motor Speedway with Rick Ware Racing.

"Super proud of everybody involved with this team for what we accomplished at Florence," Luke Baldwin said. "We showed race winning speed all the way

through the day, and if a few things went my way, we may have had a shot at winning it. We had a solid second-place run going until a late race restart where I made some mistakes and fell to fifth. Nothing to hang our heads about. Huge thanks to all the guys at Sadler-Stanley Racing, Bill Stanley, Hermie Sadler and PSR Products. The car was a rocket ship and they made my job easy. Also, thanks to Pace-O-Matic, The Stanley Law Group, and Mohawk Northeast for making it happen. Congrats to Carson Loftin on his first career win."

Next up for the Tommy Baldwin Racing team will be for Luke driving the No. 7VA for Sadler-Stanley Racing in the second SMART Modified Tour race of the season next Sunday, March 10 at Caraway Speedway. Jack Baldwin is currently slated to return to the seat during the summer in the SK Modifieds at Stafford Motor Speedway.

PANTHERS from page 9

I'm going miss them a lot. I hope we're able to qualify for the state tournament again next year."

Almost half of the East Bridgewater High School gymnasium was filled with Quabbin supporters.

About 40 students, along with the cheerleading squad, made the two hour trip from Barre by bus.

"It was incredible to have that many of our fans come watch us play a road game," Barringer said. "The entire school community has supported these kids this year. We really appreciate their support."

A Bassett put-back hoop gave the Lady Panthers the lead for the first time at 6-5 with 3:20 left in the first quarter.

After the Lady Vikings retook the lead, Doyle, who scored more than 200 points as a senior, hit a base-line jumper giving the visiting team the lead back for the final time.

It did remain a close game for the first four minutes of the second stanza.

A Ducos jumper from the left side tied the score, 12-12, with 4:05 remaining in the first half.

The Lady Vikings (15-8), who were scheduled to face second-seeded Norwell in the round of 16, scored the final seven points of the second quarter. Eighth grader Jackie Pohl scored five of her seven points during that span.

East Bridgewater, who held a 19-12 lead at the break, leading scorer was senior Shania Gardner

(16 points). Freshman Jenna Oman contributed with ten points.

With 5:50 left in the third quarter, Whitelaw buried a 3-pointer from the right corner closing the gap to 21-17.

The Lady Vikings responded with an 11-4 run and entered the final eight minutes of the round of 32 contest holding a 32-21 lead.

The Lady Panthers, who only made two field goals during the final quarter, couldn't make a comeback.

The other members of the 2023-24 Quabbin girls' varsity basketball team were junior Brooke Austin (2 points), Leanna Leger, junior MK Kingbury, junior Ana Dunn, sophomore Aubrey Thorpe, and freshman Abby Rogowski.

State awards HCC \$1.46 million to build nursing workforce training program

HOLYOKE — Holyoke Community College and its partners have been awarded a state grant worth nearly \$1.46 million to create a certified nursing assistant to licensed practical nurse training program to help area hospitals meet their workforce needs.

Earlier this month, the Healey-Driscoll Administration announced a total of \$3.9 million in Senator Kenneth J. Donnelly Workforce Success grants for six initiatives representing employers and collaborative organizations across the Commonwealth.

The lion's share of that money - \$1,457,143 - will go to an HCC-led training program to assist 86 unemployed or underemployed individuals transition from jobs as nursing aides to positions as licensed practical nurses.

The grants, funded through the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund and distributed by the Commonwealth Corporation, aim to increase sustainable wage career pathways for Massachusetts resi-

dents facing employment barriers and improve the competitiveness of Massachusetts businesses by enhancing worker skills and productivity.

HCC's partners in the grant include Baystate Medical Center, Baystate Wing Hospital, MassHire Hampden County, Springfield Works, and the National Fund for Workforce Solutions.

"We are delighted about the Commonwealth Corporation's award to HCC and our many partners in this unique and innovative career pathway in nursing," said HCC President George Timmons in a press release. "Healthcare is one of the largest industry sectors in our region, and it continues to grow. We hope that this pathway for licensed practical nurses will help create more family sustainable incomes for nursing assistants looking to advance in this exciting and rewarding career."

The multi-stage program will first train individuals as nursing aides, then help them obtain jobs at area hospitals while they continue

their training in HCC's LPN program, all the while providing them with wrap-around support services. HCC already has an existing framework for CNA training through its Jump Start program, which is designed for individuals receiving public assistance.

"Every individual in Massachusetts should have access to quality job training, and our employers should have access to the skilled talent they need to do business," said Governor Maura Healey. "Our workforce is our greatest competitive strength. The latest round of Workforce Success Grants is another example of our administration's commitment to expanding opportunities and expanding our lead."

The grants were announced Dec. 18 by Labor and Workforce Development Secretary Lauren Jones during a graduation event at the Boston-area African Bridge Network, which received \$498,655.

Please see **WORKFORCE**, page 13

Purple for Prevention Week

Chris Herren to speak at free presentation March 7

BARRE — Purple for Prevention Week, March 4-8, is dedicated to healthy choices and safe decisions in the Quabbin region, for people of all ages.

For anyone who is wondering how purple began as the color of prevention in our region, join Purple for Prevention Week Coordinators Quabbin Regional Middle/High School Administration on Thursday, March 7 at 6 p.m. for a free presentation by Chris Herren at the school, 800 South St.

His talk in 2013 was the start of all the work of Q-DRUG in the community, when students and community members connected with his message of support and caring being at the center of prevention. Herren will be speaking about mental health, substance use, healthy choices, and how to support your children, yourself and your peers through difficult decisions.

