

WARE RIVER NEWS

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SB hears update on hospital, town depts.

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Town Manager Stuart Beckley provided a summary to the Selectboard of recent meetings that have been held with Baystate Health, regarding the former Mary Lane Hospital.

Attending the meetings are Beckley, Hospital Review Committee Nancy Talbot and a member of the Historical Commission.

At the March 6 meeting, Beckley told the Selectboard that Baystate Health had committed to cooperation during a meeting with state legislators.

He said there has been concern from residents about the removal of pavement from the hospital site, which will be addressed with state legislators in a follow-up meeting.

Beckley said the Hospital Review Committee and Historical Commission are researching alternate uses for the hospital, keeping the need for a medical service in town at high importance.

Please see **WARE BOS**, page 5

WCES students run DAILY PODCAST



By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – Every morning during the school day, the classrooms of Warren Community Elementary School view the daily podcast.

The WCES podcast features sixth grade students reporting morning announcements and other school community activities throughout the school year. When these students start the sixth grade, some of them apply and submit a resume to become part of the pod squad and host the daily school podcast.

After the application process, the applicants are narrowed down to four or five candidates. This process of

Please see **PODCAST**, page 5

Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

Sixth grade students at Warren Community Elementary School get early reporting experience by hosting their school's daily podcast.

Selectmen appoint new building inspector, town accountant

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARREN – The Board of Selectmen appointed William R. Cantell as the town's Building Inspector and Zoning Enforcement Officer for a one-year term.

At the March 7 meeting, Board of Selectmen Chair David Dufresne said Cantell is qualified and knowledgeable.

Cantell said he started as a contractor in the early 1990s in Brimfield until 2018, when he became a local inspector in Southbridge. He was hired to conduct inspections of multi-family buildings, annual liquor license inspections and buildings with over 50 people occupancies.

Cantell also became the Building Commissioner of Wales and Brimfield. He is also the regional inspector for Barre, which also includes three other towns.

He said Warren is the second largest town he covers.

"I'm looking forward to getting things going," Cantell said.

Cantell said he enjoys doing inspections and that he follows up on all valid code enforcement complaints.

New Town Accountant

The board approved an employment agreement between the town and Jaclyn Bonner to assume the role of Town Accountant.

"She seems like a very good fit for the town," Dufresne said.

Town Administrator James Ferrera said it was "very clear" to the committee that Bonner stood out as a candidate with her background and experience.

Bonner will start March 25.

Ferrera also thanked interim Town Accountant Madeline Witaszek for stepping up for the town.

"She came in, and she was extremely helpful in getting us to where we are today," he said. "Thank you very much for your dedication; your hard work certainly doesn't go unnoticed."

Dufresne said Witaszek has always been an asset to the town.

CDBG application

A public hearing was held for the fiscal year 2024 Community Development Block Grant application.

Chris Dunphy, principal planner with Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission presented information about the grant, and the projects this round of funding would cover.

"I've been helping Warren for over 20 years now, develop these applications...and we've done quite well with it," Dunphy said.

Dunphy said he has been working with the Community Development Advisory Committee to determine eligible projects. He said they've been successful in targeting the village centers in town.

This year, the proposed projects will focus on West Warren, specifically River and Central streets.

"The waterlines on these two streets are asbestos lined and they're undersized," Dunphy said. "For those two reasons alone, we think it's worthy to go ahead and seek funds to replace them."

River Street will be 100% reconstructed with a new waterline, new road surface and improved stormwater drainage system.

"Due to the limitations of the grant applications, we'll only be able to afford the installation of a waterline on Central Street, but we hope to come back in a future year and finish off the road," Dunphy said.

Dunphy said the application is

Please see **WARREN**, page 6

USDA grant would cover 35% of new cruiser cost

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

HARDWICK – Capital Planning Committee Chair Mark Korzec updated the Select Board about the feasibility of purchasing a new vehicle for the Police Department.

At the March 11 meeting, Korzec said the U.S. Department

of Agriculture has offered a Community Facilities grant for \$23,450, which would leave a balance of around \$43,557 that the town would be responsible for. He said the Finance Committee has reviewed funding for the vehicle.

"Our suggestion was to get a four- or five-year loan and pay it back from Capital Stabilization," Korzec said. There is currently \$50,000 in that account, and the

Capital Planning Committee plans to add \$50,000 to it each year.

"In four years, when that would be paid off, we'd have plenty of money for the other capital purchases that were coming up," he said.

Town Administrator Nicole Parker said the Community Facilities grant is for a "shovel-ready" project that is not construction and covers 35% of the

cost. She said the funding will be gone as of Sept. 30, and the town's portion has to be paid in full.

In order to meet the parameters of the grant, Parker said the town would need to have the title of the vehicle, and if they paid with a loan, they wouldn't receive that title for several years.

Please see **HARDWICK**, page 13



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

This amazing house sculpture was made by Quaboag Regional High School senior Chloe Fredette.

Student's art displayed at West Brookfield library

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WEST BROOKFIELD – For a month, guests at Merriam-Gilbert Public Library will witness talented artwork.

Please see **DISPLAY**, page 8

Purple for Prevention Week

Chris Herren speaks at school and community assemblies

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

BARRE – For Quabbin Regional High School alumni Cody Handrahan, stepping back into his high school gym and standing in front of an assembly of students and staff, was a feeling almost beyond words.

"It's an honor and a privilege to be back here," Handrahan said at an assembly last Thursday evening, held in commemoration of Purple for Prevention Week.

Handrahan attended the high school in 2008-2009, but never graduated. As a young teen, he smoked and drank a lot to fit in with his peers.

"Very quickly, that changed," he said, when he became addicted to opioids at just 15 years old.

Handrahan had the opportunity to work with Q-DRUG (Quabbin Drug Response Unifying Group) when it first started, and had its members' support when he hit rock bottom and told his mother he would take his life.

"They stuck by my side," he said.

Q-DRUG's founder Neki Jenkins thanked Handrahan for sharing his story, adding that she is "so proud of him."

Jenkins then introduced former Boston Celtics point guard Chris Herren, who had spent the day at the school speaking with students in middle and high school as part of Purple for Prevention Week.

Herren first came to the school district in 2013, sharing his story from his days playing basketball in his driveway as a kid, to going pro, and losing everything he had to addiction.

"I'll never be like that guy," Herren recalled thinking to himself as a teenager when he sat through an assembly similar to this one.

Herren said if he could go back to 1994 to that assembly, he would listen.



Turley Photo by Mary Whitelaw

Former NBA player Chris Herren stands with Q-DRUG members Neki Jenkins (left) and Mary Whitelaw (right).

Over the last 15 years, Herren has spent most of his time traveling, speaking at schools and connecting with students, hoping to empower them to feel good about themselves and avoid using substances in order to feel comfortable around their peers.

"We put way too much energy into the worst day and not the first day," Herren said.

Herren grew up in a home that was shaped by addiction, as his father is an alcoholic.

"My mother was always by herself in her bedroom reading," Herren recalled.

He remembered the first time his mother had the courage to tell his father that she would leave him if

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Ware River News OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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



PHONE
413.967.3505
Fax: 413.967.6009
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL
Advertising Sales
Dan Flynn
dflynn@turley.com

Editor
Paula Quimette
pouimette@turley.com

Subscriptions
cgriswold@turley.com

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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.

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



File Photo
Last week's photo from 1960 showed Ware seamstresses as they modeled suits they made themselves at a Homemakers Day program sponsored by the Hampshire County Extension Service in Northampton. From left to right are Mrs. Arthur Provost, Mrs. Henry Wojtowicz, Mrs. Henry DeSantis, Mrs. Paul Dansereau, Mrs. Joseph Lenkarski, Mrs. William Phillip and Mrs. Joseph Kobis. If you recognize the folks in this week's photo, please send their names and your full name to pouimette@turley.com.



Friends of Ware Town Hall spring 2024 Lotto Calendars on sale

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

“These Lotto Calendars are very popular” said Skutnik. “We’ve had a tremendous positive response to them in the past.”

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

“Each person who buys a calendar has multiple chances to win, since winners names are put back into the pool,” Skutnik said. “These calendars are fun to buy for yourself and also to give. These always put a smile in someone’s day - everyone likes a game of chance.”

Calendars are being sold locally at the following locations: Changes Hair Salon, Crystal Springs Dairy Bar, DeSantis Garage, It’s Wine O’clock, Moulton Insurance Agency, Nat Falk, Silhouettes, Subaguru, Sunny & Shears Beauty Salon, Talk of the Town, Ware Library, Ware River Club, Ware Senior Center, Ware Town Hall (Town Manager’s Office) and Wilton Children’s Store.

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

Paige Memorial Library lists March and April events

HARDWICK – Let’s GO with LEGOS is held on Thursdays in March from 4-5 p.m. at the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road.

No registration is required for open-ended free-building Lego sessions for children over age 5. Anyone under the age of 9 must have a grown-up with them.

Come build on the beautiful Lego table purchased by the Friends of the Paige Memorial Library. Constructions will be displayed for one week until they are completed or disassembled.

Needle Felting

On March 16 Brianna Lamb will offer a Needle Felting workshop. Call 413-477-6704 to be put on the waiting list.

Pysanki eggs

On March 21 make an Easter Egg in the Ukrainian, Lithuanian, and Polish tradition. The folklore is that every pysanka created using the wax resist method strengthens the chains that hold back evil in the world – let’s make pysanki and save the world!

Registration required. \$5 covers one fresh egg, the use of the kistka, beeswax and dye.

Register online at director.paigelibrary@gmail.com.

paigelibrary@gmail.com, or call 413-477-6704, or stop in.

Seed Library

On April 13 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., the Friends of the Paige Memorial Library will launch their 2024 Seed Library. Paige Memorial Library offered one of the first Seed Libraries and they will do it again with a Bake Sale, a Book Sale, and a garden themed raffle basket.

If you would like to donate to the bake sale or raffle or have any questions, email director.paigelibrary@gmail.com, call 413-477-6704, or stop in.

Explore ongoing programs

The library hosts a number of ongoing programs, including the Paige Writing group on Tuesdays at 3 p.m., Knitting on Saturday mornings, the Paige Book Club at 2 p.m. on the last Wednesday of the month and the Cookbook Club at 5:30 p.m. on the last Wednesday of the month.

Make this your library

Join the Friends, suggest a new program, present a new workshop. For more information email director.paigelibrary@gmail.com, call 413-477-6704, or stop in.

Michael H. Deslauriers Scholarship applications available

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 the 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 Avenue, Ware, MA 01082.

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 18

9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Scat
11:30 a.m. St. Patrick’s Day Party with music by Stephen George. \$5 nonrefundable tickets available until March 15. Entertainment Courtesy of the Friends of Ware Seniors Inc.

Tuesday, March 19

9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
9-10 a.m. Council on Aging meeting
10 a.m. Scat
11:30 a.m. Lunch
5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking (\$3 per class)
6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

Wednesday, March 20

9 a.m. Tai-Chi
9:30 a.m. Quilting Club
10 a.m. Scat
11:30 a.m. Lunch
2:30-3:30 p.m. Knit-Crochet-Laugh

Thursday, March 21

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

Friday, March 22

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

LUNCHES DINE IN 11:30 a.m.

All meals \$3.50 unless otherwise noted

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

Monday, March 18

St. Patrick’s Day Party
\$5 ticket must be purchased before March 15; limit 100
Entertainment Courtesy of the Friends of Ware Seniors Inc.
Corned Beef and Cabbage, Potatoes, Baby Carrots

Tuesday, March 19

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

Wednesday, March 20

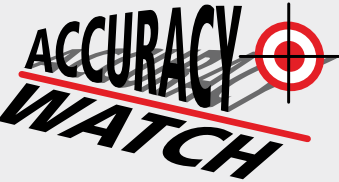
Muffaletta Sandwich, Potato Chips, Dessert of the Day

Thursday, March 21

Stuffed Peppers, Green and Gold Sandwich

Friday, March 22

Fried Scallops, French Fries, Veggie of the Day, Dessert of the Day



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

Join Us For the 2nd Annual Senior Resource Fair

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

**NO COST!
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Participants include

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

For more information contact **Danielle Souza** (413) 949-0422 or email: danielle.souza@fairwaymc.com

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It's maple syrup season at Hardwick Sugar Shack

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – During Sundays in March, the Hardwick Sugar Shack offers tours and teaches the process of how maple syrup is made, starting with trees and ending up in those special maple syrup containers.

This family sugar shack has been operating in Hardwick for more than 20 years.

Joe Raskett and Megan McDonough welcome many guests to explore the process behind making maple syrup. It is a fun experience where guests can venture out into the outdoors and witness the steps in the maple syrup making process.

March is sugaring season in Massachusetts and the Hardwick Sugar Shack has been keeping busy to make as much maple syrup as possible. On location, there is a sugar house that houses merchandise and memorabilia of all the history of Hardwick Sugar Shack; the shelves stocked with containers of maple syrup, maple cream and maple candy.

Raskett has many newspaper articles over the years that have told stories about Hardwick Sugar Shack. One of the greatest stories to Raskett involves his children.

"I got to watch my kids grow up seeing these articles," Raskett said. "While growing up, Raskett's children Emily and Jonathan got to experience the world of making maple syrup and help out their parents every season. Hardwick Sugar Shack have had seasonal staff over the years as youth in the neighborhood expressed interest in helping out every maple syrup season."

Students in high school would help every year until they left for



Visitors can check out Hardwick Sugar Shack and see how maple syrup is made.



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Memories on the walls of the sugar house highlight the great success Hardwick Sugar Shack has had over the years.



A cozy campfire is always running during the operation of making maple syrup at the Hardwick Sugar Shack.

college. Raskett says sometimes the kids come back to help or visit during their school breaks.

Raskett, originally from Rutland, started making maple syrup as a hobby. Raskett also admits to having a sweet tooth for maple syrup.

This hobby would soon turn into a family business as equipment for making maple syrup can be very expensive.

As of now, Hardwick Sugar Shack has about 16 acres of land with over 1,400 trees tapped into to collect sap. The land is filled with trails that take the staff of Hardwick Sugar Shack into the wilderness.

Raskett's favorite part of operating the sugar shack is going out into the outdoors and checking on the trees.

