

# WARE RIVER NEWS

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## School Committee interviewed superintendent candidates

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis  
Correspondent

WARE – The School Committee interviewed two finalists for the superintendent position last Wednesday evening.

The finalists, Marc Gosselin and Nichole Heroux

were both asked a set of 13 identical questions before the committee members deliberated their performances.

### Marc Gosselin

Gosselin, who according to his LinkedIn was previously a superintendent in

Lenox, Winchendon, and a district in Connecticut, was interviewed first. When asked about a personal quality of his that would help with leadership, he described himself as being calm and steady.

He said that he finds it important to share ideas, analyze different angles, and

be thoughtful when making decisions.

When prioritizing spending, Gosselin said it is important to minimize damage to students' learning, and preserve their experience. He also highlighted communication and collaboration with staff and community, saying

that someone who makes decisions based off their own ideas is the wrong person for the job.

Gosselin was asked about his concept of fairness, and said he defines it as everyone getting what is needed, and maximizing opportunities, and that each department has

different needs.

The committee also highlighted special education, and asked how he would elevate it, and said he has reimaged special education programs in other districts. Gosselin

Please see **CANDIDATES**, page 5

## Quaboag Alumni win game

Graduates faced off against varsity team

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – Quaboag Regional Middle High School hosted the Quaboag Boys Basketball Alumni Game this past weekend.

This game was between the 2025-2026 Quaboag Varsity Basketball Team and Quaboag Basketball Alumni. This exciting game was free admission for all spectators, which consisted of dozens of family members, friends, and members of the Quaboag school community.

Organizing this event is Quaboag Basketball Coach and Teacher, Brandon Nichols-Hogan.

This school year was Nichols-Hogan's first year as coach for the boy's varsity basketball team, who recently had a successful season. The team had a 10-game winning streak during the regular season and qualified for the playoffs and for the Clark Tournament.

Nichols-Hogan said there have been alum-

Please see **ALUMNI**, page 15



## Library welcomed Musical Petting Zoo

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The Ware Library welcomed children and their families to experience the fun of the Musical Petting Zoo.

This educational program is made possible by the Springfield Symphony Orchestra. The program is funded in part by a grant from the Ware Cultural Council, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

The Musical Petting Zoo was also funded by a Coordinated Family and Community Engagement grant from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, which is administered by the Collaborative for Educational Services.

The program began with a presentation of instruments. There to present these amazing instruments was Education & Youth Programs Manager at the Springfield Symphony Youth Orchestras, Maxwell Jordan.

William, age 4, played the triangle while his mother played the cello during the Musical Petting Zoo.

Sharing these instruments during this program is Jordan's favorite part about working at the Symphony. Jordan is in his second year working as the Education & Youth Programs Manager and works in programs for middle to upper elementary aged kids.

Jordan studied the saxophone while in college and once learned how to play 10 different instruments in one semester.

Please see **ZOO**, page 7

## Residents discussed open meeting violation

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Residents attended the Selectboard meeting to discuss the Attorney General's ruling upholding an open meeting violation filed by Cindy Allen Bourcier.

At the March 12 meeting, Bourcier said she hoped the Selectboard took the open meeting violation seriously.

"It's all about transparency, honesty, and every board member is responsible for having a good understanding of what the Massachusetts select board handbook says," she said.

Bourcier said the Friends of Mary Lane was formed two years ago and a year ago, Mary Lane Health was created. She said they are trying to create a structure on the former Mary Lane Hospital site that will last another century.

"That was all in place," Bourcier said.

She said on May 6, the Selectboard took a vote in executive session that was

**“IF BAYSTATE IS HERE, IT BLOCKS OTHER HEALTHCARE FROM COMING TO TOWN.”**

**CINDY ALLEN BOURCIER**

"completely inappropriate, illegal, unethical," to support a proposal for a Convenient Care site from Baystate Health. She said this proposal only came after Baystate Health heard of Mary Lane Health's efforts to find a new beneficiary of the Lewis Gilbert Trust.

Bourcier said she filed a complaint with the state about this meeting, and the following Selectboard meeting, the chair read a statement from town counsel.

She said on July 1, the Selectboard voted again in open session, which should have replicated the May 6 meeting. She said the two

Please see **VIOLATION**, page 13

## 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 13 election, and we need questions from the community.

Select questions will be asked to each candidate running for the Selectboard during the March 28 forum.

Please send your questions by email to pouimette@turley.com by March 27.

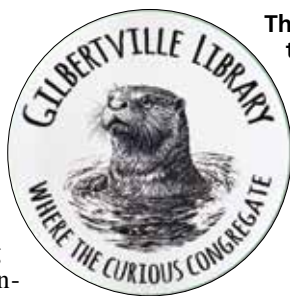
## Rededication of Gilbertville library to be held March 29

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

HARDWICK – Just over a century ago, the Gilbertville Public Library was dedicated on March 29, 1913, providing a source of knowledge, enrichment and enjoyment for George H. Gilbert's millworkers and their families.

Now, the endowment that has kept the library operating for generations has run out, and there are changes on the horizon for this beloved fixture in the community.

"The endowment ran out earlier this year, after 112 years," interim Library



The otter was selected to be the Gilbertville Public Library's mascot, as it is an inhabitant of the nearby Ware River. The waterway not only supports abundant wildlife, but it also powered the industry that shaped the village.

Director Laura Grunweg said.

Grunweg said additional funds from the town and the fundraising efforts of the Library Association have kept the library's doors open.

An experienced library director prior to moving to town, Grunweg was appointed to serve as the interim director following the departure of the Gilbertville Public Library's long-serving director at the end of last year. Grunweg was appointed to help with the transition and facilitate a possible merger with the Paige Memorial Library, which is located near the town's common.

Library Assistant Colleen Coran, who has been a familiar face over the years, joins Grunweg on the staff.

The Gilbertville Public Library has been carefully maintained under the stewardship of its trustees, Etelka Sarabia, Cheryl Wolfe, Anna Soos-Staiti, Chloe Moriarty, Mary Ann Vinskey and Ruth Hamilton Dewey. This includes replacing its heating oil tank, refurbishing its furnace, updating the electrical

Please see **LIBRARY**, page 2

## MaLarkey brought the sounds of Ireland to Warren last weekend

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The spirit of St. Patrick's Day loomed in Warren as Glenda's Pub

welcomed the Irish music group, MaLarkey.

Representing the band during their concert at Glenda's was Marc Graveline, Larry Proserpi, and Paul Bisineri.



MaLarkey performed covers of traditional Irish folk songs and have been performing in the area the last few years. To them, "Everybody is Irish on St. Patrick's Day."

MaLarkey has been performing for the last five years and usually perform around St. Patrick's Day. All members of MaLarkey also perform in other bands, but in the month of March, they bring back MaLarkey.

MaLarkey covers traditional Irish folk music and familiar songs that certainly bring out the St. Patrick's Day spirit. Graveline plays the banjo, Proserpi is the guitarist, and Bisineri plays the fiddle and mandolin.

This was the first time for these musicians to perform at Glenda's Pub as MaLarkey, but each member has performed in Warren in other capacities. From MaLarkey's stand-

Please see **MALARKEY**, page 2



# Welcome spring at the Paige library

**HARDWICK** – Meet author David Payne on Thursday, March 19 at 6 p.m. at the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road.

Become acquainted with Payne and his debut novel "Out of the Dark" - a portal horror about two siblings, one who is taken, and one who spends their life searching. Payne has other short stories available, some available to check out at the library.

The Seed Library returns on Saturday, March 21 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. A drop-in Springtide Celebration will celebrate the spring equinox and the awakening of the earth.

The seed library will debut, participants will have

fun make-and-take crafts, and more. If you are a baker, bring some goodies.

Handcrafts continue on Saturdays, through March 28 Drop in to Pam Hinckley's Adult handcraft workshops from 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Pysanky - Ukrainian Egg Decorating will be held on Tuesday, March 24 at 5:30 p.m. and Wednesday, March 25 at 2:30 p.m. Come learn the traditional process of egg decorating using wax and dye.

It is said that creating Pysanka fights evil in the world. Bring a fresh white egg. The library provide the beeswax, dye, and kistkas.

The new Page to Screen: discussion group will meet on Tuesday, March 31 from

6-7 p.m. Read the book and/or watch the new movie, then come together to discuss your favorite parts and plot points that make you cringe.

Other ongoing library activities include the Story Time with an activity. Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.-noon, Paige Book Club, the Cookbook Club, Celebrate Hardwick, the Ongoing Book Sale, the Paige Writers, and the Movie Festival Committee.

Come join a group or suggest a new one. More events are coming. Check the library's Facebook page and our website at [www.facebook.com/paigelibrary/](http://www.facebook.com/paigelibrary/) and [www.paigelibrary.com](http://www.paigelibrary.com).

# Are You Old News?



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



File Photo  
Last week's photo from 2022 showed Zoe Loveless and Nate Loveless of Hardwick enjoying a pancake breakfast served by the Ware Lions Club at Veterans Park.

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

## MALARKEY from page 1

point, "Everybody is Irish on St. Patrick's Day."

"We play for the love of music," Graveline said.

MaLarkey draws a good crowd when they come out to perform and they commonly play throughout the region.

There were dozens of guests who got into the St. Patrick's Day spirit, wearing all green and skipping on the dance floor.

Their most popular covers include "Wild River" and "Shipping up to Boston". MaLarkey played many Irish songs such as "Drunken Sailor," "Fiddler's Green", and the instrumental song, "Swinging on a Gate".



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago  
Kelly Frazier, left, Bob Madigan, and Glenda Morin wore green for St. Patrick's Day during the MaLarkey performance.



MaLarkey members Larry Prosperi (left) on guitar, Paul Bisineri on the fiddle, and Marc Graveline on the banjo, performed Irish music and songs at Glenda's Pub in Warren.

## LIBRARY from page 1

panel and installing an electronic signboard at the front of the building.

"They've been able to maintain the building, but we really need to upgrade the technology," Grunwerg said.

Grunwerg said they are seeking grants to replace the library's six computers, and they are also working to restore the children's room.

The library itself is constructed out of Indiana limestone, and adorned with arched stained glass windows. These windows have motifs representing seven well-known international publishing houses.

When you walk into the library, your eyes are immediately drawn toward its vaulted ceiling and carved oak beam supports.

During the library's dedicatory address, speaker Henry K. Hyde said of its construction, "Built of enduring stone, with the best of materials and workmanship, it will stand as an object lesson in art to the people of this community."

The building "impresses even the most casual observer by its symmetry and perfect proportions," Hyde said.

This past weekend, several community volunteers worked to prepare the library for an upcoming celebration of the anniversary

of its dedication.

Joining the efforts were Jeff Gaudette, Kevin Tindell and Robert Cowart. The volunteers are working to restore the library's ornate woodwork, polish the stone entryway, and place carpeting throughout the reading areas.

Mark Monserrate is providing IT support and working on lighting and general handyman tasks.

"These guys are doing it for free," Grunwerg said.

The anniversary celebration of the library's dedication will be held on Sunday, March 29 from 2-4 p.m. at the Gilbertville Public Library, 259 Main St., Gilbertville. There will be food, music and a show.

Parking is available at the library, and at the adjacent Stone Church Cultural Center, and the Whistle Stop Restaurant across the street.

Grunwerg said the library still stands as "a monument to literacy and community," in town, but now it needs support from residents more than ever. She invited everyone to attend the celebration to rededicate the library.

"The Gilbertville Public Library is a valued community resource and it deserves to be treasured," Grunwerg said. "It was founded for the community, and the community will help restore, reinstate and reward it."



**Quabbin Regional School District**  
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**Quabbin Regional Middle High School is hosting a Prospective Middle and High School Students School Choice Open House for Grades 6-12 THURSDAY, APRIL 2ND 6:00 - 8:00 PM**

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- Award winning performing and visual arts programs including **music, drama, arts, video production and digital design**
- Athletics, Clubs & Activities
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- AP (Advanced Placement) Courses
- Comprehensive World Languages including **American Sign Language**
- Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC)
- Opportunities for paid & unpaid internships

Families new to Quabbin please R.S.V.P. to Jessica Bennett, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent [jbennett@qrsd.org](mailto:jbennett@qrsd.org) (978) 355-4668 ext. 8500

**Quabbin Regional Middle/High School**  
800 South Street, Barre, MA 01005 978-355-4668  
To schedule a campus visit or for more information please visit our website: [www.qrsd.org](http://www.qrsd.org)  
OR EMAIL: [schoolchoice@qrsd.org](mailto:schoolchoice@qrsd.org)



The Ware River News will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 3. To request a correction, send information to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com), or call 967-3505. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Ware River News, Attn: Editor, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069.

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## C4R watershed council to hold gathering March 22

**PALMER** – We have all heard Carpe Diem-seize the day, well our local rivers need us to step up to care for them as we enjoy their beauty.

Join the Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed, C4R, group as its members seek to continue their efforts to do that.

The first gathering in 2026 will be held on Sunday, March 22 from 2-4 p.m. in the Palmer Historical Cultural Center, 2072 Main St., Three Rivers.

Come hear what C4R has accomplished and how you can help to keep it going. They will review water quality monitoring, paddling trails, clean ups, trail stewardship, leadership needs, and more.

For more information, email [chicopeewatershed@gmail.com](mailto:chicopeewatershed@gmail.com).

