

# WARE RIVER NEWS

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## Selectboard shows support for rail trail expansion

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Mass Central Rail Trail advocates Steven Hawk and Cindy Allen Bourcier are working with Executive Director of the Norwottuck Network Craig Della Penna to draft letters of support from towns.

“Which will help us get grants to finish it, maintain it, clean it,” Hawk said at the Selectboard’s March 4 meeting. “And also help us add so much to the town.”

Hawk said the Mass Central Rail Trail could be continued through the Mary Lane Hospital property and a bridge could be built to connect both sides of the town. Hawk said they are looking to apply

for a \$75,000 grant to help extend the rail trail.

“Trying to get everyone in support of the rail trail would be great,” Hawk said.

Della Penna said the rail corridor is 104 miles long and 63 miles are open and there are several disconnected sections. He said 12 miles of the trail are under construction.

“To get to the 100% complete where we’ll intersect with 18 other trails, it’s going to be very expensive,” Della Penna said. “The areas that are not yet built out, are within 20 miles of either side of Ware. We’re going to start marshalling resources to come here and work to reassemble the corridor from the east/south-

Please see **TRAIL**, page 6

## DV task force sponsors training

Law includes coercive control as abuse

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – The Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force sponsored a recent training about the use of coercive control, and changes to the commonwealth’s legal definition of abuse.

On March 6 in Town Hall, members of the task force and allies joined Attorney Esther Tutu from Community Legal Aid, who explained the changes to the law, and how it will impact survivors of abuse.

“This is the biggest change to domestic violence law,” said Monica Moran, coordinator for the Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force.



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette  
Community Legal Aid Attorney Esther Tutu (shown seated in the front row, left) led a training about coercive control with members and allies of the Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force at Ware Town Hall on March 6.

Tutu explained changes to the abuse prevention law known as chapter 209A of Massachusetts General Laws, which grants restraining

orders to survivors of abuse from the person using abuse against them.

Since September of 2024, the form for restraining

orders now lists coercive control as a type of abuse.

Please see **TASK FORCE**, page 15

## Community Reading Day

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

RIGHT: Lieutenant Diana Gliniecki read to Meghan Lagimoniere’s second grade class.

SEE RELATED STORY AND MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 8.



Retired Ware Public Schools teacher Pam Aucoin reads to her daughter Deanna Horn’s kindergarten class.



Thunderbirds Account Executive Jim Lawless mascot Boomer read to Amanda Gillmeister’s fifth grade class.

## Selectmen reappoint TA Ferrera

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – Town Administrator James Ferrera told the Board of Selectmen he has been attending one-on-one budget meetings with every department.

Ferrera said, “This could be a challenging year, budget wise.”

The town is currently undergoing teacher contract negotiations as well as patrolmen’s union contract negotiations. In the month of February, the town has negotiated a contract with the Fire Chief and has implemented the new wage scale that was figured out at the Collins Center.

At the March 6 Board of Selectmen’s meeting, Ferrera mentioned the town will be submitting a bid for a grant that will help pay for the Senior Center roof. Bids are due at the end of March. Ferrera has also gone over inventory for shelter equipment at the high school.

After his monthly report, the Board of Selectmen discussed the reappointment of

Please see **WARREN BOS**, page 5



Turley Photo by Abby McCoy  
Matt plays the tenor saxophone during the Mardi Gras performance of the Weir River Jazz Band.

## Mardi Gras with the Weir River Jazz Band

By Abby McCoy  
Correspondent

WARE – On March 2, Workshop13 hosted an unforgettable Mardi Gras celebration, featuring a lively performance by the Weir River Jazz Band.

The event was free to the public, with donations gratefully accepted. The performance attracted a diverse audience, from families with young children to seniors enjoying a festive afternoon with loved ones.

Set against the charming backdrop of Workshop13’s grand hall at 13 Church St., the afternoon was a musical journey through jazz classics, blending smooth melodies and exciting improvisation.

The Weir River Jazz Band, a group known for

Please see **JAZZ**, page 7



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19

Ware River News

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

**Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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

Questions needed for 'Meet the Candidates' forum

WARE – Ware Community Television and the Ware River News will be hosting a “Meet the Candidates” forum prior to the April 14 election, and we need questions from the community.

Select questions will be asked to each candidate running for the School Committee during the March 21 forum.

Please send your questions by email to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) or mail to Ware River News, 80 Main St., Ware MA 01082. Written questions can also be dropped off at our office, 80 Main St.

Ware Senior Center news

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

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

**ACTIVITIES**  
**Monday, March 17**

- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11 a.m. Lunch – St. Patrick’s Day Party. Music by Memory Lane.

**Tuesday, March 18**

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

**Wednesday, March 19**

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

**Thursday, March 20**

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

**Friday, March 21**

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

**Friday, March 21**

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

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

**Monday, March 17**  
*St. Patrick’s Day Party*  
Corned Beef, Cabbage, Potatoes and Carrots, Dessert and music by Memory Lane provided by the Friends of Ware Senior Inc.

**Tuesday, March 18**  
Kentucky Stuffed Peppers, Salad, Dessert of the Day

**Wednesday, March 19**  
Lazy Pierogi with Kielbasa, Corn Salad, Dessert of the Day

**Thursday, March 20**  
Sloppy Joe Sandwich, Pea Salad, Dessert of the Day

**Friday, March 21**  
Stuffed Shells, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day

QHMA invites public to Bingo Night fundraiser

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

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

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

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

Corned beef and cabbage dinner is March 17

WARE – The Trinity Episcopal Church, corner of Park and Pleasant streets, will host a drive up, take-out St. Patrick’s Day corned beef and cabbage dinner on Monday, March 17 from 5-6:30 p.m.

The cost is \$15 per meal, which includes corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, bread and dessert. To reserve meals, please call 413-967-6100 and leave your name, number of meals and phone number.

All proceeds benefit parish mission and ministries serving the community.

Are You Old News?



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

*File Photo*  
Last week’s photo from 1989 showed a group of 4-H members from various Hardwick clubs taking part in a bread baking project at the Paige Community Building with Emily Bancroft, 4-H leader. Assisting Bancroft in the project were 4-H leaders Beth Robidoux, Carolyn Audette and junior leader Brie Kelly.

If you recognize the folks in this week’s photo, please send their names and your full name to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com).

Local author offers new work of fiction

LJ Cohen book signing at Stone Church

HARDWICK – Lisa Janice Cohen will celebrate the release of her ninth novel, “Litany for a Broken World,” at 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 16, at the Stone Church Cultural Center, 283 Main St., Gilbertville.

The public is invited to a reading, book signing and reception with the author.

Cohen describes her newest work of speculative fiction as follows: “When three strangers, each broken in some way, are pulled into a conflict between those with the ability to travel the multiverse and the organization seeking to exploit them, they must risk everything that matters to heal the fractured places in themselves and throughout reality.”

The author characterizes her story as “‘The Wizard of Oz’, set in a Boston homeless encampment.” It is Book One of a new series.

Cohen’s novels have been praised by Sarah Pinsker, a Hugo and Nebula Award-winning author; by Lynn Viehl, a New York Times bestselling author, and by Publishers Weekly. One reviewer said of this new novel that writing in the multiverse isn’t easy, but “Cohen makes it work.”

Since moving permanently to Gilbertville where she lives with her spouse, Cohen has been a writer in residence at Eagle Hill School. She is also an active potter and homestead farmer, and she serves on the Board of the Friends of the Stone Church. Her website: [www.ljcohen.net](http://www.ljcohen.net)

Local author LJ Cohen is celebrating the release of her newest novel, “Litany for a Broken World” at the Stone Church Cultural Center on Sunday, March 16 at 4 p.m.



Submitted Photos  
Author LJ Cohen has released her ninth novel, “Litany for a Broken World.”

**About FOSC**  
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 welcome donations toward their ongoing preservation project online at [www.FriendsoftheStoneChurch.org](http://www.FriendsoftheStoneChurch.org) or by mail to FOSC, P.O. Box 347, Gilbertville, MA 01031.

Spaghetti supper benefits family of Kristen Murphy

WARE – A spaghetti supper in honor of Kristen Murphy will be held on Thursday, March 13 from 5-7 p.m. in the Ware Junior/Senior High School cafeteria.

The cost is \$15 per person and take-out is available. Take-out orders must be pre-ordered by March 12 by calling 413-967-5977.

All proceeds benefit Kristen’s family. Venmo is available @Jeannine-Bonnayer-1.

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# 2025 dog licenses are now available

Licenses must be purchased by March 31 to avoid late fees

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rabies Certificates for each dog must be presented at the time of licensing as in the past. If your dog was licensed in 2024 check the license to see if the Rabies Certificate is current (the information is on your 2024 license); if it is cur-

rent, simply come into the office to license in person or license by mail.

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Quaboag Historical Society seeks scholarship applicants

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

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

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

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

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

# BSCF donation supports nature’s classroom

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Elementary School PTO recently received an \$8,000 donation from the Barre Savings Charitable Foundation, to help cover the cost to send fifth grade students to nature’s classroom in the spring.

Stephen Brewer, president of the Barre Savings Charitable Foundation, said one of the best things the foundation does is help send children to programs like this.

“You’re in for a wonderful time and a great learning experience too,” he said.

Brewer, who is a retired state senator and former state representative, said that while the youth are only 20% of the population, they are “100% of our future.”

Brewer said to date, the Barre Savings Charitable Foundation has dispersed \$750,000 in donations over the last seven years, including to the Hardwick Elementary School PTO.

The Barre Savings Charitable Foundation was formed after the 147-year-old Barre Savings Bank merged with Fidelity Cooperative



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

The Barre Savings Charitable Foundation donated \$8,000 to the Hardwick Elementary School PTO to help pay for the fifth grade nature’s classroom trip this spring. Shown front row from left are teacher Pamela Dunigan, fifth grade students, teacher Mary Fleming and Hardwick PTO representative Tina Swindlehurst. Back row from left are Hardwick Elementary School Principal Emily Soltysik and Barre Savings Charitable Foundation President Stephen Brewer.

Bank in 2016. A fund was created to honor the bank’s legacy of serving the community, which has now grown to \$2.7 million.

The purpose of the foun-

dation is to provide charitable support for the people in communities previously served by Barre Savings Bank. The foundation focuses its giving on youth and

senior programs, programs supporting education and health and human services and other projects improving the quality of life for the region.

# Paige Library hosts Roger Tincknell

HARDWICK – The Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, presents Ireland to America on Saturday, March 15 at 1:30 p.m at the Hardwick Town House, on the Common.

Singer, yodeler and multi-instrumentalist Roger Tincknell will celebrate with traditional Irish music and culture, lovely ballads, work songs and sing-alongs interspersed with lively jigs and reels. Instrumentals performed include guitar, banjo, mandolin, Irish bouzouki, Irish bodhran (drum), harmonica, penny whistle and spoons. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Hardwick-New Braintree Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts

Cultural Council, a state agency. For more information, people may call 413-477-6704.