As the business grew over time, the supply of maple syrup got big-

ger and the Hardwick Sugar Shack got busier. Many customers appreciate the business of Hardwick Sugar Shack and can rely on purchasing delicious pure maple syrup every season.

"People want a good taste of maple syrup," Raskett said. "The public will take care of you".

Raskett and McDonough appreciate the continued support from the community of Hardwick and the neighboring communities and businesses who love their maple syrup.

During the sugaring season, Hardwick Sugar Shack does feature their sugar house with maple syrup, hats, t-shirts, and other maple products. However, their maple syrup is available year-round at local stores.

Hardwick Sugar Shack's pure maple syrup is available at The Country Gourmet in Barre, Rose32

Bread in Gilbertville, Hardwick Farmer's Co-Op in Hardwick, Hartman's Herb Farm in Barre, Howe's Farm Stand in Paxton and Holden, Mimi's Coffee House in Hardwick and Petersham Country Store in Petersham.

Hardwick Sugar Shack attends the annual Hardwick Community Fair every August and offers pure maple syrup. Containers of maple syrup come in half pints, pints, quarts and half gallons. The Hardwick Sugar Shack makes an average of about 350 gallons of maple syrup a year.

For a tour of the Hardwick Sugar Shack, visit 572 Jackson Road on Sundays, March 17 and 24 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. To learn more, call the Hardwick Sugar Shack at 413-477-0932 and follow the Hardwick Sugar Shack on their Facebook page.



The front counter of the sugar house at Hardwick Sugar Shack features maple syrup, maple cream and maple candy.



Using a reverse osmosis machine helps produce maple syrup inside the sugar house.



Pumps help bring sap to the sugar house where it is converted to maple syrup

Trinity Episcopal hosts St. Patrick's Day dinner

WARE – Trinity Episcopal Church, 17 Park St., will host a St. Patrick's Day corned beef and cabbage dinner on Sunday, March 17 from 5-6:30 p.m. The cost is \$15 per meal, and

is available drive-up or take-out. The menu includes corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, bread and dessert.

For reservations, please call 413-967-6100 and leave your

name, phone number and the number of meals you'd like to order.

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

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 8 election, and we need questions from the community.

Select questions will be asked to each candidate running for the Selectboard and School Committee during the March 23 forum.

Please send your questions, specifying the board or committee

it is intended for, by email to poumette@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.

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GUEST COLUMN

Life Together

A few weeks ago, Sesame Street's Elmo posted: "Elmo here, just checking in. How's everybody doing?"

Hundreds of responses flooded the posting. People poured out their lives to the puppet. Cheaper than therapy, the fear and pain of many were shared online.

People are hurting. People are alone. Mental health professionals now tell us that the leading cause of mental illness is loneliness.

So many of us seek healing for our broken lives. Whether due to loss and our grief, addiction, or our disconnect from others to eliminate the stimulation of our nerves, or our inability to enter into and sustain intimate relationships, we seek connection and support.

Mental health is about relationships. When we are in relationship to others who care about us, they give us good energy and hope. We seek peace in our troubled times. We seek truth in our delusional politics.

One possible interpretation of TRUTH is: "Stop Forgetting".

Stop forgetting who loves you. Stop forgetting to whom you belong. Stop forgetting there is hope. A hope we need to do it all again tomorrow.

An acronym for HOPE, is, Help Other People Endure. When in pain and suffering we need to be grounded in hope.

Whatever your faith, or lack of faith, wise words come to us from St. Paul in Romans 5: "Suffering produces Endurance, Endurance produces Character, and Character produces Hope, a hope that does not disappoint."

To be fully present with another person, to sit with them, walk with them, care for them, is the healing source for those who are alone and feel hopeless. Our presence embodies hope.

We need not say anything.

Helping another person endure their suffering and move towards hope is a sacred event. In the end we may get to gratitude and discover that in our being present, not only may the other person endure and find peace, we too share the transformation from suffering to endurance to character to hope.

Who will you sit with? Who will, is, sitting with you?

May you trust you are not alone and there is a way forward.

Elmo hears you. Elmo cares. And we are called to hear each other and care for each other.

Rev. Dr. Randy Wilburn
Minister, Therapist, Consultant

Life Together is written by Rev. Dr. Randall K. Wilburn. With over 54 years as a parish minister, Wilburn is also an experienced marriage and family counselor. Life Together will deal with topics such as stress, grief, anxiety, healing and hope.



Comments on CONGRESS

By Lee Hamilton

Immigrants drive U.S. economy

The American economy is thriving, and immigration should get some of the credit.

That's the message from experts who highlight the critical role that immigrants are playing in the workforce.

This may seem surprising when immigration is under attack and chaos at the border is a staple of political rhetoric. But immigrants are filling essential jobs – in childcare, health care, food service and agriculture but also in science, technology and entrepreneurship – at a time when employers are struggling to find workers.

About half the recent growth in the labor market came from foreign-born workers, according to an Economic Policy Institute analysis. A recent report by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that growth in the labor force, largely from immigration, will add \$7 trillion to America's GDP in the next decade.

More people working means more people paying taxes, which reduces the federal deficit.

Of course, this doesn't mean our immigration policies are working the way they should. They haven't been seriously updated since 1986.

We need an immigration system that advances our national interest and reflects our values, and we don't have that. Our current system prioritizes family unification, which is important; but it hasn't kept pace with changes in technology and the economy.

Obviously, many Americans are concerned about immigration. A recent Gallup survey found 28% of respondents named immigration as the top problem facing our nation, more than cited inflation or

Please see **HAMILTON**, page 13



News from my garden to yours

I received a text from a friend earlier today asking what is covering my strawberry plants.

I answered her with one word: water.

Yes indeed, a good portion of my garden is drowning at the moment, as are various parts of my yard. We have had too much rain in too short of a period and the ground is still frozen partway down.

It's happened before and will likely happen again, but every time it does, I wonder how these areas could possibly rebound and look good come spring. Usually, they do and with little help from me.

The water recedes and spring comes.

Keep in mind that the soil, be it in your garden or yard, will lose some of its fertility because of leaching, and it will be compacted from such excessive rainfall. Give your plants a side dressing of compost this spring; it will be sure to help restore fertility and improve the condition of the soil in general.

According to a soil test, my garden was notoriously low in nitrogen, so I incorporated blood meal into the soil at planting time with another dose a few weeks later. It didn't occur

to me at the time, but flooding a couple of times early in the year could be the culprit of the low nitrogen reading.

Soil that is heavy with water literally pushes out the space that was meant for oxygen and becomes compacted. Without oxygen, plants' vascular systems won't function properly.

As I said before, a few days in the off season likely won't hurt much, but if this were to happen during the growing season, your plants may look wilted even though they are sitting in water.

Root rot, perhaps, or simply that the roots are unable to absorb the water around them.

Lawns should be aerated to remedy this problem, and garden soil should be loosened – once it's dry of course – to get some air into the soil. This can be done numerous ways, by use of various hand tools.

Although scratching around with a three tine cultivator will likely bring some weed seeds to the surface, it is one of my favorite things to do in the garden. I find it a great stress-buster, too.

Do remember to try not to walk on saturated soil or it will compound the problem. Even in the spring when you are working in your garden, place a board under your feet to distribute your weight evenly and prevent more compaction.

Have you noticed that your houseplants have begun to put on an abundance of new growth? Mine sure have! Support this with a dose of half strength liquid fertilizer.

I need to take cuttings of fuchsia and geranium plants that I overwintered. It will sure be great to make cemetery logs with our own geraniums this year.

I will simply cut a terminal (meaning top) stem about 4-5 inches long just after a node

(that's where the leaves join the stem). I'll carefully take off all but the top two or three leaves and insert the leafless section into a small pot (say around 2-3 inches in diameter) of good quality moist potting soil.

The two or three leaves you left will be above the soil line. If you have rooting hormone on hand, you can dip the stem into that first, but you don't have to; plants in active growth usually root fine even without it.

I will place my cuttings in indirect light and mist with a spray bottle a couple of times a day to keep them from wilting before they root. Check in about a month, and if you are lucky, roots will have formed.

Depending on the size pot you used, and the size of the roots, it may be a good time to put the plants into a bigger pot and place them in a sunnier window until it's safe to plant them outside.

My daffodil plants are starting to pop up here and there in the yard. I had a little bit of balanced organic granular fertilizer left from last year, so I sprinkled it around the clusters.

Now and once the flowers have gone by are the two best times to fertilize narcissus. I am so excited to enjoy the varied colors and scents from this huge Genus of plants.

To me, they are the epitome of a true spring flower. Soon enough, soon enough!

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Resident warns of dangers of large solar arrays

This is a letter to all the towns in central Massachusetts:

Enough is enough.

The town of Spencer has 23 commercial solar arrays and there is no end in sight. Apparently, the state is targeting central Massachusetts as the premium location for solar arrays.

Land outside Boston is very expensive, and the western part of the state seems to be exempt because of soil conditions. I would guess that the beautiful vistas in the western part of our state that bring in tourist dollars is also a factor.

Did you know that there is legislation that says you will have to remove trees on your property if requested by your neighbor, if it blocks the sun from their solar panels? MGL Part 2, Title 1, Chapter 187, Section 1A – Check it out.

I have not been convinced that there will not be adverse effects to the land after solar panels have been removed. Many ideas that looked good at the time turned out to be a nightmare.

Asbestos is a prime example. I am also concerned about fire.

It is my understanding that any large scale solar arrays will be required to have battery energy storage systems on site. Spencer will be proposing a new bylaw amendment that will require signs to indicate 100 feet from these systems.

Because a large storage system has a blast radius or explosion of 100 feet. This is to keep



the responders safe. It is also my understanding that the fire department's only option at this time is to let the fire burn itself out.

If you are as concerned as I am, please feel free to reach out to me at mcpher683@aol.com, I encourage you to contact me to help form a committee representing central Massachusetts to slow down this problem by putting political pressure on our state government.

There are two bills before the legislature that will help our communities regain more control. They are S1319, and H2082. If we work together, we will be more effective.

Thank you for your attention.

Carol McPherson
Spencer



Will my benefit increase if I work while collecting disability?

Dear Rusty:

I will be 64 in March and currently receive Social Security Disability Insurance payments. My full retirement age is 67, but I'm thinking about trying to return to work.

If I work and my earnings exceed the monthly disability payment limits, but do not exceed the annual limit, how will my disability payments be affected? Will working while receiving Social Security disability payments change my Social Security benefit amount when I reach my full retirement age of 67?

Signed: Mending

Dear Mending:

Social Security doesn't go by annual earnings when it comes to disability; they go by monthly earnings. If your work earnings in any one month of 2024 exceed \$1,550, that will be a flag to SS that you are no longer disabled (\$2,590 per month if you're blind). If that happens for a few months in a row, they will most likely stop your SSDI payments.

Often, this happens retroactively, they won't find out until sometime later that you repeatedly exceeded the monthly limit, but they will likely cancel your SSDI benefits and require you to repay any benefits you received

in months you exceeded the monthly SSDI earnings limit or months they deem you were capable of working without restriction.

I suggest you consider enrolling in Social Security's "Ticket to Work" program. While enrolled, you can work and will have a rolling nine month "Trial Work Period" over five years, during which you can earn more than \$1,110/month in 2024 without jeopardizing your SSDI benefits.

If, after completing your nine month trial work period, you are taken off of SSDI (because you're no longer considered disabled), and you again become disabled and unable to work, your SSDI benefits can resume without requiring you to go through the entire application process again. You can test your ability to work, will be able to work some and can earn more than the limit in some months, which makes the Ticket to Work program your best option.

Read more about it here by visiting https://choosework.ssa.gov/.

As for whether working while on SSDI will improve your benefit at your Full Retirement Age, that depends. Your current SSDI benefit is equal to your FRA entitlement from your earnings record at your disability onset date, but paid to you prior to your FRA.

The method for determining your benefit under SSDI is complex and depends on the age at which you became unable to work and the number of Social Security credits you had accumulated at that time. Although SS retirement benefits normally require you earn at least 40 SS quarter credits and are based on your highest earning 35 years, those approved for SSDI can get benefits with fewer than 40 credits and less than 35 years of lifetime earnings.

Since each case is unique, I cannot say

whether your earnings while on SSDI will improve your FRA amount, but Social Security will monitor your earnings and increase your benefit if appropriate.

FYI, your SSDI benefit would normally automatically convert to become your regular SS retirement benefit at your FRA at the same amount you were receiving while on SSDI.

It's possible that the limited earnings you may have from working while on SSDI may increase your benefit, but that's impossible for me to predict. Your benefit is based on your lifetime earnings history (adjusted for inflation), not on your contributions to Social Security while working.

So, if you are on SSDI and wish to try returning to work, and you think your monthly earnings will occasionally exceed the SSDI limit, I suggest you contact Social Security (1-800-772-1213 or your local office to explore enrolling in the Ticket to Work program. That would be your best option to avoid jeopardizing your SSDI benefits, and your benefit amount will be automatically adjusted by Social Security if appropriate.

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

WARE RIVER NEWS TEAM



EDITOR
Paula Quimette
pouimette@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES
Dan Flynn
dfflynn@turley.com



SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com



STAFF WRITER
Ryan Drago
rdrago@turley.com

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@WareRiverNews



www.warivernews.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

DEANNA SLOAT
Graphics Manager

Turley
Publications, Inc.

www.turley.com

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

The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

Turley Election Policy

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

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

PODCAST from page 1

selecting students for these responsibilities is not only for the podcast but also for roles in the school's kindness club and leadership club.

For this school year, the pod squad features hosts Kaiyah Menard, Ryder Sears, Aria Giroux, MacKinley Peloquin and Emery Olivo. These students are part of the WCES sixth grade class who rotate addressing the school announcements.

The idea of providing a podcast for the school dates back more than a decade when Quaboag Regional School District Superintendent Stephen Duff was the principal of WCES. Duff thought it would be a great activity for kids to get involved in doing school announcements and the podcast was soon introduced.

Originally, the school thought about getting all grades involved from kindergarten to sixth grade. However, it was decided to allow the sixth grade students to host and run the podcast. Helping the students out every morning with the podcast is WCES Dean of Students, Brian Guimond.