## Polar Plunge to benefit Special Olympics

**WARE** – The Ware Polar Plunge fundraiser to benefit the Special Olympics will be held on Saturday, March 21 at West Beach – Beaver Lake.

This event is weather/ice dependent. It is subject to change if the ice is not melted.

Check-in for the plunge is at 11 a.m. and the plunge will take place at noon.

To register, scan the QR code or visit [www.polarplungema.org](http://www.polarplungema.org).



## 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 23

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

#### Tuesday, March 24

- 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
- 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 25

- 9 a.m. Tai-Chi
- 9:30 a.m. Quilting Club
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. Knit-Crochet-Laugh
- 1 p.m. Chair Yoga with Lori

#### Thursday, March 26

- 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
- 9 a.m. Walking Club (weather permitting)
- 9:30 a.m. Line Dancing for Beginners

- 10 a.m. Line Dancing
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 12:15 p.m. Art Class
- 12:30 p.m. Movie Matinee “Solo Mio” with Kevin James

#### Friday, March 27

- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. Chair Yoga with Lori
- 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 23

Hot Pastrami Sandwich with Swiss Cheese, Potato Chips, Dessert of the Day

#### Tuesday, March 24

Meatloaf Parmigiana with Pasta, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day

#### Wednesday, March 25

BBG Pulled Pork Sandwich, Coleslaw, Dessert of the Day

#### Thursday, March 26

Chicken Cordon Bleu, Potatoes, Veggie of the Day, Dessert of the Day

#### Friday, March 27

Macaroni & Cheese, Stewed Tomatoes, Dessert of the Day

## Grange hosts supper to benefit community garden

**WARE** – A public supper to benefit the Ware Community Garden will be hosted by Ware Grange and Ware Senior Center on Monday, March 30 from 6-7 p.m. at the senior center, 1 Robbins Road.

Enjoy a dinner of Chicken Marsala, roasted potatoes, carrots, salad,

roll, drinks, and cream puffs for dessert. The cost is \$15 per person.

Please RSVP in advance to [waregrange164@gmail.com](mailto:waregrange164@gmail.com) or call 413-284-1135. All are welcome to purchase tickets for a good meal in support of the creation of Ware’s new community garden.

## Select Board reviewed FY 27 budget for administration

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

**HARDWICK** – During a joint meeting with the Finance Committee the Select Board continued discussion of the fiscal year 2027 budget.

On March 16, both Finance Committee members and the Select Board with the Town Administrator focused on the budget items that fall under administration. Mark Korzec of the Finance Committee presented a pie chart where line items under administration were addressed.

After going over administration costs, both the board and the Finance Committee went over debt and general government. These three items make up approximately \$1.7 million dollars of the budget.

Korzec confirmed that the committee has already reviewed the Police Department budget and are still waiting on official numbers for the schools. Korzec said he met with Town Administrator Justine Caggiano with both wanting to go over the budget numbers in detail with the Select Board.

“We’re trying to understand our budget at this point,” Korzec said.

Korzec said there is an enterprise fund budgeted at \$906,000. There are eight revolving accounts that are essentially not represented in the expense budget. The items are recycling, cemetery, Board of Health, Town House, Planning Board, Youth Group, MART, and Agricultural Commission.

Korzec said these revolving accounts are something the board may want to still see in the future.

As they dive into administration piece of the budget, Korzec told the Select Board that some numbers they have produced and the Finance Committee have produced

will match and some do not match. Numbers for the budget are changing as more information is coming in.

The first item both groups reviewed was EMS, being listed at \$55,000. Caggiano said the town is looking to negotiate a new contract with West Brookfield Rescue Squad. From the Finance Committee’s standpoint, that number is currently present, but still in a negotiation phase.

For the purposes of this joint meeting, the board and committee are only understanding what number is in the budget. With \$55,000 present to date, it was shared that this amount is a decreased amount from a prior fiscal year.

For the Select Board budget, there is \$200 increase from last year. The board has participated in more trainings. The Select Board knows updates are likely to happen after the joint meeting on March 16.

For the Finance Committee Reserve, IT service is on the list. Caggiano provided a handout listing the last four years of IT service. Showing the last four years on how the town’s budget has been significantly less than what the town has been spending.

Select Board Vice Chair William Tinker said he had requested a transaction request for IT over a week ago, wanting to make sure the service is covered. The board members asked why it is over \$20,000 according to the numbers they’ve received.

Select Board Clerk Jeffrey Schaaf wanted to know where the amount of \$38,000 originally came from. According to the last four years, the IT services are a lot more than that figure.

Korzec shared that these last four years are a comparison of the previous budgets. The town is pushing to get “actuals,” or actual amounts.

The Select Board and the Finance Committee want to look at what has been spent.

Caggiano suggested putting out a request for proposal for IT services.

“It’s worth to have that information,” she said.

The Finance Committee expenses were addressed, and both the committee and the Select Board know all the numbers for this item is preliminary.

The discussion led both the Select Board and the Finance Committee to a figure of \$159,545. This number is uncertain due to the treasurer and collector being two separate departments. Caggiano said, historically the town has had those separate.

The plan now is to combine the treasurer and collector into one account. This needs to be configured into the budget. Treasurer payroll expense can be crossed out because it falls under one item.

Tax title attorney was also listed in the administration budget and is different from a town counsel. Tax title properties can be taken to auction, but the Board was unsure of what the expenses would be when doing that. This is a number the Finance Committee and Select Board can review.

For legal services, Caggiano did provide the last four years for this item. Legal fees are going up \$10 an hour. Next year, the town is hoping legal won’t be used as much.

Detailed transactions for legal were also requested by Tinker. Caggiano said that Tinker has the documents except for the last invoice for the month of January.

Tinker thought it be best to budget this item at a “safe number,” and suggested \$35,000. After further discussion,

Please see **HARDWICK**, page 6

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# viewpoints

## SOCIAL SECURITY

### Matters

By Russell Gloor

## When will I get full credit for delaying my SS retirement?

Dear Rusty:

The time is nearing that I want to move from my current Social Security survivor benefit to my own SS retirement benefit at 70 years of age.

I have been looking more deeply into the application of Delayed Retirement Credits and I have read that DRCs accumulated in the year that I turn 70, September 2026, will not be effective when I actually turn 70. Rather, those DRCs won't be paid until the following year. Can you verify that this is correct? I presume that if the DRCs are not applied at age 70, that they will be applied sometime after the first of the year and any increase will be paid retroactively.

Signed: Retiring Soon

Dear Retiring Soon:

The Delayed Retirement Credits you speak of have accumulated at the rate of 8% per year (.667% per month) since you reached your SS Full Retirement Age, which means that at age 70 your monthly SS benefit will be about 129% of the amount you were entitled to at your FRA of 66 years plus 4 months.

However, your understanding of how DRCs will work for you at age 70 is not correct. If you claim for your Social Security retirement benefits to begin in September 2026 (the month you turn 70) you will receive all DRCs, you have accumulated up to that point in time. In other words, you will get your full age 70 benefit amount immediately, including all DRCs earned until then, effective with your first SS retirement payment, which you will get in October 2026. What you have likely read about is that DRCs work a bit differently for those

who claim SS after their full retirement age, but before their 70th birthday month.

For those who claim mid-year but before age 70, only DRCs earned through the end of the preceding year are initially applied and DRCs earned during the current year are not paid until the following January. This results in a loss of some SS benefit between the time benefits start and the following January, because only the amount earned as of the end of the previous year are first paid, and the full number of DRCs earned during the current year are applied in January.

But, as is the case for you, when benefits are claimed to start in the month you reach 70 years of age, all DRCs earned up to the month of your 70th birthday are immediately applied. Congratulations on selecting a strategy which will maximize your monthly Social Security benefit.

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

## On the look out for a nice lawn

I'll be the first to admit that I don't have an especially nice lawn. Looking out the window further proves it.

It is early in the year and all, so the shades of brown I see are pretty common, but there are some lawns that are greening up nicely while mine is definitely not.

My mind always goes to thoughts of green as we approach St. Patrick's Day. I wonder if that's why my Irish dad enjoyed caring for his lawn so much?

One of his spring rituals was to rake it. I remember him out there working his way across the yard a little at a time, making pile after pile of dead grass, leaves and small sticks.

This was the just the first job in a season's worth of work aimed at growing good turf. Chances are that once the ground dries a bit you'll be out there too, clearing the lawn of winter debris and enjoying some long awaited sun on your back.

Find out what else you can do (and I should too) to achieve an attractive greenscape with a minimal commitment.

Don't mow so low, or as often. Mowing at a height of about three inches will encourage a healthy lawn. Why? Taller grass shades out developing weed seedlings.

It also makes large, established weeds more susceptible to mower damage (the more surface area of the weed that is removed, the more weakened it becomes.)

High mowing also fosters deep root growth. Deep roots sustain the lawn during peri-

ods of drought.

Keep mower blades sharpened for the cleanest possible cut.

should be lime. Grass can't grow well, or fight off diseases or bugs for that matter, if it isn't getting the nutrients it needs.

Many nutrients are bound up until the pH is corrected. Get a soil test and specify on the order form that you wish to grow grass, as results for flower or veggie gardening may differ.

Based on the results of your test, recommendations will be made as to the type of lime to use and at what application rate. For more information contact the UMass Extension or [www.umass.edu/plsoils/soiltest](http://www.umass.edu/plsoils/soiltest). Here are some interesting grass facts: Did you know that according to a poll (sponsored by Briggs and Stratton) 64% of homeowners wish they had a better lawn? Or that 63 million households own at least one lawn mower?

The Professional Lawn Care Association estimates that a well-maintained lawn can increase the value of a home by up to 20%.

This was probably of little concern to Presidents Washington and Jefferson... they were the first to have lawns as we know them today but they were maintained by sheep!

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*



Water efficiently and effectively. If you set up sprinklers each season to water the lawn for you, take some time early in the season to position them so that water isn't wasted on sidewalks or driveways.

Mark the location and set up will be a no-brainer each time.

To grow best, grass requires an inch of moisture each week, more if your soil is sandy. Do the tea cup test to determine how much water your sprinklers emit and at what rate. Simply place a tea cup or other container on the lawn and turn on the sprinkler, check every five minutes or so until water reaches the inch mark.

Now you can set a timer, or turn off the sprinklers manually knowing your lawn has gotten its weekly drink. Most people know that early morning is the best time to water the lawn. By watering early in the day less moisture is lost to evaporation.

Grass is also less prone to fungal diseases because it has a chance to dry before nightfall.

Know your soil. A friend of mine who knew a lot about turf once told me that if I were to apply one thing to my lawn each season it

## WARE RIVER NEWS TEAM



**EDITOR**  
Paula Ouimette  
[pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com)



**ADVERTISING SALES**  
Dan Flynn  
[dfflynn@turley.com](mailto:dfflynn@turley.com)



**SPORTS EDITOR**  
Greg Scibelli  
[sports@turley.com](mailto:sports@turley.com)



**STAFF WRITER**  
Ryan Drago  
[rdrago@turley.com](mailto:rdrago@turley.com)

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**PATRICK H. TURLEY**  
CEO

**KEITH TURLEY**  
President



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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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Letter to the Editor  
24 Water St.,  
Palmer, MA 01069  
or via email to:  
[pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com)

The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.



## Care at home after the hospital

that you know you'll need some help when you get home. For every day you spend in a hospital, you lose a month of muscle tone and mobility, so depending on how long you've been hospitalized, you may need considerable help.

Will you need a walker or wheelchair? Shower chair? A first-floor sleeping arrangement? A bedside commode? These are all things that can be planned for if you know they're coming. Very often, hospitals have social workers who help patients navigate after-hospital care. Medicare has a thorough discharge planning guide on its website; search Medicare Publication No. 11376 in your browser.

Other things to think about are trip hazards like small pets and throw rugs and having some ready-made or frozen meals on hand.

### Arrange for help in advance, too

A spouse may be standing by, but they may need help themselves. Adult children, friends or neighbors may be able to pitch in. If there's no

one you can call on for help – and more than 50 million Americans over 50 are aging on their own – it's time to contact a home health agency. A patient advocate, who is likely familiar with the home health landscape in your area, is a good resource and go-between.

The cardinal rule is: Ask for assistance when you need it to avoid further complications from falls, lack of nourishment or lapses in personal care.

### Understand what Medicare covers

Home health care spending grew at an annual rate of more than 10% in 2024, and shows no signs of slowing down. A significant chunk of the spending in 2023 – \$148 billion – was by Medicare. But Medicare doesn't cover everything, so you may have out-of-pocket expenses.

Medicare-covered home health services include skilled nursing care, physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech-language pathology services when ordered by a doctor. Part-time or intermittent home health aide

care is covered only if you're also getting those services at home.

Skilled nursing care can include wound care, injections, nutrition services and monitoring unstable health conditions. Medicare also covers durable medical equipment when prescribed by a doctor, such as beds, walkers, wheelchairs, pumps and oxygen.

Medicare doesn't pay for 24-hour a day care, meal delivery, homemaker services or personal care services that help with bathing, dressing, grooming, etc.

### Questions to ask a home health agency

There are a zillion questions you could ask, but I think these are among the most important:

- How long has this agency been in business and is it licensed to perform home health care?
- Can you provide references, or can I speak with previous clients?
- Do you accept long-term

Please see **HEALTH**, page 12

**your health**

By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN  
Guest Column

It's usually good news when the doctor says you or a loved one can come home from the hospital. Sometimes, though, it's a mixed blessing.