There are a number of ways

you might be seeing purple in our community this week:

All elementary students in the Quabbin Regional School District have been given a purple ribbon to take home to decorate their homes in support of healthy choices. Healthy choices at the elementary age includes healthy eating, safe friendships, kindness to peers, active lifestyles, and connections with caring adults.

Q-DRUG has decorated a number of our local community municipal spaces, town commons, police and fire departments, roadways, and schools. This is the 10th year that Q-DRUG has decorated these spaces, in support of all youth making healthy choices.

This is the second annual community decorating contest, where local families and businesses decorate their space as a part of a contest sponsored by Q-DRUG. To cast your vote for the best decorated, please visit QDrug.org for the voting ballot.

All are welcome to join Q-DRUG in supporting healthy choices for all in the district by sharing a purple ribbon on your home or business. For more information, visit QDrug.org.

Railers lead early, but fall to Lions

WORCESTER — With 21st Century technology being what it is there are letters, numbers and abbreviations for almost everything that happens in hockey.

Almost everything, anyway. There is nothing on the stat sheets for an M.O. That is what the Railers would have registered here Sunday afternoon, a Missed Opportunity.

Worcester led the Trois-Rivieres Lions, 2-0, after the first period then gave up five straight goals over the final 40 minutes and was beaten, 5-2.

The Railers remain in fourth place in the North Division, both in terms of points and winning percentage. They have no cushion, though, and will play at Maine Tuesday morning with a one-point lead on Reading and a two-point edge on the Mariners.

Trois-Rivieres is four points out, not eight, thanks to its victory Sunday.

Worcester got goals from Zach White and Reece Newkirk. It also got 41 saves from John Muse, third most for a Railers goaltender this season.

Nolan Yaremko led the Lions with a hat trick, the second of the season against Worcester. He scored two goals 1:24 apart in the second period then converted a 5 on 3 power play chance at 19:01 of the third period. Jakov Novak and Nicolas Lariviere had the other goals for the visitors.

Joe Vrbetic made 25 saves for Trois-Rivieres in posting his first win in four starts against the Railers this season.

The four Trois-Rivieres goals in the second were scored by, in order:

Novak at 3:18, Lariviere at 4:17, and Yaremko at 11:26 and 12:50. Yaremko's first goal was on a power play.

The Lions had the better of play in the game's early going as the Railers were careless in their own zone. With the first period nine minutes old, Trois-Rivieres had an 11-3 edge in shots on goal.

Muse kept it scoreless.

Worcester finally broke through at 17:35 with White scoring his seventh goal of the season. He had been flying throughout the period and out-battled a Lions defenseman in the left corner, then skated into the circle and beat Vrbetic along the ice.

It was White's first point after an eight-game scoreless drought.

With 1:47 to go in the period, the Lions' Anthony Beauregard was called for interference by referee Hunter Mottinger. Teammate Brycen Martin was apparently uncivil in his remarks to Mottinger and wound up with an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.

Newkirk made it 2-0 with 21 seconds left in the period, 34 seconds left on the 5-on-3. It was just the Railers' second 5-on-3 goal of the season.

Worcester was held to nine shots the rest of the way and wound up with a game, and opportunity, lost.

Dennis Birks received Excellence in Teaching Award

WARE – Dennis Birks has been selected by the Ware Public Schools as a 2024 Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award winner.

Birks has worked at Ware Public Schools since 2012 and has been at the Ware Junior Senior High School for the past four years as a special education teacher. He services students with emotional and behavioral disabilities in a multi-grade classroom.

Birks' students have demonstrated continued improvements in their present levels of academic and functional performance in the classroom community they have created. He has been the ultimate team player and the

school district is lucky to have him.

Birks will be honored at an in-person banquet at the Log Cabin in Holyoke on April 24.

The program will feature a festive awards presentation honoring the winners, who will each receive an engraved plaque and a check for \$250, along with generous tuition incentives and scholarships offered by seven major colleges and universities in the region: Elms College, Bay Path University, Mount Holyoke College, Springfield College, Western New England University, Westfield State University and the University of Massachusetts.

Winners also receive three-

month memberships at the Springfield Jewish Community Center or one of the six regional YMCAs.

All winners are further invited to apply for the selective Classroom Innovator Prize of \$250.

Created to foster educators' interest and engagement in Project Based Learning, teachers can submit a project-based learning idea. Up to 15 prizes will be given.

The Excellence in Teaching Awards program, now in its 21st year, is made possible by the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation in partnership with the Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation and supported by the

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

"Every year we hear about how much teachers appreciate this celebration of their dedication and excellence. For us, it is a privilege to honor these deserving educators year after year," Uli Nagel, Program Director, Excellence in Teaching Awards at the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation in a press release.

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



Submitted Photo

Ware Public Schools special education teacher Dennis Birks received the 2024 Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award.



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 sched-

ule. 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.



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public safety



Submitted Photo by Ryan J. Witkos

A tree fell on West Brookfield Rescue Squad's ambulance last Thursday afternoon, damaging the windshield. Minor injuries were reported.

Tree falls on ambulance, damages windshield

HARDWICK – A tree fell on the roof and windshield of West Brookfield Rescue Squad's ambulance 15A1 last Thursday afternoon, striking the vehicle as it traveled along Main Street in Gilbertville, heading south. High winds the day before and earlier that day caused trees and

limbs to come down along roadways, and multiple power outages were reported throughout the area. Witnesses saw the tree fall and strike the ambulance as it passed by the Myron E. Richardson Municipal Building, as it was returning to its station in West Brookfield with two rescue staff

on board. There were no patients on board at the time of the accident. The staff had minor injuries from the accident and were treated at a local hospital, according to a social media post by West Brookfield Rescue Squad.