Ever since becoming Dean of Students back in 2021, Guimond has helped dozens of sixth grade students prepare for their special announcements. Going live for each podcast was a bit challenging so the teachers decided it would be best to pre-record the daily podcast.

According to Guimond, the biggest benefit of having the daily podcast is to put students in a position of practicing civility and responsi-



Costumes are a fun feature that students enjoy wearing while announcing on the podcast.

bility. For leadership club, the older grades get to interact with younger kids in grades such as kindergarten, first and second. Kindness club focuses on spreading kindness and goodwill.

Guimond believes many students in the younger grades look up to the pod squad and view them as celebrities. What is popular with the pod squad is they love wearing costumes and cool hats during their announcements.

Although the students have fun on the set of the podcast in Guimond's office, Guimond makes sure the kids keep the podcast fun and serious at the same time. According to the teachers at WCES having the opportunity of hosting the school's podcast is a big responsibility.

"Have a balance of having fun

and being serious," Guimond said referring to the responsibility students must have when announcing for the podcast.

Every day during the week the podcast does a fun segment. Mondays is mindfulness Monday and used to be music Mondays. When it was music Mondays, viewers had to guess what tune was playing during the show.

Tuesdays there is a segment called "Ask the Pod Squad" where the hosts would be asked different questions.

Wednesdays is all about working out; Workout Wednesdays. The hosts would show kids how to do different exercises such as pushups and jumping jacks.

On Thursdays, the Pod Squad would do Teacher Talk Thursdays. Every Thursday the squad would bring in a staff member of Warren Community Elementary School and interview them.

On Friday, the Pod Squad does a sports report covering all of New England's favorite teams such as the Red Sox, Celtics, Patriots and Bruins. In addition, the sports report also talks about local sports including Quaboag's sports teams.

Other features to the podcast include the daily weather report, birthday announcements with the singing birthday bear and messages on the board. In every broadcast of the podcast the hosts lead the students in a pledge of allegiance.

For laughter, the hosts share a joke of the day. The hosts also show lost and found items that may belong to students of WCES.

The script is prepared by

Guimond to help students read off some of the announcements. Uploading the podcast for classes to see is the school's Tech Specialist Mr. McKusick.

According to Guimond, one of the challenges of running the podcast is getting students to take full control and ownership of some of the components of running the podcast. Guimond believes having students taking more control of the podcast can teach them having more responsibilities and increase on their working experience.

Guimond loves incorporating humorous dialogue to the podcast, especially when it applies to questions for the teacher talk interviews. Guimond is always there helping the students out and loves seeing the students host the podcast.

"The Dean's still running the ropes," Guimond said amusingly.

The podcast has a show every school day of the year and it is made possible by the determination of the students. Kaiyah Menard has enjoyed viewing the school podcast since kindergarten and hoped to someday be the host.

This year, Kaiyah's goal was accomplished and she became part of the Pod Squad. At first, Kaiyah had mixed feelings about doing the podcast.

"I was nervous but incredibly excited," Menard said. "It would be a lot of fun to do reporting in the future."

The podcast continues to spark inspiration throughout the school community and awaits the future hosts and members of the WCES Pod Squad.

March 20 is WBCA & Beyond Day

WARE – March 20 will be known in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond day per proclamation of the Massachusetts State House of Representatives.

A special presentation will be held on Wednesday, March 20.

The Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond will be holding its monthly program on that day from 8-9 a.m. at E2E located at 79 Main St.

The monthly program will feature a listening and feedback session with representatives from Country Bank regarding possible uses of the Main Street

bank building. The session will include a walkthrough of the building at 75 Main St.

The Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond membership consists of businesses and organizations from Ware, Palmer, Belchertown, Hardwick, Warren and West Brookfield. The monthly meeting is open to any business or organization within those towns interested in joining the association.

For information about joining the Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond, visit warebca.com, contact warebca@gmail.com or call Dan Flynn, president, at 413-297-5886.

Recycling Center offers bulk waste day

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Recycling Center, 2011 Barre Road, will hold a Bulk Waste Collection Event on Saturday, April 13 from 8 a.m.-noon.

This event is open to the residents of Hardwick and surrounding towns. A recycling center sticker is not required.

Please note, there are fees per item charged to cover the cost of hauling and processing.

Prices are as follows: mattress or box spring, any size, \$30; couch, \$30; futon or waterbed mattress, \$25; loveseat, \$25; upholstered chair, \$25; pool

tables, \$25; wall unit cabinets, \$20; large entertainment center, \$20; sink, \$15; toilet, \$20; carpeting/foam carpet backing, \$15; kitchen/dining table, \$15; bookcase, bureau, \$15; trash compactor, \$10; wooden chair, end table, coffee table, night stand, \$12; infant car seat, \$7; bulk Styrofoam (bagged), \$5; and suitcases, \$5.

The staff and volunteers reserve the right to price or reject other items not listed above accordingly on site.

For more information, people email recycling@townofhardwick.com.

WARE BOS from page 1

"They're actually undertaking a very proactive process of going out and seeking to see if there's interest," he said.

Beckley said residents have questioned the legalities of the reuse of the property and the Gilbert Trust.

"They're requesting assistance from legislators and the Attorney General in reviewing that information," he said. Beckley said the town's attorney had previously reviewed it.

Selectboard member Keith Kruckas thinks another attorney should look at the documentation regarding the trust.

"I don't think there's being enough done here to try and preserve what's there," he said. "I think it needs to be addressed and I think we need help."

The Selectboard approved drafting a letter to seeking assistance through this process.

Fire Department report

Interim Fire Chief Jim Martinez said he is happy to say that he has filled two vacancies on the department. The new staff are expected to start the second or third week of April.

"That will bring us up to the full staffing we have on the books," Martinez said.

Martinez said firefighters Dan O'Brien and Mackenzie Williamson graduated from the Massachusetts Fire Academy and he would like to hold a formal pinning and swearing

in ceremony for them. The department currently has one member in the academy and another starting the second week of April.

"Those things are moving along," Martinez said.

Martinez said the town received two grants; a Fire Safety Equipment grant from the Department of Fire Services in the amount of \$18,833.74 which will be used to replace aged equipment.

"We have a rescue sled that's been in service for 22 years, that is finally going to be able to be retired," he said.

The second grant is from the Emergency Management Performance Grant program in the amount of \$4,550 to purchase equipment for lithium/ion battery response.

Martinez said the department is applying for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program. If awarded, they will use the funding to purchase a new brush truck, valued at approximately \$300,000.

That grant would also include about \$330,000 for mixed equipment such as radios and training.

These are expenses that the department cannot immediately address through its budget.

"There is a 5% match on that; if we are awarded that, we would have to come up with 5%," he said.

Martinez said there are 20 positions on the floor and 22 positions total. There are two shifts that have four members on them and two that have five and he would like to use the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant to

round them out.

With the grant, we would increase all shifts to five people.

"This will by default, increase our minimum staff from the two to three," he said. "That will give us a third person in house...so as a result it will help lessen the impact on some of our recall."

The department's newest ambulance is scheduled to arrive by the end of April. The new software package should also be online by that time.

DPW report

Department of Public Works Director Geoffrey McAlmond introduced Bill Sykes, the new chief water operator.

He said the DPW's Water Foreman put into place a monthly sewer line cleaning program for known trouble spots.

"It really has alleviated any significant backups resulting in overflows to date," he said. Prior to that they had two to three a year.

He said Sykes and the Water Foreman are now planning the systemwide flushing, which should be completed by the end of April.

McAlmond said the water and billing software was upgraded and they are in the final process of completing that project. He said the last quarter's bills went out using the new system.

He commended the Tax Collector for helping his department get that system up and running.

McAlmond said the wastewater screener project contract has been awarded and its just begun the submittal process for the equipment.

"That timeframe for the project is 400 days," he said. "Once the contractor has the schedule developed which will be based on his equipment deliveries, we'll be able to have a more accurate timeline for completion on that project."

McAlmond said the equipment is custom-made for the project.

He said wastewater has hired a new employee and he is starting his education toward getting his license.

McAlmond commended his staff for coming up with a way to increase the percentage of solids by using polymer, which has resulted in a large reduction in sludge to be disposed of.

He said the cost savings have been significant in just over four months.

McAlmond said the effluent pumps are "still showing their ages" and two pumps are in need of serious repairs. They will be seeking an outside contractor to do the repairs.

McAlmond said the 10-wheel dump truck has been an asset this winter, especially with dispersing deicing materials.

The Highway crew has been removing trees around the Church Street tank in order to install a perimeter fence.

Parks Department report

Parks Manager John Piechota said a lot of tree work has been completed with their new hire, who has "tremendous knowledge" in tree work.

There is still tree work that needs to be completed with the help of the Highway Department.

Piechota said he is moving forward with the Parkland Acquisition and Renovations for Communities grant for an irrigation system at Memorial Field and the basketball court.

"We have some quotes in for a portion of it," he said. He is trying to get paving contractors for the basketball court.

Piechota said enrollment numbers are up in some spring sports, while others remain down.

"One of the challenges will be trying to accommodate them all on our fields and do work on the fields," he said, especially Memorial Field. He said there is "no rest" for Memorial Field, which is used April through November.

He said a second grant will fund the addition of a pavilion at the Grenville Park playground, an Americans with Disabilities Act apparatus and parking. That project is expected to start after July.

Piechota said the camera system has been beneficial, and reduced the amount of vandalism.

He said his department is working on options for Reed Memorial Pool and Beaugard Playground.

Council on Aging

The Council on Aging asked to remove member SK Robinson due to lack of attendance. Council on Aging members said Robinson has attended two meetings since July, and he was notified in November that his attendance is mandatory.

Council on Aging members said their bylaws allow members to be removed after two missed meetings.

The Selectboard accepted the Council on Aging's decision to rescind Robinson's membership.

Audit update

Beckley gave an update on the ongoing Town Hall audit discussion. He said town counsel gave him three recommendations for auditors, one of which already does the town's regular audit.

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warren

Cable Advisory Committee reviews IT project proposals

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Cable Advisory Committee met at the beginning of March to discuss project proposals from Ocker's Company.

Ocker's Company provides information technology services including data center virtualization, disaster recovery, communication systems, data cabling, digital signage, security integration, and cloud computing services.

One of the production projects involves new production desks. The committee went over some of the possible expenses for these new desks and Chairman Travis Baker informed the rest of the committee how expensive they are.

The expenses involve labor, shipping, new wiring and assembly costs.

Ocker's Company is also supporting some projects going on at Quaboag Regional Middle High School. After some conversations with Superintendent Stephen Duff, Baker informed the committee that the projects are taking place at the school's media center and the school auditorium.

The media center hosts a lot of classes and meetings including the Quaboag School Committee meetings. The project involved installing PTZ cameras to get all angles of the media center and install wires from cameras to a patch panel.

For the school auditorium, cameras will be mounted to get the whole stage in their line of sight.

Also, the auditorium will get wiring for the newly mounted camera. Baker also shared the idea of possibly having Ocker's Company and the staff at the school split the workload for both projects.

However, it is possible that Ocker's wants to direct the wires in the auditorium for that project.

"They want to do the wiring themselves," Baker said.

Baker will discuss more about sharing the workload for those projects with Duff and Facilities Director Marc Astrella.

The school project could take approximately five days if planning goes well. Baker mentioned this is more of a summer project and won't interfere with classes during the school day. When school is out for the summer, that will be a more appropriate time to get projects completed.

Baker briefly shared a unique piece of equipment that was made at the school. Students during woodshop class made a rolling case for equipment.

Members of the Cable Advisory will be able to store equipment such as cables and wires for safekeeping.

The committee is waiting to get quotes from Ocker's for both projects. The plan is to get these quotes prior to presenting them to the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee.

Baker mentioned the idea of possibly putting the quotes together and hopefully being covered by a potential CAP increase.

Please see **CABLE**, page 12

Quaboag River Levee Committee has first meeting

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Quaboag River Levee Committee had its first meeting last week to address the levee by the Wright's Mill complex.

The purpose of the committee is to review the conditions of the levee and discuss making certain advisements to the Board of Selectmen and ask for funds that will help support possible maintenance and repairs to the levee. These advisements are only recommendations and would also be determined based on what is affordable.

The committee will also go over a list of priorities to attend to first. Some priorities were provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers provides engineering services to customers in more than 130 countries worldwide. The organization help energizing the economy by dredging America's waterways to support the movement of critical commodities and providing recreation opportunities at campgrounds, lake and marinas.

According to Levee Committee Chairman, James McKeon the levee in the Quaboag River was completed in 1963. The levee is located in West Warren near South Street and Main Street by the Wright's Mill complex.

The gates and valves were first brought up in the first Quaboag River Levee Committee meeting and may be a top priority for the committee to review.

The valves are most likely due for an inspection to see if they're in working order. The valves help with flood control and keep any

water from overflowing into the streets.

The recommended projects involve gates and valves, vegetation and a camera drainage pipe. Gates and valves were already considered a priority and may need an inspection.

Vegetation may be needed in case any large trees are growing in the area where the levee is operating. The cameras for the drainage pipes will be used for inspection of the system.

For the security of the premises, the premises of the Quaboag River Levee is well observed and signs are enforced. The area is a restricted area for residents and there are no security issues.

McKeon went over a list of companies to reach out to who may be able to help the committee inspect the levee system. What the committee is looking to get

first before presenting to the select board is quotes on what the job and any maintenance may cost.

The quotes will give the town "a good understanding of what to start with," said Jeremy Olson, member of the Levee Committee.

A motion was made to go forward with contacting these companies to initiate the conversation of inspecting the levee system. The committee agreed and McKeon will reach out to these companies and possibly have one of them help with the inspection.

The Quaboag River Levee Committee will have their next meeting sometime in April. The members agreed to meet on Thursdays in the afternoon.

Members of the Quaboag River Levee Committee include McKeon, Olson, Police Chief Gerald Millette, Fire Chief Adam Lavoie and William Leslie.

Potential override explained by Town Administrator

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WEST BROOKFIELD – Town Administrator Ron San Angelo hosted a discussion to explain a potential override for the town.

