

WARE RIVER NEWS

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The Life of Joseph Warren

The man Warren is named after

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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WARREN – A presentation of the life of General Joseph Warren was held last week at the Warren Public Library.

This program is part of the celebration of the library's 150th anniversary and it was only fitting to highlight the man the town is named after.

Giving the presentation was local historian and author, Ed Londergan, who committed to about a year's worth of research on Warren and his historical impact leading to the American Revolution.

"People don't realize what an amazing man he was," Londergan said.

Please see **JOSEPH WARREN**, page 12



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago
A bust of General Joseph Warren can be found at the Warren Public Library. A presentation of the life of General Warren was given by local historian Ed Londergan.

Boulrice named deputy fire chief

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Fire Chief James Martinez welcomed Deputy Fire Chief Jeremy Boulrice before the Selectboard to officially appoint him to the Fire Department's second-in-command position.

"Jeremy has been in the acting position for the past three years...and has earned the right to be officially appointed as Deputy Chief," Martinez said.

Boulrice's son, Lucas, pinned his father's uniform to recognize this honor at the April 7 meeting.

Town Manager's evaluation and goals

Selectboard member Ken Willette said he has working with the board and Town Manager Stuart Beckley to complete an evaluation of Beckley's performance in his role. He said this is also the year that the Selectboard would discuss extending Beckley's contract.

Willette said the board members looked at key competencies across 10 different

categories on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being "unsatisfactory" and 5 being "excellent or highly commendable."

He said the board members (with the exception of Chair Nancy Talbot, due to her role as a town employee) each completed an individual evaluation, which was submitted to the Human Resources Director to be tabulated and summarized.

"The average total across all 10 competencies from all four members who completed the evaluation form, was a 2.63 average total," Willette said. "Which is between the 'meets the expectations' or 'unsatisfactory/needs improvement.'"

Willette acknowledged that this evaluation process has not been completed by the Selectboard in recent years.

"This was the first time in a number of years that the board engaged in this process collectively," he said. "Secondly, the point of this process is to provide feedback to Stuart."

Please see **WARE BOS**, page 6

Selectmen heard from Tighe & Bond, Building Commissioner

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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WARREN – The Board of Selectmen began their April 9 meeting with a discussion with Sean Pringle of Tighe & Bond.

The board heard about the findings from the HVAC improvement study for the Senior Center at 2252 Main St. in West Warren. Town Administrator James Ferrera reached out to

Tighe & Bond to discuss concerns about the HVAC system at the Senior Center.

As part of the project, Pringle wanted to make sure the system is of the correct size for the building. What the board had wondered why they didn't go with a fully duct system. Ferrera is hoping Tighe & Bond will think of a plan that will resolve the entire issue in the building.

Please see **WARREN BOS**, page 7

Schools districts met with legislators about funding

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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BARRE – The Quabbin Regional School District hosted a "Conversation with our Legislators" this past Monday, with representation from across the district's five towns, as well as from neighboring school districts and communities.

State Sen. Peter Durant, along with State Reps. Todd Smola, Donnie Berthiaume and John Marsi attended the

Please see **FUNDING**, page 6



State Reps. Todd Smola and Donnie Berthiaume met with school administrators and town officials during a "Conversation with our Legislators" meeting hosted by the Quabbin Regional School District.

Granger and Hawk elected to Selectboard

WARE – The unofficial results from the annual town election held this past Monday; saw newcomers Valerie Granger and Steven Hawk securing two open seats on the Selectboard.

Granger received the majority of the votes with 799, followed by Hawk with 593 and incumbent Nancy Talbot with 372.

All other positions were unopposed or had no candidates on the ballot.

Unopposed positions included a three-year term on the School Committee, Kevin Paul Slattery; a three-year term on the Board of Assessors, James E. Niquette; a one-year unexpired term on the Board of Assessors, Michael Joseph Vadnais; a three-year term on the Board of Health, Michael Francis Juda; a three-year term for Park Commissioner, William Randolph Imbier and a five-term on the Planning Board, Richard Albert Starodaj.

SB heard presentations for zoning bylaws, capital planning

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Select Board had a couple of

guest presentations to hear during the April 13 open session meeting.