Hospital discharge sometimes means that further hospital care won't improve someone's health condition, and the hospital is eager to get someone else in that bed. People are discharged faster these days, often with significant lingering health issues that have to be seen to.

In the hospital, there's a staff of nurses, nurse aides, therapists and others to care for you or a loved one. When you get home, though, it's just you and maybe a spouse or other family member. That's why the home health

industry is booming.

In 2020 (the most recent data available), approximately 3 million patients received home health care services in the U.S., often following a hospitalization or skilled nursing facility stay. They are being cared for by some 12,000 home health agencies, more than 80 percent of which are for-profit companies.

Home health is something patient advocates know a lot about – and there's a lot to know. Here are some of the things I've learned over my years as an RN and nurse advocate.

### Prepare in advance if you can

A best-case scenario is

## Zonta Club helps women in need

The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley announced that 600 feminine hygiene kits were assembled for women and girls in need by some amazing volunteers at the Venture Way Collaborative on Feb. 21.

Special thanks to VWC, Jazzercise Amherst Fitness, Girls Inc. of the Valley, Palmer Public Library, Soul Shine Consignment Boutique, Making Waves Belchertown, The Polished Room, Blush Med Spa, Chamelions Salon, Wilbraham Tanning, Wilbraham Monson Academy and the Skin Studio Wilbraham for their support in collecting product donations. The club also received heart-warming messages and cash to purchase needed products thanks to the publicity from local publications.

Amherst Survival Center was the only non-profit who



Submitted Photo  
**Gianna Allentuck and Connie Mahoney volunteered with The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley to assemble feminine hygiene kits.**

showed up to get the kits, so they left with hundreds of kits and a trunk-load of additional feminine products. Zonta Club members and volunteers will deliv-

er the rest of the kits to the Care Center, Gray's House, local food banks, police departments, etc.

## Nominations needed for Lucy Stone award

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

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

Born on Coy Hill in West Brookfield, Stone worked tirelessly throughout her life to get equal rights for all individuals. She was a lecturer for abolitionist and equal rights groups and the founder and editor of *The Woman's Journal*.

For the Lucy Stone Award, the Quaboag Historical Society requests nomination letters for anyone living

in one of the six Quaboag Plantation area towns (the four Brookfields, New Braintree, and Warren). Residents are asked to nominate individuals whose volunteer efforts have helped make their communities better places to live.

The nominating letters should briefly explain why the writer believes the nominee is deserving of the award. The name, address, and phone number of both the nominator and the nominee must be included in the letter.

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

The Irving and Jane England Award, also presented annually by the QHS, is

given each year to a resident of West Brookfield who has helped better the community through community service. Nomination regulations for this award are the same as those for the Lucy Stone Award.

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

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

All award nomination entries should be submitted to the QHS by Monday, April 13.

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

### CANDIDATES from page 1

again highlighted the student, saying maximizing learning opportunities for each student is important, and saying that compliance with special education regulations is only the minimum.

He said making the environment inclusive, and committee member Mel Whitham said that sometimes full inclusion can harm other students, and separate environments are needed at times. Gosselin said that is a small percentage of the time, and he has worked with Harvard University to train staff members on inclusion.

The committee asked Gosselin how he would make himself visible and accessible, and he said his favorite part of the role is attending events. He said he would be at the school daily, forming relationships, including lunch with students.

He said he values feedback from the students, and has made himself accessible to community members in Winchendon to rally support for passing overrides to benefit the school.

"I want to make sure that everyone feels involved," he said.

When asked about first priorities, he said collecting data on budgets, courses, and schedules is important, along with communicating with leaders to find shared priorities. He said weighing the priorities and getting the support to pursue them is important.

Gosselin was asked some administrative questions about his HR policies when hiring staff and his accreditation qualifications. In terms of HR policies, he said transparent protocols, and no favoritism in hiring is important.

For accreditation, he said he is comfortable with the process, having achieved full accreditation in Lenox.

When asked how he would retain teachers, he said that compensation is important, but having a supportive administration is more important.

He said teacher retention is important for students, because they need the continuity to preserve the culture and climate of the school.

"Teachers want a place where they feel valued," Gosselin said.

He was also asked how he would make Ware schools attractive for school choice students. Gosselin said increasing opportunities and having signature programs is important for that.

He said offering dual enrollment to all kids can help them develop skills, along with internships for students to explore professions.

Finally, the committee asked Gosselin what attracted him to Ware, and he highlighted that it is a close-knit community, and there are opportunities to know people. He said the students had energy and passion, and that there will be challenges that he enjoys solving.

Gosselin said he would "put [my] heart and soul into the work."

### Nichole Heroux

Heroux, who according to her LinkedIn has worked as a director of student services at both Hampshire Regional School District and in Granby was interviewed second. Heroux was asked the same line of questions, starting with a personal quality that would help her be a leader.

She said that she is a good communicator, and others feel comfortable talking to her about their concerns. She also said that she is open-minded.

When asked about spending priorities, Heroux said that the needs of the students and staff are important, as well as the future of the school. She said that she creates multiple budgets for different scenarios.

Heroux said analyzing what works and doesn't work, and getting feedback from teachers is important.

Heroux was asked about her definition of fairness, and she said that things are not always fair, but how they are dealt with matters. She said it is important to listen to and validate people's opinions, and work together to find solutions to those concerns.

When asked about special education, Heroux said it is important to look at every program on a yearly basis, and that needs change based on year and level. She also highlighted the importance of supporting parents, saying it is challenging parenting a special needs child.

"Special ed is my forte," Heroux said.

The board asked about a time when she had to make a difficult compromise, and told a story of a time she had to tell a family the school could not support their child because the child had needs that were not being met. She said the parents were unhappy, and they felt that the school was giving up on the child, but the child later returned to the district after a couple of years after having their needs met elsewhere.

When asked how she would make herself visible and accessible, Heroux said she was excited to be in Ware. She said she would like attending school activities and town activities, saying it matters to be involved.

She also said that she

would be visual in classrooms, because the students and parents need to feel that the superintendent is invested.

"I want to be part of this community," she said.

The committee also asked Heroux about her top priorities and steps, and she said that she would not make any quick decisions, to allow time to see what is happening. She said it is important to continue doing things that work, and fix the things that do not.

She said having relationships with town officials, retaining students, and making attainable goals are important.

The committee also asked Heroux the administrative questions about HR policies and accreditation. Heroux said communicating expectations and protocols are important when hiring staff, along with being honest about concerns.

She said she was accredited while at Pathfinder.

When asked how to retain teachers, Heroux said "money is not the answer." She said making teachers a part of the team, and validating and listening to feedback is important.

"If they feel supported, they will stay," Heroux said.

The committee asked how she would make Ware schools attractive, and she highlighted some possibilities like partnering with Pathfinder for programs, having chapter 74 (vocational programs) and investing in the community. Heroux said she chose to apply for Ware because she feels she can be a part of the community.

### Explanation of search process

Whitham outlined the process the School Committee and search committee took that resulted with Gosselin and Heroux being interviewed. She said the search committee consisted of 15 people, and met multiple times between December and February to discuss applications.

She said there were five initial applicants, which later turned to four, and first interviews of those four candidates were completed in early February, when the finalists were chosen.

She said that the committee was not "settling" and she believed both candidates were capable of the job.

Some staff members, like Liz Musnicki, said the day of the interviews felt rushed, because the candidates had just met everybody for the first time that day. Musnicki said the interview questions were good, but a same night decision was not necessary.

Whitham said there was no need to wait, since there was no more information to

look at, and the interviews were fresh on the board members' minds.

### Deliberation and decision

Whitham started the deliberation by highlighting the two candidates were very different from each other, exemplifying their different styles and experiences. She reiterated how Gosselin had previous superintendent experience, but Heroux had lots of experience in superintendent-adjacent roles in smaller districts.

School Committee member Michael DuBois said coming into the interviews, he thought Gosselin was the better fit, but leaned toward Heroux following the interviews. He then said he was not sure if either were the best fit.

School Committee member Aaron Sawabi said the choice between Gosselin and Heroux was "experience versus personality."

He said someone like Heroux would resonate well with the staff, but they need experience. Sawabi made connections to another time the committee hired somebody without experience, and it did not end well, and that the current interim superintendent Michael Wood has good experience.

He said Heroux has a team dynamic, but would need time to learn, and he was not sure if the district could absorb that time, and that he leaned toward hiring Gosselin for that reason.

School Committee member Julie Slattery said both candidates had good qualities, with Heroux being community based and Gosselin

having the superintendent experience and calm demeanor.

She said she leaned toward Gosselin, and that extending the interim superintendent would put the committee in the same position in a year.

School Committee Chair Brian Winslow said they needed a superintendent, and was concerned about Heroux's lack of experience, but highlighted that she "talked from the heart." He said he did not doubt her decision-making.

Following each committee member giving their initial reactions, Whitham said that she understands the hesitation to hire Heroux, but said she is the "long game" choice because she only applied to Ware, and said during her interview that she would stay in Ware for the rest of her career. She described Gosselin as the "short game" choice, and that she thought Gosselin would just apply elsewhere if he did not get the job in Ware.

Winslow also had concerns about Gosselin, because he mentioned during his interview that he does consultation work, and Winslow said he has concerns about his ability to do two jobs because they "need 110%."

Whitham, who was in support of hiring Heroux, said she believed that if Heroux had documented superintendent experience the decision would be easy for the rest of the board members. She said Heroux did well in her interview, and she fit the requirements of the job, as she had years of

administrative experience.

At this point in the deliberation, the committee members decided to rule out Gosselin.

In response to Whitham, Sawabi said her personality and positive reviews are not enough, and did not see an issue with waiting another year, because they have stability with interim superintendent Wood. Sawabi said Heroux would have to learn how to navigate town government and officials, and needs to learn budgeting.

Whitham said Heroux knows what she is walking into, can rally a team, and the references from Granby were positive, calling her a natural mentor and saying people want to follow her lead.

"I think we'd be making a mistake passing on her," Whitham said.

She said her references say she has experience budgeting and seeking out free programs.

DuBois said Whitham was "putting faith in someone you don't know."

Whitham said the community would be disappointed if the committee did not vote to hire Heroux.

"This community is ready for a fresh start," she said.

Whitham made a motion to move forward with Heroux, which Sawabi and Slattery abstained from, and Winslow and DuBois voted against. Whitham was the sole member in support.

A second motion was made to offer interim superintendent Wood to stay another year, which passed 3-1 with Slattery abstaining and Whitham voting against.



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# warren

## Selectmen heard rural health program presentation

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Board of Selectmen listened to a presentation regarding the Rural Health Transformation Program.

Giving the presentation during the meeting on March 12 was Judi Korzec of Hardwick.

Korzec said the RFTP is helping Massachusetts strengthen the rural health system and ensure every community has access to high-quality, sustainable care. This federal initiative is providing \$50 billion over five years to transform rural healthcare delivery.

This is a national grant that Korzec would want to inform rural communities such as Warren about and how it would impact them. The state put out their proposal and received \$162 million in December 2025 for their first year of five.

Korzec said what is important is that the money is allocated only to rural health towns and clusters. When it comes to this national grant, nobody can build a new building under this program.

“We are working with UMass,” Korzec said.

Korzec said “there is no money out of pocket to the towns for this five-year period.”

While working with UMass, a cluster of nine

towns was made to represent the western edge of Worcester County. Korzec said there were legitimate compliance quality reasons to choose UMass to help with this program.

In 2025, UMass did a ribbon cutting of a new facility in Worcester. They also did a test pilot of how to use technology to support people who can’t get medical services, including those with transportation issues.

Korzec has spoken with the CEO of UMass and she said he seems in favor of the concept. Korzec is reaching out to the local boards of health of these rural towns. There are about 30,000 people across this nine-town cluster.

When it comes to Rural Health, expansion of an existing building is allowed, but building from the ground up isn’t. The goal is to bring health professionals to the homes of those who need services. Korzec wants to work with different towns and see what each town will designate as a community access point and a community health worker.

Warren does have several mill buildings with the potential to have expansion work done to them and provide some sort of rural health service. Korzec said she has been in healthcare for 35 years and wants something to be done during this program for these rural towns.

“Building integrated infra-

structure within communities is the only way to deliver care,” Korzec said. “You can’t expect people to drive an hour and sit in the waiting room for almost four hours to receive care. People are not getting cared for.”

Korzec said state legislators are in the know of this program and UMass is going to submit their final proposal.

She said the state has to distribute money by September. Her plan is to have programs launched by the end of year three.

Selectmen Chair Richard Eichacker asked what would happen when the grant ends or if the funding stopped. Korzec explained that putting all the programs in is the plan and assumes that 85% will become a billable service.

When asked about working in existing buildings, Korzec explained it’s about building an addition on an existing piece of property. Buildings would be leased, not purchased. The only important rule is you can’t build anything new.

This would be a great opportunity for Warren to get some sort of service.

“Anything we can do to get more services available to the residents,” said Selectman David Dufresne.

According to Korzec, it’s about creating a model where everybody is working together. The board would like to see a resolution made and sent to them to review.

The Selectmen thanked

Korzec and will review the resolution at their next meeting.