Warren Police Log

During the week of Feb. 18-24, the Warren Police Department responded to 175 building/property checks, 32 community policings, 15 emergency 911 calls, three frauds/forgeries, two complaints, one harassment, one structure fire, one motor vehicle accident, two animal calls and 33 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

- Sunday, Feb. 18**
 - 2:06 p.m. Seizures, Keys Road, Transported to Hospital
 - 2:16 p.m. Falls, Liberty Street, Mutual Aid Transport
 - 6:06 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Winthrop Terrace, Transported to Hospital
 - 6:43 p.m. Sick/Unknown, East Road, Mutual Aid Assist
 - 7:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Southbridge Road, Report Filed
- Monday, Feb. 19**
 - 12:58 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Bridge Street, Written Warning
 - 1:14 p.m. Fraud/Forgery, Main Street, Report Filed
 - 2:09 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Cross Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 - 2:13 p.m. Falls, Keys Road, Mutual Aid Transport
 - 3:33 p.m. Fraud/Forgery, Main Street, Report Filed
 - 4:14 p.m. Feeding Tube Displacement, Lombard Street, Transported to Hospital
 - 5:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop,

- Main Street, Written Warning
- Tuesday, Feb. 20**
 - 6:37 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 - 9:29 a.m. Fraud/Forgery, Winthrop Terrace, Officer Took Call
- Wednesday, Feb. 21**
 - 12:53 a.m. Complaint, North Street, Citation Issued
 - 8:12 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Columbus Avenue, Citation Issued
 - 8:58 a.m. Abdominal/Back Pain, Presidential Circle, Transported to Hospital
 - 2:59 p.m. Breathing Difficulty, Old West Warren Road, Transported to Hospital
- Thursday, Feb. 22**
 - 12 a.m. Complaint, Nelligan Terrace, No Action Required
 - 10:58 a.m. Seizures, Brimfield Road, Transported to Hospital
 - 3:51 p.m. Animal Bites, East Road, Report Filed
 - 8:05 a.m. Seizures, Summer Street, Transported to Hospital
 - 11:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
- Friday, Feb. 23**
 - 1:13 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Vehicle Towed
 - Summons: Nicholas P. Kulig, 29, Palmer
 - Registration Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With; Uninsured Motor Vehicle;

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.

- Unregistered Motor Vehicle
- 8:54 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Comins Pond Road, Transported to Hospital
- Saturday, Feb. 24**
 - 12:14 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 - 5:17 p.m. Falls, Cronin Road, Transported to Hospital
 - 6:06 p.m. Structure Fire, Crouch Road, Fire Extinguished
 - 6:58 p.m. Harassment, Main Street, Officer Took Call
 - 9:37 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Main Street, Transported to Hospital

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Feb. 26-March 4, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 55 building/property checks, 43 directed/area patrols, seven traffic controls, four radar assignments, 15 emergency 911 calls, two assist other agencies, two citizen assists, one harassment, one motor vehicle investigation, one investigation, three complaints, 13 safety hazards, three motor vehicle accidents, one animal call and 10 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

- Monday, Feb. 26**
 - 8:45 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Barre Road, Transported to Hospital
 - 11:03 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Broad Street, Dispatch Handled
 - 11:20 a.m. 911 Suspicious

- Activity, High Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
- 3:29 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Hardwick Road, Report Taken
- 7:22 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
- 11:54 p.m. Medical Emergency, High Street, Transported to Hospital
- Tuesday, Feb. 27**
 - 8:23 a.m. Welfare Check, High Street, Transported to Hospital
 - 10:51 a.m. Assist Citizen, Off Ruggles Street, Spoken To
 - 12:43 p.m. Complaint, Lyman Road, Spoken To
 - 2:34 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Pine Street, Transported to Hospital
 - 4 p.m. Fire Alarm, Old Petersham Road, Investigated

- Wednesday, Feb. 28**
 - 6:07 a.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Dow Road, Summons Issued
 - 5:09 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Pond Road, Transported to Hospital
 - 8:59 p.m. Fire Alarm, Old Petersham Road, Services Rendered
 - 11:02 p.m. Safety Hazard, Fiske Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
- Thursday, Feb. 29**
 - 1:12 a.m. Safety Hazard, Pine Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 - 3:15 a.m. Safety Hazard, Church Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 - 4:14 a.m. Safety Hazard, Upper

- Church Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
- 7:29 a.m. Safety Hazard, North Road, No Action Required
- 8:36 a.m. Safety Hazard, Fiske Road, No Action Required
- 9:12 a.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Chagnon Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
- 9:44 a.m. Safety Hazard, Breen Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
- 9:57 a.m. Safety Hazard, Sessions Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
- 10:25 a.m. Safety Hazard, North Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
- 10:26 a.m. Safety Hazard, Patril Hollow Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
- 12:04 p.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Chagnon Road, No Action

- Required
- 12:50 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Greenwich Road, Services Rendered
- 1:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, High Street, Transported to Hospital
- Friday, March 1**
 - 9:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Greenwich Road, Officer Handled
 - 10:07 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Unknown, Officer Handled
- Saturday, March 2**
 - 2:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Written Warning
 - 2:30 p.m. Assist Citizen, Lower Road, Officer Handled
 - 3:30 p.m. Investigation, Church Lane, Officer Handled

- Sunday, March 3**
 - 10:26 a.m. Harassment, River Run, Officer Handled
 - 10:31 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Citation Issued
 - 10:59 a.m. 911 Misdeal, High Street, Transferred Call to C7
 - 11:04 a.m. Suspicious Activity, Gilbertville, Services Rendered
 - 11:28 a.m. Safety Hazard, Joslyn Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 - 2:31 p.m. 911 Misdeal, Prospect Street, Services Rendered
 - 4:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Joslyn Road, Written Warning
 - 6:29 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Lower Road, Report Taken
 - 9:26 p.m. Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