The first guest presenter was Mark Korzec regarding updates from the Capital Planning Committee.

Korzec had a report to share with the Select Board involving a vote taking

during the Capital Planning Committee's meeting on March 30. A vote was taken and unanimously passed by the Capital Planning Committee to recommend a purchase of a boiler to replace a boiler at the elementary school that is no longer in service.

This matter would be discussed at the Annual Town Meeting where the voters will discuss and vote on a decision.

Korzec listed several needs the school has in his report. The school is in need of completing various projects including ones for the

roof, windows, and heating of the building.

There is more to discuss on this matter that was brought up later in the Select Board meeting.

"We're going to talk

Please see **HARDWICK BOS**, page 2



BULKY WASTE DISPOSAL DAY

7am-12pm

ITEMS FREE FOR DISPOSAL

- Loveseats, Chairs & Couches
- Box Springs & Mattresses
- Power Equipment
- (Must be drained of all fluids)
- Washers & Dryers
- No Trailer Loads

Saturday, April 18, 2026
at ReSource Waste
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- Truck Tires **\$75**
- Loader/Tractor Tires **\$500**
- Passenger Tires **\$30**
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- Television, Computer Monitors **\$40**

HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY

9am-1pm

HAZARDOUS ITEMS

- Liquids, Fluids
- Paints and Oils
- Hazardous Waste
- Pesticides, Antifreeze,
- Lightbulbs, Batteries

Made possible by a partnership between ReSource Waste Services and the Town of Ware.

Ware Senior Center NEWS

WARE – The Ware Senior Center, 413-967-9645, 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, April 20**
Closed for Patriots' Day
- Tuesday, April 21**
- 9 a.m. Exercise Class at Valley View Housing
 - 10 a.m. Scat
 - 11:30 a.m. Lunch
 - 1-2 p.m. Food Bank of Western MA Mobile Food Pantry at Grenville Park
 - 5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking, \$3 per class.
 - 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

- Wednesday, April 22**
- 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, April 23**
- 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
- Friday, April 24**
- 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

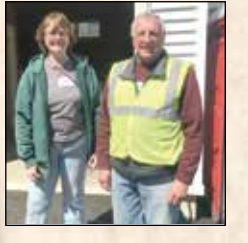
Required: call 413-967-4595 by noon on the business day before, to put you name on the lunch list.

- Monday, April 20**
Closed for Patriots' Day
- Tuesday, April 21**
Turkey Dinner, Mashed Potatoes, Veggie of the Day, Dessert of the Day
- Wednesday, April 22**
Spaghetti with Meatballs, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day
- Thursday, April 23**
Grilled Reuben Sandwich, French Fries, Dessert of the Day
- Friday, April 24**
Chicken Tenders, Potato Chips, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day

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 Cindy Baxter and Tim O'Brien at a cleanup event at Pine Grove Cemetery in Warren.

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

April is full of opportunities at the Paige library

HARDWICK – On Saturday, April 18 at 2 p.m., "Write. Publish. Succeed!" with local author Lisa Cohen as she shares her "Self-Publishing Without Tears," a workshop co-sponsored by the Paige Memorial and Gilbertville Public Libraries at the Gilbertville Public Library, 259 Main St., Gilbertville.

Registration is not necessary but recommended to assure a seat. Call the Paige Memorial Library at 413-477-6704

Tuesday, April 21 at 6 p.m., James DaRosa and Lindsay Aucoin of the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation and Business Assistance Corporation will present a workshop designed to be practical, empowering, and immediately useful for small business owners at any stage. This is co-sponsored by the Paige Memorial and Gilbertville Public Libraries at the Gilbertville Public Library, 259 Main St., Gilbertville.

They will address business loans and readiness, how to start a business, how to write a business plan, and access to computer program training. For more information contact QV CDC at 413-497-4405.

Registration is not necessary but recommended to assure a seat. Call the Paige Memorial Library at 413-477-6704

On Tuesday, April 28 at 6 p.m., drop in at the

Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, for a Poetry Slam. Share a favorite poem or your own poetry (any form) at this relaxed event with snacks, friends, and fun. Rhyming and berets optional.