### Pole hearing

The Board of Selectmen held a public hearing with National Grid to install five joint-owned poles on Reed Street and relocate 11 JO Poles on Reed Street beginning at a point approximately 1,100 feet in a west direction. Sebastian Chen of National Grid is one of the design contractors and the purpose of this project is to provide better protection and better voltage sensing. The new poles are taller than the original, approximately 45 feet in total length.

Chen said they did their best to make sure no drive-ways were disturbed on Reed Street. The contractor believes the system will be more reliable as there is a higher demand nowadays for power use.

The board closed the public hearing and approved the project.

### Request from the Police Chief

The Selectmen heard from Chief of Police, Gerald Millette, regarding a request to declare surplus property within the department and to authorize the sale of these items through an auction or to dispose of them.

The chief is looking to put some items on an auction site, and for whatever that isn’t sold can be disposed

of. Millette believes this is a good way to help the town make some extra money.

Items found include old radios, tires, and even tasers.

Millette also discussed selling the department’s hummer, a former military vehicle, which is not practical for police use.

The board gave Millette authorization to list these items on municipal bid and declare as surplus property.

### Towns Administrator’s report

Town Administrator James Ferrera gave his monthly report for February. He conducted a department head meeting at the beginning of the month to discuss the fiscal year 2027 budget process and the progress being made on the town’s new website. He participated in a Department of Revenue workshop on Financial Forecasting.

Ferrera also held an all-staff training on preventing sexual harassment and discrimination in the workplace. The training was conducted by KP Law.

On Feb. 19, the town had a successful launch of the new website. The new website allows you to report a pothole or streetlight outage. Ferrera met with all departments individually regarding their FY 27 budget. He also started the discussions on warrant articles for both the Special and Annual Town Meetings.

On Feb. 20, the town held a project kickoff meeting with Jeff McElravy from Tecton Architects for the building assessment at 968 Main St.

Ferrera welcomed Tammy Martin back to the position of Accountant. A posting for the position of Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator and Selectboard has been made.

### Voluntary group life insurance

The Selectmen discussed the voluntary group life insurance employee benefits from Boston Mutual. Ferrera had a proposal to increase the voluntary employee benefit. According to state statute, the town is required to at least offer their employees a voluntary life insurance policy at the minimum being \$2,000.

Ferrera feels the policy now is not adequate and hasn’t been for quite a while. The board would like to run a couple scenarios and see which voluntary plan is within reason. Most employees are on this plan.

One scenario is to increase plan to \$7,500, with the premium going from \$1,500 to \$2,700.

“This is an opportunity that can give an additional benefit back to our employees,” Ferrera said.

Ferrera spoke about this with the Finance Committee and stated they’re in support of this plan.

## Town Election to be held May 5

WARREN – Town Clerk, Laura J. Stockley said the Town Election will be held on Tuesday, May 5.

Appearing on the ballot will be the following:

Moderator, three-year term; Selectman, three-year term; Board of Health, three-year term; Assessor, three-year term; Park Commissioner, three-year term; Cemetery Commissioner, three-year term; Sewer Commissioner, three-year term; Planning Board, five-year term; Housing Authority, five-year term; and Housing Authority,

two-year term.

The Quaboag Regional School District positions will also be incorporated on the Town Ballot. Two members from the Town of Warren for a three-year term and two members from the Town of West Brookfield for a three-year term. Deadline for returning nomination papers is Friday, March 20 by 4 p.m.

Last day to register to vote before the Town Election is Friday, April 24 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Town Clerk’s office in the Shepard Municipal Building.

### HARDWICK BOS from page 3

sion, the Board adjusted the item to \$33,000.

For the Town Clerk, the joint meeting addressed salary, expenses, and elections which fluctuate. The board was wondering what software source the Town Clerk uses for tasks.

Tinker said he spoke with Town Clerk, Ryan Witkos, about certifying and codifying the bylaws. Tinker believes this is something that needs to be done and will likely be brought up at the Annual Town Meeting.

“It’s something the town really needs to do,” Tinker said.

The joint meeting then came across conservation and their budget items. A couple members of Hardwick’s Conservation Commission, William Zinni, Jr, Chair and Rebecca Bottomley, Vice Chair, brought up the idea to possibly recruit an agent for conservation.

There are towns out there that have full-time and part-

time agents.

“We were thinking we could share an agent position,” Zinni said.

“The town is lucky we have wetlands biologists,” Bottomley said.

In a lot instances it feels like a full-time position. The Conservation Commission members believe it would be beneficial to have a part-time worker who can answer questions for people who call and address simple things like wetlands.

Conducting site visits is a big roll for conservation, and members volunteer a lot of their time, even though the workload has increased through the years. Conservation made a valid point and will be taken into consideration.

The Select Board and the Finance Committee will continue discussion of the FY 27 budget at the March 30 meeting at 6 p.m.

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# Musical Petting Zoo



Maxwell Jordan making sounds with the trumpet, one of the brass instruments he brought to the Ware Library.



Savannah played the drums, while other kids listened and waited their turn.



Elizabeth played the cello at the Ware Library.



Maxwell Jordan is the Education & Youth Programs Manager at the Springfield Symphony Orchestra. Jordan demonstrated how to play the cello.



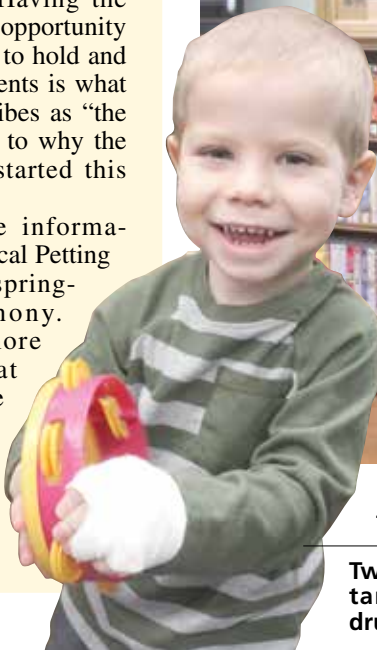
Laurie Desjardins played a clarinet duet. *Turley Photos by Ryan Drago*



Emmy, age 4, played the xylophone.



Maxwell Jordan played the clarinet during the Musical Petting Zoo.



Two-year-old Henry was excited to play the tambourine but also enjoyed playing the drums.

## ZOO from page 1

Jordan brought over a dozen instruments, consisting of brass instruments, string instruments, and percussion instruments. He introduced each instrument to the kids and played them to demonstrate the sound.

Kids got to answer questions and guess the name of each instrument.

After Jordan finished introducing the instruments, it was now time for the kids to explore and try playing some of them.

"What a treat this is for these kids," said one parent walking by.

This was a fun hands-on experience for the kids to explore instruments and music and see if they find a love for it.

Four-year-old Emmy was practicing her percussion skills on the xylophone. When asked about what her favorite instrument is, she pointed with her finger and stated, "that one" pointing at the violin.

"Love to have one," she said.

Laurie Desjardins was at the library trying out these instruments along with the kids and knows how important music is in the world. Music can be something used for relaxation.

Exposing kids to music gets them the ability to try instruments.

"Hopefully they can

carry it on in their home lives," Desjardins said. "Always try things."

William, 4, was having a great time at the Ware Library during the Musical Petting Zoo. William's favorite instrument he got to try out was the violin but he soon picked up an affection for the triangle.

His mother also got into the spirit of playing and was trying out the cello. The two of them thought of a song to play.

"I'm going to play the 'bath song,'" William said.

"Bath Song" was William's name for "Baby Shark". William played the song on the triangle and his mom played on the cello.

After this thrilling experience, Jordan, the parents, and the library hope kids will pick up a passion for music and want to learn more in the future. Having the kids get the opportunity to learn how to hold and play instruments is what Jordan describes as "the core reason" to why the Symphony started this program.

For more information on Musical Petting Zoo, visit [springfieldsymphony.org](http://springfieldsymphony.org). For more programs at the Ware Library, visit [warelibrary.org](http://warelibrary.org).

Messages Edit

## JOB ALERT

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## Candidates announced for Annual Town Election

WARE – The Annual Town Election will be held on Monday, April 13.

Offices which will appear on the ballot are: Selectboard, three-year term, (vote for two), Nancy J. Talbot, Valerie E. Granger and Steven M. Hawk; School Committee, three-year term, Kevin Paul Slattery; Board of Assessors, three-year term, James E. Niquette; Board of Assessors, one year unexpired term, Michael Joseph Vadnais; Board of Health, three-year term, Michael Francis Juda; Park Commissioner,

three-year term, William Randolph Imbier; Cemetery Commissioner, three-year term, no candidates; Planning Board, five-year term, Richard Albert Starodoj; Ware Housing Authority, five-year term, no candidates.

The last date to register to vote is Friday, April 3.

The last date for file an application for Vote by Mail (five business days prior to the Annual Town Election) is Monday, April 6 by 5 p.m.

Questions may be directed to the Town Clerk, Nancy J. Talbot, at 413-967-9648 extension 103.

## Annual census forms to be mailed to Ware residents

WARE – The Annual Census forms will be mailed later this week, please take the time to review, make changes if needed; sign and date and return to the Town Clerk by mail.

A Blue Drop Box outside the Town Hall offices is available for your use it is

not necessary to return them inside.

Remember you cannot register to vote on a census form, you cannot change your party affiliation or your address if you have moved. You must register either in person or online at [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov)

## Second Chance seeks foster homes for cats and kittens in need

EAST BROOKFIELD – Second Chance Animal Services is urgently seeking foster families to care for cats and kittens in need.

The nonprofit is especially looking for homes willing to take pregnant cats, kittens, cats recovering from surgery, or timid cats who need time and patience to build confidence before finding permanent homes.

“Our greatest foster need

right now is cat and kitten fosters,” said Lindsay Doray, Chief Development Officer for Second Chance Animal Services. “In recent years, our kitten season seems to extend all year long. With more cats requiring temporary care throughout the year, every new foster home allows us to help more vulnerable animals and give them the individualized attention they need.”

Foster homes provide a calm, safe environment where cats can heal, give birth, or adjust to people at their own pace. Second Chance supplies everything fosters need, including food, medical care, supplies, and guidance from the organization’s veterinary and shelter teams-fosters provide love and a temporary home.

“Fostering is one of the most impactful ways someone can help,” Doray added. “It gives cats and kittens the chance to recover, grow, and prepare for adoption, while freeing up space in our shelters so we can continue helping all pets in need.”

Foster commitments vary depending on the animal’s needs. Pregnant cats stay with the foster family through the birth until the kittens are eight weeks old, while cats recovering from surgery or needing socialization may only require a few weeks. No prior experience is required.

Those interested in fostering a cat or kittens can learn more and complete a foster application at [www.secondchanceanimals.org/foster-care/](http://www.secondchanceanimals.org/foster-care/).



Submitted Photo

Moo Cow and her kittens are thriving in a foster home, where they will stay until the kittens are eight weeks old and ready for the next step in their journey.

## Open House at St. Aloysius Catholic School is April 6

HARDWICK – St. Aloysius Catholic School is hosting an Open House on Monday, April 6, from 3-5 p.m.

Prospective families are encouraged to visit the school, located at 52 Church St. in Gilbertville, where they can tour the classrooms, meet the teachers and learn more about the rich, faith-filled educational experiences that await.

For more information, please call the school and speak to Roberta McQuaid, Enrollment Coordinator, at 413-477-1268. Or apply on line at <https://www.staloyisuscs.com/join-our-family/application/>.

Visit us at [www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

# Public Supper for the Ware Community Garden

Hosted by Ware Grange and the Ware Senior Center

Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-7:00pm

Ware Senior Center - 1 Robbins Rd, Ware MA 01082

**\*\* MENU \*\***

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# SPORTS

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## Ware captures title over Belchertown



Brayden Kusnierzc runs into pressure.



Rhys Clark is focused as he heads across the court.

**BELCHERTOWN** – On Friday, Mar. 6, Ware defeated Belchertown handily in the championship game for the 7-8 Blue-Green Division, winning 58-27 to take home the title. Ware defeated Westfield in the semifinals on Mar. 2 to reach the championship game.

Troy Bamber makes a no-look pass to his right.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Ryder Harper gets the layup.



Sincere McLaurin looks to shoot over a pair of opponents.



Aaron Gasque takes a jump shot.

## Wrestling season nets many championships in region

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

The high school wrestling season has come to an end, with many individuals and teams in Western and Central Massachusetts bringing home titles.

At the All-State Tournament held on Mar. 1 and 2 right in Springfield at the MassMutual Center, Agawam High School girls wrestling captured the All-State title with 86 points. Ludlow was 11th overall at 46 points. Stella Christopher captured the All-State title at 165 pounds, defeating Jordyn Reynolds of Greater Lawrence. Gabriella Ramos was a runner-up at 145 pounds. For Ludlow, Ella Libiszewski was the runner-up at 114 pounds. In the mixed-gender all-state event, Agawam would place 16th with 33.5 points. Minnechaug scored 26 points and both teams crowned an all-state champion. Jordin Agosto was Agawam's all-state champion with a top finish at 144 pounds. Minnechaug's Kai Ly also took an all-state title at 138 pounds.

Ludlow High School captured the Division 3 state girls wrestling championship with 97.5 points, crowning four state champions. Quabbin Regional High School was ninth overall with 36 points. South Hadley finished with 18 points and Holyoke with 16 points in the meet.

Ludlow's champions were Libiszewski at 114 pounds, Samantha Bertini at 120 pounds, Ellianna Williams at 145 pounds, and Riley Morais at 152 pounds. Quabbin had one champion with Kailynn Schuster scoring the win at 138 pounds.