On Saturday, March

29 at 1:30 p.m., Edward Orzechowski will present his latest book, “Becoming Darlene The Story of Belchertown Patient #4952.” Darlene, the eighth of fourteen children, was abused, neglected, and sent to Belchertown State School. Although established with good intentions, Belchertown State School grew overcrowded, under budgeted and understaffed. Darlene was “Discharged from Placement” at age 17 with no skills or training, but she dreamed of getting married and raising a family. She married a man, who had recently returned from the Vietnam War and they had two sons. Darlene was determined to raise them to see that the world isn’t an awful place. Registration is requested, people may call 413-477-6704 or email Director. paigelibrary@gmail.com.

The library provides

books and workshops for those interested in starting a hobby. Knitting for adults meets on the library on Saturdays at 11p.m., Paige writers on alternate Tuesdays at 3:00, Book Club on the third Wednesday of the month at 2 p.m. and Cookbook Club on the last Wednesday of the month at 5 p.m. FUNdamentals of Art meets on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. and offers printmaking, card making, painting, calligraphy or bring their craft and join with others to socialize and share know how.

The library will explore Pisanky on Tuesdays, April 1 and 8. People may call for more information or to register at 413-477-6704 or email Director.paigelibrary@gmail.com. Library hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays 2-7 p.m., Wednesdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

# EQLT to hold game night and potluck

HARDWICK – The East Quabbin Land Trust will hold team crossword, them team trivia followed by a potluck on Saturday, March 22 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at their office, 120 Ridge Road.

The program will start off with a team crossword followed by team trivia. Themes for the evening will include local history, conservation, recreation and the environment. They had a crack team working on the puzzles and trivia questions and promise it will not boring.

People should bring a snack or dish to share, along with their thinking cap and sense of humor. People should RSVP by Wednesday, March 19 by emailing atrevvett@eqlt.org.

Visit us at  
www.turley.com

**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 pouimette@turley.com, or call 967-3505. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Ware River News, Attn: Editor, 80 Main St., Ware, MA 01082.

**NOTICE**

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

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SOCIAL SECURITY  
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By Russell Gloor

Did we make a mistake starting  
my wife’s Social Security now?

**Dear Rusty:**  
I hope we haven’t made a mistake.  
My wife just applied for her Social Security benefit. She was born in May 1962 and the estimated amount of her benefit is \$1,280 per month. Her work income last year was \$5,616; however, mine was about \$65,000. I do not plan on taking my benefit until the age of 70 in July of 2027.

My worry now is about the penalty for earning too much. We figured that since her income was so low, we wouldn’t have to worry about that penalty, so we signed her up, and then it hit me: what if they look at my income, especially since our tax return is filed as Married Filing Jointly. Do we have a problem, or are they just going to look at her income to determine if there is a penalty? I hope I haven’t messed this up. Also, I think I read that any penalty you are assessed for earning too much is returned to you once you reach Full Retirement Age; is that true?

*Signed: Uncomfortable Senior Citizen*

**Dear Uncomfortable Senior:**

First, let me ease your anxiety – you haven’t “messed this up.” While it’s true that your income will be included when the IRS determines how much of your wife’s Social Security benefits are taxable, changing your IRS filing status is usually not wise. However, considering your combined income and your “married/jointly” IRS filing status, up to 85% of the SS benefits your wife receives during the tax year will be included as part of your overall taxable income as a married couple. Your wife’s monthly SS benefit is about \$1,280, so about \$13,000 annually will be included in your Adjusted Gross Income when you file your taxes. You can have income tax withheld from your wife’s SS benefit by filing IRS Form W-4V at your local SS office (you can have 7%, 10%, 12% or 22% withheld). Note your wife’s tax obligation for this year will be less because she will not get SS benefits for all of 2025.

The other thing you are concerned about is whether your income will be counted when determining if your wife will be subject to Social Security’s “Annual Earnings Test” and the answer to that is “no.” At her current earnings level (about \$5,600), your wife is well below the annual earnings limit (\$23,400 for 2025) for those collecting early Social Security ben-

efits. So, the AET will not apply and will not reduce your wife’s monthly Social Security benefit. FYI, if her earnings did exceed the annual earnings limit, it is true that some of the resulting penalty would be recovered after she reaches her full FRA of 67.

Note the distinction between “taxation of SS benefits” and the “annual earnings test” for those collecting early benefits. Taxation of benefits is always based on your joint income when filing married/jointly, but the Annual Earnings Test looks only at your wife’s personal work earnings until she reaches her FRA.

As I expect you already know, by claiming now (at age 62 plus), your wife’s monthly SS retirement benefit will be permanently reduced (by about 26%). Until you later claim your SS benefit, your wife will receive her reduced personal SS retirement amount. But, when you claim, her benefit amount will be reassessed to see if she is also entitled to an incremental amount as your wife. If her SS entitlement at her FRA (even though she claimed at 62+) is less than 50% of your FRA entitlement, then her benefit will increase. However, she will not get the full 50% of your FRA entitlement because she claimed her own SS retirement benefit before her FRA (more likely, she will get about 34% of your FRA entitlement).

In the end, you really did not make a mistake by filing for your wife’s Social Security to start now. By the time you personally apply at age 70, your wife will have collected about \$46,000 in Social Security benefits which, I’m sure, will be helpful. And only a relatively modest amount of income tax will be paid on her Social Security benefits.

*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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*

viewpoints

Sweet potatoes get my vote

My dad was a “meat and potatoes” kind of guy. Mashed, baked or fried, potatoes were his thing.

Growing up, we usually had potatoes most nights for dinner. Since I have been an adult, I don’t eat potatoes very often at all.

I often wonder if that particular Irish gene missed a generation, since I prefer the sweet potato over the regular potato any day of the week. Read on to learn all about this nutritional powerhouse.

According to [www.nutritiondata.com](http://www.nutritiondata.com), sweet potatoes are “low in sodium, and very low in saturated fat and cholesterol. They are also a good source of dietary fiber, vitamin B6 and potassium, and a very good source of vitamin A, vitamin C and manganese.”

If these facts aren’t reason enough to try adding this veggie to your garden this growing season, delight in the fact that it is also a very pretty vine!

In fact, once I grew “sweet potato vine” in the planter boxes at Old Sturbridge Village. I didn’t know at the time that the variety I was growing also produced bountiful tubers. It was one of those obvious things that I just didn’t put together.

It’s kind of funny that when I attempted to grow them on purpose at home, they were an utter failure. By the time I peeled the thumb-size roots, there was literally nothing left to eat.

It is time for a refresher on sweet potato culture.

Sweet potatoes require a long growing season – some-

where between 90-150 days. The tender shoots are cold sensitive, and must be planted into the ground after all

choose a formulation that is a bit lower in nitrogen, otherwise you will have lots of vines at the expense of sweet potatoes.

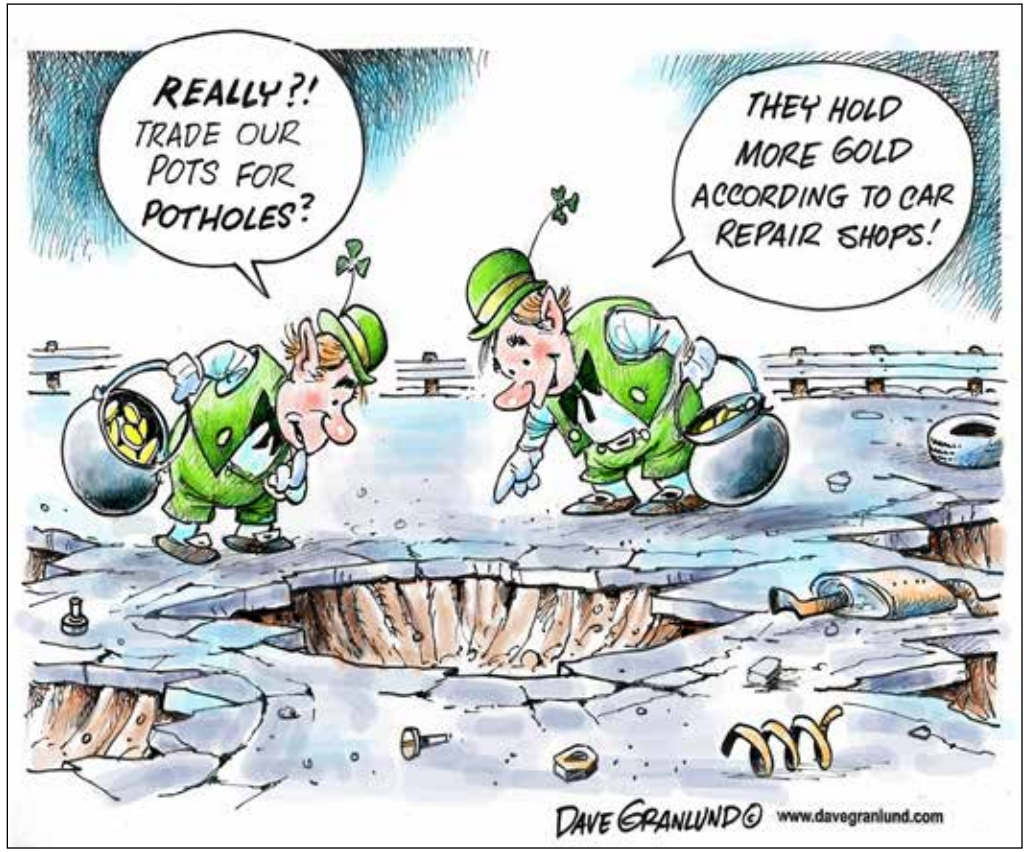
Dig up your bounty on a dry day, being extra careful not to damage the skin. Don’t leave them exposed to the sun for more than an hour and don’t wash them either.

Picky, aren’t they? Fresh sweet potatoes aren’t all that sweet – a curing period of two weeks in the dark at 70-80 and at high humidity will bring out the great flavor we are accustomed to. Long-term storage should be at temperatures around 60 degrees.

To make sweet potato fries simply cut the root into thick wedges then toss them with seasoned olive oil (or a favorite salad dressing). Bake on a cookie sheet at 350 degrees for one hour, flipping occasionally. Some ketchup as a dip may help reluctant kids to give the “funny orange French fries” a try.

My dad is probably looking down and wishing I did an article on good, old fashioned russets. Sorry, Dad, but Happy St. Patrick’s Day anyway!

*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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.*



Male and female cardinal

I received an email from a Worthington resident, who reported the one male “red bird” in his yard all winter.

He said, “I feel like I know him and throw seeds to a special place he likes. His habit of showing up in the dim light of dusk and dawn almost makes him shine. He’s real quiet right now, but I really look forward to hearing him as it warms up.”