Overrides are used to raise money to address annual operating costs for a town or city. Residents would have to vote to decide if they need to raise the levy limit to cover the costs of operating the local government.

Residents will have to vote at their May annual election to decide if they want the override for the town.

San Angelo, the Board of Selectmen and the Advisory

Committee provided paper copies of the override presentation for residents to look over and notice the categories that make up the town budget. According to San Angelo, if expenses are higher than the 2.5% limit on tax increases (known as Proposition 2 1/2) then the town would need an override.

The town budget includes public works, library and recreation, human services, member benefits and insurance, debt service, general government, public safety and education. According to the chart provided by San Angelo, education makes up about 54% of the budget.

What helps balance the budget for the town is the use of free cash. Free cash is what a town can utilize in the fiscal year.

Under the Massachusetts law, free cash is certified as of the beginning of each fiscal year by the State Bureau of Accounts. Together with certain subsequent tax receipts, the funds are used as the basis for any subsequent appropriations from available funds, which are not required to be included in the annual tax levy.

San Angelo looks at it as someone saving what they have at the end of the year after all expenses are paid. However, he doesn't believe it is right to use funds from a one-time payment system to balance the budget.

"The town should not be paying for continuing operations

Please see **OVERRIDE**, page 13



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago
Town Administrator Ron San Angelo had a meeting with West Brookfield residents to discuss a potential override for the town.

WARREN from page 1

capped at \$950,000 and the town will pursue the full amount.

Dunphy said Cutter Park is "long overdue" for upgrades due to lack of accessibility and public parking and aged equipment.

"It really hasn't seen any improvements for many, many years," he said. He said the funds would be used for design only at the park.

Suggested improvements include a water feature, storage area and enhanced equipment.

The board approved the submission of the grant application, which is due by March 25.

School Street project

Dunphy said it is important to notify residents of a "significant construction season" coming up for the School Street neighborhood.

School, Prospect, Richardson and Otis streets will all go under construction simultaneously starting in the spring. He expects construction to continue through October or November.

"It's going to be quite an effort going on in that neighborhood," Dunphy said.

Town Administrator's report

Ferrera said the town's new dump/plow truck was delivered this week. The truck took two years

to receive and was partially paid for with American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Northeast IT completed the installation of firewalls at the Senior Center, Sewer plant and Highway garage.

Ferrera said he met with representatives from Verizon to discuss One Talk, a program offered to cities and towns across the state. He said the program includes desktop phones and wireless phones.

"As you know, our phone system in this building has outlasted its life expectancy," Ferrera said, with many of the phones no longer being produced. He said the copper lines are also not secure and it is a

system that is likely to fail.

Ferrera said the One Talk is a VoIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) system that has the option to use the wireless network if the internet were to go down.

He said currently the town pays between \$800-900 each month on phones.

"I think that there's a solution where we can save some of the money that it's costing us each month and potentially get some new phones for everybody and to be all on one network," Ferrera said.

Ferrera said Verizon would engineer the entire system and talk to departments about their needs.

Ferrera said the representatives can give a presentation before the board to give more details of the program.

Police Department report

Police Chief Gerald Millette said the department logged 1,360 calls for the month of February.

Millette said during this time, the department had two officers leave, but has gained three new officers.

"They've been really doing a great job," he said.

Ferrera said a meet and greet will be held at the Senior Center in the future, to allow residents the opportunity to get to know their

new police officers.

"I think that would be helpful and let a lot of the residents know and recognize the officers that are out there and to provide that community connection I think is invaluable," he said.

Dennis Desrosiers Day

Past and present members of the Warren Fire Department sent a letter to the board, requesting that Aug. 26, 2024, be officially proclaimed Dennis Desrosiers Day in town, recognizing Desrosiers' service and dedication to the department. The selectmen will vote on the request at their next meeting.



and Beyond!

Ware Business & Civic Association now includes the communities of Palmer, Belchertown, West Brookfield, Warren and Hardwick. Businesses and organizations from those towns are welcome to join!



Aerial pictures provided by Above the Law Imagery



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- Our Mission**
We're not just any organization – we're a community catalyst! Our mission is clear: foster camaraderie among local businesses, creating a vibrant hub that transforms our town into a must-visit destination for all. We're here to ignite connections, inspire growth, and spark innovation.
- Why Join Us?**
Referrals are just the beginning! As a member, you'll enjoy the spotlight on your business within our close-knit community. Think of us as your business's ultimate cheerleaders, making sure your unique offerings shine bright.
- A Legacy of Achievement**
Since 2011, our committee has been making waves. We're not just about meetings – we're about momentum. From securing endorsements for local businesses to orchestrating events that turn visitors into regulars, we've been shaping our towns' destiny, one success story at a time.
- Events that Sparkle**
Who says business can't be fun? Picture this: quarterly membership nights that blend networking with laughter. We're all about community, after all – and a little friendly competition in the bowling alley or at the axe throwing yard never hurt anyone.
- Network that Expands**
With a sprawling member base, joining us means getting in on the action. Your business won't just get noticed; it'll become a star in our constellation of local talent.
- An Investment in Success**
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- Embrace Uniqueness**





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25th annual dinner auction benefits shelter pets



Submitted Photo

The Second Chance Animal Services Dinner Auction raises funds to care for pets like Clarissa and Charlie who were born with severe eye defects and came to Second Chance in need of surgery.

EAST BROOKFIELD – Second Chance Animal Services is calling on all animal lovers to place their bids in the 25th Annual Dinner Auction.

The event, dedicated to the welfare of homeless shelter pets, will be held at the La Salle Reception Center in Southbridge on Saturday, March 23. Advance online bidding for select items begins this week.

Chief Development Officer, Lindsay Doray, expressed gratitude for the overwhelming support received from local businesses and animal lovers, noting the array of exciting auction items available, including lavish gift baskets, Red Sox State Street Pavilion tickets and Yukon Solo Stove bundle.

Advance online bidding is open to everyone for select items and gift cards from Thursday, March 14 at 1 p.m. to Thursday, March 21 at 1 p.m. Those attending the event will have the opportunity to bid on a dizzying array of additional items, as well as surpassing online offers to support shelter pets in need.

With a limited number of tickets

remaining, Doray urges prospective attendees to secure their reservations promptly. Doors open at 4 p.m., offering a delightful cocktail hour amidst hundreds of auction and raffle items.

A sumptuous dinner will be served at 6 p.m., followed by an exhilarating live auction featuring premium items, concluding with the silent auction. Tickets are priced at \$55 per person.

Second Chance is still accepting

sponsorships and item donations to elevate the success of the dinner auction. Doray acknowledges the unwavering support of local businesses, underscoring the event's goal to provide medical care to shelter pets in need.

For sponsorship inquiries, item donations, or to purchase tickets for the 25th Annual Dinner Auction, please visit <http://www.secondchanceanimals.org/dinner-auction>.

Beaver Lake Club Corporation offers scholarship

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

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

The scholarship is given in the

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

The application deadline is

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

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

2024 dog licenses available and due by March 31

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Each dog is listed separately on the paperwork by name

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

is issued).

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

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

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

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

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

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

Easter egg hunt at Lucy Stone Park is March 30

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

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

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

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

Parks and Rec. sponsors free adult hip hop class

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

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

Ware Polar Plunge benefits Special Olympics March 16

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

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

Donations can be made by scanning the QR code.



United Church hosts turkey dinner March 25

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

The cost is \$15 per meal; payable with cash or check.

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

Solar eclipse program offered at library March 25

WARE – In advance of the upcoming solar eclipse, the Young Men's Library, 37 Main St., will be hosting Richard Sanderson, president of the Springfield STARS club and retired curator of physical science at the Springfield Museums on Monday, March 25 at 6:30 p.m.

Sanderson will be presenting a talk on "The Solar Eclipse Experience". He will explain why solar eclipses occur, how they

differ from lunar eclipses, and describe the profound and unexpected emotional impact they often have on witnesses.

He will also look back at several past eclipses, including the "Great American Eclipse" of 2017.

Sanderson will then discuss the upcoming April 8, total solar eclipse, which will be visible from the northeastern United States, with an emphasis on how

to view it safely. The presentation will be illustrated with eclipse photos that Sanderson has taken over the past 50 years from sites as far away as East Africa.

The library will have eclipse glasses available for those who attend the program. Glasses will also be available at the library starting Monday, March 18 while supplies last.

Please call the library at 413-967-5491 with any questions.

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Healthy Quaboag: Improving Quality of Life for the Quaboag Hills Community

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HEALTHY QUABOAG & THE TOWN OF WARE

QUABOAG VALLEY

Food Policy Council

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

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

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

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



National Art Honor Society Vice President Abigail Long of the senior class had her artwork displayed.



Persephone Piermarini of ninth grade had her shark artwork displayed at the library.



Persephone Piermarini of ninth grade had her shark artwork displayed at the library.



National Junior Art Honor Society Treasurer Addison Peloquin shared this art piece for the art display.



Teachers and students of Quaboag Regional Middle High School arrived during the opening night of their National Art Honor Society art display at Merriam-Gilbert Public Library.

QUABOAG REGIONAL Art DISPLAY

DISPLAY from page 1

it. These talented students at Quaboag Regional Middle High School in grades seven-12 were excited to share their work in the community.

Art comes in all forms and these students have explored numerous artistic opportunities throughout the school year. The students' work that was showcased came in the form of watercolor landscapes, line drawings, acrylic paintings, sculptures and photographs.

The display featured the work of 30 students in middle school and high school. These works were selected to be displayed and many students were excited to share their work.

For years, Quaboag has hosted students' artwork at the school, but wanted to reach out to other venues in the community that would be interested in having an art exhibit. Art teacher, Nicole Giguere of QRMHS appreciates the opportunity of having her students' artwork displayed at the Merriam-Gilbert Public Library.

"This is our first collaboration with the library, which is awesome," Giguere said. "We're trying to branch out to other parts of the community, make those community connections."

Joining Giguere during the open-

ing night of the art display is Heather Gaucher who also teaches art at the Quaboag Regional School District. Both teachers were supporting their students as did many families and friends in attendance of opening night.

Several students had more than one piece of art to share and were displayed together with their name and grade they're currently in. Several guests went around the room to ask questions to the artists behind the talented artwork.

All guests agreed a lot of hard work was put into these art pieces as the students showed passion and perseverance. Rachel McGrath, a senior at QRMHS and the NAHS Chapter President shared the story behind what made this fun art display possible.

One of the members of the NAHS Chapter brought up the idea and reached out to the Merriam-Gilbert Public Library. Soon afterwards, the library offered to display the artwork beginning with the opening night.

"The idea was great," said McGrath.

It is a great start to share art with the community and display it in other venues besides the schools. The artwork will be on display through April at the Merriam-Gilbert Public Library, on the second floor, 3 West Main St.



Bella Grover, Quaboag Regional High School senior and National Art Honor Society treasurer had her artwork "If you give a boy a balloon" displayed.

Learn more at www.westbrookfield-library.org or call the library at 508-867-1410.

The National Art Honor Society have provided national recognition and opportunities for students who exhibit outstanding scholarship in the visual arts, and for their teachers.



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

The flowers of this boot vase artwork really makes the canvas three-dimensional.



This drawing was created by Quaboag Regional High School senior Kenady Sloan.



Isabelle Aberle, a Quaboag Regional High School junior, had these pieces of her artwork displayed together.

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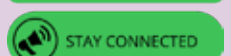
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Quaboag defeated in final regular season game



Colton Allen attempts a three-pointer.



Will Goodwin makes his way down the court.



Adam Benkert shoots from the free throw line.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com Zach Dermian shoots in traffic.

SOUTH HADLEY – Last Saturday afternoon, Quaboag 5-6 Suburban League boys basketball was defeated 47-15 at South Hadley in a matchup played at South Hadley High School. It was the final regular season game for both teams and the Suburban League playoffs were scheduled to begin this week.

Ware's season ends at Hoosac Valley

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

CHESHIRE—At the end of January, the Ware boys' basketball team lost a non-league game at Hoosac Valley by twelve points.

When the two squads faced each other for the second time in the Division 5 round of 16, the final outcome was pretty much decided by halftime.

The top-seeded Hurricanes, who held a 30-13 halftime advantage, coasted to a 53-30 home victory against the 17th-seeded Indians, last Tuesday night.

The second half was a little bit closer, as the Hurricanes only outscored the Indians, by six points (23-17).

The Indians, who finished their season with a 12-10 overall record, advanced into the round of 16 following a thrilling 56-55 victory at 16th-seeded Tahanto

Regional on February 29. Senior Jack McKeever led the way offensively for Ware in that contest with 19 points.

McKeever was also the Indians leading scorer against the Hurricanes with eight points. He made a couple of 3-pointers. His younger brother, Owen, who's a junior, chipped in with six points. Sophomore Brady Guimond, who also made a 3-pointer, added five points.

Rounding out the scoring column in the season finale were senior Gavin Konozek (4 points), sophomore Alex Orszulak (3 points), senior Josh Mulligan (2 points), and sophomore Jack Gaudreau (2 points).

The only other senior listed on the Indians varsity basketball roster is John Mumper.

Hoosac Valley (20-2) was scheduled to host eighth-seeded Hopedale (12-10) in the elite eight.

St. Patrick's Road Race set for this Saturday

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – The weekend of St. Patrick's Day is synonymous with the popular parade in the streets of downtown Holyoke. But equally tradition is the 10K St. Patrick's Day Road Race.

The road race was disappointingly cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and again in 2021 when COVID-19 rates rose due to the vaccine not being as widely available at the time.

But last year, the race returned to the joy people throughout the region and beyond and Holyoke once again became a hub of activity beginning with "Race Day."

And the sights and scenes of St. Patrick's Day weekend were also back in the Paper City the past two years as the downtown area around Maple and High Streets were lined with patrons. Bars and restaurants were filled with people going in and out, the Mummer's gave their performance, and children and others were able to participate in the

Please see **RACE**, page 10

Quabbin alum Nassir participates in MASCAC championships

WESTFIELD – Abdi Nassir, a graduate of Quabbin Regional High School, has been a regular participant this winter on Westfield State University's Track and Field team after spending the fall as part of the cross country team.