Agawam took second place in the Division 2 state girls

Please see **WRESTLING**, page 10

## Women's basketball season comes to a close

HOLYOKE – Earlier this month, Holyoke Community College Women's basketball saw their stellar season come to a close on Sunday afternoon, Mar. 1, falling to top seed CC of Rhode Island in the New England (Region XXI) championship game. The #2 seed Lady Cougars played well in their attempt to win a regional title but were on the wrong end of the 86-51 final score.

Holyoke had a tremendous season overall, finishing in second place in the regular season New England standings before their runner-up finish in the regional championship tournament. Their postseason and title game appearances were the program's firsts since the 2010-11 campaign. Women's basketball finishes the year with an 11-4 regional record and a 15-8 overall record. They were 13-4 against fellow NJCAA teams. Eight players from this year's squad can return to play next season.



See more photos on page 10.

Ware's Emily McGrail reaches out for a rebound during recent play.

## Casavant shines for swim team this season

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—The seventh and eighth grade students at Palmer High School can take swimming as part of their gym class.

When Harper Casavant was in the eighth grade, Kellie Murphy, who's a physical education teacher at Palmer High, thought he had the potential to be a very good swimmer. One day, Murphy encouraged him to



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Harper Casavant goes for a win the medley relay.



Harper Casavant competes in the 200 freestyle during an event this year.

join the Panthers swim and dive team, which is coached by Brittany North-Marek.

"I played several sports growing up, but I never swam competitively," said Casavant, who's currently a sophomore at Pathfinder Tech. "When I was in the eighth grade, Mrs. Murphy told me that I was a very

good swimmer, and I should think about joining the swim team. She's the main why reason I decided to join the team."

At the end of his first season on the swim, Casavant qualified for the Western/Central Mass. championships

Please see **SWIM**, page 10

# sports

## Candlepin League NEWS

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

### Bondsville League

WARE – The regular season of league candlepin bowling is nearing the end for the Wednesday night Bondsville League.

After 26 weeks, Sandri is hanging on to first place with a record of 114-68. Fire Mountain is in second place with a record of 109.5-72.5 and would have to win out the final week of the season to reclaim first place. It is possible only if Sandri doesn't win any points during the final regular week.

During week 26, Cannonballs bowled against Spare Parts Bud at Roll-A-Way Lanes. In game one, Cannonballs defeated Spare Parts Bud by a score of 473-460. Micah Hinckley of Cannonballs had a strong start with 133.

In game two, Cannonballs held on to the lead and won 466-461. Hinckley broke the century mark with 105. Madison Jebb of Spare Parts Bud bowled over her league average with 100.

In game three, Spare Parts Bud won the last game 507-471. Cindy Laramme of Spare Parts Bud had a good game of 105. The final score was 1428-1410 in favor of Spare Parts Bud.

Sandri bowled against the Snappers during week 26. In game one, Snappers got the win by a score of 456-450. Snapper bowlers, Andy Tombor and Kevin Krasnecky, bowled 107 and 106.

In game two, Sandri won by a score of 505-445. Randy Harper of Sandri bowled 118 and his teammate Sue Horton finished with 123.

In game three, Sandri defeated Snappers by a score of 505-434. Brandon Lane of Sandri had the highest game of 126, while Horton finished with 113 (347 for the series), and Ron Gouin finished with 120 (341 series).

The final score was 1460-1335 in favor of

Sandri.

P&J Meats bowled against Slow Burners in week 26. In game one, Slow Burners took the first game 479-446. Paige Stabach of P&J Meats had a strong beginning with 118.

In game two, Slow Burners won again by a score of 445-420. Scott Radisic of Slow Burners had the highest score of 104 in game two.

In game three, Slow Burners won the last game by a score of 482-469. The final score was 1406-1335 in favor of Slow Burners.

Team UMass bowled against Night Hawks in week 26. In game one, Team UMass defeated Night Hawks by a score of 490-457. Lee Robinson of Night Hawks had the highest score of 124 to start the match.

In game two, Team UMass won again by a score of 481-466. Kevin Trott of Team UMass broke the century mark with 105.

In game three, Night Hawks pulled off a one-pin victory over Team UMass, 475-474. Robinson finished with 117 for a three-game series of 345. His teammate, Gavin Sinclair, finished with 114. The final score was 1445-1398 in favor of Team UMass.

Fire Mountain bowled against Zeke's Freaks in week 26. In game one, Zeke's Freaks defeated Fire Mountain by a score of 476-425.

In game two, Fire Mountain won by a score of 468-443. Rick Trott of Fire Mountain had the highest score of 121 during his team's win over Zeke's Freaks.

In game three, Fire Mountain won again by a score of 474-441. Trott bowled better his last game with 129 to end the match. The final score was 1367-1360 in favor of Fire Mountain.

Ironmen bowled against Flaming Bowling Balls (FBB) in week 26. In game one, FBB defeated Ironmen by a score of 493-459. Filling in on FBB is Jared

Please see **CANDLEPIN**, page 11

## Thunderbirds inch closer to .500 with big comeback

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (24-27-6-2) rode their veteran forwards to a thrilling, come-from-behind 4-3 win over the Providence Bruins (45-12-1-0) on Sunday afternoon inside Amica Mutual Pavilion.

After potting seven in a win over Hartford a night ago, the Bruins wasted little time adding to their potent offensive weekend as Matthew Poitras cleaned up a rebound in the blue paint after Georgi Romanov made an initial save off of Ty Gallagher. Poitras' 12th goal of the year made it 1-0 Providence just 2:10 into the contest.

The Springfield power play provided a good response for the visitors at 9:34 when Juraj Pekarcik shuffled a rebound past Simon Zajicek following a Marc-Andre Gaudet slapper, tying the score, 1-1.

Unfortunately, the Bruins would restore their lead in short order when Matej Blumel surprised Romanov with a long slap shot just 1:18 later to make it a 2-1 game.

Springfield's special teams continued a strong first period, as the man-

down unit successfully fended off two Providence advantages to keep the deficit at just one goal heading into the second.

With a carryover power play to begin the second, Dillon Dube nearly got Springfield even with a one-time slapper that beat Zajicek but caught the iron. Romanov, meanwhile, had a strong showing in the period, especially early in the period, keeping his team within a goal by making nine stops in the period.

Zajicek and the Providence penalty kill stiffened on a third man-down scenario near the midpoint of regulation, and the 2-1 score remained intact heading to the third.

The third period began with Springfield penalty kill once again answering the bell on back-to-back Providence power plays to keep the score at a manageable 2-1.

As the third passed its midpoint, the T-Birds' most experienced leaders took over, beginning at the 10:36 mark when Chris Wagner's torrid weekend continued as he threw a shot off a defender and past Zajicek to tie the game, 2-2.

Just 1:50 later, the T-Birds flipped the game upside-down when Wagner won an offensive zone draw directly back to Dillon Dube, who snapped a perfect shot under the crossbar to give Springfield its first lead, 3-2.

Romanov and the T-Birds' defense locked things down in the defensive zone, and Alek Kaskimaki hit an empty net after a clutch shot block from Wagner at 18:53 of the third. Blumel would get his second of the night for Providence, but only three seconds remained at the time of the goal, making it too little, too late for the Bruins.

The T-Birds' comeback marked the first time all season that the Bruins failed to win when leading after two periods. With their victory, the T-Birds now sit in the sixth and final playoff spot in the Atlantic Division with 13 games remaining in the regular season.

The T-Birds take a trip north of the border for their next two contests on Friday and Saturday in Laval and Belleville, respectively.

## Women's basketball season comes to a close



Annastacia Dixon sends a pass away.

Mileidy Rosado heads into the paint.

Tatiyana Zuniga heads across the court.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

### SWIM from page 9

as a member of three relay teams.

"I didn't perform very well at the beginning of that season, but I was able to pull it together during the second half of the season," Casavant said. "I improved my skills with the help of coach North-Marek. She's a very good swim coach and is always very positive."

North-Marek, who's an eighth grade math teacher, gave her thoughts about Casavant's abilities in the pool.

"Harper works extremely hard in practice and is a dedicated student-athlete," North-Marek said. "He's also a leader on our team and consistently demonstrates excellent sportsmanship. His growth as a swimmer has been truly impressive."

Prior to the start of his freshman year, Casavant transferred to Pathfinder Tech. He was still able to compete for the Palmer boys' swimming team because the neighboring high schools have a co-op.

"I thought that I would have more opportunities academically here at Pathfinder Tech," Casavant said. "I was also interested in learning a

vocation. I'm currently taking HVAC. It has been an awesome experience and I'm very grateful to still be a member of the Palmer swim team."

During his first semester at Pathfinder Tech, Casavant took eight one-week exploratory classes. He had to rank his top five favorite classes and HVAC was his top choice.

"As well as Harper does for his swim team, he's equally as strong academically," said Pathfinder Tech Athletic Director Kevin Aldrich. "He's an honor roll student and is also a member of our student ambassador program. Harper has done a very good job of representing Pathfinder Tech."

Casavant, who lives in Palmer, qualified for two events at the Western/Central MA Championships as a freshman.

His sophomore season in the pool, which wrapped up in the middle of February, was very memorable. He qualified for the Western/Central Mass. championships in seven of the eight individual events, along with the three relay races. The only event that he didn't qualify for at sectionals was the 100-meter breaststroke.

"I was close to qualifying in the breaststroke, but I still need to do a little more work," Casavant said. "I'm hoping to qualify for that event next year."

A swimmer is only allowed to compete in two individual races and two relays at the sectionals.

Despite being one of the youngest swimmers at the Western/Central MA Championships, Casavant finished in sixth place in the 200 Freestyle and earned a medal with a time of 1:56.60. He also competed in the 50 freestyle race.

A week later, he competed at the Division 2 state meet, which took place at M.I.T. in Boston. He finished in 16th place in the 200 Freestyle, which is eight laps, with a time of 1:54.83.

"It was such a cool experience competing at states for the first time, he said. "I made a couple of changes with my stroke and was able to take two seconds off my time, which is a lot in swimming. I'm looking forward to qualifying for the states again during the next two years."

During the regular season, the Panthers boys' swim and dive squad squeaked out an 83-80 victory over

Ludlow High School, which was held at the Ludlow Boys & Girls Club.

"Our meet at Ludlow was really close, and it came down to the final relay race," Casavant said. "We were able to win it, which connected us as a team a little bit more."

If there are six swimmers in a race, the first place finisher gets six points. Second place earns five points, and third place gets four points. Each swim meet consist of eight individual races and three relay races.

Both the boys and girls swim teams normally compete at the same time. It usually takes between two and three hours to complete a swim meet.

Besides his coaches and teammates, Casavant also received plenty of support from his parents (Kirsten & Jeremiah).

"Before the start of every race, I look for my parents," Casavant said. "They're also the first people that I look for after my races. They've always been my biggest supporters."

Harper's younger brother, Reese, is a member of the rec swim team. He also has a younger sister, Autumn.

The other members

of the Palmer boys' Swim and Dive team were senior Shane Normoyle, senior Jack Shilosky, junior Simon Tetts, junior Derek Aldrich, junior Robbie Williams, junior Quinn Richardson, junior Jonas Toutant, sophomore Troy Lockwood, sophomore Noah Steinberg, sophomore Eddy Duggan, freshman Joshua Lisek, freshman Cristiano Garcia, eighth grader Emerie Marsh, seventh grader Owen Mauer, and seventh grader Alex Guryanov.

The members of the Palmer girls' Swim and Dive team were senior Hannah Roy, senior Scarlett LaRose, junior Neila Lachance, junior Jacklyn McNally, junior Maddy Roy, freshman Akasha Santos-Thomas, freshman Eva Becker, freshman Abigail White, eighth grader Samantha Opielowski, eighth grader Talya Verda, seventh grader Mido Penny, seventh grader Adrianna Centeno, and seventh grader Amelia Wentworth.

Verda was the only member of the Lady Panthers swim team to qualify for Western/Central Mass. Championships.

## More players wanted for Pioneer Valley Baseball

SOUTH HADLEY – The Pioneer Valley Baseball League, an adult baseball league for players who are age 18 and over, is now fully open for registration for the 2026 season.

The adult league will be administered by the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, and a registration link is on the home page of the league's website [www.quabbinvalley-baseball.org](http://www.quabbinvalley-baseball.org). Thought it will be under the Quabbin umbrella, there will be no major changes in how the league is operated.

This year, the PVBL will have a 22-game regular season schedule followed by a double-elimination playoffs. The league, which had five teams last year and had to utilize multiple byes throughout the season, will be fielding a sixth team this season.

There are several spots open for that sixth team, so players interested in joining the league should get signed up as soon as possible to claim a spot.

The league is a wood-bat only league utilizing playing under regular baseball rules though all players do bat. The league operates on a Saturday-Tuesday schedule. Games are played on Saturday mornings with 10 a.m. starts typical and on Tuesday evenings with start times in the 5:30 to 6 p.m. range. The league will start play in late April and run through the end of August. There are slots open for both full-time players and part-time players. The fee for full-time players will be \$260 with part-time players getting up to 11 games for \$130. Fees paid go toward the operation of the league, paying for insurance, umpires, fields, and baseballs. No one profits in any way.