On Wednesday, April 29 at 2:30 p.m. there will be a blood pressure and glucose screening at the Paige Memorial Library. Join them for a free wellness check and chat with Registered Nurse, Sandra Knipe, Leicester Regional Public Health Coalition, 978-895-3293.

High blood pressure, high blood sugar and high cholesterol are silent threats. Drop-in to be checked.

Story Time is held from 10:30 a.m.-noon every Wednesday, accompanied by an activity. This is a fun time for the youngest patrons to experience the library and a nice place to make friends.

Other ongoing library activities include the Paige Book Club, the Cookbook Club, Celebrate Hardwick, the Ongoing Book Sale, the Paige Writers, Paige's Page to Screen book to movie discussion group, 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 website at www.facebook.com/paigelibrary/ or www.paigelibrary.com/

HARDWICK BOS
from page 1

about this later in this meeting," said Select Board Vice-Chair William Tinker.

The next guest presenter was William Cole of the Planning Board to present updates to the zoning bylaw. Cole provided sheets for the board and the Town Administrator which include summaries of a process that has been ongoing in the town for years.

This process would lead the town to vote on the proposed bylaw amendments that were in last year's town meeting in the spring of 2025. These were later approved by the town and by the Attorney General.

Cole said, "there are others to get to this year."

Cole wanted to address a step in the process where the Planning Board is one of multiple groups that can present to the Select Board a request for a warrant at a special or annual town meeting.

This summary provided by Cole was only an outline and nothing had been finalized yet. Cole said there is language in these bylaw updates that need to be edited for the articles, which would also have to go back to the Planning Board.

Cole wants to have this process in place because any zoning bylaw has to go through a process in order to be amended. One of the bylaws in the summary is for accessory dwelling units. Language is being worked on for a phased residential development with an ADU.

For example, a small house that can stand on its own in either a garage or barn. This bylaw should be

revised and protect the uses of ADUs.

There is also a earth removal bylaw and a bylaw for farm animals. What Cole is seeking is an approval vote from the Select Board so the Planning Board can have a public hearing to allow public input discussing these bylaw updates.

The Select Board voted unanimously to approve this process.

Increasing building fees

The Select Board had a discussion with Building Inspector Paul Stringham to discuss an increase in building fees. Stringham presented the Select Board with a handout, which lists current fees and what needs to be increased.

This proposal is based on Stringham's expertise and is within fairness of setting fees that have been the same for many years. Stringham wants to set these and put them in the fee schedule. The Building Inspector did address individually what is staying the same and what has to go up in cost.

Town Administrator Justine Caggiano said the fees are considered revenue for the town.

Some examples listed by Stringham are above ground pools, for which the fee will stay the same. Anything for demolition on the residential side is currently \$50 is going up to \$100. The current rate for building permits is \$7.50 per \$1,000 in construction cost is going up to \$8 per \$1,000. Temporary structures such as tents, fee is \$50 plus \$10 for each additional tent, that is staying the same.

The Board voted to approve the new fee schedule

for the building department.

STM petition

While discussing the Special Town Meeting petition, a letter from the Town Clerk was presented to the Select Board, which involves the town securing approximately \$120,000 in their supplemental budget. The town is waiting for the Governor to sign.

Caggiano wanted to acknowledge state Sen. Peter Durant and state Rep. Donnie Berthiaume for acting on this quickly and helping the town out with this situation. What the board wanted to know if these funds could be used to purchase a boiler at the elementary school. The board also discussed if it's possible to put an article in for the Annual Town Meeting.

Korzec of the Capital Planning Committee wants the board to understand the timing of this project and maybe want to get the boilers replaced in the summer before the winter months. This way, the school has proper heating in place during the school year.

Korzec brings this up because there is the possibility that the town may not get the funding in time. The board and the Town Administrator seemed confident that they will have money for these boilers.

If the board hears an answer from either Durant or Berthiaume ahead of time, Tinker said, "we're going to move forward with procurement." The board will look to get a cost estimate and a scope of work to replace the boilers. It's also a matter of when the Governor signs.