The red bird is also known

as the northern cardinal. The male cardinal is bright red with black around the base of its red beak. The female is grayish brown above with buffy color below. Her beak is reddish and she has dark around her bill, but not as black as the male.

Both sexes have crests and are 8 ½ inches long. Although the Worthington resident said the cardinal was quiet now, soon he will sing a series of clear repeated whistles that vary and sound like “whoit whoit, cheer, cheer, cheer.” The call is a metallic “chip.” Both male and female sing.

The female cardinal lays two to five buff white eggs with dark marks in a nest of twigs, bark strips, vines, leaves, rootlets and paper lined with fine grass and hair. They build their nest in dense shrubbery or among branches of small trees.

Bird watchers may witness mate feeding, a common ritual between a breeding pair.

The male picks up a seed and brings it to the female. They touch beaks and his mate takes the offered seed. Mate feeding continues through egg laying and incubation.

Cardinals come to feeders. They feed either on the ground and come to platform style feeders. They prefer sunflower seeds, safflower seeds and cracked corn. Tuesday morning I saw a female cardinal in a lilac bush. I love to see the male cardinal perched on a snow covered branch or ground especially after newly fallen snow. I have a pair of cardinals, which I usually see early in the morning or at dusk.

**Red-winged blackbirds**

The Worthington resident saw a red-winged blackbird at his feeder and heard them on snow shoe recent hike by a beaver pond. He said, “They don’t sound very confident and I wonder what they find down there with the pond

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 5

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

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Ware, MA 01082  
or via email to:  
[pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com)

**The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.**

Turley Election  
Policy

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

SEND US YOUR  
EVENT PHOTOS



As a free service for our readers we accept and will print when space allows community event photos and announcements. Just scan the QR code above and send us your photos and any information.

Polar Plunge to benefit Special Olympics moved to March 22

WARE – The Ware Polar Plunge to benefit the Special Olympics will be held on Saturday, March 22 at West Beach – Beaver Lake.



This event was previously going to be held on March 8, but has been rescheduled due to the ice. The gates will be open from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and there will be food, warm beverages, water, snacks and music provided. Check-in for the plunge is at 11 a.m. and the plunge will take place at noon. To register, scan the QR code or visit [www.polarplungema.org](http://www.polarplungema.org).

Planning Board continues earth removal hearing

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
[rdrago@turley.com](mailto:rdrago@turley.com)

WARREN – The Planning Board had a public hearing for the special permit application of 727 Brimfield Road LLC. The public hearing took place during the March 10 Planning Board meeting. The applicant is seeking a special permit for earth removal and crushing operations at the site. The applicant is currently on a special permit that was issued to them several years ago. Speaking on the project and the special permit application is Ron Cox who represents the applicant, 727 Brimfield Road LLC. Cox said this is needed to allow them to have earth removal done with rock crushing on

the same parcel. Planning Board Chair Richard Eichacker checked with the applicant and read all the equipment that will be on site. According to the plans and map that was reviewed by the Planning Board, there are 10 acres of work area. One of the rules in the bylaws is there has to be a buffer in between the work site and the neighbors’ houses. If the applicant is looking to do some rock crushing on site, there has to be a buffer, and the work is done in one designated area. “Crushing will take place in only one area,” said Vice Chair Ed Londergan. The board put a map on screen for the in-person attendance and the attendance on zoom. The Planning Board reminded Cox that they have to go by the current bylaw

and not the bylaw that was in place to when they got their current special permit. Planning Board member reminded the applicant that they have to “maintain a distance” and should review the current bylaw to make sure they’re following it. The idea of withdrawing the application to only renew the current special permit was brought up. Though it seemed like a good idea, the Planning Board reminded Cox that if they withdraw and renew the current special permit, they won’t be allowed to do rock crushing on the site. The board would then hear from the public who may address any comments and concerns. One resident who is a neighbor of the applicant’s works site spoke against the project due to the piles of lumber, weeds and tree

stumps in between her property and the work site. There is also a concern about noise from the site. Board member Derick Veliz played an audio video for the Planning Board describing the noise that comes from the rock crusher. Cox is asking for a happy medium of conditions and believes the work could be done faster if a crusher was allowed to operate. Veliz remembered during the first issue of the current special permit that the applicant promised to not disrupt or disturb the neighbors and leave the trees as buffers between the work site and and neighbors’ house. Now those trees were all removed and Veliz said, “It’s not nice to do that to the neighbors.” Another resident spoke about her concerns about the project and said from

her driveway she can see a pile of timber in place and has not been cleaned up. Cox addressed the board and the resident and mentioned that work is nearly complete. The reason why it was delayed is because the logger that was hired to do the work went out of business. The Planning Board is considering a site visit and while on that visit, hear from the neighbors and hear their concerns and what they see on site. The board will meet later in the week to conduct a site visit. Cox says he would like to continue this public hearing and would like to have some stipulations in place. The Planning Board voted to continue the public hearing for special permit application for 727 Brimfield Road LLC to the next planning board meeting on March 24.

WARREN BOS from page 1

Ferrera as Town Administrator for another three-year term. Ferrara’s first term is finishing up soon and he has to be reappointed. The Board of Selectmen wanted to share comments on how great of a job Ferrara has done in his role as Town Administrator and appear satisfied with the investment they took in him three years ago. “You’re an awesome asset to the town,” Selectmen Chair Derick Veliz said. David Dufresne said Ferrara has “achieved a lot since he’s been here.” Helping the town obtain grants that have benefited Warren greatly in the last several years. Ferrara has been reappointed as Town Administrator for another three-year term. Public hearing A public hearing was held for the transfer of the application for license and change of ownership for Whiskey Hill Liquors located at 2370 Main St. in West Warren. The transfer would be from J&K Enterprises to 2370 Main, Inc. and naming Pragnesh Patel as Manager. Talking more about the transfer was Arthur Pearlman and he said the floor plan will remain the same and the plan was also submitted with the application. The Selectmen noticed an error of the application that had a different name than Patel as the manager. Ferrara commented that if there is no opposition from

the board, the applicant can repost the application with the appropriate name. Raymond Kopacko from the Finance Committee asked the Selectmen if the application has to be reposted. With the application posted incorrectly, putting the wrong name of the person being manager, the Board of Selectmen are concerned with an objection taking place later on after application is approved. Kopacko believes it is not fair to the applicant if they have to repost the application due to a mistake made by the board. The Selectmen closed the public hearing and voted to approve the transfer of the liquor license from J&K Enterprises to 2370 Main, Inc. and naming Patel as manager. FY 2026 budget The Selectmen continued to review their fiscal year 2026 budget and see if there are any articles needed for the annual or special town meeting. Ferrara said the Finance Committee is seeking budget numbers from all departments as well as confirmed numbers for the liability and workers compensation for town employees. Ferrara discussed the cost of the copiers lease and it will cost \$650 per month, making it \$7,800 for the year. The board voted to approve the budget with the changes made. Ferrara said he will be presenting a draft of the articles for the Selectmen at their next meeting, which is March 13. Ferrara said he has several articles submitted from multi-

ple departments already. Agreement with MassDOT The board voted to enter the town into an agreement with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation for the paving and repairing of a portion of state highway, Route 19 in Warren. Ferrara said this project is funded directly by the state and construction costs are about \$1.2 million. The board thought the plans were well detailed and were told that work will begin sometime in the next few weeks. Highway Surveyor Jeremy Olson will be working with MassDOT during this project. MIIA health insurance rates The Selectmen heard from Ferrara regarding the health insurance rates from the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association for town employees as part of FY 26. Ferrara heard from the Treasurer who recommended that the board renews the coverage. Ferrara hopes in the future the rates will go down. The increase was just over 15%. The board was surprised by the high increase in a single year. Ferrara explained that many town administrators throughout the state sent out a survey recently and many towns are experiencing high increases. The board authorized the Treasurer to sign on the insurance rates.

AMVETS Post announces Michael H. Deslauriers Scholarship

WARE – The Ware AMVETS Post 2577 will award the annual Michael H. Deslauriers Scholarship to a graduating senior residing in Ware regardless of the school district they attend. Michael was a devoted musician sharing his talents with the town of Ware. He represented the town at the Quabbin Music Festival,

Western District Festival and was a member of the Ware Community Band. A music graduate of Westfield State he continued to honor the veterans of the town by playing Taps at their burial ceremony and also at all patriotic and Memorial events. To apply for this award of \$1,000, you need only to

send your application, school transcript and an essay stating your accomplishments and what your future plans are. Applications are available at your guidance office and must be submitted by May 1. Please mail to: Ware AMVETS Post 2577, c/o Richard Rucki, 8 First Ave., Ware, MA 01082.

BACKYARD from page 4

totally frozen and the cat-tails denuded by the wind.” He said, “The arrival of red-wings is exciting for me, as I consider them our first migratory returns.” Bald eagle In his email, the same resident wrote about seeing a bald eagle. He said, “Two weeks ago driving along the East Branch in Cummington, I saw an eagle lite in a dead tree, break off a small branch and fly off, hopefully to a new or repaired nest. It sure didn’t feel like spring then and even today [written March3] I had zero degrees this morning.” He also reports pretty good numbers of goldfinches at his feeder along with the winter regulars. Brimfield birds On Feb. 19, I received an email from a Brimfield resident, who sends emails on a regular basis. He said, “Hope you survived our

recent bout of nasty weather. Our driveway was cleared on Sunday evening and subsequently turned into a skating rink. Fortunately I had lots of sand and rock salt and a little calcium chloride on hand. Using all of that, I was able to get our cars up and out of the driveway. Of course I had to get the frozen garage doors unstuck before I could get the cars out of the garage.” He took part in the Great Backyard Bird Count of Saturday and Sunday. He said, “I had nine species Saturday, things got a little more interesting on Sunday when there were 15 species seen including an adult sharp-shinned hawk that chased some junco into a quince bush (it missed) and a Carolina wren.” Bluebirds He had a pair of eastern bluebirds earlier in the day on Feb. 18 and later five bluebirds showed up, two

males and three females. He said, “That’s the most we have ever seen in the yard. Previously we had seen a single bird a few times and a pair investigated a nesting box one year but were chased away by house wrens.” Non-bird critters During the snow/ice storm in February, my daughter and I saw a wet opossum digging in the snow for seeds while clearing my walk and driveway. On March 1, two of my grandchildren and I saw a porcupine in a tree while driving on our road. People may report a bird sighting or bird related by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing [mybackyard88@aol.com](mailto:mybackyard88@aol.com) or [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com) or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.



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# Exploring the world of infrared photography

March exhibition features the work of photographer Bruce Arnold

By Abby McCoy  
Correspondent

WARE – Local photographer Bruce Arnold is captivating visitors with his latest exhibition, showcasing the intriguing world of infrared photography at ArtWorks Gallery, located at 69 Main St. The exhibition, which opened over the weekend, will be open to the public every Saturday and Sunday through March 30.