In addition to the new sixth team, there are limited open roster spots on the other teams in the league, so get your registration in as soon as possible to participate in this season.

Games are played at ballfields throughout the region from as far south as Southwick's Whalley Field, through South Hadley's Beachgrounds and up north at Frontier Regional High School in South Deerfield.

For any questions, please go to the league website for more information. The league hopes interested players will come out and join the fun this spring and summer.

### WRESTLING from page 9

tournament, scoring 94.5 points. Christopher had the big performance by placing first in the 165-pound bracket. Ramos placed second at 145 pounds and Madison Minalga also had a runner-up finish at 185 pounds.

In the Division 2 state championship, Agawam was the second-best finisher from Western Mass., finishing fourth overall with 96 points, and crowning one runner-up in the field. Minnechaug was a distant 14th with 52 points. The Falcons' Ly won the state championship at 138 pounds, while Agawam's Ryan Sexton placed second.

In the Division 3 state championship, Holyoke placed ninth overall with 69 points, Ludlow was 25th with 28 points, Quabbin 26th with 27 points, and South Hadley and Belchertown also registered points in the competition. Holyoke would place two wrestlers as runners up. Steven Santiago was the second-place finisher at 120 pounds and Parker Brunelle was the runner-up at 285 pounds.

# Railers split weekend in Reading

READING, PA — The Worcester Railers HC (26-24-5-2, 59 pts) split the weekend against the Reading Royals (30-20-6-1, 67 pts) by a 4-2 final on Sunday, March 15th, in front of a crowd of 3,066 at Santander Arena. The Railers are back in action this Friday at the DCU Center in Worcester, MA against the Maine Mariners for a 7:05 p.m. puck drop.



Brandon Saigeon (1-1-2) finished off an initial drive from Vincent Sevigny at the outer edge of the zone. Ross Mitton (1-0-1) broke the scoreless drought for the Railers with an early third-period goal off a faceoff (1-3).

Michael Suda (1-0-1) narrowed the Royals' lead down to a single goal with 61 seconds left on the clock with a shot that sent the puck past Keith Petruzzelli (2-3). A final empty net goal from Ben Meehan (1-0-1) at 19:35 in the third extended the Royals' lead back to two goals and cemented the 2-4 final.

The Royals opened a three-goal lead in the first frame. Connor Kurth (11th) drove the puck home with a slapshot to the top corner of the net at 2:09 on Reading's first shot of the afternoon. Connor McMenamin (10th)

made the game 2-0 for the Royals as he finished off a rebound along the far side of the crease and chipped the puck high as Gale dove to cover. Brandon Saigeon (12th) closed out the period with a third goal on the power play, another rebound play set up by Vincent Sevigny on the outer edge of the zone. Worcester trailed in shots on goal with six to Reading's 10. Each team picked up one penalty in the first twenty minutes.

It was a scoreless second period for both sides as neither team was able to break past their respective goaltenders. Despite not finding the back of the net, both teams kept the energy going with continuous conversations and physical blows. Cam McDonald collected a roughing call just as the period turned to its second half. MacAuley Carson dropped the gloves against for-

Please see **RAILERS**, page 13

Reading came out firing in the first with three unanswered goals. Connor Kurth (1-0-1) kicked things off for the Royals at 2:09 with a slapshot into the top corner of the net (0-1). Connor McMenamin (1-0-1) scored a rebound chip over Thomas Gale as the puck came loose in the crease at 8:29 (0-2). A third goal from Reading at 14:39 closed the period with the Royals up three-nil.

# Registration now underway for QVBL

SOUTH HADLEY — Registration has opened for the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, an over-28 recreational league, held its first meeting of 2026 to prepare for the upcoming season.

For the 2026 season, the cost will be \$215 and will include a 16th game added to the regular season schedule.

During the 2025 season, the league experimented with playing on Mother's Day Saturday as well as a weeknight game to allow players an opportunity to play under the lights. While the night games were very successful, the Mother's Day Saturday games were rained out.

Those elements will return along with a 16th game with

an opponent to be determine as the league's board explores possibilities for interleague matchups with another league in the region.

For returning players to the league, the deadline is Mar. 22 at 12 noon to be registered for the 2026 season in order to be guaranteed a roster spot. There will be open practices for all players but specifically targeted at new players scheduled for March 29 and April 4 at times and locations to be announced. The draft is currently scheduled to take place on April 4 following that practice.

The season is currently slated to start on Sunday, April 19 and following the success of the six-team fall

league last year, the league will also have a fall league in September and October this season.

The registration is live at [www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org](http://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org). Players must register and then pay the league dues via Venmo or contact the league leadership if an alternate form of payment is needed.

Aside from the weeknight and Mother's Day games, other games take place Sundays at 10 a.m. outside of Mother's Day, Memorial Day and July 4 weekends. Playoffs will be in August.

This is the 30th season for the league and league officials are looking to celebrate the anniversary with a couple of events.

## CANDLEPIN from page 10

Demitri, who started with 123.

In game two, FBB won again by a score of 500-460. Demitri continued bowling

well with 116. Don Paulus of FBB bowled well with 111.

In game three, Ironmen won the last game by a score of 464-440. Ryan Drago of Ironmen finished strong with 144 to go with his 127 and

115 for a 386 series. Demitri finished with 107 and a 346 series.

The final score was 1433-1383 in favor of FBB.



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# public safety

## Ware Police Log

During the week of March 3-10, the Ware Police Department responded to 25 miscellaneous calls, 30 administrative calls, 18 traffic violations, 13 emergency 911 calls, six harassments/stalks/threats, one motor vehicle accident, one fire, four trespasses, one damage/vandalism, two breaking and enterings, five animal calls and 16 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

### Tuesday, March 3

2:45 a.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
 3:45 a.m. Suspicious/Wanted, West Street, Services Rendered  
 11:45 a.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, West Street, Report Made  
 8:02 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Homecrest Avenue, Could Not Locate  
 11:52 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Otis Avenue, Advised

### Wednesday, March 4

5:20 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasant Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
 10:34 a.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Otis Avenue, Advised  
 12:26 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Advised

### Thursday, March 5

2:09 p.m. Bylaw Violation, North Street, Parking Ticket Issued  
 2:19 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Vigeant Street, Parking Ticket Issued  
 4:02 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Walnut Street, Parking Ticket Issued  
 3 p.m. Traffic Violation, School Street, Citation/Warning Issued

### Monday, March 9

10:33 a.m. Scam, Ruggles Hill Road, Report Taken  
 3:09 p.m. Investigation, Main Street, Services Rendered  
 3:10 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Ruggles Hill Road, Transported to Hospital  
 7:54 p.m. Disturbance, Greenwich Road, Unfounded  
 8:29 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Main Street, Officer Handled  
 8:56 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Ware, Officer Handled

### Friday, March 6

3:15 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, East Street, Arrest Made  
 5:18 p.m. Structure Fire, South Street, Investigated  
 6:06 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Walnut Street, Services Rendered  
 6:25 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Walnut Street, Advised  
 9:28 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Pulaski Street, No Action Required

### Saturday, March 7

9:18 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Walnut Street, No Action Required  
 9:36 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Aspen Street, Investigated  
 9:44 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Walnut Street, Unfounded

### Sunday, March 8

10:11 a.m. Damage/Vandalism, Clinton Street, Assist Given  
 2:49 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Services Rendered  
 5:09 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Pulaski Street, Advised  
 8:08 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Investigated  
 8:23 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Vigeant Street, Advised  
 10:19 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Canal Street, Could Not Locate

### Monday, March 9

12:14 a.m. Breaking and Entering/Burglary, Walnut Street, Report Made  
 2:48 a.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Otis Avenue, Services Rendered  
 3:13 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Walnut Street, Citation/Warning Issued

*Editor's Note: People in this country are presumed to be innocent until found guilty in a court of law. Police provide us with the information you read on this page as public record information. If you or any suspect listed here is found not guilty or has charges dropped or reduced, we will gladly print that information as a follow-up upon being presented with documented proof of the court's final disposition.*

3:23 a.m. Bylaw Violation, Walnut Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
 4:50 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Otis Avenue, Investigated  
 6:12 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Otis Avenue, Unfounded  
 12:04 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Old Belchertown Road, Services Rendered  
 7:36 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Greenwich Road, Could Not Locate  
 8:45 p.m. Weapons/Firearms, Vigeant Street, Investigated  
 9:14 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, West Street, Could Not Locate

### Tuesday, March 10

2:39 a.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Walnut Street, Investigated  
 3:02 a.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Walnut Street, Investigated  
 3:15 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Walnut Street, Investigated  
 3:27 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Walnut Street, Investigated  
 3:56 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Walnut Street, Services Rendered  
 8:45 a.m. Breaking and Entering/Burglary, Milner Street, Services Rendered

### Thursday, March 12

6:31 p.m. Medical Alarm, Prospect Street, Transported to Hospital  
 9:12 p.m. Assist Citizen, Mill Street, Officer Handled

### Friday, March 13

6:41 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Red Bridge Road, Citation Issued  
 3:32 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Telephone, Services Rendered  
 3:50 p.m. Safety Hazard, Main Street, Referred to Other Agency  
 4:45 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled  
 8:24 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Spoken To  
 9:13 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Greenwich Road, Unfounded

### Saturday, March 14

3:11 a.m. Safety Hazard, North Road, Referred to Other Agency  
 12:20 p.m. 911 Fire/Chimney, Prouty Road, Extinguished  
 4:22 p.m. Assist Citizen, Church Street, Spoken To  
 4:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle

## Warren Police Log

During the week of March 1-7, the Warren Police Department responded to 206 building/property checks, 26 emergency 911 calls, one illegal dumping, two safety concerns, one threat, one animal bite, one parking issue, one threat, one larceny/theft, two complaints, one motor vehicle accident, three animal calls and 20 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

### Sunday, March 1

8:18 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint  
 10:33 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brimfield Road, Written Warning  
 10:53 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brimfield Road, Citation Issued  
 3:54 p.m. Illegal Dumping, Boston Post Road, Area Search Negative  
 5:14 p.m. Animal Bites, Heritage Drive, Transported to Hospital

### Monday, March 2

8:04 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued  
 1:31 p.m. Parking Issues, Liberty Street, Officer Spoke to Party  
 2:02 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed  
 9:34 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Brimfield Road, Mutual Aid Transport

### Tuesday, March 3

8:39 a.m. Safety Concern, Southbridge Road, Call Transferred  
 4:51 p.m. Safety Concern, Bemis Road, Negative Contact  
 5:52 p.m. Trauma,

Old West Warren Road, Transported to Hospital  
 8:56 p.m. CO Alarm, Quaboag Street, Investigated  
 9:22 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Winthrop Terrace, Transported to Hospital  
 10:39 p.m. Falls, Mechanic Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal

### Wednesday, March 4

2:17 a.m. Welfare Check, South Street, Transported to Hospital  
 7:38 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Written Warning  
 8:01 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 8:12 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 8:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Whiskey Hill, Report Filed  
 1:07 p.m. Seizures, Main Street, Transported to Hospital  
 2:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Vehicle Towed  
 3:04 p.m. Sick/Unknown, South Street, Mutual Aid Assist  
 9:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Keyes Street, Vehicle Towed

### Thursday, March 5

5:44 a.m. Threats, Southbridge Road, Officer Spoke to Party  
 8:57 a.m. Welfare Check, Comins Pond Road, Report Filed  
 10:18 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued  
 11:41 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned, Old West Brookfield Road, Investigated

2:55 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, School Street, Transported to Hospital  
 7:50 p.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Forest Avenue, Vehicle Towed  
 11:20 p.m. Abandoned Vehicle, Brimfield Road, Officer/Chief Advised

### Friday, March 6

5:57 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Quaboag Street, Transported to Hospital  
 7:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 7:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ware Road, Written Warning  
 12:41 p.m. Unwanted Party, Southbridge Road, Report Filed  
 1:47 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Main Street, Removed to Court/Lockup  
 1:51 p.m. Complaint, Brook Road, Officer/Chief Advised  
 8:06 p.m. Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Coy Hill Road, Transported to Hospital  
 8:23 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Coy Hill Road, Mutual Aid Assist  
 10:28 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned, Southbridge Road, Investigated

### Saturday, March 7

2:51 a.m. Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope  
 4:27 p.m. Complaint, Old West Warren Road, Officer/Chief Advised  
 10:43 p.m. Falls, North Street, Transported to Hospital

## Hardwick Police Log

During the week of March 9-16, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 75 building/property checks, 43 directed/area patrols, 19 radar assignments, three traffic controls, eight emergency 911 calls, five citizen assists, three assist other agencies, two complaints, two safety hazards, one scam, one fire, one investigation, one motor vehicle accident, five animal calls and 16 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

10:38 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled

### Tuesday, March 10

9:22 a.m. Complaint, Main Street, Services Rendered  
 11:21 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Citation Issued  
 2:23 p.m. Assist Citizen, Ridge Road, Officer Handled  
 3:05 p.m. Complaint, Ridge Road, Officer Handled  
 4:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued  
 5:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Citation Issued

### Wednesday, March 11

2:57 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Patient Refusal  
 3:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, Main Street, Citation Issued  
 4:57 p.m. 911 Lockout, Church Street, Services Rendered  
 10:02 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Greenwich Road, Transported to Hospital

### Thursday, March 12

6:31 p.m. Medical Alarm, Prospect Street, Transported to Hospital  
 9:12 p.m. Assist Citizen, Mill Street, Officer Handled