The board tabled this item for now as they are working

on getting pricing together.

Declaring surplus gravel

Working with the Highway Superintendent and Harry Comerford of the Planning Board, Caggiano discussed a new solar field that is being placed on a leased piece of land. On this land is approximately 100,000 yards of gravel that the board must declare as surplus under Massachusetts procurement laws.

Comerford provided maps of the area that show the location of the solar panels. The company is leasing the land but currently has a lot of quality gravel. Comerford said there is approximately 102,000 square yards of gravel. The town could do an invitation to bid for this gravel.

Highway Superintendent Martin Grysowka wants to keep 40% of the gravel and the remaining 60% can go out to auction.

"This is a creative way for the town to bring in revenue," Caggiano said.

It seems best for the board to declare as surplus and get the auction going. However, the board wanted to know if it was explored on how to measure the volume of the gravel, so they know exactly how much they have.

Select Board Clerk Jeffrey Schaaf pointed out that Comerford doesn't seem to have a good figure on it yet. The 60% is an estimated amount they've come up with.

The board felt comfortable moving onto the next phase of this project and voted to declare surplus gravel.

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Sat., April 18th & 25th ~ 9am-1pm
WORK DAYS

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► CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT

Select Board candidate shares vision for Hardwick

HARDWICK – As a native of Hardwick, I've witnessed the town's transformations. Newcomers bring innovative ideas and a deep respect for our unique place, striving to preserve it. However, I've also seen the decline of our vibrant mix of shops and small businesses, leaving nothing in their wake.



Elizabeth Cyran

We're a farming community, our population hasn't changed significantly over the decades, which won't support large developments that correspond to our way of life. But we can make this town a welcoming place for small businesses and entrepreneurs to begin their dream.

Our state faces high costs and we are an under-served community. Tax increases have been driven by decades of mismanagement of town services.

Instead of addressing issues directly, past administrations have postponed problems, forcing us to now confront them at greater cost or face severe consequences.

We can't rely on the status quo. Using "that's the way it's done" excuses for today's budget issues condones errors and allows ineffective practices to continue. To suggest this approach only leads to more problems and will keep a town stagnant.

No town can function if elected officials delegate decision-making, contract drafting, and attendance to a few meetings a month.

Select Board members should listen to the public and solve problems, not shut off debate or get offended.

Politics involves criticism and judgment; explain your actions honestly, even if unpopular. Go above and

beyond your duties, even if it means missing dinner. Ensure town policies are followed, everyone adheres to simple rules like the open meeting law, and requests for public records are processed. Post meeting minutes promptly and close out executive sessions, informing the public.

To suggest proper oversight can be achieved with only part-time leadership ignores the citizens' needs, shows a lack of commitment and will never meet the town's challenges at this time. Part-time leadership has ignoring problems and solutions until our tax increases became a reason for families to move out of town.

As a retired business professional with decades of experience in contract negotiations, budgets, and management, I'm committed to prioritizing Hardwick's citizens. I'll research, attend meetings, consult officials, and listen to citizens. I'll be available.

I won't accept "that's the way it's always been done."

We can find practical solutions to our financial shortfalls and foster new business and responsible growth in our town.

The choices in this election are clear – Hardwick can choose someone with the time and willingness to give more than required to the job and reject what is no longer work for new ideas and solutions or maintain the status quo.

I'm confident in my abilities and ask you to share my vision for Hardwick.

Please join me in creating a new chapter for our town by voting for Elizabeth Cyran for Hardwick Select Board on May 2.

School Committee held FY 27 budget hearing

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – The School Committee voted to accept the proposed school budget for fiscal year 2027, which totals \$18,901,731.

Following the approval at the April 8 meeting, the committee held a public hearing to review the proposed budget, presented by interim Superintendent Michael Wood.

This budget reflects a 3% increase in Net School Spending, and an 11% increase in the transportation contract, for an overall increase of 4%.

Wood said the transportation contract is out to bid and could come in higher than anticipated. The school district shares a transportation contract with the towns of Belchertown and Granby.

Andy Paquette from TMS, Inc. answered questions from the public and he said that funding from the local budget is used up first, and then any additional money (school choice, other funding sources, grants).