Marie Lauderdale, Executive Director of Workshop13, was on-site for the opening, where she shared the gallery’s rich history.

Workshop13 was founded 10 years ago when two local artists purchased a dilapidated church at 13 Church St., transforming it into a cultural hub. The space is dedicated to providing quality art programs and experiences to the community, including art classes, concerts, and art exhibitions.

Lauderdale explained that the gallery was a natural extension of their mission to foster creativity and provide a place for local artists to showcase their work.

“We offer a space for cultural experiences, not just for artists but for the entire community,” Lauderdale said. “In addition to the gallery, we host art classes, open mics,



Photographer Bruce Arnold is shown with Workshop13’s Executive Director Marie Lauderdale at the opening reception for his exhibition at ArtWorks Gallery, 69 Main St., Ware.

and live model drawing sessions every Monday evening.”

Workshop13 opened ArtWors gallery in 2019, where it often features solo exhibitions by artists like Arnold, but also organizes eight themed group shows each year. The next themed show, “Celebrating the Figure,” invites local artists to submit works that explore the human form, offering many interpretations of this timeless subject.

Arnold’s exhibition takes visitors into the world of infrared photography, a process that captures light wavelengths beyond what the human eye can see. While infrared technology has been around for over a century,

Arnold’s work uses this medium to reveal details that are invisible in standard photographs.

Arnold, who has been a professional photographer for 56 years, gave an impromptu lecture during the opening, explaining the science behind his artwork.

“Infrared light has longer wavelengths than visible light, but shorter than microwaves,” Arnold shared. “It’s invisible to the naked eye, but a specially modified camera can capture it.”

The infrared technology was first developed for scientific and military purposes but became popular among photographers in the 1930s when infrared-sensitive film became

commercially available. Today, Arnold uses digital cameras that are modified to capture infrared light, replacing the camera’s hot filter with a special infrared filter.

“What we see in infrared is not necessarily how it looks to our eyes,” Arnold explained. “It can reveal hidden details, like fingerprints or bloodstains on a dark shirt, that are otherwise invisible.”

For example, infrared photography is used in forensics to detect gunshot residue or in medicine to visualize veins and blood flow. The military also uses infrared to detect camouflage and objects in the environment that would otherwise be hidden from view.

Arnold’s infrared photos

have a surreal quality, often appearing in unusual color palettes, such as vivid purples and stark contrasts. While the infrared spectrum doesn’t naturally produce these colors, Arnold uses post-processing to create the final look of his pieces.

“Infrared photography is everyday ordinary stuff, seen with different eyes,” Arnold said.

Arnold’s journey as a photographer began in his teenage years. At 14, his brother, who served in the Air Force, gave him an old Argus C3 35mm camera. Arnold’s early work was self-taught, developing and printing his own images in his bedroom.

Later, he worked with local photographers in Worcester, including Joe Bird and Mort Goldfader, learning the trade and refining his craft.

In 1973, Arnold and his wife, Deb, opened a professional photo studio, specializing in portrait, wedding, and commercial photography. Their studio ran until 1986, during which Arnold developed a keen sense for lighting and composition.

In 2001, Arnold’s career took a new turn when he began working for Fujifilm North America as a senior technical product marketing manager. While there, Arnold did not help develop infrared cameras but rather worked as a trainer, teaching law enforcement, military, and forensic professionals how to effectively use infrared technology in their work.

Three years ago, Arnold

retired, freeing up more time to explore his passion for photography. He now uses infrared techniques to create fine art pieces, focusing on nature, architecture, and everyday life.

In addition to showcasing Arnold’s work, Workshop13 is also known for its ceramics studio, ClayWorks, where potters of all skill levels can create and refine their craft.

The studio is also involved in charity work, with students making bowls for the Amherst Survival Center’s annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser, which supports food insecurity across the region. This year’s fundraiser will take place on Saturday, April 5, where people can buy a handmade bowl filled with various foods, with all proceeds going to the community.

Looking ahead, Workshop13 will continue to offer a platform for local artists, showcasing their talent through various exhibitions and themed shows.

“We’re not just a gallery,” Lauderdale said. “We’re a place for the community to connect, learn, and create.”

Arnold’s infrared photography exhibition provides a unique opportunity to experience the unseen world through his eyes. The show will be open to the public every weekend from 1-4 p.m. through March 30, offering visitors a chance to see how the ordinary can become extraordinary when viewed through the lens of infrared photography.

## TRAIL from page1

east side of Belchertown all the way to the far side of Hardwick.”

The Selectboard and Town Manager signed a letter drafted by Bourcier to show support for the completion of the Mass Central Rail Trail.

“It will be very impactful, it will cause a renaissance,” Della Penna said.

## Mary Lane Hospital update

Town Manager Stuart Beckley said town counsel from KP Law reviewed Bourcier’s complaints regarding her appeal of answers received from the Historical Commission, Selectboard, Building Commissioner and himself regarding violations of the demolition delay at Mary Lane Hospital.

“Her [the attorney’s] recommendation I think is that if each of those entities feel that they have done enough then that’s fine,” he said. “But that there’s not currently an appeal process. If the town wants to look at changing the bylaw they [KP Law] can help with that in the future for the demolition delay.”

Beckley said in terms of

finding an appeal for what has been deemed unsatisfactory, town counsel did not have a recommendation that the Selectboard could present to those seeking an appeal.

Selectboard Chair Nancy Talbot said there is really nothing further for the board to act on, since the Historical Commission and Building Commissioner have not found violations. She said

those seeking an appeal can pursue that in another manner, including legal action.

“That is within their purview,” Talbot said. “But there really is nothing further for the board to act on.”

Beckley said there is an appeal to a public records request received by Bourcier, which he has prepared to release to her after the board reviews it.

## STM for zoning amendments

Talbot read a memo she drafted after meeting with Beckley and town counsel regarding a petition request to hold a special town meeting to vote on zoning amendments being discussed by the Planning Board.

Talbot explained the appropriate process of requesting a special town meeting by citizens’ petition. The Selectboard members agreed to sponsor the articles on the special town meeting warrant.

“Zoning amendments generally require discussion at a town meeting, and it is apparent that two or three being proposed for consideration by the voters of Ware will require presentation of information, even though public hearings have been held,” Talbot stated in her memo.

Her memo suggested the Selectboard schedule a special town meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 8 at 6:30 p.m. to take action on at least two zoning amendments: Mechanic Street and Maple Street rezoning and the Healthcare Services bylaw amendment. The Selectboard voted to schedule the special town meeting as suggested.

## Town Manager’s report

Beckley said a public hearing and forum for the Community Development Block Grant application will be held in the Town Hall on Monday, March 17.

He said the town received an MVP 2.0 climate change grant for public outreach and education in the amount of \$50,000. He said once the town completes that, it will be eligible for another \$50,000 to put toward a project.

Beckley said that project would likely be related to stormwater.

He said the bridge on North Street has an additional beam that needs addressing. He said the engineer believes the repairs could be completed in phases in order to keep the bridge open.

Beckley said two employees have submitted their resignations, one on the Fire Department and another on the Parks Department.

Beckley said he attended a dam safety program with the police chief regarding the Barre Falls Dam held by the Army Corps of Engineers. He said it was a good training exercise that outlined what could happen if the dam was ever breached.

Beckley said the Finance Committee has been meeting with departments about their budgets for fiscal year 2026.

“It’s a very tight budget,” he said.

Beckley said he attended a meeting with area communities to discuss the Quabbin Equity Bill. He said if passed, it could provide additional payments in lieu of taxes to the town and funding for water improvements.

“They’ll be looking for community support as that goes forward if towns wish to join in and push for the legislation in Boston,” he said.

Beckley said the engineer is close to completing plans to upgrade the electricity in the Town Hall. He said the Friends of the Town Hall are looking at improving the windows in the upper level as well.

## Sewer abatement

The Selectboard received a sewer abatement request for a property at 80 East St. The water heater failed at the property, which resulted in a massive amount of water draining into the drywell and not the sewer.

After the Department of Public Works Director reviewed the request, he recommended abating the sewer bill for the time period of Oct. 1-Dec. 31, 2024. The Selectboard approved the abatement.

The DPW Director also reviewed a sewer abatement for a property at 40 Church St., which he did not recommend approval of. The Selectboard voted to deny the abatement request.



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# Community Reading Day



Ware Children's Librarian Cathy Goulet read to Maura Balicki's kindergarten class.



Officer Jeannine Bonnayer has some fun in Kelly Walsh's preschool class.

## Students celebrate literacy with guest readers

WARE – Ware Public Schools celebrated Read Across America Week and Dr. Seuss' birthday with a Community Reading Day last week.

On March 7, 35 community members visits classrooms in Ware Middle School and Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School, sharing information about their jobs before reading one of their favorite books to the students.

Readers included college athletes, police, fire, authors, state legislators, a radio DJ, TV and newspaper reporters, bank employees, the town's tree warden and many more.

"The day is celebrated each year to point out the importance of reading," said Jan Yardley, Director of Curriculum, Accountability, Professional Development, Federal Programs and Grants. "It is a much-anticipated event for students and staff alike."



Community readers at Ware Middle School posed for a photo before heading to their respective classrooms. Shown front row from left are Dr. Ginger Coleman, Chris DiMarzio, Fire Chief Jim Martinez, Elena Palladino and Sheriff Patrick Cahillane. Back row from left are Justin Gonsor, Jim Lawless, Boomer and Lieutenant Matthew Simpson.



Town Manager Stuart Beckley read "The Lorax" by Dr. Seuss to Sara Stoddard's third grade class.



Fire Chief Jim Martinez read to Rebecca Gonzalez-Kreisberg's fourth grade class.



Country Bank's Jodie Gerulaitis read to Erin Walsh's preschool class.



Lieutenant Matthew Simpson of the Belchertown State Police Barracks read to Courtney Lynch's fourth grade class.



Students listened attentively as the book was read.



Tree Warden Josh Kusnierz read to Tyler Darling's third grade class.



State Sen. Peter Durant read to Tiffany Hawk's third grade class.



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# SPORTS

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## Indians lose to undefeated Pioneer in quarterfinals



Brady Guimond tries to dodge the defense.



Jack Gaudreau gets a shot for the Indians.

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

NORTHFIELD—The Ware boys’ basketball team made the trip to Pioneer Valley Regional High School in Northfield last Friday night looking to accomplish something that 23 other teams failed to do this season.

Unfortunately, the Indians players didn’t celebrate an upset victory in the Division 5 state tournament Elite 8 game.

The top-seeded and undefeated Pioneer Panthers scored the first 14 points of the contest and cruised to a 75-29 win over ninth-seeded Ware in front of a large crowd at Messer Gymnasium.