### Friday, March 13

6:41 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Red Bridge Road, Citation Issued  
 3:32 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Telephone, Services Rendered  
 3:50 p.m. Safety Hazard, Main Street, Referred to Other Agency  
 4:45 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled  
 8:24 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Spoken To  
 9:13 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Greenwich Road, Unfounded

### Saturday, March 14

3:11 a.m. Safety Hazard, North Road, Referred to Other Agency  
 12:20 p.m. 911 Fire/Chimney, Prouty Road, Extinguished  
 4:22 p.m. Assist Citizen, Church Street, Spoken To  
 4:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle

Stop, Lower Road, Citation Issued

### Sunday, March 15

12:31 a.m. Assault, Hardwick Road, Report Taken  
 2:02 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Citation Issued

### Monday, March 16

5:06 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Broad Street, Transported to Hospital

## Open burning permits available online only

Season runs now through April 30

WARE – Open burning season is open now through April 30, during the hours of 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Permits will be available online only at [ware.firepermits.com](http://ware.firepermits.com). In order to obtain a burning permit, please go to [ware.firepermits.com](http://ware.firepermits.com) and register for the site. If you are already registered for the site from last

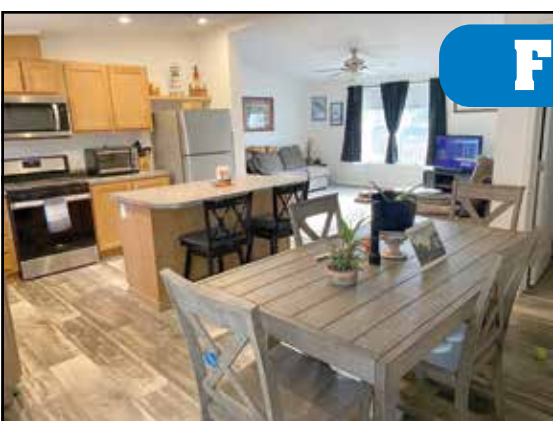
year's season, you only need to log in and apply for a 2026 burn permit. Please make sure you link your bank account for UniPay for a smoother process. The bank requires time to process your payment and your permit will be inactive until payment is approved. Cash will not be accepted at the fire station for a burn permit. All processing fees are required through the online website.

## Town Clerk lists Vote by Mail information

WARE – The Town of Ware will hold its Annual Town Election on Monday, April 13, at Town Hall, 126 Main St. While voters may cast their ballots in person on election day, there is also a Vote by Mail option for those who may be interested. The Vote by Mail application is available in the Town Clerk's Office to be

completed in person, or it is also available online on the Town of Ware website, [www.townofware.com](http://www.townofware.com). See Town Clerk page – Elections and Voting, or News and Notices. Applications may be dropped off in person at the Town Clerk's Office, in the U.S. Mail or in the blue drop box outside the lower-level offices at Town Hall, 126 Main St.

An online portal is also available under [www.ma.gov](http://www.ma.gov) – Secretary of State – Elections and Voting. The deadline to apply for or forward your application is Monday April 6 at 5 p.m. Questions may be directed to the Town Clerk – Nancy J. Talbot at 413-967-9648 extension 103.



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### HEALTH from page 4

care insurance, Medicare or Medicaid? If so, do you pay you and then file for reimbursement?  
 • How do you recruit and select caregivers, and do you perform background checks?  
 • Are your caregivers employees or contractors? Are they bonded?  
 • Can I meet caregiver candidates and select the ones I want?  
 • What should I do if my caregiver doesn't show up

as scheduled?  
 • How often is the care plan reviewed?  
 • How do I communicate concerns and questions to you?  
 Research has found that patients who recover at home have better outcomes, which is why the hospital-at-home movement is growing. So if you're going to be recuperating at your place, don't go it alone.  
 Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, R.N., a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of [www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com](http://www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com), which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. A Monson, MA resident, she is the author of "How to Be a Healthcare Advocate for Yourself & Your Loved Ones" and her new book, "Advocating Well: Strategies for Finding Strength and Understanding in Health Care," available at Amazon.com. Contact her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com to set up a free phone consultation.

## John S. Cembura, 83

WARE – John S. Cembura passed away on March 12, 2026, at the age of 83.



Born in Ware on Sept. 25, 1942, the son of the late Stanley and Helen Cembura. He was the beloved husband of the late Patricia M. Cembura for 40 wonderful years.

He graduated from Springfield Technical High School in 1960 and then joined the Laborers Union. He worked for Aquadro & Cerruti, Inc. for 35 years until his retirement.

John was a devoted father to Deborah Oberg and her husband Carl, of Ware; Cindy Ventura, of Taunton; Thomas Cembura and his wife Michelle, of Ware; and Lynn Bonnayer and her husband Ted, also of Ware. He leaves the six greatest joys of his life, his grandchildren: Matthew, Caitlin, Emily, Amelia, Ethan, and Andrew.

John was predeceased by his brother David and brother-in-law Phil Rohan. He also leaves behind his brother-in-law Billy Rohan and his wife Barbara, as well as his sisters-in-law

Joanne Rohan and Karen Cembura, along with many nieces and nephews.

He was also predeceased by his longtime partner Michelle Giard, and leaves her children, and grandchildren whom he loved dearly.

John was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed fishing and bird hunting. He spent many summers boating and fishing on the Quabbin Reservoir.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to visiting hours on Thursday, March 19, 2026, from 9:30-11 a.m. in the Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St., in Ware. A Funeral Service will be held at 11 a.m. in the funeral home, followed by burial in Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cemetery in Ware.

In lieu of flowers, donations in John's memory may be made to the Quabbin Fishermen's Association, P.O. Box 12, Three Rivers, MA 01080.

An online tribute page is available at charbonneaufh.com.

## Robert A. Phaneuf, 83



SPENCER – Robert Andre Phaneuf, known to many as “Bob” or “Fuzzy,” passed away peacefully with his family by his side on Saturday, March 7, 2026, at the age of 83.



Bob was spending time in Ave Maria, Florida when he took ill, and passed away at Avow Florida Hospice in Naples, Florida.

He was born in Ware, Massachusetts on June 9, 1942, son of the late Romeo J. Phaneuf and B. Loretta (Lamoureux) Phaneuf. Bob was raised and educated in Ware, a graduate of the former Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, and a 1960 graduate of Ware High School.

He enlisted in the Massachusetts Army National Guard on March 11, 1963 and served with the 181st Infantry, 1st Battalion, Co. C, and was discharged on Feb. 10, 1969 with the rank of Staff Sergeant.

Bob was employed as a Superintendent of Dyeing for Robinson Thread Company in Worcester, and retired as a Ceramic Technician for the

St. Gobain Company. After his retirement he volunteered as a funeral home attendant and pallbearer for Cebula Funeral Home for 20 years.

Bob was a member of AMVETS Post 2577, Ware Council 183 Knights of Columbus, Greendale Men's Club and a faithful communicant of Mary Queen of the Rosary Parish in Spencer.

On Oct. 12, 1963, Bob entered into Holy Matrimony with Cecile M. Puliafico, together through good times and bad, sickness and health, they have been married for over 62 years. Bob and Ceil moved to Spencer in 1969 and have been residents since. Bob enjoyed times spent with his family and friends, and watching all of the New England Sports Teams. Bob took great pride in his home, yard and gardening.

Bob leaves behind his beloved wife, Cecile M. (Puliafico) Phaneuf, loving children, son Michael Phaneuf and his wife Ellyn, daughter Denise Cunningham and her husband Jay, and his grand-

children; Adam and his spouse Jordan, and Megan Cunningham. He also leaves behind several nieces and nephews and cousins. Besides his parents, Bob was predeceased by his sister, Claire M. (Phaneuf) West in 2019, and brother-in-law, Henry R. West in 2015.

A Visitation Period will take place on Sunday, March 22, 2026 from 2-5 p.m., in Cebula Funeral Home, 66 South St., Ware. A Funeral Mass will be offered on Monday, March 23, 2026 at 10 a.m. in Mary Queen of the Rosary Parish, 46 Maple St., Spencer. Everyone will meet directly at the church on Monday morning. Inurnment will take place in Mount Carmel Cemetery in Ware at the convenience of the family. Memorial Contributions may be made to either: St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, or to Mary Queen of the Rosary Food Pantry.

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

## Death notices

**Cembura, John S.**  
Died March 12, 2026  
Services March 19, 2026

**Phaneuf, Robert A.**  
Died March 7, 2026  
Services March 23, 2026

## Ware River News OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) 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.*

## Solo/Duet poetry and music series starts

WEST BROOKFIELD – Solo/Duet, a poetry and music series at the Merriam-Gilbert Public Library will be held on Tuesday evenings in April starting at 6 p.m.

Each evening will feature poetry readings that will book-end a set of chamber jazz music. This program is made possible by the West Brookfield Cultural Council as supported by the Massachusetts Cultural

Council, in celebration of National Poetry and National Jazz Month

Performances are as follows: April 7, bassist Jerry Wilfong and percussionist-trumpeter Dick Hummel with poets Glenn D'Alessio and Susan Roney-O'Brien; April 14, bassist Jerry Wilfong, guitarist Mitch Seidman, and Chet Williamson, on harmonica with poets Clair Degutis and

Jim Beschta; April 21, bassist Jerry Wilfong, guitarist Rich Falco and trombonist Rich Arizzone, trombone with poets Judith Ferrarra and Jonathan Blake; and April 28, solo bass recital by Jerry Wilfong with poets Beth Sweeney and Stephen Campiglio. Free and open to all.

Please stop by or call the library at 508-867-1410 to reserve your seat.

## VIOLATION from page 1

lawyers at the first meeting should have been present at the second meeting, but they were not.

Bourcier also shared concerns about having meeting minutes from the town's working group that meets with Baystate Health.

She said the town doesn't need primary care, it needs urgent care.

"If Baystate is here, it blocks other healthcare from coming to town," she said.

Bourcier said there are other open meeting complaints she has filed against the town.

## Baystate Health update

Selectboard Chair Nancy Talbot read a letter from Baystate Health regarding the opening of the proposed Convenient Car site.

The letter stated that several locations for the site have been evaluated. The site location will be finalized soon.

The letter also stated that provider recruitment to staff the Convenient Care site is underway. The letter included a link to a page that defined the services offered at a Convenient Care.

## Pole hearing

Representatives from National Grid attended a public hearing to install new and relocate existing joint-owned poles on North Street; install new JO poles on Park Street; install a new JO pole on Sorrel Road; relocate and renumber a long-joint pole on Osborne Road; and install a new JO pole on Greenwich Road.

The representative said the utility company is upgrading the outdated infrastructure at these locations.

The board voted to approve the pole placements.

## Hazard mitigation report

Town Manager Stuart

Beckley said the Selectboard had previously submitted the town's hazard mitigation plan to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for approval. He said FEMA has approved the plan and the town can now adopt it.

Beckley said the town would be reimbursed \$35,000 now that the plan has been approved and adopted.

## Town Manager's report

Beckley said the Finance Committee has been meeting with various departments to discuss fiscal year 2027 budget proposals.

He said the Community Development Authority is utilizing American Rescue Plan Act funds to provide mini-grants for facades and signs for businesses.

Beckley said the town of Palmer held a meeting to discuss some of the events scheduled to happen at Palmer Motorsports Park.

He said the concerns are regarding emergency response on access roads when these types of events take place. Noise concerns are also being addressed.

Beckley said work to restore the Anderson Road water tank will begin, and may result in water discoloration.

He said the owner of 92-104 Main St. did not show up at the court appearance and the judge set a deadline for the owner to tear down the building the following Monday, which he said is unlikely.

Beckley said the town would be granted access to the building for hazardous materials testing.

"I'm guessing we're still six to eight weeks out," Beckley said.

## Sewer abatements

The Selectboard reviewed sewer abatement requests for properties on West Street

and Highland Street.

Beckley said the West Street abatement was due to a leaking boiler and the property owner submitted proof of repairs. The amount of the abatement requested is \$272.11.

The board voted to table both abatement requests until a later meeting.

## Town Manager evaluation

Selectboard member Ken Willette said the town manager's performance will be discussed in open session, but the contract negotiations will take place in executive session.

## Petty cash policy update

Beckley said Treasurer Ashley Walker met with Police Chief Shawn Crevier about changes to the department's petty cash policy. He said they proposed that in certain situations, the chief would be permitted to use more than \$1,000 from the petty cash account.

Willette questioned conflicting petty cash amounts in the policy, and the board voted to table its vote until this was clarified.

## Three Mile Bridge renaming

The Selectboard reaffirmed a previous vote to rename the Three Mile Bridge the Gilbert St. George-Sorel Memorial Bridge in memory of the long term Department of Public Works director.

## Use of ReSource Waste funds

The 250th Celebration Committee requested \$5,000 from the community funds given to the town by ReSource Waste Services of Ware. This money will be used to support a variety of celebratory events in honor of the nation's 250th.