"If there's funds at the end of the year...we are able to use that in subsequent years, it helps us out for the future," he said.

Town Manager Stuart Beckley thanked Wood, Paquette and the School Committee for recognizing the needs and resources required for the school system.

He said the overall town budget still has a significant gap for FY 27 (almost \$700,000), and it is possible that the proposed school budget may need to be reduced in order to close that.

Superintendent's report

Wood said the chiller for the high school should be delivered over the summer with installation happening in August.

"It should be up and running by the end of September," he said.

He said they are making progress to fill vacancies, despite a resignation by a seventh grade science teacher. He said they also need to fill an ETL position for grades six-12.

Wood said a social studies teacher will be retiring

this year, and a long-term sub will fill in from that point until the end of the school year.

He said he received information from the Massachusetts Superintendents Association about potential financial resources in the state's supplemental budget. He said the school district doesn't qualify for Rural Aid, but it does qualify for the Rural Educational Assistance Program.

"That is not a competitive grant so we should be receiving those funds for the next fiscal year," he said.

The supplemental budget also includes funding for mental health support in schools, and the implementation of "phone free" schools.

SMK strategic plan

Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School Principal Pam Iwasinski and Assistant Principal Paige Clark presented the strategic plan to the School Committee.

Iwasinski said this is the second year of the strategic plan, which focuses on attendance, transitions and maximizing instructional time, academic language and discourse, high quality instructional materials, increased parental involvement

She said attendance is about 93.5% for daily attendance, which is slightly above the state average reported from 2024-2025 of 93.2%. Chronic absenteeism is at 17.7% compared to the state average of 18.8%.

"Attendance is such a predictor of a lot of things, including graduation rates," she said. "That's certainly something we want to start a strong foundation with."

Iwasinski said the staff focus on maximizing their instructional time throughout the school day.

"It's really about taking the time you do have and doing everything you can," she said.

Iwasinski said the student voice is important and gives them ownership of their own learning.

"We have a great staff that have really dove into that and provide multi-

ple opportunities for kids during the school day to use their voice," she said.

For curriculum, she said the school's staff are still adjusting to using i-Ready math. She said they are also looking to replace the current Wonders English curriculum.

Iwasinski said they continue to focus on outreach to parents, and sharing positive communication as well as concerns.

Clark spoke about the new SMK Ticket System, which focuses on positive behavioral intervention.

"This is really exciting for SMK," she said. "Capturing positivity is just a powerful thing."

Students earn tickets through positive behavior throughout the entire school day, included time spent on the bus. The students can then turn the tickets in for prizes.

Recognition

School Committee Chair Brian Winslow recognized longtime committee member Aaron Sawabi, who did not seek re-election after serving for 18 years.

"It's 18 years of really being a volunteer...he did 18 years of coming to meetings and participating, and subcommittees and different things," Winslow said.

Winslow added that serving on the School Committee is not a paid job, but a passion for education.

"We do it for the kids," he said.

Grade six field trip

Ware Middle School Principal Kim Thompson said the sixth grade class would like to visit High Meadows Resort in Granby, Connecticut, and celebrate the end of their time at the middle school before transitioning to the high school.

The field trip would be held on Thursday, May 28. The School Committee needs to approve the field trip, due to it being out of state.

Thompson said the class has been fundraising to cover the cost of the field trip, and scholarships are also available.

The School Committee approved the field trip.

EQLT holds geocache scavenger hunt

HARDWICK – The East Quabbin Land Trust, 120 Ridge Road, will hold an outdoor geocache scavenger hunt between Saturday, April 18 and Sunday, May 3.

Participants search for five geocaches (boxes) on EQLT properties using GPS coordinates on their phones. Players collect one item from each geocache, one item per registration.

On May 3, players bring their items to the reveal party and play a game, competing against other scavenger hunt participants.

Each registration is \$20. Youth under 14 are free. To register for the event, people should visit <https://crm.non-profit-easy.com/8133/Pages/Events/#/Details/14855/>.

At the reveal party on Sunday, May 3 at 2 p.m. at the EQLT office participants will open their geocache envelopes and play a scrabble game to crown winner. There is a prize for the winner.