Most recently, Nassir took part in the conference championship meet, placing fifth in the one-mile run. He completed a mile in less than five minutes at 4:45. He went on to participate in the 3,000 meter run, a distance of just under two miles. He placed third in that event with a time of 9:37.



Hunter Griswold passes on the run.



Adrien Moskovitz passes on the run.



Trevor Allard makes a shot.

Pioneers lose state tourney opener to Panthers

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—The Palmer Panthers won a preliminary round home game in the Division 5 state boys basketball tournament for the second time in the past three years.

Led by senior Andrew Menard and freshman Taydem Haley, who combined for 48 points, the 23rd-seeded Panthers advanced into the round of 32 with a 79-51 victory over the 42nd-seeded Pathfinder Tech Pioneers on Feb. 27.

"It's really good for these guys, especially the two seniors, to have a home win in the states," said Palmer head coach Missy Rocker said. "As soon as we found out that we would be facing Pathfinder, the kids were very excited about playing against their friends."

Two years ago, Palmer defeated the Hampden Charter School East, 61-40, in a preliminary home game before losing at Hopkins Academy in the round of 32.

This year's postseason journey also came to an end for the Panthers in the round of 32 following a 68-49 road loss to the 10th-seeded Douglas Tigers two nights later.

Palmer finished their season with an 11-10 overall record.

Menard, who scored 13 of his 22 points against the Pioneers during the second half, and Shawn Troche are the two seniors listed on the Panthers varsity roster.

"Andrew and I have been playing on the same basketball teams since we were little kids," said Troche, who chipped in with seven points. "It feels amazing to win a state tournament game in our final home game. We lost in the round of



Adam Slonka ranges for a layup from the right side.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com Richie Gula shoots for the Pioneers.

32 two years ago and we're hoping to get to the round of 16 this year."

Haley, who's a tri-captain captain with the two seniors, played in his first state tournament game against Pathfinder Tech. He netted 18 of his career-high 26 points after halftime.

"Winning a game in the state tournament feels really good," Haley said. "There was a lot of pressure on us, but we worked very

hard as a team."

Troche was very impressed with Haley's outstanding performance.

"Taydem is only a freshman, but he scored 26 points, which is amazing," he said. "He always plays every game with a lot of confidence."

Pathfinder Tech, who has made

Please see **PIONEERS**, page 10



Mark Laviolette, of Ludlow makes his way up the right side of the ice.

Papermen represent region in new league

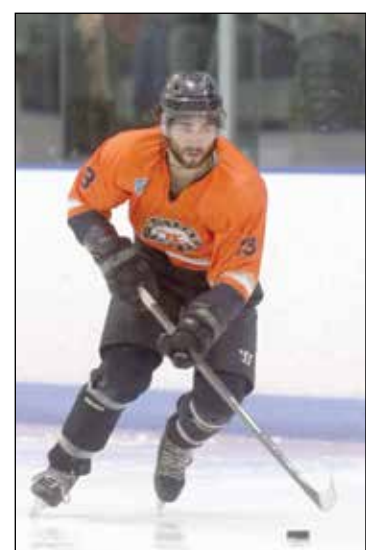
HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Papermen, an amateur adult hockey team, was in action last Saturday afternoon. The Papermen are brand new adult team participating in the Union Hockey League, a new adult league in the New York and New England region. The new team got started in January and is playing a 32-game season with seven other teams that joined the league. Home games are played at Fitzpatrick Rink in Holyoke.



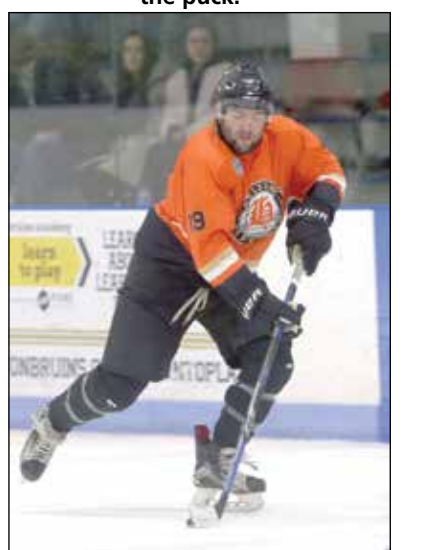
Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com Vinnie McAllister sends a pass away.



Nick McNally comes into the ice and immediately takes control of the puck.



Gaetano Delonge receives a pass.



Zach Paisley heads up the left side of the ice.



Nick Cambria looks to center the puck.

sports

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – March has arrived for the Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League.

The standings as of Feb. 27 had Acres and Blue B's tied for first place at 6-2. In third place, Team BK has a record of 5-3. The Champs R Here, Compression and Last in Line are tied for fourth place with a record of 4-4.

Life is Good is in last place at 2-6.

Compression won in the first round and Life is Good won the second round. One more team is aiming to join them in the playoffs at the end of the season.

The Champs R Here bowled against Compression on this Tuesday night of March. In game one, The Champs prevailed with a commanding lead over Compression and won by a score of 423-378. Filling in for the Champs is Bryan Surprise starting off the evening with a 111.

John Colkos also bowled well over his average scoring 113.

In game two, Champs R Here won again by a score of 387-370. Surprise had the high score of game two out of both teams with a 102. In game three, The Champs won 395-368 for a three-game sweep over Compression.

Surprise finished strong with a 118 and a series of 331. Total pinfall was won by The Champs R Here with a score of 1205 with Compression having a total pinfall score of 1116.

Pitkat gets new ride as he returns to Stafford

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT – Woody Pitkat announced today that he will return to competition in the Open Modified events at Stafford Motor Speedway during the 2024 season. Pitkat will drive the No. 8, a Chassis Pro machine, owned by Mike and Makayla Holmes.

Pitkat will run all of the Open Modified events, including the \$20,000 to win NAPA Spring Sizzler to open the season, April 27-28.

"Mike has been a friend over the years and driving for him in this new car is a great opportunity," Pitkat said. "The team will remain very similar to our team with Dunleavy Racing, with Cam McDermott as the crew chief and many of our crew members. We're looking forward to getting back to Stafford, a place I am lucky enough to call home. They have done a great job with their short-track racing program and we're excited to chase wins in these major events."

The team may also run additional events in New England if time allows. Pitkat announced last week he will return to Dunleavy Racing to compete for the full Monaco Modified Tri-Track

Thursday Night Mixed League

The Thursday Night Mixed League is several weeks away from wrapping up their season.

With a couple weeks left, several teams are aiming to win the second and final round. As of Feb. 29, Team Six, the winners of round one, are leading in round two at 25-15. Team One is in second place at 23.5-16.5. In third place, just one point behind Team One, Team Four is at 22.5-17.5.

In one match, Team Six bowled against Team Three. In game one, Team Six took the first game by a score of 412-400. Dan Mahoney of Team Six started off the evening with a 110.

In game two, Team Six won again by a score of 421-375. Josh Gorham of Team Six bowled well scoring 105.

In game three, Team Six won for a three-game sweep by a score of 430-422. Team Six won total pinfall by a score of 1263-1197.

Team One bowled against Team Five and attempted to take first place from Team Six. In game one, Team Five took the first game by a score of 427-401. Mike Wadas of Team Five led the team starting off with a 108.

In game two, Team Five won again by a score of 408-386. In game three, Team One managed to win the last game by a score of 422-400. Team Five was the winner of total pinfall by a score of 1235-1209. Team One only managed to win one point where Team Six won four points.

The Thursday Night Mixed League will conclude on Thursday, March 28.

Series schedule driving their No. 88.

Mike Holmes & Son Excavating includes services like septic installation, septic repairs, complete house lots, additions, yard expansions, drainage work, gravel driveways, trucking and more. They also have a 24-hour emergency service available.

"We're beyond excited to finally be a car owner, especially with having a driver like Woody Pitkat behind the wheel," Mike Holmes said. "Woody has become a great friend over the years and I'm blessed to have Cam and his wife, Lauren, who have become family to my wife Makayla and I, along with our entire crew. I can't thank Todd Owen, the Chassis Pro team, and all of our sponsors and crew members enough. We're looking forward to Stafford and some other races we will have scheduled to chase checkered flags and have a fun year."

Pitkat is second on the all-time Stafford Motor Speedway wins list with 83 career victories, the most recent in 2023. He's also a two-time Stafford Late Model champion and a former SK Modified champion at the Connecticut half-mile.

Railers suffer loss to Lions

TROIS-RIVIÈRES, QC – The Worcester Railers HC (25-25-4-2, 56pts) lost to the Trois-Rivières Lions (23-26-3-3, 52pts) on Saturday afternoon by the final score of 3-1 in front of a crowd of 2,224 at the Colisée Videotron. The Railers head back home to play the Reading Royals for their second school-day game of the year on Wednesday, March 13th at 10:05am.

Trois-Rivières notched the game's first two goals from Jakov Novak (1-0-1) and Justin Ducharme (1-0-1) to go up 2-0 entering the second. Nicolas Guay (1-0-1) extended the Lions lead to 3-0 with an early goal in the second. Trevor Cosgrove (1-0-1) scored the final goal of the game in the second on the power play as the Railers would go on to lose 3-1 to Trois-Rivières to wrap up the weekend.

Jakov Novak (21st) continued his hot play against the Railers with his 13th point against the

team this year. Novak found the puck loose in front on a chaotic play in front of Ceci and proceeded to pat it past him to Put the Lions ahead 1-0. While short-handed, Cory Thomas air-mailed a puck from his own corner into the neutral zone. Justin Ducharme (14th) skated past the Railers defense and scooped up the puck en route to scoring blocker side on a breakaway past Ceci to make it 2-0 Trois-Rivières going into the second.

Trois-Rivières picked up in the second where they left off in the first with a goal just 3:57 into the frame. Nicolas Guay (6th) entered the Railers zone on a three-on-one rush with Tyler Hylland and John Parker-Jones. As the puck bounced around the attacking zone, Guay placed a perfect shot bar-down past Ceci for his second goal in two games to make it 3-0 Lions. Worcester went to

Please see **RAILERS**, page 13

Registration now open for Quabbin Valley baseball

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

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

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

Easthampton and South Hadley normally used.

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

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

Pioneers 2024 schedule released

LUDLOW – Earlier this week, the Western Mass. Pioneers have released their 2024 schedule. It includes potential participation in the U.S. Open Cup, which begins on March 19. The Pioneers have won an Open Cup match in the past. Later, the Pioneers have their "friendly" exhibition game scheduled for May 10. They will

face 3rd Eye FC prior to the start of their USL-2 League schedule. Their opener for the regular season is against the Boston Bolts on the road May 14. Their home opener is scheduled for May 18 against Pathfinder FC of New York. The schedule continues through July 13 and includes a total of 14 games.

Thunderbirds suffer shutout against Bruins

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (26-26-3-2) threw everything they could at the net of the Providence Bruins (35-17-3-2) without success in a 5-0 defeat on Sunday at Amica Mutual Pavilion.



It was evident from the onset that the goaltenders were not going to allow anything easily, as both Colten Ellis of Springfield and Brandon Bussi of Providence came out with laser-like focus. Bussi was exceptional from the get-go, as he turned away a trio of point-blank chances in the opening 10 minutes off of Will Bitten, Joey Duszak, and Zach Dean.

Operating on the first power play of the afternoon, the T-Birds instead saw the scoreless deadlock broken when Jayson Megna intercepted a pass and beat every-one up ice to beat Ellis on a backhand breakaway, giving the P-Bruins a 1-0 lead at 11:23 of the first period.

Megna's tally, which began Providence's Teddy Bear Toss, proved to be the only shot to beat

Bussi or Ellis for the next period and a half. The T-Birds peppered the Providence net from all angles and in all situations, but Bussi continued to bamboozle his division foes.

With Springfield still pushing hard to equalize, Oskar Steen finally afforded Bussi and his defense some insurance when he ele-

vated a wrist shot past Ellis 3:58 into the final period. Joey Abate and John Beecher would follow suit, setting each other up for odd-man rush goals at 13:45 and 15:37 respectively. With the game well in hand, the Bruins' top power play unit added one more for good measure as Georgii Merkulov potted the Bruins' 5th goal at 19:28.

The T-Birds get some well-deserved rest before a crucial two-game series in Charlotte next Saturday and Sunday against the Checkers inside Bojangles' Coliseum. Puck drop on Saturday is set for 4 p.m., with a 1 p.m. matinee on tap for Sunday.

RACE from page 9

Kids Walk and Fun Run prior to the "main event" taking place at 1 p.m.

This year's race, the 47th running of the tradition, will take place this Saturday, March 16. Once again, many will be looking to add their name to the list of winners of the 10K.

In 2023, it was the ideal day for Jenna Gigliotti, an Amherst woman who won the 10K Road Race for the second consecutive year. She crossed the finish line at 35:29.

This year's male and overall winner was Michael Norberg, who also is from Amherst. He finished with a time 30:50. He was more than 30 seconds ahead of the second-place finisher, Bradley Mish, of Hadley.

There were more than 5,000

participants in this year's event, which is part of a big weekend in Holyoke, going along with the parade that took place on Sunday. It also is viewed as a practice course for runners participating in more races later in the year, including the Boston Marathon. There are harriers who will run 6.2-mile course multiple times to simulate 26.2-mile marathon distance, including participating in the main race.

Of the more than 5,000 harriers signed up, 3,813 registered finishers.

Benjamin Lasky, of Ludlow, was a top local finisher, coming in 14th at 33:41. Lasky has been a top 10 finisher in the past.

The race continued traditions of participants running for various charities and other causes, in honor of deceased loved ones, and of course, the running of the race in costume.



Photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

The Holyoke Grand Colleen and her court hold the finish tape.

The current cost, as of press time, to enter the race, is \$35. The two-mile walk price was \$25 as of press time, but was expected to

rise on March 13. The weather, as of press time, is expected to be warmer than in previous years, near 60 and sunny.



For the second straight year, Jenna Gigliotti, of Amherst, was the top female finisher. She came in at 35:29.



Michael Norberg, of Amherst, finishes first overall in the road race with a time of 30:50.

PIONEERS from page 9

three appearances in the state tournament since the postseason format was changed in 2021, finished their season with an 11-10 overall record.

"Even though the final score was worse than the first time that we played Palmer, I thought it was a much more competitive game tonight," said Pathfinder head coach Zac Button. "We battled them to the end."