Final comment period for hydropower facilities on Connecticut River

GREENFIELD – The Connecticut River Conservancy has been engaged in advocating for the health of the Connecticut River and the communities in the watershed since 1952. As part of its mission, CRC has been a consistent participant in the relicensing of the Turner's Falls dam and Northfield Mountain pumped storage facilities for almost 12 years, working for a better deal for the river and its communities. These hydroelectric facilities use a public trust resource – the river – to produce power. In exchange for this privilege, and to mitigate for impacts of the dams on recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, migratory and endangered species, water quality, and other resources, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission requires that hydropower operators provide direct benefits to the public and be protective of the ecological health of the river. These requirements are laid forth in an operating license and the license serves as a public contract that CRC revisits periodically to examine the facility's impact on this public trust resource. On Feb. 22, FERC issued a notice indicating that the final license applications have been accepted as complete and ready for environmental analysis. This notice simultaneously initiated a 60-day period to submit comments and interventions for the projects. The comment period will close on April 22. A comment communicates local concerns, recommendations, and desires to FERC as they make the decisions on what to include in the new license that will last for the next 30-50 years.

People are encouraged to submit a comment to FERC if you have concerns about how these dams impact the river, the surrounding communities, or your ability to interact with the river. Public comments can be submitted by anyone or any entity that has an interest in or relationship to the river. This includes individual community members, town committees or commissions, Regional Planning Commission, recreation clubs, etc. In addition to supporting the public's opportunity to comment, and submitting our own comments, Connecticut River Conservancy will also be filing a motion to intervene. This allows CRC to become a legal party to appeal this federal agency action if needed. Nina Gordon-Kirsch, CRC's River Steward in Massachusetts, said in a press release, "These facilities have a major impact on the River and affect recreators, fish, water quality, and the ecology of the river basin. FERC will issue a new operation license to the facilities that will not be updated for another 40 years. This is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity to make positive change for the River and all beings who are in relationship with it. Don't miss this opportunity to help shape the River for future generations!" Hydropower relicensing information, as well as a FERC Comment Guide, can be found by visiting www.criver.org/our-work/hydropower/. The Connecticut River Conservancy will also hold a series of virtual office hours about how to comment on the hydropower relicensing process for the two facilities in Massachusetts as well as

three facilities in VT/NH that are simultaneously going through this federal process. During these office hours, CRC's Director of Policy and Advocacy/Vermont River Steward (Kathy Urffer), and River Stewards in Massachusetts (Nina Gordon-Kirsch) and New Hampshire (Kate Buckman) will be available to answer any questions and help with your comments. The following will be covered: Issues at stake for fish passage, recreation, erosion, and accountability; instruction on how to submit comments or get involved; questions addressed in Q&A. The office hours can be customized based on who attends and what you most want to address. You can also submit a question to the speakers upon registration. The office hours will occur on: Thursday, March 14 at 5:30 p.m.; Monday, March 18 at 11 a.m.; Wednesday, March 27 at 8:30 a.m.; Wednesday, April 3 at 7 p.m.; Thursday, April 11 at noon; and Tuesday, April 16 at noon. Register by visiting www.criver.org/event/hydropower-office-hours/. **About CRC** Since 1952, Connecticut River Conservancy has been a voice for the Connecticut River watershed, from source to sea. It collaborates with partners across four states to protect and advocate for rivers, and educate and engage communities. CRC brings people together to prevent pollution, improve habitat, and promote enjoyment of the rivers and streams. Learn more at criver.org.

Women Making a Difference Award

Registration deadline for Zonta Club dinner is March 7

LUDLOW – Each year in March, the global community recognizes women for their achievements regardless of national, ethnic, linguistic, economic or political divisions. The Zonta International community also celebrates Zonta Rose Day, a time to reflect and give tribute to the women who have empowered us. In this spirit, the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley proudly announces its Women Making a Difference Award dinner on March 11 at the Ludlow Country Club. A reception will be held at

5:30 p.m. with dinner/program starting at 6 p.m. Pay at the door for the buffet (\$28) or pay online. More info at www.zontaqv.org/women. RSVP by March 7 at info@ZontaQV.org. As the theme of this year's International Women's celebration is Inspire Inclusion, the club has chosen a keynote speaker who has spearheaded numerous initiatives to address the inequities experienced by many populations in western Massachusetts, and four women leaders in the community deserving of recognition for exemplifying the ideals of Zonta and inspiring inclusion in their day-to-day work and volunteer efforts. Keynote speaker is Dr. Christina Royal, Zonta's 2023

Women of the Year for her commitment to equity and equality. She will be awarded the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley's first Honorary Member status. Honorees include Lisa Bakowski-Raising the bar for self-advocacy, self-awareness and self-empowerment of women and children; Andrea Bordenca-Working with organizations committed to equity, engagement and positive mental health; Charlotte Chartier Cote-Creating positive change in dental practices and owner of Cote Cattle Company; and Roxanna Harper RN, MSN-Empowering staff and families to provide exceptional home health, hospice and palliative care. A donation of \$500 will be made by Zonta in each honoree's name to a cause of their choice.