For more information, people may visit <https://eqlt.org/geocache-scavenger-hunt/>.

Solo/Duet poetry and music series starts in April

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 21, bassist Jerry Wilfong, guitarist Rich Falco and trombonist Rich Ardizzone, trombone with poets Judith Ferrara 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.

'People, Pets, and Prized Possessions' show opens April 17

WEST BROOKFIELD – Ware artist John Collins will have his debut show "People, Pets, and Prized Possessions" at West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery, 10 East Main St., this month, with an open-

ing reception on Friday, April 17 from 5-7 p.m.

The reception will include wine, cheese, and friendly fellowship. All are welcome to attend.

Glenda's
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viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

Dear Rusty:

I am 79. My husband is also 79 and we both receive Social Security benefits. We were both married before and we married each other at the age of 58. Am I to understand correctly that when either of us dies, the surviving spouse is not eligible to collect the deceased spouse's Social Security benefits? Please correct me if I am wrong.

Signed: Curious Spouse

Dear Curious Spouse:

A surviving spouse only gets one benefit - either their own SS retirement amount, or their deceased spouse's amount, whichever is more. So, the Social Security benefit that the deceased was receiving at death will be paid to the surviving spouse, replacing any smaller SS payment the survivor was already collecting. To be sure you are aware, the surviving spouse will also be eligible for a one-time lump sum death benefit of \$255 (I know it isn't much, but it should be claimed anyway).

Also, unless the surviving spouse was already receiving a spousal benefit while both partners were living, the surviving spouse will need to contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 or at the local SS field office to make an appointment to apply for their survivor benefit.

One other thing to be aware of since you were both married before: if either of you die, and your first marriage lasted at least 10 years and your ex-spouse has also died, the surviving spouse will have a choice to collect a survivor benefit from either the ex-spouse

or the most recently deceased spouse, whichever amount is more. But, again, you can only collect one benefit payment as a surviving spouse either from your ex-spouse or from your recently deceased spouse, whichever benefit is higher.

FYI, survivor benefits are a confusing area of Social Security, so you might also find informative this article I recently published, as it goes more deeply into surviving spouse benefits including benefits for surviving minor children and surviving adult disabled children. Read the article titled "Demystifying Social Security Survivor Benefits" at www.amacfoundation.org/demystifying-social-security-surviving-social-security-survivor-benefits/. Of course, if you have any further questions, please contact us at 1-888-750-2622 or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. There is never a fee for our services.

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

What I did last weekend

I was so looking forward to last Saturday, a day in which I did not have to drive anywhere. I could simply stay put and work on getting the yard in shape.

Boy, was it a long winter, and there was proof of that no matter where I turned.

Read on to learn which outdoor and indoor gardening activities kept me busy.

First I decided to tackle the perennial and shrub borders that I walk by the most often. Half of the reason we garden is because we like to stand back in admiration, so I figured if I cleaned those up I'd have something to feel good about on my way to the car or the chicken coop.

I leave many perennials standing through the winter, especially those with seed heads the birds might like to dine on.

So, before I got out the rake, I went plant by plant with my hedge clippers, cutting the dead and brown stalks to about "fist" height from the ground. Hedge clippers make fast work of this task. After that came the rake, with which I carefully cleaned the bed of matted leaves and the plant parts I just cut back. As I was working, I weeded out clover, and some perennial grasses that appeared within the bed, and although I am nowhere near ready to apply bark mulch, I got out the spade and did my best to put a crisp edge on the border with the lawn. Looking good.

While I was putting tools away I found (gasp) some hyacinth and daffodil bulbs that never got planted in the fall. I cannot even believe

that there were green tips on these bulbs that sat in a empty pot in my unheated subarctic garden shed over

beds given a crisp edge, I felt good enough about leaving outlying gardens for another day. It was time to turn my attention to tomato seedlings that had long since outgrown the seed packs the seeds were sown in the third week of March.

Typically we transplant when the first true leaves form. I am maybe a week late.

Carefully I lifted out the clumps of seedlings and gently pried the roots apart. Tomato seedlings can be sunk deeply, almost up to their leaves; new roots will form on the stems.