The seven seniors listed on the Pioneers varsity roster are Hunter Griswold, Adrien Moskovitz, Branden Hnitecki, Luke Magnus, Trevor Allard, Adam Slonka, and Richie Gula.

"We'll be losing seven very good kids," Button said. "I coached the seniors on the junior varsity team before coaching them at the varsity level the past two years. They work very hard on the court and in the classroom. They're a very special group."

Gula scored a team-high 17 points in his final high school basketball game.

Griswold, whos' planning on playing football at Mass Maritime Academy next fall, scored 14 of

“EVEN THOUGH THE FINAL SCORE WAS WORSE THAN THE FIRST TIME THAT WE PLAYED PALMER, I THOUGHT IT WAS A MUCH MORE COMPETITIVE GAME TONIGHT.”

ZAC BUTTON
PATHFINDER HEAD COACH

his 16 points during the second half.

"I do know most of the Palmer players and losing to them in a state tournament game is tough," said Griswold, who's an outstanding three-sport athlete. "It has been awesome being a member of this basketball team for the last four years."

At the end of December, the Panthers made the trip down the street to Pathfinder Tech and cel-

ebrated a 53-37 non-league victory. Haley scored a game-high 18 points in that contest.

Menard scored the first four points in last Tuesday's contest and the Panthers never trailed.

A couple of minutes later, a lay-up by sophomore Angel Torres (7 points) gave the home team an 8-4 advantage.

Gula made the first of his two trifectas with 5:15 remaining in the opening quarter, which closed the gap to 8-7.

Then Haley buried a 3-pointer from the top of the key beginning a 13-3 Palmer run. Haley scored six more points during the final five minutes of the first quarter.

"Taydem is an outstanding point guard for a freshman," Rucker said. "He's a big catalyst for our team and jump-starts things. His performance tonight was unbelievable. He made fantastic shots while driving, and that's what we need more of."

Sophomore Dylan Doherty (8 points) added a field goal and made a pair of foul shots for the home team during the run. Sophomore Stephen Fredette (5 points) also made a free throw, as the Panthers entered the second

quarter holding a 21-10 advantage. Pathfinder Tech began the second stanza with a pair of inside hoops by Allard (6 points) and Slonka (8 points) before Palmer scored the next seven points.

Late in the first half, a Doherty put-back hoop gave the Panthers a 37-21 lead.

Haley took over the spotlight offensively during the third quarter by scoring twelve points, which helped Palmer keep their double digit lead.

"Taydem is a heck of a basketball player," Button said. "He cut right through our defense, especially in the third quarter."

The Pioneers did cut the deficit to ten points a couple of times in the quarter quarter, but they weren't able to get any closer than that the rest of the way.

Griswold made five field goals and a foul shot during the final eight minutes of the contest for the visiting team. The returning Pioneers players will be looking for a little bit of revenge when they play another game at the Palmer High School gymnasium during the 2024-25 regular season.

Wine tasting event benefits Town Hall restoration

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

"We are so excited about this free event, our first wine tasting last year was so much fun for everyone we just had to do it again," said Pat Skutnik, Friends of Ware Town Hall president in a press release. "Melissa and Dave Stevens, owners of It's Wine O'clock are so knowledgeable and were so helpful. With a focus on choosing wines to celebrate the coming of spring and with St. Patrick's Day and the Easter holiday in mind, Melissa's expertise in her field will assure a pleasant and learning experience for all attending."

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

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

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

Senior Resource Fair returns on March 23

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

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

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

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

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

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

CAMPUS NOTES

Abigail Gaudreau earns Dean's List at Endicott College

BEVERLY – Endicott College, the first college in the U.S. to require internships of its students, is pleased to announce its fall 2023 Dean's List students.

Abigail Gaudreau of Ware, is among those named to the Dean's List at Endicott College for the fall 2023 semester, majoring in Nursing. She is the daughter of Heather Gaudreau and Chad Gaudreau.

In order to qualify for the Dean's List, a student must obtain a minimum grade point average of 3.5, receive no letter grade below "C," have no withdrawal grades, and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits for the semester.



How to find the right fit for summer camp

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

• Make sure the camp suits your sched-

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

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

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

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



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 9AM - 3PM LUNCH NOT PROVIDED
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Please contact eeoneal@bement.org with questions.

public safety

Ware Police Log

During the weeks of Feb. 25-March 12, the Ware Police Department responded to 35 miscellaneous calls, 64 administrative calls, 27 traffic violations, 36 emergency 911 calls, four frauds, two trespasses, nine harassments, three thefts/larcenies, one breaking and entering, 16 motor vehicle accidents, eight animal calls and 47 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

Sunday, Feb. 25
 1:56 a.m. Bylaw Violation, West Main Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 2:09 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 2:19 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 3:35 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Vigeant Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 4 p.m. Damage/Vandalism/Mischief, Cummings Road, Advised
 5:51 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, River Road, Services Rendered
 11:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Arrest Made

Monday, Feb. 26
 9:55 a.m. Electrical Hazard, West Street, Services Rendered
 3:51 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Route 32, Unfounded
 4:41 p.m. Fraud/Deception, West Street, Investigated
 5:15 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Palmer Road, Report Made

Tuesday, Feb. 27
 2:53 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 9:05 a.m. Assault, Greenwich Road, Report Made
 9:02 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Otis Avenue, Services Rendered

Wednesday, Feb. 28
 2:26 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Prospect Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 3:12 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Otis Avenue, Citation/Warning Issued
 3:20 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Park Avenue, Citation/Warning Issued
 3:27 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Charles Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 3:33 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Clifford Avenue, Citation/Warning Issued
 3:42 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Clifford Avenue, Citation/Warning Issued
 10:44 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call,

Palmer Road, Investigated
 4:17 p.m. Fraud/Deception, North Street, Services Rendered
 5:14 p.m. Breaking and Entering/Burglary, Highland Village, Advised
 9:40 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Gilbertville Road, Services Rendered

Thursday, Feb. 29
 1:56 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Parker Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 2:06 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Eagle Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 2:18 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Otis Avenue, Citation/Warning Issued
 9:15 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Palmer Road, Report Made
 11:01 a.m. Damage/Vandalism/Mischief, Highland Village, Services Rendered
 4:17 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Fisherdick Road, Services Rendered
 4:32 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Advised
 6:47 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Church Street, Services Rendered

Friday, March 1
 3:01 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, East Street, Investigated
 8:48 p.m. Theft/Larceny, North Street, Investigated
 9:01 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Main Street, Services Rendered

Saturday, March 2
 4:07 p.m. Fraud/Deception, North Street, Investigated
 8:54 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Pulaski Street, Advised
 9:55 p.m. Administrative, North Street, Advised
 Arrest: Eric Morin Jr., 36, Ludlow
 OUI-Liquor or .08%

Sunday, March 3
 5:23 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Pine Crest Circle, Services Rendered

Monday, March 4
 7:54 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, South Street, Assist Given
 12 p.m. Theft/Larceny, King Street, Advised
 12:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 12:49 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Investigated

Tuesday, March 5
 2:53 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued

3:03 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 3:08 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 3:14 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 3:32 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Eddy Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 3:39 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Church Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 3:46 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Otis Avenue, Citation/Warning Issued
 3:53 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Park Avenue, Citation/Warning Issued
 4:30 a.m. Bylaw Violation, West Main Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 6:44 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Eagle Street, Vehicle Towed
 10:11 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Main Street, Services Rendered
 12:51 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, River Road, Services Rendered
 4:18 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Anderson Road, Report Made
 8:08 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Advised

Saturday, March 3
 3:03 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, South Street, Services Rendered
 9:58 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Vigeant Street, Advised

Wednesday, March 6
 2:45 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Bellevue Avenue, Citation/Warning Issued
 2:51 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Aspen Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 2:58 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Aspen Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 11:17 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Criminal Complaint Request
 11:50 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Church Street, Dispatch Handled
 4:17 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Main Street, Dispatch Handled
 4:30 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Main Street, Dispatch Handled

Thursday, March 7
 6:20 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, North Street, Advised
 9:06 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Warren Road, Services Rendered
 10:22 p.m. Theft/Larceny, West Street, Services Rendered

Friday, March 8
 10:28 a.m. Fraud/Deception, North Street, Services Rendered
 1:25 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Palmer Road, Advised
 1:45 p.m. Traffic Incident/

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.

Crash, Palmer Road, Could Not Locate
 3:03 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, South Street, Services Rendered
 9:58 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Vigeant Street, Advised

Saturday, March 9
 9:39 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Main Street, Report Made
 3:19 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Pine Street, Dispatch Handled
 5:22 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Walker Road, Advised
 9:11 p.m. Theft/Larceny, West Street, Advised
 11:49 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Ross Avenue, Investigated

Sunday, March 10
 12:37 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Main Street, Investigated
 6:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 6:27 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Webb Court, Advised
 9:21 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Homecrest Avenue, Dispatch Handled

Monday, March 11
 8:02 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Church Street, Report Made
 4:15 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, North Street, Advised
 4:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 10:45 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Aspen Street, Advised

Tuesday, March 12
 4:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Greenwich Road, Citation/Warning Issued
 9:04 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Babcock Tavern Road, Report Made

1:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 4:25 p.m. Investigation, New Braintree Road, Report Taken
 6:05 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Westminster Police, Officer Handled

Thursday, March 7
 4:48 p.m. Safety Hazard, Sessions Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 5:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Citation Issued
 6:51 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital
 11:58 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Barre Police, Services Rendered

Friday, March 8
 8:12 a.m. Assist Citizen, Unknown, Investigated
 9:30 a.m. 911 Animal Call, Barre Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 6:56 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Barre Road, Transported to Hospital

Saturday, March 9
 2:49 p.m. 911 Suspicious Activity, Barre Road, Unfounded
 11:17 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Citation Issued
 2:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Written Warning
 4:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Lower Road, Investigated

Sunday, March 10
 1:16 a.m. Safety Hazard, Petersham Road, Officer Handled

10:11 a.m. 911 Suspicious Activity, Thresher Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Suspect in Oxford shooting arrested in Warren

WARREN – On Saturday, March 9, detectives from the Auburn Police Department notified Oxford Police Department that they were investigating a past shooting incident.

According to a press release, Auburn Police determined that the shooting occurred earlier in the evening at Boulder Industrial Park in North Oxford, in the area of RJH Concrete Co.

The 21-year-old male victim was being treated for a single gunshot wound to the neck area. He was treated and being released.

Oxford Police assumed the investigation and it was determined that a male, later identified as 29-year-old Christopher Tetreault of Southbridge, was working with a group in the area of RJH Co. The victim and witnesses alleged that Tetreault had a confrontation with the victim

and his friends. The argument became physical and Tetreault shot the victim. The victim was able to drive off and seek medical treatment.

Oxford Police stated that all involved knew each other and that this was an isolated incident with no ongoing threat to the public.

Tetreault's vehicle was found in Warren early the next morning, parked near the home of a relative. Tetreault and the relative were apprehended by Warren, West Brookfield and State Police.

Tetreault's relative was arrested on separate charges by Warren Police.

Tetreault was transported to Oxford Police where he was booked on charges of Assault to Murder and Assault and Battery with a Firearm. He was held on \$50,000 cash bail and arraigned at Dudley District Court.

Warren Police Log

During the week of March 3-9, the Warren Police Department responded to 134 building/property checks, 32 community policings, 13 emergency 911 calls, one fraud/forgery, one complaint, one scam, three animal calls and 34 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Sunday, March 3
 1:44 a.m. Complaint, Constitution Avenue, Gone on Arrival
 1:20 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Presidential Circle, Transported to Hospital
 2:25 p.m. 911 Hangup/Misdial/Abandoned, Bemis Road, Information Taken
 5:44 p.m. Unattended Death, Heritage Drive, Report Filed
 7:37 p.m. Fumes/Odor/Gas Leak, Maple Street, Investigated

Monday, March 4
 6:37 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Criminal Complaint
 8:34 a.m. Falls, Southbridge Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 3:32 p.m. Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Yankee Drummer Drive, No Fire Service Necessary
 11:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

Tuesday, March 5
 6:08 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Pine Street, Transported to Hospital
 3:18 p.m. Scam, Main Street, Information Taken
 4:34 p.m. Welfare Check, Coy Hill Road, Mutual Aid Transport

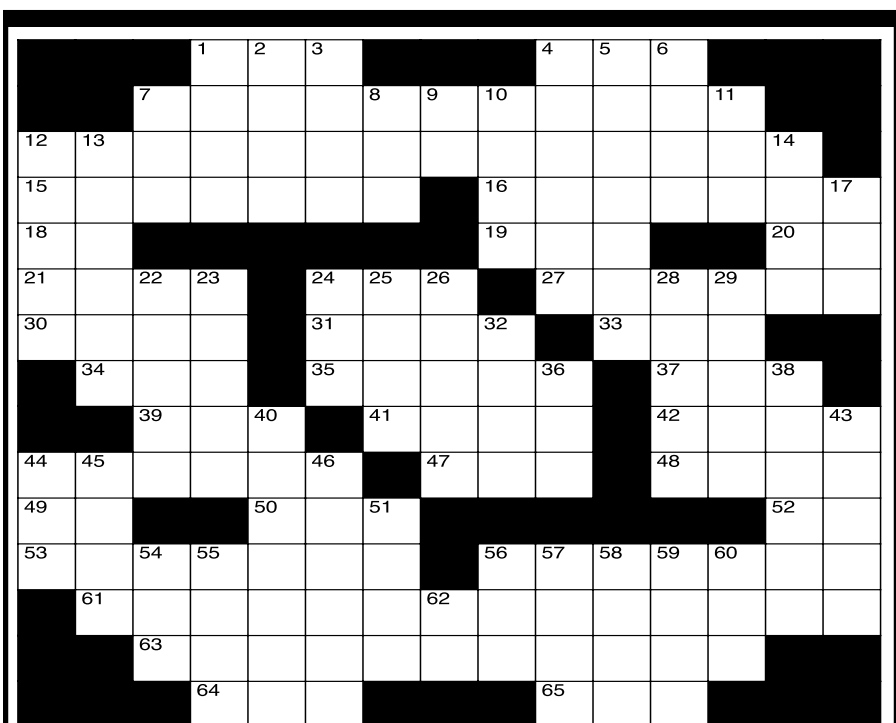
Wednesday, March 6
 6:21 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Street, Citation Issued