“We didn’t get off to a very good start in tonight’s game,” said Gene Rich, who finished his ninth season as the Indians boys’ varsity hoop coach. “I would’ve liked the game to have been a little bit more competitive, but Pioneer is a very good basketball team.”

It was the first meeting between the two squads on the hardwood during the past ten years.

The Ware baseball team has defeated Pioneer in the Western Mass. Class D finals the past two seasons. The outcome of those two games were decided in extra innings.

The Ware boys’ basketball team finished the 2024-25 campaign with a 17-6 overall record. It’s their second most wins in a season since Rich has been at the helm. The 2018-19 squad, which lost to Drury in the Western Mass. Division 4 finals, went 21-3.

“I’m very proud of what this group of players accomplished this year,” Rich said. “I’m also very happy for the seniors. Those five guys are very special.”

The Indians seniors are Jason Mumper, Ben Torres, Owen McKeever, Justin Grout, and Noah Perry.

The trio of Mumper (3 points) McKeever (2 points), and Justin Grout (3 points) started in the Elite 8 game, along with junior’s Brady Guimond (3 points) and



Owen McKeever attempts a three-pointer.

Jack Gaudreau, who led the Indians with 10 points with the help of five inside field goals.

Ware’s journey in the 2025 Division 5 state tournament began with a 50-40 victory over 24th-seeded Brighton High School in the round of 32 at Paul Orszulak Gymnasium on February 28. The Indians then traveled to Boston on March 5 where they upset eighth-seeded Fenway High School, 45-33 in the Sweet 16. Gaudreau also led the Indians offensively against Fenway with 18 points. He scored 10 of his points during the fourth quarter. McKeever scored six of his 10 points in the final quarter. Guimond scored six of his 10 points before half-time in the Sweet 16.

Ware made another long bus ride north to the Vermont border two days later.

“We came into tonight’s game with a couple of questions,” said Rich, who has a 113-73 record as the Indians varsity basketball coach. “The first question was if we could present some challenges to Pioneer defensively. We do take a lot of pride in our defense, but we weren’t very efficient. The other question that I had was how much

Please see **WARE**, page 10

## Pioneers fall in Round of 32

SPRINGFIELD – Following a win on Feb. 25 in the preliminary round, the Pathfinder girls basketball team fell to host Renaissance in the Round of 32 72-20. The Pioneers’ season ends at 16-6 overall as the Pioneers had an excellent regular season and won a game in the state tournament for the first time. In the Round of 32 loss, Megan Clark and Greenly Lagimoniere had six points each to lead the Pioneers.



Desiree Croteau makes her way down the court during the state playoffs.



Megan Clark shoots for the Pioneers.



Addison Doktor grabs a rebound.



Taylor Allen gets ready to pass into the paint.



Greenly Lagimoniere hustles down the court.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

## Wrestlers complete tourney competition

Wrestling season has come to an end and several area teams crowned champions at the sectional and state levels.

In the Division 2 state tournament, Max Holloway took home a state title at 215 pounds. Stella Christopher won a state title in the girls meet while Gabriella Ramos was a runner-up. Minnechaug’s Kal Ly won the 132-pound bracket while John Bermudez was a runner-up at heavyweight. Holyoke’s Steven Santiago finished second in D2 at 120 pounds.

Ludlow’s Lucas Alvan was a state champion in the Division 3 meet at 175 pounds.

In the sectionals held last month, Agawam had a

big day with multiple placers. They had four champions. Ryan Sexton at 150, Max Holloway at 215, and Jordin Agosto at 126 all took home titles. Cole Ingham was a runner up at 175, as was Kaleb Progulske at 106. Keymani Rivera (157), and Tyler Gervais (190) both took third place. Agawam would finish third overall in the meet with 204 points.

Minnechaug was the second-place finisher behind champion West Springfield with 213 points. They had two champions, Kal Ly at 132 pounds and John Bermudez at 285. Matthew Macphail and Hunter Gormally had runner-up finishes. The Falcons had one

Please see **TOURNEY**, page 10

## Streets of Holyoke set for 10K Road Race

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – The rich tradition that is the Holyoke St. Patrick’s Road Race will make its return next Saturday, March 22. This will be the 48th running of the popular race.

Louis Serafini was the big winner of last year’s event. He completed the very hilly, 6.2-mile course in 30:12. Serafini is from Cambridge.

The top female was a local runner from Western Massachusetts. Anna Steinmen, of Springfield, came across the finish line at 37:00.

Ryan Davis, of South Hadley, was one of the top local finishers at 34:36. He was 20th overall.

This year’s race would feature runners from all



The runners are off in the 2024 Holyoke St. Patrick’s Day Road Race.

over the region, the state, and surrounding states as many are preparing for the Boston Marathon, set to take place in just under a month.

Many runners over the years have enjoyed using the St. Patrick’s Day Road Race as practice for the marathon because of the challenging hills throughout the streets of Holyoke that runners must navigate through.

Please see **RACE**, page 10

Turley photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
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Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – It is week four of the third round for the Commercial Elks League. After three weeks, Team BK, consisting of Tom Bedard, Jeff Whyte, Paul Nothe and Mark Fitzpatrick, reigns as the #1 seed at 8-4. Tied for second place is Gutter Mouths and Last in Line with a record of 7-5. Gutter Mouths won the first round and received a berth in the championship roll off. Compression is in fourth place with a record of 6-6 and want to win round three. Daft Kings and Mailmen are tied for last with a record of 4-8. The Daft Kings won round two and will be competing in the roll offs with Gutter Mouths and the winning team of round three. In week four, Last in Line

bowled against Team BK. In game one, Team BK won the game by a score of 361-344. Mark Fitzpatrick of BK began the match with a 112 to get the first win for his team. In game two, Team BK won again by a score of 343-335. Vinny Navarro of Last in Line broke the century mark with a 104. In game three, Last in Line won the last game by a final score of 359-341. Dave Chambers of Last in Line bowled a 101 to finish the match. Team BK won total pinfall with a final score of 1045-1038. The #1 seed won three points. The Daft Kings bowled against Gutter Mouths this past week. In game one, Daft Kings were victorious by a score of 428-422. Every bowler on Daft Kings broke the century mark with Dave Cobleigh having the highest game of 118. In game two, Daft Kings won again by a score of 389-370. Stephen Manolakis of Gutter Mouths bowled 108 and Cobleigh bowled 103. In game three, Daft Kings

won the last game by a score of 376-362. Cobleigh bowled a 110 and had a series of 331. Daft Kings won four points with a final score of 1193-1154. Compression bowled against Mailmen; both teams are trying to win the last round for a playoff berth. In game one, Mailmen defeated Compression by a score of 415-360. Bryan Surprise of Mailmen bowled a 116 to start the match. In game two, Mailmen won again by a score of 390-338. The highest game was bowled by Surprise with a 104. In game three, Compression won the last game by a score of 394-377. Surprise finished with a 114 and a series of 334. The Mailmen won three points, including total pinfall, by a final score of 1182-1092. Next week will be the half-way point of round three for the Commercial Elks League. One more team will be joining Gutter Mouths and Daft Kings in the championship roll off.

Valley Wheel tryouts set for next month

Players looking to join the Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League can attend the tryouts beginning Sunday April 6. The time and location of the tryout is to be determined. The league, which plays its games in Western Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut, makes sure that everyone gets a fair share of the action. Everyone plays a minimum of 4 innings in the field, and everyone bats. The league follows MLB rules

with some modified rules adapted with safety in mind. The Valley Wheel stands apart from other leagues across the country for this reason: Their league charter and one of their main goals, is to work toward having a league with teams of equal strength. The league is now seeking new players to fill open roster slots. Enjoy the competition and camaraderie with a great group of guys who enjoy the game as much as you do.

Stay in shape and make new friends. Be part of something that happens once a year, and with luck, win a championship that might be once in a lifetime. Grab your glove and cleats and join a team for a great adventure. It's not too late don't miss out; opening day is just around the corner. For more information, contact Jim Nason at 413-433-4308 or visit the website www.ValleyWheelBaseball.org

Thunderbirds beat Islanders, move toward playoff berth

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. — The Springfield Thunderbirds (30-20-2-4) blitzed the Bridgeport Islanders (12-38-4-3) for five unanswered goals in the final 40 minutes to pull away with a 5-2 win on Sunday afternoon at Total Mortgage Arena.

For a third straight game, the T-Birds were slow out of the gates, forcing Vadim Zherenko to be tested early and often in the first period, as 14 of the first 18 shots in the game went to the Islanders. Marshall Warren broke the levee 12:47 into the game with a wrist shot that eluded Zherenko through traffic, giving Bridgeport a 1-0 lead. After the T-Birds were forced to go down a man on a post-whistle roughing penalty, Liam Foudy made Springfield pay with his seventh goal of the season series at 14:45 to buoy the Isles lead to 2-0. Springfield finally got pressure on Hunter Miska's net in the closing minutes, finishing the period with the final six attempts on goal, but the Bridgeport netminder remained perfect, stopping all 10 T-Birds shots in the first 20 minutes. Zherenko was timely in the opening half of the second period as the Islanders continued to mount a push

to extend the lead. The Springfield backstop shined, with a pair of odd-man stops off Jack Randl and Adam Beckman to maintain the 2-0 score. The T-Birds finally snapped out of their offensive zone funk at 10:31 as, on his 31st birthday, MacKenzie MacEachern

turned in the high slot and flipped a shot toward Miska's net that got a friendly deflection from Nikita Alexandrov before finding the twine. Alexandrov's 16th goal in just 33 games cut the Bridgeport lead in half, 2-1. Like the Islanders did in the first, Springfield went to a power play and struck for the second time in as many minutes as Dalibor Dvorsky returned from retrieving a new stick on the bench and beat Miska under the crossbar at 12:17 for his ninth power-play goal of the season. The game-tying goal brought Dvorsky into a tie among AHL rookies in man-advantage tallies. The tie score carried into the final period, and the power play came up with the difference-making play as Matt Luff sent a puck perfectly into the paint, where Matthew Peca guided it past Miska just 1:17 into the third to give Springfield its first lead, 3-2. Peca's 26th of the season eventual-

ly became the game-winner, giving the captain his second game-deciding goal in as many days, an 11-game point streak, and the AHL lead in game-winning goals. Samuel Johannesson picked up assists on both of the T-Birds' power-play goals, giving him 15 helpers on the man advantage for the season, tied for fifth most in the AHL. Corey Schueneman also had a two-assist night from the T-Birds' blue line. Springfield's special teams were not finished, as just over five minutes after the Peca goal, Otto Stenberg retrieved a loose puck at the offensive blue line and fed a perfect blind pass to spring Hugh McGing on a short-handed breakaway. McGing delivered the finishing strike through Miska, making it 4-2 at 6:22 of the third.