MSB offers scholarships for Ware students

MONSON – Monson Savings Bank proudly provides \$28,000 in scholarships to local graduating seniors annually. The bank's 2024 scholarships are now available to graduating high school seniors in the Monson, Ware, Hampden-Wilbraham and East Longmeadow School Districts. The purpose of the Monson Savings Bank Scholarship is to promote the attainment of higher education for graduating seniors who reside within the communities that the Bank serves. "At Monson Savings Bank, we support our neighbors and help them reach their goals," said Dan Moriarty, Monson Savings Bank President and CEO, in a press

release. "Providing our local high school graduates with scholarship money to offset the cost of continuing their education is something we are proud to do. We are pleased to have the chance to assist these hardworking young people in continuing their education and finding success in this next chapter of their lives." To qualify, graduating seniors must be planning to attend an accredited college, technical school, or certification program. Scholarship awards will be based on a variety of factors, which may include the applicant's financial need, academic performance, and extracurricular activities that they have participated in. A candidate for this scholarship

should have demonstrated a commitment to their community. How to apply: If students are interested in applying for the Monson Savings Scholarship, they should contact their high school guidance department for an application. The deadline for application acceptance varies by school, please contact your school's Guidance Department for more information. To learn more about Monson Savings Bank, and their commitment to making an impact in the local communities, please visit <https://www.monsonsavings.bank/connect/our-community/our-community-commitment.html>.

obituaries

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 non-profit 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.

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.

Agriculture Committee advances omnibus legislation

BOSTON – The Joint Committee on Agriculture, chaired by state Rep. Paul Schmid (D-Westport) and state Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton), favorably advanced omnibus legislation (H.4387) incorporating key components from several bills, including bolstering equity in agriculture, support for food systems, and assistance for farmers.

"We spoke to our farmers and heard their struggles, concerns, and hopes for the future of Massachusetts farming. This bill is a reflection of those conversations and highlights the importance of investing in this industry and community," said Schmid in a press release. "This bill addresses the impacts of climate change on farms, invests in our future

agricultural workforce, bolsters our local food system, prepares for emergencies, and addresses other pressing issues. I am thankful for Chair Comerford's partnership in drafting this legislation to pave a path forward for strengthening farms, as well as the leadership of Speaker Mariano for creating this Committee and displaying unwavering support for our farmers."

"This comprehensive omnibus bill, released by the Joint Agriculture Committee, addresses many of the issues plaguing the agriculture sector today. It ensures the state promotes agritourism opportunities and ensures that students attending Commonwealth vocational and technical schools

Please see **OMNIBUS**, page 15

WORKFORCE from page 10

To help leverage the state grant for the HCC-led project, the National Fund for Workforce Solutions invested \$200,000 to incorporate the voices and lived experiences of participants in the design of the program to advance equitable employment outcomes.

"This is an amazing achievement," said Anne Kandilis, director of Springfield WORKS/Working Cities Challenge. "Sometimes we focus on the grant itself, but the 18 months of hard collaborative work that

goes into proposing something this big is important to lift up too."

According to the Healey-Driscoll Administration, the grants are part of a strategic investment in the Massachusetts workforce to develop programs that support individuals facing barriers to employment, such as lack of formal schooling, language literacy, or past involvement with the criminal justice system.

"Investing in our workforce and our businesses is investing in the Massachusetts economy and puts the state in a position

Sustainable agriculture grant funding available

Two Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education grant programs are calling for 2024 proposals.

Northeast SARE's Administrative Council has allocated \$750,000 for Partnership Grants and \$500,000 for Graduate Student Research Grants.

Partnership Grants fund researchers, educators and agricultural service providers working in direct partnership with farmers in the Northeast. Funded projects will design and implement innovative solutions to agricultural sustainability challenges, and strengthen connections between farmers and agricultural service providers.

Partnership Grant proposals are capped at \$30,000; about 30 projects will be awarded. Proposals are due April 9 at 5 p.m.

Graduate Student Research Grants fund students conducting research under the supervision of a faculty advisor on sustainable agriculture topics of importance to Northeast farmers, agricultural researchers, and farm support professionals.

Graduate Student Research Grant proposals are capped at \$15,000; about 30 projects will be awarded. Proposals are due April 16 at 5 p.m.

Northeast SARE – including funding decisions – is guided by its outcome statement:

"Northeast agricultural communities honor the holistic connection among land, water, air, and all living beings. Agriculture in the Northeast is accessible, sustainable, and just, addressing historic and current inequities so all farmers and farm employees can steward resources to ensure sustainability, resilience, economic viability, and a high quality of life."

Live question and answer sessions for both grant programs will take place throughout March and into April. These sessions are a great opportunity for potential applicants to learn if a Northeast SARE Grant is right for them.

They are also a chance to build understanding around how to successfully write and manage Northeast SARE grants.

Partnership Grant Q&A sessions will take place March 5, 13, 19, and 27 from noon-1 p.m. To register, visit <https://northeast.sare.org/2024PartnershipGrantQA>.

Graduate Student Research Grant Q&A sessions will take place March 12, 20, 26, and April 3 from noon-1 p.m. To register, visit <https://northeast.sare.org/2024GraduateStudentGrantQA>.

to succeed," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "These grants help organizations attract workers who may be unemployed, underemployed, or experiencing barriers to employment and provide the necessary skills they need to thrive. These grants will help us achieve our workforce development goals, expand our skilled talent pool, and strengthen our competitiveness."

The six grant-funded initiatives aim to train and hire 384 individuals over three years.

The Springfield-based Entrepreneurial & Business

Collaborative also received a grant worth \$630,998 to prepare 90 individuals for jobs in the hospitality industry. The group is partnering with the Northampton Brewery, Granny's Baking Table, River Valley Market, Tandem Bagel Company, and Puerto Rico Bakery II.

Other grant recipients include the Training and Upgrading Fund in Quincy (\$717,220), Cambridge College, Inc., in Boston (\$436,062), and Cape Cod Regional Technical High School District in Harwich (\$225,425).

Michael Francis Trombley, 80

WARE – Michael Francis Trombley passed away on Saturday, March 2, 2024 at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield after a period of declining health, at the age of 80.

Michael was born in Springfield on May 27, 1943, son of the late Wilfred A. Trombley and Sophie (Ogozalek) Trombley, and was a life-long Ware resident.