3:18 p.m. Welfare Check, Coy Hill Road, Investigated
 3:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Citation Issued
 7:41 p.m. Falls, Milton O. Fountain Way, Transported to Hospital
 8:04 p.m. Suspicious Person, Boston Post Road, Arrest(s) Made
 Arrest: Bradley W. Klimczyk, 25, Chicopee
 OUI-Liquor or .08%; Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle; Alcohol in Motor Vehicle, Possess Open Container of

Thursday, March 7
 1:07 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Old West Brookfield Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 12:07 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Chapel Street, Transported to Hospital
 1:04 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Winthrop Terrace, Information Taken
 1:05 p.m. Falls, Coy Hill Road, Transported to Hospital
 2:01 p.m. Assault and Battery, Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed
 2:04 p.m. Explosive Incidents, Bemis Road, Investigated

Friday, March 8
 2:55 a.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problems, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 4:56 p.m. Head Strike, Canada Lane, Transported to Hospital
 6:29 p.m. Bleeding, Reed Street, Transported to Hospital
 7:09 p.m. Hip Injury, Cronin Road, Mutual Aid Ambulance

Saturday, March 9
 3:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Milton O. Fountain Way, Criminal Complaint



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Helps little firms
- 4. Political action committee
- 7. Allowed
- 12. Olivia Colman played one
- 15. Open
- 16. He had a notable lamp
- 18. Promotional material
- 19. Domesticated animal
- 20. Larry and Curly's buddy
- 21. The best ever
- 24. TV network
- 27. Checked for
- 30. Dry or withered
- 31. Expression of annoyance
- 33. Dash
- 34. Fifth note of a major scale
- 35. A secret clique
- 37. Partner to

- 39. ___ school: where to learn healing
- 41. City in ancient Syria
- 42. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- 44. Established practice
- 47. Thanksgiving side dish
- 48. District in Peru
- 49. It's becoming more prevalent
- 50. State in India
- 52. Measure of illumination
- 53. Raised platform
- 56. Japanese warrior
- 61. R.L. Stevenson novel
- 63. Transitory
- 64. Advanced degree
- 65. Fiddler crabs

- 2. Czech city
- 3. ___ and Andy, TV show
- 4. A young pig
- 5. Removed surgically
- 6. Covered with (slang)
- 8. Nigerian City
- 9. Midway between south and east
- 10. A way to shut
- 11. Stop playing
- 12. Marshy places
- 13. Takes apart
- 14. Ten cents
- 17. A gesture of assent
- 22. Scent
- 23. Teletypewriter
- 24. General's assistant (abbr.)
- 25. Hillside
- 26. Taxi driver
- 28. Semitic Sun god

- 29. Town in India
- 32. Traditional rhythmic pattern
- 36. Fugitives are on the ___
- 38. Type of dance
- 40. Two letters, one sound
- 43. Having a strong, pleasant taste
- 44. Golf score
- 45. Mayhem
- 46. Drenched
- 51. River in northeastern Asia
- 54. Drug to treat anxiety (abbr.)
- 55. Part-time employee
- 56. A very large body of water
- 57. Aboriginal people of Japan
- 58. Millisecond
- 59. Forearm bone
- 60. Subway dweller
- 62. Royal Mail

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of March 4-11, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 57 building/property checks, 51 directed/area patrols, nine traffic controls, seven radar assignments, nine emergency 911 calls, two assist other agencies, two citizen assists, one motor vehicle investigation, one investigation, three safety hazards, one motor vehicle accident, three animal calls and eight motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, March 4
 12:51 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Lower Road, Report Taken
 2:55 p.m. Gunshots, Ruggles Hill Road, Investigated
 3:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Arrest(s) Made
 10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Lower Road, Services Rendered

Tuesday, March 5
 8:41 a.m. Suspicious Activity, Old Petersham Road, Investigated
 11:29 a.m. Assist Citizen, Unknown, Dispatch Handled
 12:20 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Lower Road, Dispatch Handled

Wednesday, March 6
 9:32 a.m. Safety Hazard, Petersham Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 10:11 a.m. 911 Suspicious Activity, Thresher Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 10:11 a.m. 911 Suspicious Activity, Thresher Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Social Science Club of Ware accepting scholarship applications

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

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

The student must be involved in school and community activities.

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

The application procedure is as follows: Student must submit a properly typed, formatted, one-page letter, indicating how they have fulfilled the scholarship criteria. If applicable, please mention in the letter any employment held by the student and any spe-

cial financial circumstances (i.e. sibling(s) in college, family illness or hardships, etc.).

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

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

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

CABLE from page 6

Cap increase
 Baker provided copies of a draft memorandum for review to make sure it explains the purpose behind requesting a cap increase. A cap increase would raise the Cable Advisory's budget an extra \$20,000.
 The committee agreed to sub-

mit a proposal to get a cap increase at their previous meeting back in January. This memorandum, if approved will then go to the Town Administrator, Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen for a request to place an article on the next town meeting warrant.

The committee agreed to go forward with the memorandum and Baker will submit a final copy.

obituaries

Simone E. Brouillette, 84

PALMER – Simone E. Brouillette, of Palmer, passed away suddenly on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at Baystate Wing Hospital, with her daughters by her side, at the age of 84.



Simone was born on Feb. 12, 1940, in Ware, daughter of the late Ernest and Sylvia Lemoine (Talbot).

Simone was predeceased by her son, David E. Bousquet (1961), daughter, Diane E. LaBarge (2023), and her aunt, Alva C. Lemoine (2016).

Simone worked at the University of Massachusetts Amherst as well as the Sturbridge Antique Shops where she retired.

Simone was a very special mother and grandmother who was always there when we needed her. She cherished spending time with her children and grandchildren.

If there was a game to be

played, Yahtzee was at the top of the list, she also had other favorites (Racko, Rummy, Sorry, and UNO). She looked forward to days out or road trips with her family.

She had so many friends she enjoyed spending time with as well. She looked forward to visiting retired friends, some in nursing homes along with her lunch outings.

She also enjoyed reading, watching game shows and her time spent with Buddy Barker.

She has made such an impact on all our lives. She has a special place in all our hearts and will be truly missed.

Simone is survived by her children: Robert Bousquet and Kim Bousquet, Lu-Ann Routhier and fiance Jeffrey Heller, Jodi Brouillette, Dean Brouillette, and son-in-law: William LaBarge. Grandchildren: Jamie Lynn Horton,

Trista Tebo, Chelsea McNeill and her husband Scott, Dylan Routhier and his wife Kaitlyn, Tyler Bousquet and his wife Olivia, Sarah Bousquet and Kenneth Brouillette. Great-grandchildren: Anthony Horton, Miya Horton, Emily Horton, Hunter LaBier, Jackie LaBier and Morgan McNeill. Simone leaves her brother, Jerry Lemoine and his wife Nancy. She also leaves her nieces, nephew and many cousins.

Funeral services will be held, Friday, March 15, 2024, at Cebula Funeral Home, 66 South St., Ware. Calling hours will be 11 a.m.-1 p.m. with a service at the funeral home, at 1 p.m.

"A mother is not like any other person in the world; her unconditional love and sacrifice are priceless."

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

Pauline D. Walker, 86

WEST BROOKFIELD – Pauline "Pinky" D. (Piche) Walker of West Brookfield, passed away on Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024, at Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center, at the age of 86.



She leaves behind her son, Robert Walker of West Brookfield; her daughter, Maxine Fairbanks and her husband Scott of West Brookfield; Heika surviving spouse of Clint from Germany; her grandchildren, Nicole, Natalie, Jessica, William, Brooke and Conor; as well as her great-grandchildren, Eileen, Delane, Aiden, Kinsey, Nora and Eli. She was predeceased by her beloved husband, William F. Walker; by her son, Clint Walker, her brother Armand and two sisters Lucille and Gloria.

She was born in Ware, daughter of the late Wilfred "Sky" and Lillian (Cloutier) Piche.

Pinky worked in the Activities Department at Quaboag Nursing home for 30 years. She also volunteered many hours there helping with parties, picnics, decorating for holidays and manicures.

She also worked with the Hairdresser at Quaboag for many years. Pinky enjoyed participating in the Chimes group at the nursing home. Music was one of her passions.

She was a member of the Sacred Heart Church in Brookfield and West Brookfield. She became a Eucharistic

Death notices

Brouillette, Simone E.
Died March 5, 2024
Services March 15, 2024

Richardson Jr., William Francis
Died March 8, 2024
Services March 14, 2024

Walker, Pauline "Pinky" D. (Piche)
Died Feb. 24, 2024
Services April 5, 2024

minister and provided this service during the Mass, to the residents at Quaboag and homebound parishioners.

Pinky volunteered at the Brookfield Ecumenical Food Pantry for many years. She enjoyed helping people.

Pinky also enjoyed traveling, music, camping, and the outdoors. She loved spending time with her family and friends and hosting family gatherings.

She was a loving, caring and devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother and friend.

Pinky's family would like to gratefully acknowledge and thank everyone at Quaboag for the compassionate care and company they provided her.

A funeral mass for Pauline will be held on Friday, April 5, 2024, at 11 a.m. in the Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish in West Brookfield. Relatives and friends are asked to please meet directly at church.

Burial will be held in the Brookfield Cemetery following mass.

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

Ware River News OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries

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

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

William Francis Richardson Jr., 80

BOYLSTON – William Francis Richardson Jr. passed away on Friday, March 8, 2024, at the age of 80.



Bill was born in Ware, to William "Fran" Richardson and Evelyn (Kardas) Richardson on April 15, 1943, an only child. He was the grandson of Oscar and Madara Richardson of Ware, and Stanley and Mary Kardas of Gilbertville.

On Sept. 19, 1970, Bill and Deb, (Deborah Haley) were married at Wesley Methodist Church in Worcester. He was the son-in-law to George and Jean Haley and the brother-in-law to Stephen and Kathleen Haley.

Bill was a graduate of Ware High School in 1961 and The School of the Worcester Art Museum in 1964. He was a senior account executive and art director to a number of advertising agencies in and around the Worcester area.

At the age of 50 he was self-employed, doing business as Richardson Advertising and retired at the age of 62.

In addition to as many interest in activities in the art field, he was a prolific photographer and enjoyed downhill skiing.

Bill was an enthusiastic British Sports Car devotee, having owned five Triumph sports cars - purchasing his initial sports car with his first paycheck out of art school and being an owner until his passing. He also truly enjoyed driving his 1995 XJS Jaguar.

He was a member of the following clubs: Worcester Area Sports Car Club, New England Triumph, Cape Cod British Car Club, and the Jaguar Association of New England.

Being a vintage sports car and Formula 1 racing fan as spectators, Bill and Deb enjoyed multiple yearly weekends at Lime Rock Park in Connecticut, and yearly sojourns out to Watkins Glen International Race Track in Watkins Glen, New York.

Bill and Deb moved to Boylston in 1978 residing on Green Street until his passing. He was a member of the Boylston Fire Department (photographer) for over 40 years and served as the Town of Boylston's Election Warden for over 30 years.

He was the recipient of the George L. Wright Award by the Boylston Historical Society in June

1987.

Bill and Deb could be found most evenings at the Clinton Dam or at Prospect Street overlook at the Fruitland's Museum in Harvard enjoying the sunset. In 2001, Bill became one of Santa's helpers and enjoyed the youngsters who had their Christmas photos taken with him and gave him their wish list.

Bill is survived by his wife, Deb; his close cousins Pam Andrews and family, Barbara Phaneuf, and Mary Healey and family, his caring nieces Heather-Lyn Haley Harris (Glen), Hilarie Haley, Heidi Haley Young (Kevin), and his nephew and Godchild Steven Haley (Maureen); along with his grand nieces and nephews Fiona, Ali, Jake, Bridget, Eddie, Maddie, Brooke and their families.

Calling hours will be held on Thursday, March 14, 2024, from 4-6 p.m. with a Celebration of Life Service at 6 p.m. in the Philbin-Comeau Funeral Home, 176 Water St., Clinton. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Boylston Firefighters Association, 599 Main St., Boylston, MA 01505.

Online condolences may be placed at www.philbincomeaufh.com.

HARDWICK from page 1

Lieutenant Kevin Landine said this cruiser will replace a 2016 vehicle with 130,000 miles on it.

"We know the town is struggling," Landine said. "We would not be asking for it if we didn't need it."

Korzec said the replacement vehicle has been a recognized need on the capital planning list.

The cost of the vehicle could be paid from the Capital Stabilization fund or free cash, in order to meet the requirements of the grant.

Parker said there would be about \$90,000 remaining in the town's \$161,000 in free cash after the snow and ice removal deficit was filled.

The Select Board approved a motion to fund the cost of the vehicle using free cash. Voters will decide on the vehicle purchase at town meeting.

Ballot question

Select Board Chair Eric Vollheim said a citizen suggested that a nonbinding question be added to the annual town election warrant.

The question would be: "Shall the town consider reopening and expanding the former landfill, located at Patrill Hollow Road." Voters should answer yes or no.

Vollheim said Parker and Town Clerk Ryan J. Witkos drafted the language.

"It's just a chance to take the pulse of the town," Vollheim said of the nonbinding question.

Select Board Vice-Chair Kelly

Kemp recused herself, at the suggestion of town counsel.

Resident Lisa Cohen said she didn't think having the question on the ballot would be a good idea at this time, and that it could be confusing to voters.

"The answer we will get, is the answer based on people's gut feelings, and without any chance to do any sort of education," she said. "To have this question even before we have a public hearing, really doesn't get the pulse of anything other than people's ignorance about the project."

Resident Judi Korzec agreed with Cohen, saying the question was "premature."

Korzec said almost half of residents today weren't around when the dump was open, and they are unaware of the issues associated with it, including odor and vermin.

"I don't see any benefit to putting this in front of the town when there's nothing to vote on," Korzec said. "Why would we put this in front of people who have had no opportunity to hear about this whole thing except for misinformation from Casella."

Vollheim and Clerk H. Robert Ruggles did not take action on the suggestion to add the nonbinding question to the ballot.