Bridgeport's power play could not make up the difference on a late chance, and Dvorsky capped the five-goal run with an empty-netter in the final minute to cap off the win. Zherenko completed a magnificent bounce-back performance with 36 saves for his 10th victory of the season and fourth in his last five starts. With their magic number down to 18 in pursuit of a Calder Cup playoff berth, the T-Birds begin a three-game weekend on Friday as they make their lone visit to Upstate Medical University Arena against the Syracuse Crunch for a 7:00 p.m. puck drop.

WARE from page 9

energy we had left in the tank after winning in Boston two days ago. I really don't want to make any excuses because Pioneer is one of the best teams that we've faced since I've been coaching here." Pioneer (24-0), who defeated Duggan Academy, 57-39, in the Western Mass. Class D. finals, hasn't lost a home game since suffering a one point loss to Duggan in last year's Class D. semi-finals. The Panthers won their first two games of the 2025 state tournament against Prospect Hill Academy Charter and Old Colony by an average of 41 points. They won a total of 16 games this season by twenty or more points. Only two games were decided by fewer than ten points. Pioneer was led offensively in the Elite 8 game by senior Brayden Thayer (23 points), senior Kurt Redeker (19 points), and sophomore Jackson Glazier (11 points). Five other players scored for the home team. Redeker, who scored his 1,000th career point during the regular season, and



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
Brodie Koczur heads into the paint.

Glazier combined to score 12 of the Panthers first 14 points of the game. With 2:55 remaining in the quarter, Ware junior Alex Orszulak (6 points) fired a 3-point shot from the right side of the key. The ball got stuck between the rim and the backboard resulting in a jump ball. The Indians, who regained possession of the ball, finally

broke the ice 15 seconds later when Guimond buried a 3-pointer from the right corner. Then an inside hoop from Gaudreau and an Orszulak 3-pointer, sliced the Indians deficit to 14-8 with 25 seconds left in the first quarter. Ware, who was trailing 17-8, at the end of the opening quarter, only scored eight points in the second quarter.



Jason Mumper drives to the hoop.

The Panthers went into their locker room holding a commanding 35-16 halftime lead. If the Indians supporters had any thoughts of making a second half comeback, they didn't last very long. The Pioneer scored 28 points in the third quarter and held a 63-24 lead entering the final eight minutes of the contest.



Justin Grout goes for a shot.

Six of the Indians third quarter points were inside baskets from Grout, Gaudreau, and McKeever. Perry hit a jumper from the left side before the buzzer went off. It was his only points of the game. An old fashion three point play by Mumper and another Gaudreau inside hoop were the only points scored by the Indians during the fourth

quarter. With eight returning varsity players, including two starters, the Indians, who lost in the Sweet 16 game at Hoosac Valley a year ago, will be looking to take another step up the ladder in the 2026 Division 5 state tournament.

TOURNEY from page 9

third place finisher and five fourth-place finishers. Chicopee's Michael Jenkins placed second at 144 pounds. In the Division 3 Western Mass. tournament at Mt. Greylock, Belchertown, which returned its program to varsity status this season, saw Jack Bergerson finish fourth at 175 pounds and Evan Perkins finish fifth at 150 pounds. Brogan Bottari also took fifth place at 120 pounds. Ludlow, Granby, Quabbin, and Pathfinder

participate in the Central Mass. Championship meet. Ludlow's Lucas Alvan took first place at 175 pounds while Noah Simard was second at 150. Ryan Gomes had a third-place finish at 126 pounds. Quabbin's top finisher was Abe Brown at 126 pounds. He finished in second place. Three others, Brady Dennis at 215, Brent Benoit at 132, and Cole Wilson at 150, all took fourth place in the meet. Pathfinder had one placer, which was Dominic Jerry at 165 pounds. Granby's Nathan Benson finished fifth at 113 pounds.

RACE from page 9

Of the more than 6,000 runners who were registered, 4,442 finished the 10K course last year. Race officials have said the participation level in the event is still rebounding from the pandemic. Prior to the pandemic in 2019, race participants totaled about 7,000. The race was not held in 2020 and 2021 before it returned in 2022 with around 5,000 participants. More made their way out to the race last year, but that number was surpassed this year. Because of that, the start of the race featured multi-



The wave of runners head down the first stretch of the 6.2-mile course.

ple waves, though 4RUN3 ran the bibs and electronic results kept accurate results for all those involved. A number of this year's

participants were featured in the usual celebratory costumes and outfits for St. Patrick's Day, while many others opted for cartoon

and other fictional characters, such as Spider-Man. Several local running clubs also made their way to the race, as did the youth of the region. Youth participants in the race were as young as seven-years-old. Security was in full force at the event with plenty of presence from the Massachusetts State Police, Holyoke Police, and Hampden County Sheriff's Department, and the event went off without any incidents. If you're still looking to participate in this year's race, go to www.holyokestpatricksroadrace.org.

# Q-munity Closet now open in New Braintree



*Courtesy Photo by Ashley Roy*  
Kylie Gagnon takes new winter jackets out of their packaging to hang on the rack before the grand opening of Q-munity Closet at the New Braintree Grade School.

*Courtesy Photo by Ashley Roy*

**By Ellenor Downer**  
*edowner@turley.com*

**NEW BRAINTREE** – A teacher's idea with the help of eight dedicated Post Grad students and the community came to fruition on Monday, March 3.

Post Graduate Employment and Community Specialist Ashley Roy thought creating a Q-munity Closet modeled on the one at the Quabbin Regional Middle High School would be a great learning experience for the class, but also a resource for the community at large.

New Braintree Grade School, located at 15 Memorial Drive, where the Post Grad class meets, was a perfect location for such a project. The former cafeteria provided the ideal seating.

It is located in the front section of the building just off the main entrance, where it has plenty of natural light and has a department store look.

The department store vibes were due to the fact a former plant and facilities manager for the Quabbin Regional School District was

able to acquire display stands and racks from a department store.

On the day of the Grand Opening staff member Michaela Valley was applying white sticky paper to a display box. This was a quick way to give the display stand a new look without having to paint it. The one she worked on was headed for the infant area which had many 0-3 month sizes.

An email sent to parents said, "This is also very beneficial to our Post Grad students, who are able to work on their communication skills while dealing with the public, inventory of items, organization skills, as well as dealing a small business." The email also said, "This space is designed for all community members to pick out clothing items that you, your family or someone you may know could benefit from free of charge. We currently have a significant supply of brand new winter coats in a variety of sizes. If you, or someone you know could use one for this year, or looking ahead to next winter, please stop by."

Please see **CLOSET**, page 12



**ABOVE:** Staff member Michaela Valley puts sticky paper on this display box, which will be used to display infant clothes. There are several more displays behind her as well as circular units for displaying items at the Q-munity Closet.



**RIGHT:** This display rack holds a good selection of brand new winter jackets.

# SUMMER CAMP GUIDE



# Kamp for Kids to celebrate 50 years of summer fun for all abilities with a Golf FUN-raiser on April 10

**SPRINGFIELD** – Kamp for Kids, a summer day camp for children and young adults with and without disabilities, has planned a season of special celebrations in honor of the camp's 50th Anniversary, starting with a Golf FUN-raiser event on Thursday, April 10, 2025, from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Max's Swing Lounge, located at 1000 Columbus Avenue in Springfield.

The Golf FUN-raiser event will bring together supporters, community members, campers and friends to begin a season of celebration

for 50 years of growth, inclusion, and joy for children and young adults of all abilities. Proceeds from the Golf FUN-raiser will directly benefit Kamp for Kids, helping to ensure that the camp continues to thrive for years to come.

Tickets are \$100 and include access to the driving range, mini golf, appetizers, two drinks, and the chance to win exciting contests and prizes. Tickets can be purchased at [kamp50.eventbrite.com](http://kamp50.eventbrite.com). Sponsorship Opportunities are also available for businesses and individuals.

Those interested in sponsoring this event should reach out to Kelly Brown at Kelly.Brown@BHNInc.org or 413-654-0930. Sponsorships can also be made on the event website, [Kamp50.EventBrite.com](http://Kamp50.EventBrite.com).

Founded in 1975 by Dick and Judy Hoyt, Kamp for Kids was created to offer an inclusive camp experience for their son, Rick, who had cerebral palsy, and his brothers without disabilities. Over the years, the Hoyts

have championed disability inclusion, inspiring countless families worldwide. Today, Kamp for Kids continues to honor their legacy, demonstrating that every child—regardless of ability—deserves the chance to participate in meaningful, fun, and educational experiences.

Located in Westfield, Kamp for Kids serves children and young adults ages 5-22, both with and without disabilities,

hailing from cities and towns throughout Western Massachusetts. Each summer, the camp provides a unique environment for growth and inclusion, offering activities such as expressive arts, outdoor education, arts & crafts, non-competitive sports, and a spray park—all designed to create a sense of belonging and joy for every camper. Kamp for Kids operates during the summer months, serving about 150 campers in three sessions.

“Kamp for Kids is celebrating 50 years of creating a space where every child, re-

ardless of ability, can grow, learn, and have fun together,” said Anne Benoit, Program Director of Kamp for Kids. “We’re excited to celebrate this milestone and look forward to many more years of providing life-changing experiences that foster inclusion, friendship, and personal growth.”

BHN has been providing behavioral health services to children and families in Western Massachusetts since 1938.

The agency provides community-based services that include innovative, integrated whole-health models as well as traditional clinical and outpatient and therapeutic services, day treatment, addiction services, crisis intervention and residential supports.



# SUMMER CAMPS

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public safety

Ware Police Log

During the week of March 2-11, the Ware Police Department responded to 22 miscellaneous calls, 17 administrative calls, 12 traffic violations, 15 emergency 911 calls, five motor vehicle accidents, four safety hazards, two harassments, four thefts/larcenies, one vehicle fire, six animal calls and 31 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

**Sunday, March 2**  
2:36 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Prospect Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
4:13 p.m. Safety Hazard, Shady Path, Services Rendered  
7:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
8:54 p.m. Warrant Service, Main Street, Arrest Made  
Arrest: Darrion Bucknam, 21, Ware  
WMS Warrant; WMS Warrant; WMS Warrant

**Monday, March 3**  
2:44 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Prospect Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
3:38 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Eddy Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
8:58 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Gould Road, Report Made  
9:05 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Investigated  
10:19 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Shoreline Drive, Services Rendered  
12:34 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Palmer Road, Arrest Made  
4:01 p.m. Warrant Service, Hillside Village, Arrest Made  
Arrest: Daniel Kendall, 53, Ware  
WMS Warrant; Resist Arrest  
6:16 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Church Street, Services Rendered  
6:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
7:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle

Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
**Tuesday, March 4**  
3:50 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
4:26 p.m. Theft/Larceny, North Street, Advised

**Wednesday, March 5**  
12 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Fisherdict Road, Services Rendered  
12:58 p.m. Assault, West Street, Report Made  
2 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Otis Avenue, Services Rendered  
3:02 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Street, Report Made  
6:18 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Hillside Village, Services Rendered  
11:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued

**Thursday, March 6**  
3:54 p.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
11:11 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Palmer Road, Report Made  
2:38 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, River Road, Could Not Locate  
6:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
9:08 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Cottage Street, Dispatch Handled

**Friday, March 7**  
9:49 a.m. Safety Hazard, South Street, Advised  
12:44 p.m. Vehicle Fire, Horseshoe Circle, Extinguished  
3:23 p.m. Safety Hazard, Elm Street, Advised  
3:25 p.m. Safet Hazard, Belchertown Road, Dispatch Handled  
7:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Investigated  
9:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Belchertown Road, Citation/Warning Issued

**Saturday, March 8**

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.