He was a proud Vietnam War Veteran. Michael enlisted in the United States Navy on Jan. 16, 1964, and was Honorably Discharged on Dec. 20, 1967, with the rank of SME (Subject Matter Expert). He also served proudly in the United States Airforce from Sept. 21, 1978, through Dec. 26, 1980, and received an Honorable Discharge with the rank of Sergeant.

While in the Navy, Michael served on the USS Keppler and received a Citation from the Commander of the Seventh Fleet. The Citation read in part "For outstanding performance in action off the coast of North Vietnam during the periods of 18 January to 5 February

Death notices

Fluegge, Kevin M.
Died Feb. 23, 2024
Services March 2, 2024

Trombley, Michael Francis
Died March 2, 2024

and 6 - 11 March of 1967."

Michael was employed for many years as a carpenter for the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He retired in 2002, and enjoyed metal detecting, painting art, building guitars, and spoiling his German Shepherd.

Michael leaves behind his loving wife of 56 years, Beverley (Piatek) Trombley, his sister, Patricia Houle of Ware. Sadly, Michael was predeceased by his son, Michael F. Trombley, Jr., who passed away on June 13, 2016, and his siblings; Wilfred Trombley and Dorothy Dimo. Cremation took place in Springfield Cemetery & Crematory.

There are no calling hours or funeral services. Cebula Funeral Home of Ware is assisting Michael's wife with the final arrangements.

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

Ware River News OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$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.

Kevin M. Fluegge, 36

ALSTEAD, NH – Kevin M. Fluegge of Alstead passed away unexpectedly on Friday, Feb. 23, 2024, at the age of 36.

He was born in Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, and he leaves behind his beloved and adored daughters, Kenna and Ellie Fluegge; his loving mother, Ann M. Fluegge and her husband Ty Zinn of Spofford, New Hampshire; his father, Michael Fluegge and his wife Sharon; his brothers, Nicholas Fluegge and his wife Kate of Ware, and Hunter Millier of Spofford, New Hampshire; his nieces, Clara and Nora Fluegge; his signifi-



cant other, Emily Fletcher of New Hampshire; as well as many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

Kevin attended the technical high school in Keene, New Hampshire to study to be an electrician. He then went on and pursued his goal, working as an electrician for Zinn Electric in Spofford, New Hampshire.

Kevin was a loving and devoted father to his girls, a kind and caring brother to his siblings, a proud son of his parents and stepdad, and an incredible friend to many. He enjoyed going on adventures, camping, and working out at the gym in his spare

time.

He was an avid cornhole player, and he loved the time he was able to spend with his family most of all.

Calling hours for Kevin will be held on Friday, March 1, 2024, from 5-7 p.m. in the Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St. in Ware. A funeral service will be held the following day, Saturday, March 2, 2024, at 10 a.m. in St. Mary's Church, 57 South St. in Ware.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made online to The Kenna & Ellie Fluegge Fund at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/kenna-ellie-support-fund> to directly support Kevin's beloved daughters.

An online guest book is available at charbonnaueufh.com.

Beaver Lake Club Corporation offers scholarship

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

These scholarships will be presented to deserving high school seniors or current college students who are residents of the town of Ware or who are members of the Beaver Lake Club Community.

The scholarship is given in the

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

The application deadline is April

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

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

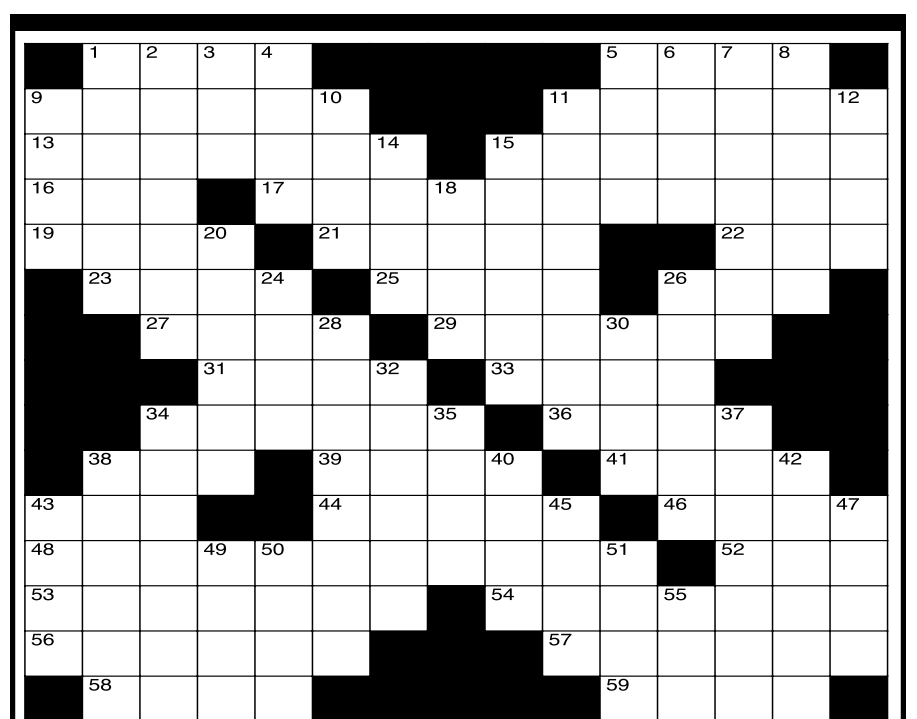


Ware Polar Plunge benefits Special Olympics March 16

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.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Chaps
- 5. Currently fashionable
- 9. Collision
- 11. More slim
- 13. European city
- 15. Implicitly
- 16. The side of something that is sheltered from the wind
- 17. The Mount Rushmore State
- 19. Gold or silver wire cord
- 21. Muscles along insects' diaphragm
- 22. Trent Reznor's band
- 23. Sweet juicy gritty-textured fruit
- 25. Broken branch
- 26. Indicates ten
- 27. Expression of