Town Administrator's report

Parker said the USDA would like to have a ribbon cutting ceremony at the new pump station when it is completed.

She said the Green Communities grant will be completed before May 31. The proj-

ect includes new window sashes, weatherization and blown-in insulation in the attic of the Municipal Building and heat pumps at the Fire Station.

District Local Technical Assistance grants acquired through Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission will be used to design and create physical and interactive maps for the ecotourism part of the Master Plan.

Parker said she met with an Eagle Scout candidate that will build a kiosk in town.

A Complete Streets policy draft will be presented to the Select Board for review at an upcoming meeting. Parker said they are thinking of a project that will promote walkability and access from the end of the new trail to the elementary school.

Parker said the CDBG application has to be submitted by March 25. The biggest project that could be covered by the grant is Highland Terrace and there may be money to design the Gilbertville park.

She said the town's electric vehicle charging stations are up and running. They will be charging users \$.35 per kilowatt in the future, but for the time being their use is free.

Appointments

Matthew Borelli was appointed as Assistant Superintendent of the Highway Department and AmyGrace Lewis was appointed to the Council on Aging with her term ending June 2024.

RAILERS from page 10

the power play for the second time off a trip from Nicolas Lariviere. Trevor Cosgrove (7th) hammered a one-timer off a pass from Keeghan Howdeshell and made it 3-1 Railers on the man-advantage. The Lions continued to pressure in the second, but Cole Ceci was strong the rest of the period as Worcester

was outshot 13-7 in the second.

Worcester woke up in the third, outshooting the Lions 18-2 in the frame. Worcester tested Strauss Mann heavily in the period, but the Greenwich, CT native was strong in net as he turned all 18 shots aside. He secured the third star of the game for the Lions, along with the win for Trois-Rivieres.

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HAMILTON from page 4

any other issue; and it's not just Republicans who worry. Liberal cities like New York, Chicago and Denver have been overwhelmed by migrants fared from Texas.

But some fears are overblown.

Research finds that immigrants don't take jobs from native-born Americans or drive down wages, at least in times of robust employment. Neither do they rely excessively on public assistance or commit more crimes.

The vast majority play by the rules and contribute to society. The Pew Research Center estimates that just 22% of foreign-born workers are undocumented.

America is a nation of immigrants, but immigration has often been controversial.

An anti-immigrant backlash 100 years ago produced legislation to bar most migrants not from Northern and Western Europe. It wasn't until the 1960s that a point-based system replaced national-origin quotas.

Today, immigrants account for 13.6% of the U.S. population, a modern-day high and about the

same percentage as a century ago. The share of foreign-born workers in the labor force is higher, largely because immigrants are likely to be of working age.

That's important because the native-born population of working age isn't growing.

The Baby Boom generation has reached retirement, straining programs like Medicare and Social Security. As Brookings Institution analyst William H. Frey writes, "immigration levels are crucial in leading to national growth as opposed to decline, and countering what would otherwise be extreme aging."

A well-designed immigration system could maximize the benefits of immigration while reducing border issues and other concerns. Unfortunately, getting agreement on immigration is extremely difficult.

We saw this recently when the Senate reached a bipartisan deal to pair border restrictions and funding with aid to Ukraine and Israel only to see the House reject the plan.

Almost 20 years ago, former Sen. Spencer Abraham and I chaired a task force to study

America's immigration policies. We recommended a simplified and streamlined system with consistent federal oversight, updated technology, improved border security, protection of human rights and a path to legal status for unauthorized immigrants.

These ideas shouldn't be controversial, and they are as worthwhile today as when they were written.

It may be too much to expect Congress to pass immigration reform in an election year, when politicians are eager to exploit the issue. But we can't keep kicking solutions down the road.

Immigration is too important: to the economy and to our identity as a nation.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

OVERRIDE from page 6

from one-time revenue," said San Angelo.

Free cash is used for one-time expenses a town may encounter, but San Angelo believes it should be only used for one-time expenses and not for continuing operation costs.

In fiscal year 2024, West Brookfield utilized \$380,164 to balance the town budget. Although free cash was used in the past, the town also wants to avoid any possible financial deficit.

The town has developed a five-year plan for how the funds will be used to maintain government services. An override helps cover a five-year timeframe based on best estimates of future costs.

San Angelo believes an override is needed for the town and voters would no longer have to use free cash to balance the budget annually. Certain services to the town would not have to be reduced in case of any financial deficit.

"We want to keep services where they are," San Angelo said.

Services that could be in jeopardy of being cut relate to employees of the town. San Angelo believes these cuts could happen if the override is voted down.

With an override, over the next couple years the town will gradually use the excess levy capacity to fund the normal operation of local government. If the override is voted down then the town may have to make cuts for town departments over the next couple years.

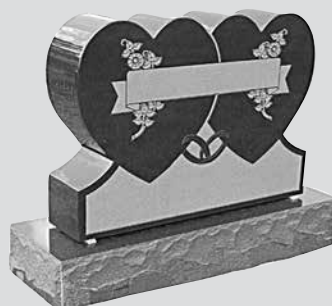
San Angelo mentioned several departments that could be impacted if cuts are necessary in the next couple years if there is no override. Departments such as police, fire, highway, library, senior center and town hall would have to reduce staff, hours and services to the community.

With an override, it is designed to maintain the current services the town provides to its residents.

After his presentation, San Angelo began taking questions from residents who attended the discussion taking place at West Brookfield Elementary School. Many residents shared their thoughts and concerns and had mixed feelings about wanting to favor an override.



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HERREN from page 1

his drinking continued, and how at 12 years old, he asked her to take him away with her.

Two years later, she caught him getting drunk on his father's beers.

"To this day, I don't understand why no one in my family explained alcoholism," Herren said.

Herren went on to gain recognition as a basketball player on his high school team in Fall River, before playing for Boston College and Fresno State. He was ranked in the top 20 basketball players in the country at the height of his career.

He was selected by the Denver Nuggets in the second round draft pick in 1999, before being picked up by the Boston Celtics in 2000.

Despite his rising career, addiction continued to have a hold on Herren, who tried cocaine for the first time at 18 years old.

"Just one line...that one line took 14 years to walk away from," he said.

It also caused him to be kicked out of Boston College, which earned him an embarrassing headline in the newspaper.

Coach Jerry Tarkanian took a chance on him, and he flew out to Fresno, California at 19 years old where he excelled on the court, but continued to fail drug tests.

Knowing he was going to fail another drug test; Herren remembers breaking down and crying in the athletic director's office. The athletic director said to him, "it saddens me that this addiction will never let go of you."

Now at 21 years old, Herren was sent to treatment, which was announced in a press conference. Every day, Herren begged his mother and his wife to take him out of the treatment center.

"I wasted my time," Herren said of his first time in treatment. "I blew the greatest opportunity of my life. I was the 33rd pick, I was unbelievably fortunate...had a wife and a baby."

Herren remembers that his teammates wouldn't let him fall back after treatment.

He moved back home to Fall River when he was 24 years old, and filled with pride at his accomplishments. One day he had a knock on his door, and it was someone he used to play basketball with as a kid.

"He said, 'there's a new painkiller,'" Herren said, describing the plastic bag full of little yellow pills. "In 1999 I never heard of Oxycontin."

Herren gave him \$20 for one pill, threw it in his mouth, and went back to watching cartoons with his son.

"That \$20 turned to \$20,000 a month," he said.

When he returned to training camp he went through his first detox, and it was at this time that he got the call that he was now a member of the Boston Celtics.

"What should have been a dream come true, was a nightmare beginning for me," Herren said. "My first phone call was to the kid with the pills. At that point in my life, I never felt so ashamed."

Following his time with the Celtics, Herren went on to play for the number one team in Europe, where he and his family lived in a beautiful house in Italy, and he earned twice what he was making in the U.S.

Despite smuggling 300 80mg Oxycontin with him to Italy and having a plan to taper himself off of them, Herren quickly went through his supply.

"Unfortunately, Oxycontin doesn't play that way," Herren said. In desperation, Herren found a dealer and not knowing how to ask for the painkiller in Italian, he simply pointed to his arm.

He asked for heroin. Three weeks later Herren and his family were returning to the U.S. following the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

"For the next six months I woke up every single morning with no job, went to Dunkin Donuts and buy heroin every day...I'd sit in my little spot and shoot it."

After shooting heroin, Herren would get in the drive-thru and order himself a coffee and Munchkins to bring home for his children.

It was in this Dunkin Donuts that Herren had his first overdose. He remembers waking up on the pavement, with a police officer on top of him; his arm bleeding with the needle still in it.

After he bailed out of jail, he went back to the heroin dealer for more



Chris Herren gives a fist bump to a student as he walked through an assembly held for middle and high school students for Q-DRUG's Purple for Prevention Week.



Q-DRUG member and Quabbin Regional High School alumni Cody Handrahan spoke about the support he received from the organization.

since it was so good it nearly killed him.

"I kept taking a chance at dying," Herren said. By 27 years old, heroin had taken over his life.

Another overdose caused him to crash his car into a cemetery fence and he ended up in the hospital.

As a police officer led him through the hospital he said to Herren, "your poor kids have no idea how close you were to dying." It was at this time that Herren made the decision to take his life, when a nurse that had known his late mother told him she would do anything to help him.

She began by calling every detox facility, while the hospital held him as long as they could. On his last day in the hospital, NBA player Chris Mullin called him and told him that he had found a place for him in New York.

Mullin was also in recovery, and he asked Herren if he was willing to work for it.

On day 35 in recovery, Herren had earned his first phone call, which he made to his wife.

"My wife was broken, she immediately started crying," Herren recalled, as she was in the hospital giving birth to their third child.

Against his counselor's recommendation, Herren went home and witnessed the birth of their child. His first sober birth.

His oldest son cried uncontrollably in his arms in that hospital room, and told him "I don't want you to die. I still want you to be my daddy."

Herren went for a walk, and he didn't go back. He went to the liquor store and bought cheap vodka, then called his drug dealer.

"I was back on the street, taking a chance at dying," Herren said.

The next day he went back to his wife, and she told him she was leaving him. At 32 years old, Herren had nothing left to live for.

His father was waiting for him in the hospital lobby, and drove him back to New York. He went back to his room, thought about his mother, and prayed.

Aug. 1, 2008, is now his sobriety date.

His children and his wife are his life's biggest blessings and if his teenager ever came home drunk or high, he plans to ask him "why."

"Why can't my son feel good enough? Why do you have to change yourself?" Herren said. "There's a lot of pain and suffering in my family...we all have our 'why.'"

About Q-DRUG

Q-Drug is celebrating its 10-year anniversary this year, working to empower the community to stand together to support substance use prevention. They seek to promote awareness and erase the stigma of substance use disorder to build a recovery supportive community.

For more information, visit qdrug.org, email quabbin.drug@gmail.com, call or text 978-434-2001 or follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

NOTICE OF AUCTION

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

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

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampshire Probate and Family Court 15 Atwood Drive Northampton, MA 01060 (413)586-8500 Docket No.

HS24P0128EA Estate of: George Omer St. Onge Date of Death: 01/07/2024 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION To all interested persons:

A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Camille St. Onge Magin of Millers Falls, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Camille St. Onge Magin of Millers Falls, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this

public notices

proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/10/2024.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

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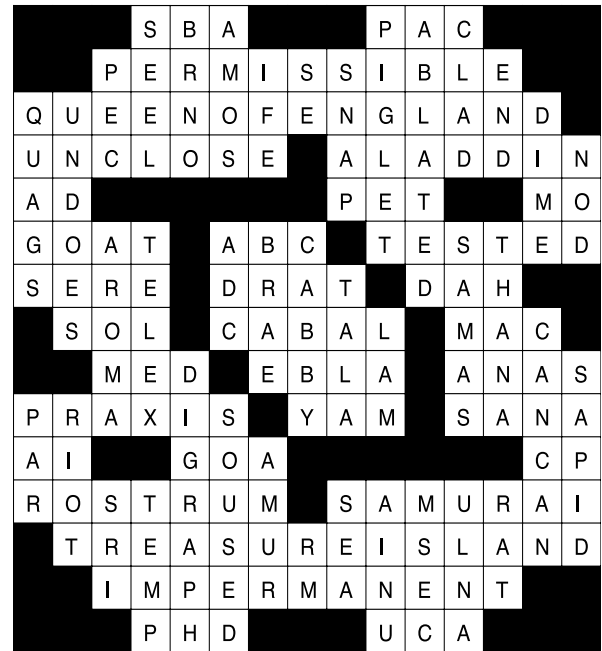
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from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Diana S. Velez Harris, First Justice of this Court. Date: February 29, 2024

Mark S. Ames Temporary Register 03/14/2024

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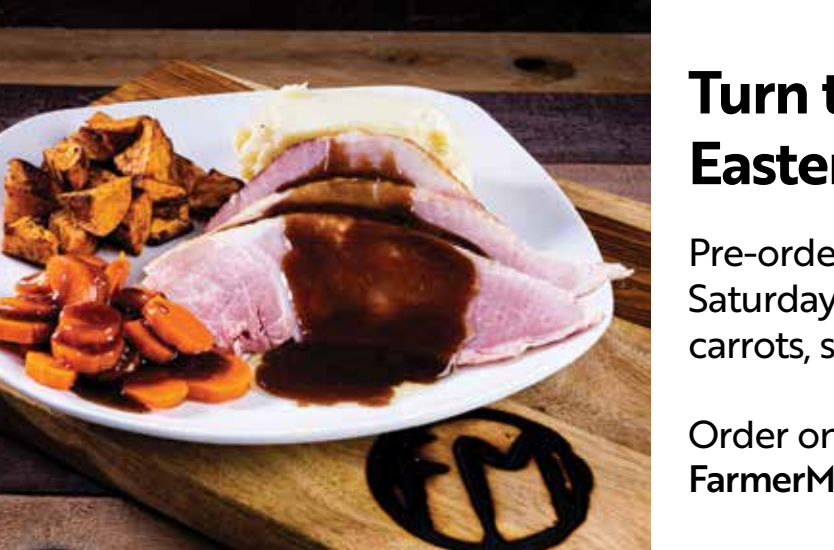
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