3:03 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Aspen Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
3:11 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Eddy Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
3:17 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Eddy Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
8:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Belchertown Road, Citation/Warning Issued

**Sunday, March 9**  
11:37 a.m. Weapons/Firearms, Monson Turnpike Road, Report Made  
4:31 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Greenwich Road, Advised  
4:41 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Otis Avenue, Could Not Locate  
10:31 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Eddy Street, Investigated

**Monday, March 10**  
5:36 a.m. Assault, Church Street, Report Made  
10:16 a.m. Breaking and Entering/Burglary, Valley View, Services Rendered  
1 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Upper North Street, Services Rendered  
2:36 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Robbins Road, Services Rendered  
5:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gould Road, Citation/Warning Issued  
6:47 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Church Street, Services Rendered

9:54 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Delargy Road, Transported to Hospital  
1:58 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Upper Church Street, Transported to Hospital  
8:03 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Officer Handled

**Sunday, March 9**  
8:40 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Barre Road, Investigated  
10:34 a.m. Larceny/Theft/Shoplifting, Broad Street, Report Taken  
3:39 p.m. Assist Citizen, Broad Street, Officer Handled  
3:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Prospect Street, Criminal Complaint  
8:01 p.m. 911 Misdial, Bridge Street, Officer Handled  
8:20 p.m. Investigation, Broad Street, Officer Handled  
9:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning

Judge sentences man convicted of rape to a state prison term

NORTHAMPTON – A Hampshire Superior Court judge today sentenced a Ware man to a four-six year state prison term after a jury found him guilty Feb. 26 of charges that included rape, strangulation and indecent assault and battery.  
A jury convicted Thomas Finney, 56, after deliberating for three hours, in connection with an incident in August of 2022 in which he assaulted a woman by strangling her, beating and raping her. The trial ran over five days, during which 12 witnesses, including the victim, took the stand to testify.  
Assistant District Attorney Sandra Staub, Chief of the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Unit, requested a sentence of six-eight years in state prison on the

rape charge, with 24 months to be served concurrently on each of the strangulation and indecent assault and battery charges, and 12 months served concurrently on the assault and battery charge.  
In making her case, Staub noted that her sentence recommendation falls within the state sentencing guidelines.  
“There’s a reason the sentencing guidelines call for such a sentence upon a conviction of rape,” she said. “Rape strips a person of all power and control they have over their life and instills a deep sense of emptiness, fear, anxiety, and depression in its victim.”  
Defense Attorney Alfred Chamberlain asked for a sentence of two and a half years in the House of Correction

followed by five years on probation.  
“This was a violent crime,” Superior Court Judge Tracy Duncan said to defendant when she imposed a four-six year state prison sentence.  
Duncan also ordered three years of probation after he is released from prison with conditions that include Finney receive sex offender treatment and alcohol treatment, that he stay away from the victim, that he use no alcohol and submit to random drug tests. He must also register as a sex offender.  
Criminal charges are based on probable cause to believe a person has committed a crime. All defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in court.

Warren Police Log

During the week of March 1-8, the Warren Police Department responded to 156 building/property checks, 64 community policings, 19 emergency 911 calls, two safety concerns, one fire/smoke investigation, three structure fires, one fraud/forgery, one threat, one larceny/threat, one motor vehicle accident, four animal calls and 22 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

**Saturday, March 1**  
7:35 a.m. Falls, Presidential Circle, Mutual Aid Transport  
9:18 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
9:32 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
11:18 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Bridge Street, Criminal Complaint  
1:04 p.m. Smoke Investigation, Bridge Street, Investigated

**Sunday, March 2**  
11:06 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ware Road, Vehicle Towed  
10:28 p.m. Structure Fire, Brimfield Road, Fire Extinguished

**Monday, March 3**  
9:09 a.m. Safety Concern, Nelson Street, Officer Spoke to Party

5:14 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Old West Warren Road, Report Filed

**Tuesday, March 4**  
10:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Southbridge Road, Transported to Hospital  
2:51 p.m. Structure Fire, Canada Lane, Investigated  
5:58 p.m. Welfare Check, Main Street, Report Filed

**Wednesday, March 5**  
6:11 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
8:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Street, Criminal Complaint  
11:05 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint  
11:41 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint  
1:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Criminal Complaint  
5:56 p.m. Threats, Knox Trail Road, Report Filed

**Thursday, March 6**  
5:58 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
6:20 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
10:55 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
1:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation

Issued  
1:45 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Milton O. Fountain Way, Officer Spoke to Party

**Friday, March 7**  
1:43 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
8:32 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
9:40 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint  
10:50 a.m. Unwanted Party, Old West Warren Road, Removed to Court/Lockup  
2:20 p.m. Power Lines Down/Arcing, Gilbert Road, Investigated  
10:33 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Ware Road, Mutual Aid Transport

**Saturday, March 8**  
8:48 a.m. Power Lines Down/Arcing, Southbridge Road, Fire Extinguished  
12:21 p.m. Structure Fire, School Street, Fire Extinguished  
1:17 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, South Street, Mutual Aid Transport  
2:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Citation Issued  
9:04 p.m. Falls, Bay Path Road, Mutual Aid Transport  
9:55 p.m. Safety Concern, Reed Street, Negative Contact

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of March 3-10, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 46 building/property checks, 28 directed/area patrols, six radar assignments, four traffic controls, eight emergency 911 calls, five citizen assists, two assist other agencies, one complaint, one safety hazard, one investigation, one motor vehicle investigation, one larceny/theft/shoplifting, two animal calls and 15 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

**Monday, March 3**  
5:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Written Warning

**Tuesday, March 4**  
1:43 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Collins Road, Services Rendered  
8:47 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Citation Issued  
11:50 a.m. Complaint, Hardwick Road, Spoken To  
12:23 p.m. Assist Citizen, Delargy Road, Spoken To  
1:05 p.m. Assist Citizen, Mechanic Street, Spoken To

**Wednesday, March 5**  
10:32 a.m. Assist Citizen, Lower Road, Spoken To  
7:10 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Spoken To

**Thursday, March 6**  
2:54 a.m. 911 Suspicious Activity, Church Street, Services Rendered  
8:01 a.m. Medical Alarm, Hardwick Pond Road, Transported to Hospital  
4:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

**Friday, March 7**  
12:25 a.m. Medical Emergency, Off Ruggles Street, Transported to Hospital  
10:56 a.m. Safety Hazard, Main Street, No Action Required  
2:17 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Negative Contact  
3:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

**Saturday, March 8**  
7:06 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

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

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

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

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

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Ware River News

CLOSET from page 11

The Q-munity Closet will be open on Mondays from noon-2 p.m. at New Braintree Grade School, located across from the Town Hall on Memorial Drive. If people are unable to make it at that time, they may email Ashley Roy at aroy@qrsd.org to make an appointment for a time that is convenient for them.  
Roy said this new student run business endeavor needed donations of plastic coat hangers as well as used and new clothing. They may be dropped off on Mondays from noon-2 p.m.  
There are plans in the future to extend the hours of operation to Saturdays as well. Both Roy and Superintendent Mucha were willing to man the store on Saturdays.  
Post Grad student Gagnon quickly offered her assistance on Saturdays when she was available. Two Quabbin High School students, who earn community service, volunteer time during the week at the Post Grad program.  
The school has a washer and dryer to clean the used clothing. In addition to washing all the used clothes, the students sorted through it to make sure the clothing was free of stains, which the wash did not remove and tears.



Turley Photos by Ellenor Downer  
Kylie Gagnon proudly stands by one of the display racks she set up for the grand opening of the Q-munity Closet in New Braintree Grade School. New and used clothing are available for free. This is a project of the Post Grad class for students ages 18 to 22.

Everything is free, but there will be a donation jar at the closet for those wishing to make a monetary donation. Any proceeds would help fund, field trips for the students.  
The email concluded, “As this is a new venture for our Post Grad students, we invite you to extend this invitation to family members and

friends, even if they do not have a need for resources at this time. We want to provide the students with a lot of foot traffic to build their communication skills and praise them for all the hard work they have done getting this venture off the ground.”

Richard C. Como, 87

BEDFORD, N.H. – Richard C. Como died on Friday, Feb. 21, 2025, at the age of 87.

He was born in Ware on July 21, 1937, to Gaston and Anita (Lussier) Como. He was educated at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parochial Schools and Ware High School.

Upon graduation, he enrolled at Babson College and graduated in 1960 with a BA/BS in Business. After college he served in the National Guard and upon discharge he was employed by Lorillard Tobacco Company. He worked for the company for 39 years, until retiring in 2000.

He married Margaret A. Como (Briand) in July 1964.

He is survived by his wife, their three children, Alison (Como) Goyette m. Robert Goyette, Richard Como m. Karin (Fortin) Como and Christopher Como and four grandchildren, Katherine Goyette, Meredith Goyette, Benjamin Como, and Samantha Como.

Dick taught his children how to throw a baseball, how to bat, and how to throw a football. His steadfast commitment to his family is remembered with love and gratitude. He is recalled as someone who was always there for his wife and children, and as someone who showed the world that sometimes, being a dad is just about showing up.

He cherished his wife of more than 60 years, with unparalleled love and pride.

Dick was always there to help with a move or to drive his daughter and her friends to the roller rink. Even at his most exhausted, he was always there to play baseball with his son after work, a sport he was delighted to pass on.

He retained this ethic as a grandfather, looking forward to the birth of his first grandchild for the simple joy of taking her to McDonald's to have some fries. Dick never complained, never expected any praise, and always kept a smile on his face – he had one of those strong characters that just was, without any need for recognition.

His devotion ran rivers deep for his family, even for the most unexpected of members. He cared for his daughter's cat, Mittens, faithfully, despite never see-

ing himself as a cat person. Somehow, she always ended up in his lap.

Dick was affable and kind, and never shied away from hard work. He moved through life with a dedication to the community around him. Dick was active in Bedford

Little League as Coach and Manager in the late 70s and early 80s, winning the playoffs in 1980.

In 1983 he was appointed to the Bedford Board of Adjustment and served until 1991. In 1991 he was elected to Bedford Town Council and served for nine years. Dick was a charter member of the Bedford Lions Club in 1965 and remained a life-long member.