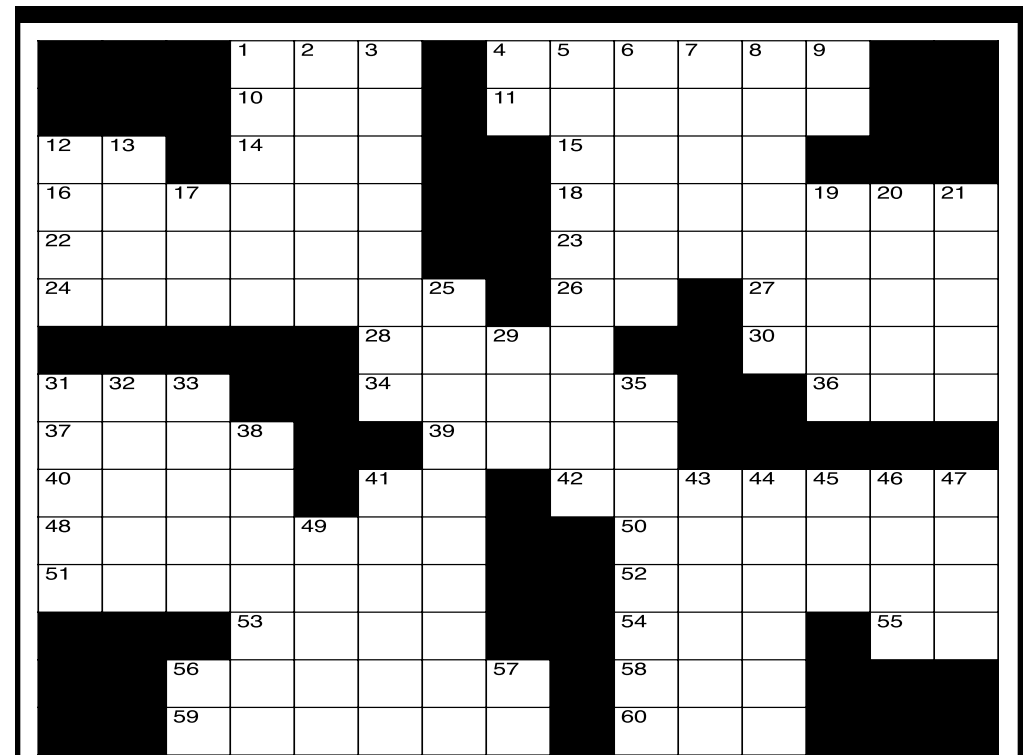
The board approved the request.

## RAILERS from page 11

mer-Railer Artyom Kulakov. Both men earned themselves a double minor in the final five minutes of the frame. Reading outshot Worcester by one, nine to eight. Worcester led in penalties with three to Reading's two.

The Railers managed to narrow the gap created by Reading in the first, as Ross Mitton (5th) scored the first goal of the game for Worcester at 4:22 in the final frame. Mitton's shot came from a faceoff win by Ryan Miotto, who maneuvered the puck behind him at the near faceoff dot in the Royals' zone. Mitton quickly steadied the puck and skimmed the crossbar as he fired high on Keith Petruzzelli (3-1). Worcester continued to chip

away in the offensive zone as Gale was called to the bench for the extra attacker. Michael Suda (3rd) nabbed a second goal for the Railers from the left point, his shot sent past Petruzzelli for a narrow 2-3 game. An unexpected turnover in Reading's zone, as Declan McDonnell's stick snapped while he tried to maintain puck possession, led Ben Meehan (9th) to a fourth and final goal for the Royals. Meehan sent the puck sailing from along the near boards into the unattended Railers' net as the final seconds of regulation ticked away. Final shots were 29-27 in favor of Reading. Worcester led in shots for the period with 13 to 10. MacAuley Carson and Jacob Frasca earned the sole penalties awarded to each team in the period.



### CLUES ACROSS

- Inclined to do
- Sketches
- Book of Chronicles (abbr.)
- Atomic #58
- Dorm official
- Small Eurasian deer
- Southern constellation
- Workers' groups
- Former
- Excellent
- Romance language related to Spanish
- Reference
- Equally
- Dirty towels
- A cargo (abbr.)
- Ammunition
- You get one in summer

### CLUES DOWN

- Moist species phalonia
- Quantum of energy
- Break the law
- Location of White House
- Official cancellation of a decision
- Where rockers work
- Cut of beef: mignon
- Nocturnal burrowing reptile
- Atomic #62
- Genus of evergreen shrubs
- Flowering plant of the legume family
- Inches per minute (abbr.)

### CLUES DOWN

- Tropical fruit
- Hot fluid beneath the earth's crust
- James \_\_\_\_, painter
- Popular dessert
- Payment (abbr.)
- Cuisine style
- Genus of true flies
- City in western France
- Arrogance
- One holding a position of command
- Weekday
- An evening party
- Print errors
- Not good
- Egyptian Sun god
- East German town
- Olfactory property
- Atomic #37
- "Pollock" actor Harris

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Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Quaboag basketball players of the past and present were all under the same roof were about to play in the Quaboag gym for the Quaboag Boys Basketball Alumni Game.

**ALUMNI** from page 1

ni games hosted in the past, but he wanted this year to be more exciting by welcoming the public and families of the players to come watch.

This game also gave the opportunity for former Quaboag students (alumni), who played basketball, to come back and play in a fun exhibition game. Over 20 alumni expressed interest this year and set up for an exciting matchup between Quaboag's alumni basketball players and the current boys varsity basketball team.

Nichols-Hogan graduated from Quaboag in 2016 and played basketball all six years as a student. Nichols-Hogan, representing Quaboag Alumni, was joined by members of his coaching team: Cameron Koss, Nicholas Barrett, Zachary Barrett, and Jackson Grudzien.

There was a lot of excitement within the Quaboag gymnasium as both teams came in early for practice. During the game, many spectators gave donations to the Booster Club.

One excited alumni player was Nicholas Barrett, a member of the Quaboag Class of 2014. Barrett teaches middle school English at Quaboag, who described this alumni game as "a fun event" for both students and alumni.

Barrett got to play the game alongside his young-

er brother, Zachary, and both are on the coaching staff at Quaboag. Barrett was looking forward to seeing how the varsity team plays against the alumni team.

It wasn't just the students on boy's varsity who participated, several student athletes in middle school also got to play. Will Goodwin, an eighth grade student at Quaboag, was one of several middle school students who got to play in the Alumni Game.

During halftime, Goodwin described the pace of playing against the Quaboag Alumni as "a lot faster than our games."

"Plus, they're a lot taller," he said.

Goodwin had a good showing in the alumni game, scoring a couple three-pointers. This school year, Goodwin played middle school basketball.

In the game, Alumni were wearing black and the students wore the popular school color, maroon. Tip-off had begun and Ryan Fernandez of the Alumni team scored first with a three-pointer. The Quaboag Alumni displayed experience and knowledge as they lead after the first quarter, 22-12.

The Varsity team played hard and displayed excellent communication, passing, and defense to get back in the game. At halftime, Alumni were only leading by six points, 41-35.



Quaboag's basketball coaching staff, Cameron Koss (left), Nicholas Barrett, Brandon Nichols-Hogan, Jackson Grudzien, and Zachary Barrett all represented Quaboag Alumni during the game.

During the halftime break, both Alumni and Varsity players participated in a slam dunk contest. There was an excellent showcase of skill by both teams.

Jack Stevens is a senior at Quaboag representing the Varsity team and put on a great performance in both the game and slam dunk contest. His older brother, Owen Stevens, also participated in the game and contest.

At the conclusion, the Alumni prevailed with a final score of 84-79.

No matter who won, this great community event brought many Quaboag stu-

dents of various graduating classes together under the same roof. Both Alumni and current student athletes share the same passion, basketball at Quaboag.

"Community! That is the word of the day," Nichols-Hogan said. "It was a fun game."

The coaching staff came together to discuss who they believed were the MVPs of both teams. After an informed discussion, the coaching staff agreed that Chris Paquette was the MVP for the Alumni team and Will Goodwin was MVP for the Varsity team.

After the game, players were greeted by their fans, family members, and friends.

Dante Ortiz of the Alumni had a great time cheering and shouting both on and off the court. Ortiz graduated from Quaboag in 2017 and is familiar with playing these exciting games with the alumni.

Ortiz says in the past Quaboag Alumni usually got together during the basketball season and played a game during the holiday break. After this fun experience, Ortiz says he will return to Quaboag to play another Alumni game.



The tip-off at the start of the Quaboag Boys Basketball Alumni Game.

With a successful Alumni game in the history books, Nichols-Hogan said this is an event the Quaboag basketball community can commit to doing again in the future, maybe once every other year.

# public notices

**NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE**

Premises: 89 Church Street, Ware, Massachusetts

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Isis Anadon, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), as mortgagee, as nominee for Mortgage Network, Inc. its successors and assigns and now held by AmeriHome Mortgage Company, LLC, said mortgage dated May 18, 2021, and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 14105, Page 323, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated May 31, 2022, and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 14568, Page 294, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on April 9, 2026 at 11:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A certain tract or parcel of land situate on the Easterly side of Church Street, in said Ware, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pin on the Easterly side of Church Street, said iron pin marking the Southwesterly corner of land of William O. Barrett;

thence Southwesterly along the Easterly side of Church Street 78.3 feet to an iron pin at the corner of land of Cora M. Gilmore; thence South 52° 11' East 220 feet along line of land of Cora M. Gilmore to an iron pin in line of land of Grenville Park;

thence North 43° 4' East 79 feet along line of Grenville Park at an iron pin at corner of land of William O. Barrett;

thence North 52° 22' West 220 feet along line of said Barrett to

the place of beginning, more or less.

Subject to and together with the rights and easements in the common driveway which runs between locus and the premises now or formerly of John F. Slattery and Mary E. Slattery The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated May 17, 2021, and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 14105, Page 319.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

TEN THOUSAND (\$10,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within forty-five (45) days after the date of sale.

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275 West Natick Road,  
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Attorney for AmeriHome Mortgage Company, LLC  
Present Holder of the

Mortgage  
Telephone: (401) 234-9200  
MLG File No.: 23-03451  
03/12, 03/19, 03/26/2026

**Community Outreach Meeting**

Hardwick Mill Greenery Inc. the proposed cannabis manufacturer, is giving notice of a secondary Community Outreach Meeting to be held on **April 7, 2026 at 5:15 pm at their pro-**

**posed location: 94 Main St. Hardwick, MA 01031.** The project is unchanged and moving forward but an updated meeting is required. There will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions or, email ezra@blueskiescan.com, their consultant. 03/19/2027

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampshire Division  
15 Atwood Dr.  
Northampton, MA 01060  
(413)586-8500  
Docket No.  
HS26P0125EA  
Estate of:  
Paul F. Kszaszcz  
Date of Death:  
January 18, 2026  
INFORMAL PROBATE  
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Paula A. St. Pierre of Barre, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

**Paula A. St. Pierre of Barre, MA** has been informally appoint-

ed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 03/19/2026

**LEGAL NOTICE**

In accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts General Law 105A, for the purpose of satisfying the liens of Sunny Side Storage LLC, in order to satisfy

past due rents and other expenses, the contents of the following storage units will be sold for non-payment on **Saturday, March 21, 2026 at 9 a.m.** on the premises of Sunny Side Storage LLC, 313 & 319 Palmer Rd., Ware, MA (413)967-5888.  
Sara Reardon F-40 & F-58  
Cathleen Tuttle F-10  
Tammy George C-38  
Jeremy Hines F-3  
Beth Makara C-46  
Tekowa Ostander A-19  
Zachary Chrabaszcz C-45  
03/12, 03/19/2026

**LEGAL NOTICE  
Public Hearing on  
Ware School Budget  
Set for April 8, 2026**

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 71, Section 38N, of the Massachusetts General Laws there will be a Public Hearing on the Ware School Department's Proposed Budget for the 2026-2027 School Year.

The hearing will be held at **6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8, 2026 in the Ware Junior Senior High School Library.**

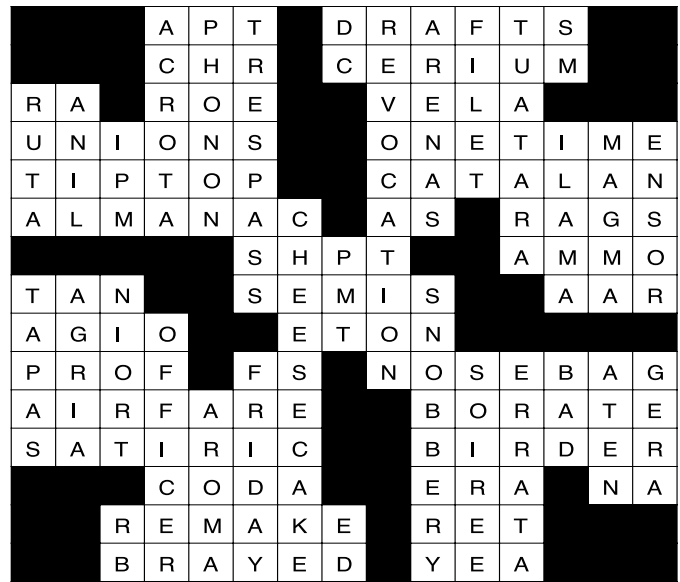
Public comments can be e-mailed to [sc-comments@ware.k12.ma.us](mailto:sc-comments@ware.k12.ma.us).

All interested residents from the Town of Ware are invited to attend and participate.

A copy of the proposed budget will be available for viewing on the Ware Public School's website ([www.wareps.org](http://www.wareps.org)).

Brian Winslow, Chairperson  
Ware School Committee  
03/19/2026

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



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**OPEN HOUSE APRIL 12TH FROM 1-3PM**

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