- annoyance
- 29. Brings together
- 31. Ancient city in Thrace
- 33. Sailors' spirit
- 34. Looked into
- 36. Muckraking woman
- journalist Rheta
- 38. A type of cast
- 39. One's responsibility
- 41. Where golfers begin
- 43. Make a mistake
- 44. Semitic Sun god
- 46. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
- 48. Beheaded
- 52. A place to stay
- 53. Unwise
- 54. Most supernatural
- 56. "Dennis" is a famous one

- 57. Ointments
- 58. Exam
- 59. Leaked blood
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Baseball managers assemble it
- 2. Revised
- 3. Mountain is a popular kind
- 4. Takes to civil court
- 5. Pouches
- 6. A type of veil
- 7. Chants
- 8. Boston hoopster
- 9. Elongated appendage
- 10. Sailboat
- 11. 2017 Oscar-winning film
- 12. Actor Gosling
- 14. Monetary units
- 15. Assembly
- 18. Russian pop duo

- 20. Embellished with expressions
- 24. Infrequent
- 26. Temperature unit
- 28. Hydrophilic amino acid
- 30. Honk
- 32. Legislative body
- 34. Swinish
- 35. Russian assembly
- 37. Take over for
- 38. Put in advance
- 40. Satisfy
- 42. Felt
- 43. Dutch cheese
- 45. Witnesses
- 47. Strong insects
- 49. Gaster and de Armas are two
- 50. Ancient people of Scotland
- 51. Cheerless
- 55. Sick

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	21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.00
	23	24	Base Price \$27.50	25
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PVPA Wofa presents spring showcase March 8 and 9

SOUTH HADLEY – The Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School's West African Drum and Dance Company, Wofa, is pleased to present their spring showcase: "Sona the Orphan".

The show will run March 8 and 9, with performances beginning at 7 p.m. in the main stage theater at 15 Mulligan Drive. Tickets are \$10 general admission; \$7 military and seniors; \$5 PVPA alumni, and \$3 students.

Tickets are available at the door, or online at www.pvpa.org. This performance is part of PVPA's spring production calendar, available at www.pvpa.org.

PVPA dance teacher Kabisko Kaba (Bisko) founded Wofa in 2009, to give PVPA students the opportunity to explore the rich culture and heritage of Guinea, West Africa. Wofa is a Sousou word which means Let's Get Together, which expresses PVPA's vision of reaching out into the community to share culture and the arts.

The show "Sona the Orphan" is inspired by a West African tale of an orphaned girl raised by her stepmother after her own mother dies in child birth. In the tale, Sona is kind and good



Submitted Photo

Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School's West African Drum and Dance Company Wofa presents its spring showcase "Sona the Orphan" on March 8 and 9.

but poorly treated by her stepmother.

In this adaptation, the stepmother is replaced by a grandfather. As the community comes together to support Sona, her grandfather has a change of heart and learns to love Sona for

herself.

Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School is a regional public charter school serving 400 students in grades seven-12, from over 50 towns throughout western Massachusetts. PVPA's mission

is to offer students an intensive exposure to the performing arts within the context of an excellent college preparatory curriculum.

For more information about PVPA go to www.pvpa.org.

Belchertown photographer exhibiting at Cooley Dickinson

BELCHERTOWN – An eclectic display of work by local fine art photographer Jim Gambaro is currently on display in the North Gallery at Cooley Dickinson Hospital, 30 Locust St., in Northampton.

Images are as diverse as a sunset at Quabbin Reservoir to a street scene in the Galapagos. New work includes a variety of images from Southwest canyons.

The exhibition will be on view through the end of April.

"I have always looked for subjects and lighting that stimulate the child's 'wow' factor in my mind's eye, zeroing in on details small and large, on landscapes both natural and constructed, and on places distant

and close to home," Gambaro said in a press release. "If the images in this exhibit manage to convey some of the pleasure I experienced in their creation, I consider them successful."

He defines his goal as an artist to pass along "the simple pleasures of seeing." Many of his photographs can be seen in his online gallery, <https://jimgambarophotography.zenfolio.com>.

Gambaro also has three photographs in the current All Things Animal exhibition at the ArtWorks Gallery, 69 Main St. in Ware, which is open Saturdays and Sundays, from 1-4 p.m.

His varied background includes a bachelor's degree in



Submitted Photo

"Spillway in Painterly Mode" by Jim Gambaro is displayed at Cooley Dickinson Hospital's North Gallery.

art education from Montclair University, followed by work as a junior high art instructor, journalist, commercial photographer, news photographer and human service worker.

The art galleries at Cooley Dickinson are a project of the Friends of Cooley Dickinson Hospital and a portion of sales benefits the hospital.

OMNIBUS from page 13

are allowed to train on the proper equipment. It focuses on diversifying the state's agriculture industry, with generations of new farmers in mind. And, it re-envisions a stronger Massachusetts local food system," said Comerford. "I am grateful for Chair Schmid's leadership and collaboration on this Committee and our partnership in crafting this transformational omnibus legislation, as well as to Senate President Spilka for her vision and for continuing to champion the Commonwealth's farmers."

"This omnibus bill honors our strong agricultural history by taking the ambitious steps necessary to support the Commonwealth's next generation of farms. By advancing this broad piece of legislation, the

Joint Committee on Agriculture has signaled its desire to strengthen our local food system based on the recommendations heard directly from farmers and stakeholders across the Commonwealth," said House Vice Chair Natalie M. Blais (D-Deerfield). "I am extremely grateful for the leadership of Chairs Schmid and Comerford, who not only stood up a new committee this session, but who have also made it a priority to hear directly from the agricultural community."