He was also an original member of St. Elizabeth Seton Church, where he served on the finance committee and was an usher for many years. His Catholic faith guided him to focus on and demonstrate kindness and love, never judgement, above all else. He was an active participant in his church, and was always the most enthusiastic singer; he taught his grandchildren that it was ok for men to sing, express, and love.

He was jovial and fun, and always knew how to throw a good party. His cribbage skills stand out in memory; both his love of the game and his skill (for which he won a beautiful loon cribbage board as proof).

Even when competing, personable and good-hearted, and never said an unkind thing about anyone. Emmy and Sam take their social nature from him; Rick, like his father, never says anything bad about anyone. Ben, Chris, and Katie will always show up and work without complaint. Alison got his athleticism, his crappy eyesight, and his hand-eye coordination (which most of the youngest generation missed out on).

Dick loved his family for the people they are, showed his care through action, and spent a loyal lifetime uplifting his community. He kept his head up through it all, and loved his wife with a dedication even beyond words. He will be deeply missed by all, including his furry friend, Harry.

Services were held at St. Elizabeth Seton Church in Bedford, New Hampshire on March 10.

Barbara A. Sauve, 86

WARE – Barbara Anne (McCoubrey) Sauve age 86, passed away on Saturday, March 8, 2025, at Baystate Wing Hospital in Palmer.

Barbara was born on Jan. 25, 1939, in Nashua, New Hampshire, daughter of the late John A. McCoubrey and Frances (Porusta) McCoubrey. She was raised and educated in Nashua, and on June 7, 1958, she entered into Holy Matrimony with Paul Joseph Sauve.

Together they have been happily married for 66 years. Paul and Barbara lived for many years in North Attleborough, 17 years in Palmer, and recently at Cedarbrook Village in Ware.

Barbara was employed for many years as the bookkeeper for her and Paul's Liquor Store, Douglas Liquors in the Shaws Triboro Plaza in North

Attleboro. She was also a stock broker prior to her retirement.

She was a faithful Roman Catholic and was a communicant of St. Mary's Church in Ware.

Barbara leaves behind her beloved husband of 66 years, Paul Joseph Sauve, her children; daughter, Deborah Sauve, son, Michael John Sauve, her grandsons; Johnathan and Nicholas, and great-grandson, Cooper John. Barbara also leaves behind her sisters; Gayle Dean and Joy Clyde.

A Funeral Mass will be offered on Saturday, March 15, 2025, at 11 a.m. in St. Mary's Church, 57 South St., Ware. Burial will take place at the convenience of her family. Cebula Funeral Home of Ware is in charge of the funeral service.

For more information and an online guest book, please visit: www.cebula-funeralhome.com.

Charles Stephen Lubelczyk, 77

HARDWICK – The family of Charles Lubelczyk sorrowfully announce his passing on March 1, 2025, at the age of 77.

Charlie passed peacefully with family by his side as his courageous fight with cancer came to its conclusion.

Born at Mary Lane Hospital in 1947, Charlie was one of five children of Stanley and Pauline (Zielinski) Lubelczyk. Charlie grew up in and lived in the small town of Hardwick, for his entire life, apart from a brief time living in Ware.

Charlie grew up working on the family farm with his siblings, and continued to do so until his early 30's. While not a farmer by trade in the years later, he was always a farmer at heart – never losing the work ethic, ingenuity, and technical tinkering that comes with the lifestyle.

Charlie worked at EJP, and the Hardwick Kiln for most of the remainder of his life. His passion for problem solving and improving processes were great assets to these companies.

Charlie graduated from New Salem Academy in 1966, where he was the President of the school's chapter of the Future Farmers of America, and President of his class for his sophomore and Junior year. As a young adult, Charlie continued his civic activities as a member of the Quabbin Regional School Committee.

After their own children had grown, Charlie and his wife Jean opened their home to the foster care system of Worcester County. In 2014 they were awarded the Dorthy Sullivan Memorial Award for their dedicated service. They opened their home to the care of more than 200

children over their years of service, providing children with a safe and loving environment when they needed it the most.

Charlie was predeceased by his parents, his brothers John and Edward, and his daughter Pamela Brown. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Jean, and his children and grandchildren; Paul and Crystal Mailhot and their children Matthew and Rebecca; Lisa Lubelczyk and her children Owen and Adam Faulha; Steven Lubelczyk and Keturah Sawyer and their daughter Eliza. He is also survived by his brother Chester Lubelczyk, sister Mary Ouellette, son-in-law Greg Brown and over 200 foster children, including but not limited to Sam, Josephine, James, Christopher, Chris, Nick, Tyrese, and Karma.

A Funeral Mass for Charlie was held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 10 a.m. in St. Aloysius Church, 64 Church St., Gilbertville, MA 01031. Guests were asked to please meet directly at church on Tuesday morning. Burial was held immediately following the mass, in St.



Death notices

Como, Richard C.  
Died Feb. 21, 2025  
Services March 10, 2025

Lubelczyk, Charles Stephen  
Died March 1, 2025  
Services March 11, 2025

Sauve, Barbara A  
Died March 8, 2025  
Services March 15, 2025

Watts, Michael Roger  
Died Feb. 24, 2025

Aloysius Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made to the Dana Farber – Jimmy Fund for cancer research (either by mailing the donation form on their website to P.O. Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284-9168, or online at [https://dana-farber.jimmyfund.org/site/Donation?df\\_id=2101&mfc\\_pref=T&2101.donation=form1](https://dana-farber.jimmyfund.org/site/Donation?df_id=2101&mfc_pref=T&2101.donation=form1)), or to the Future Farmers of America (National FFA Foundation, 6060 FFA Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46278, or online at <https://ffa.givenow.stratuslive.com/ffadonate>).

Charbonneau Funeral Home is honored to serve the Lubelczyk family. An online tribute page is available at [charbonneaufh.com](http://charbonneaufh.com).

Michael Roger Watts, 54

LEICESTER – Michael Roger Watts, formerly of Spring Street in Ware, was born on May 17, 1970, in Worcester and died at home in Leicester unexpectedly on Feb. 24, 2025.

He is survived by his parents and his brothers Richard Watts, Uwe Kirch, Marcus Nadel, Shaun, Jeremy, Justin and Eric Morrison, his partner Lilac Green and her children Ace and Hayden, and many cousins including Dustin Gaulin and Andrea Chevalier of Ware and Odessa Gaulin of Wales.

He worked at both Electro-Term in Springfield and Profiles in Ware as an Industrial Maintenance Technician and at Northeast Security Solutions in West Springfield as a Certified

Locksmith.

Mike was always eager to volunteer his comprehensive construction and mechanical skills to anyone who he could benefit and took great pride in his craftsmanship.

No service is planned at this time.



Cold weather clothing drive ongoing through spring

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

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

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

In Loving Memory of  
**Sean Michael Madigan**  
3-14-20 ~ 3-14-25

Sadly missed and forever loved by  
**Kevin, Brenda, Emily & Lee**

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56					57				58				
59					60					61			
62					63						64		

**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Unsheared sheep  
5. Rock TV channel  
8. Streetcar  
12. Concerning  
14. Expression of recognition  
15. Greek goddess of youth  
16. An iPad is one  
18. Adult beverage  
19. Manning and Wallach are two  
20. Makes a petty verbal attack  
21. Tyrion Lannister's nickname  
22. Pointed ends of pens  
23. Wristwatches  
26. Body part  
30. Made a mistake  
31. Adjusted  
32. Turkish honorific title  
33. Yell  
34. Historic Alabama city

39. Cub  
42. Type of sea bass dish  
44. To call (archaic)  
46. Unfortunate  
47. Separate oneself from others  
49. Hero sandwiches  
50. Former OSS  
51. Open spaces in a forest  
56. Innermost brain membranes  
57. Fortune  
58. Hunting expedition  
59. Doomed queen Boleyn  
60. Peyton's little brother  
61. Type of wrap  
62. Scottish tax  
63. Soviet Socialist Republic  
64. An increase in price or value

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Works of body art

2. Abba \_\_, Israeli politician  
3. A desert in Asia  
4. Eat greedily  
5. Doomed French queen  
6. Beat  
7. One who survives on blood  
8. As a consequence  
9. Counted on  
10. Acquired Brain Injury Behavior Science  
11. Unclean  
13. One who does not drink  
17. Wild ox of the Malay Archipelago  
24. \_\_ student, learns healing  
25. Bacterial skin infection  
26. Expresses surprise  
27. What one says on a wedding day  
28. Crony

29. Where you entered the world (abbr.)  
35. Unit of length  
36. Side that is sheltered from the wind  
37. More (Spanish)  
38. Autonomic nervous system  
40. Violent troublemakers, originally in Paris  
41. Statements that something is untrue  
42. Greek alphabet letter  
43. Suspends from above  
44. Popular types of cigars  
45. Girls  
47. U.S. philosopher and logician  
48. Nocturnal hoofed animal  
49. Relaxing spaces  
52. From a distance  
53. Form of Persian  
54. Amounts of time  
55. Trigonometric function





Game Night offered at Lost Towns Brewing

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – Lost Towns Brewing in Gilbertville is offering a new activity for guests to enjoy during their visit.

During one day of the month guests will get to play some fun board games while enjoying the refreshments provided by Lost Towns Brewing. Alex Spurrell will not only provide the beverages and play some soothing records but will also provide fun board games. Spurrell believes there

is not a lot of places in the region that offers board games. He wants to offer a space for board game enthusiasts to come together and enjoy the company of other players and learn how to play new board games.

“There is not a lot of places to play,” Spurrell says. “Bring some passion back into Lost Towns.”

Guests are also welcome to bring some of their favorite board games too.

For this month, Spurrell brought some of his favorite board games to play. One of them is called Takenoko,

where players try to cultivate a bamboo garden with the help of a gardener and a hungry panda. The player who manages the land plots best, growing the most bamboo while feeding the delicate appetite of the panda, will win the game.

Spurrell showed examples of the tiles and the players, featuring the panda and the gardener.

The other game Spurrell brought that he also enjoys playing is called Dominion. This card game involves players starting with a very small deck of cards.

In the center of the table

is a selection of other cards the players can buy as they can afford them while they play. Through their selection of cards to buy, and how they play their hands as they draw them, the players construct their deck on the fly, striving for the most efficient path to earning points.

One of the most common games played at Lost Towns is cribbage. Spurrell says the brewery gets a lot of players who enjoy cribbage, and the brewery has many cribbage sets and decks of cards available.

Game night will take place



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

Game pieces and figurines of the board game Takenoko, which could be played at Lost Towns Brewing in Hardwick.

once a month on a Thursday at Lost Towns Brewing and is one of my fun events provided. Visit Lost Towns Brewing at 483 Main St. in Gilbertville, right off Route 32.

Go to ltbrew.com to find out more about the brewery and the activities they offer.

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