The following list of bills, some of which have been consolidated and redrafted from their original forms, are included in the omnibus legislation:

An Act relative to the Massachusetts Food Policy Council (H.99) filed by Chair Paul Schmid

An Act relative to the defini-

tion of farming (S.496) filed by Senator Anne Gobi (who is now serving as Director of Rural Affairs with the Healey/Driscoll Administration)

An Act relative to the definition of livestock (H.95) filed by Representative Adam Scanlon

An Act relative to the use of Department of Conservation and Recreation property for farmers markets and community gardens (H.96) filed by Chair Schmid

An act supporting farm diversification and sustainability (H.754) filed by Vice Chair Natalie Blais

An Act relative to an agricultural healthy incentives program (S.85/H.150) filed by Senator Gobi and Representative Domb

An Act encouraging the donation of food to persons in need (S.920/H.1594) filed by Chair Jo Comerford and Senator Edward Kennedy and

Representative Hannah Kane

An Act Promoting Equity in Agriculture (H.87) filed by Chair Comerford and Vice Chair Blais

An Act defining agritourism (S.2469) filed by Senator Edward Kennedy

An Act relative to the use of hoisting equipment in Chapter 74 vocational technical education (S.1577/H.2337) filed by Senator Marc Pacheco and Representative Pat Haddad

An Act establishing a deer population control commission (H.858) filed by Representative Christopher Markey

An Act strengthening local food systems (H.88) filed by Chair Comerford and Vice Chair Blais

An Act relative to horse riding instructors (S.216) filed by Senator Bruce Tarr

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Please submit your resume along with a cover letter to Town Administrator, Jim Ferrera, townadministrator@warren-ma.gov.

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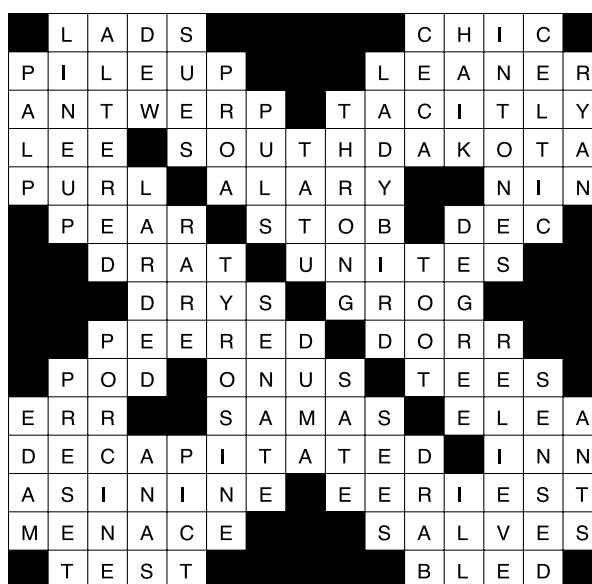
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Please contact Pat James 413-726-8661.



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

public notices

Town of Hardwick Conservation Commission Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act that a Public Meeting will be held for an Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation on **Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 6:30 pm** at the **Municipal Office Building, 307 Main Street, Gilbertville**. All interested parties are urged to attend.

Applicant: Ram Seetharamen

Description of Proposed Work: To establish boundaries and types of wetland resources on the property.

Location: Assessors' Map 78, Parcel 9, 0 Lyman Road

Town: **Hardwick**

Interested parties may also view this Legal Notice at <http://masspublicnotices.org>. 03/07/2024

Town of Hardwick Conservation Commission Legal Ad Request for Determination of Applicability

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act that a Public Meeting will be held for a Request for Determination of Applicability on **Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 6:30 pm** at the **Municipal Office Building, 307 Main Street, Gilbertville**. All interested parties are urged to attend.

Applicant: Kevin Graves

Description of Proposed Work: Treatment of invasive species

Location: 480 Ridge Road

Town: **Hardwick**

Interested parties may also view this Legal Notice at <http://masspublicnotices.org>. 03/07/2024

NOTICE OF AUCTION

In accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts General Law 105A, in order to satisfy past due rents and other expenses, the contents of the following storage units will be auctioned.

The contents of Miranda Orcutt will be auctioned off at **Secure Storage, 31 Southbridge Rd., Warren MA on March 23, 2024 at 9 a.m.**

The contents of Tammy Handfield and Adam Ciufu will be auctioned off at **Secure Storage, 167 West St., Ware, MA at 9:30 a.m. on March 23, 2024.**

Any questions or inquiries call 413-800-6278. 03/07, 03/14/2024

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WETLANDS PROGRAM 401 Water Quality Certification Application Public Notice

Pursuant to 33.U.S.C.1341 and MGL c21 §43, notice is hereby given of a 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) application for the Patril Hollow Pond Dam Removal Project within the Muddy Brook Wildlife Management Area in Hardwick by the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (MassWildlife), 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA, 01581 on property owned by MassWildlife. The project involves the removal of an existing dam, earthen embankment, and associated structures for ecological restoration. Additional information may be obtained from the applicant's agent - Tighe & Bond, Inc. c/o Daniel R. Buttrick, PE, 53 Southampton Road, Westfield, MA 01085 (413-562-1600).

Written comments on this 401 WQC Application may be emailed to:

David Wong (David.W.Wong@mass.gov)

Department of Environmental Protection Wetlands Program 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900 Boston, MA 02114 (617) 874-7155

Within 21 days of this notice. The Department will consider all written comments on this 401 WQC Application received by the Public Comments Deadline.

Any group of ten persons of the Commonwealth, any aggrieved person, or any government body or private organization with a mandate to protect the environment that has submitted written comments may also appeal the Department's Certification and that failure to submit comments before the end of public comment period may result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing. 03/07/2024

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

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 their 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

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 Fisherick 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

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