After a gentle watering they will go back under the grow lights until they are big enough to be moved from the six packs to a four inch pot. Probably by May 1.

What is next on the agenda? Next weekend I have to assess my potato patch. I'll probably pull up old red raspberry canes nearby to expand the bed.

Blueberry bushes need some fertilizer. Asparagus could use lime and compost, probably some weeding as well.

There is never a dull moment this time of year, and I am not sure I'd want it any other way.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 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 with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



WARE RIVER NEWS

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LETTER TO EDITOR

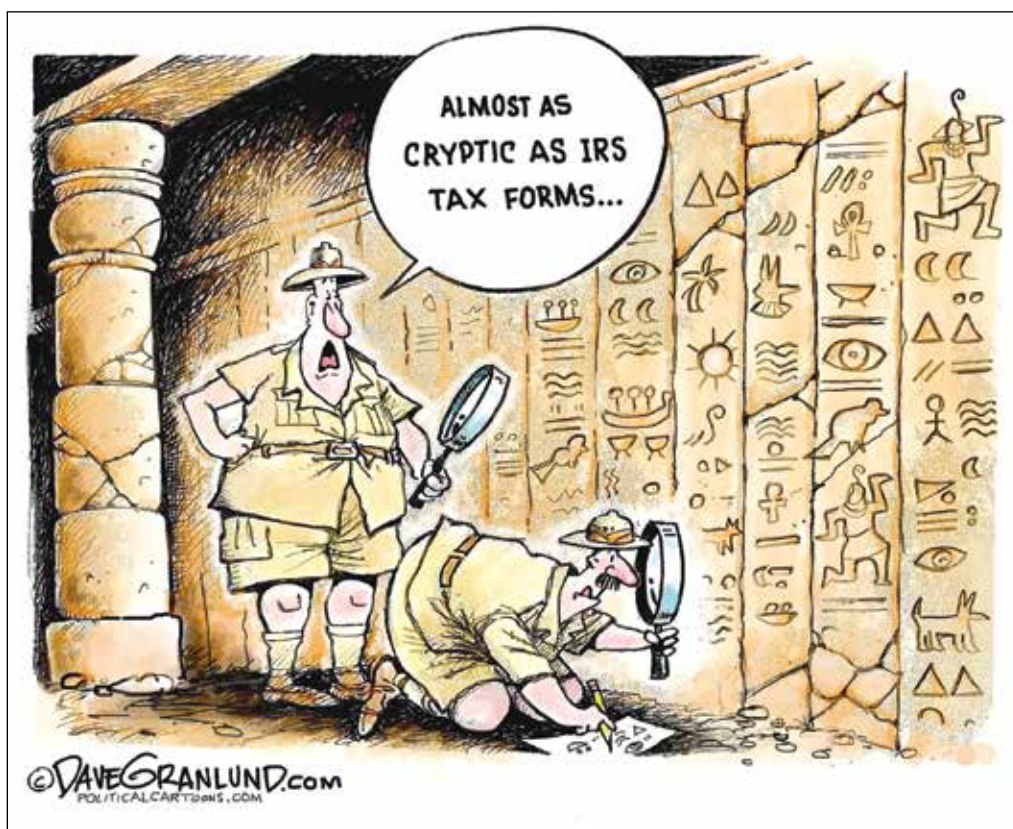
Resident thanked Cultural Council for program

Dear Ware Cultural Council,

Thank you for sponsoring the needle felted bunny workshop held at the Ware Senior

Center on March 31.

Twelve women had fun and learned a new craft making a little bunny.

Janice Ouimette
Ware

Nature is our cathedral

By Julie Midura

I belong to two churches. One is brick and mortar-built by human hands. There is a large sign out front. A foundation. Walls. A ceiling. Padded chairs are lined up in rows. Carpeting covers the floor.

A worship team plays music. Guitars, a keyboard and drums. A harmony of voices blend with my own, ringing out in praise. The lyrics speak to me. Words which stir my emotions and feel more like a spiritual encounter than mere singing.

My other church is a cathedral. There is no sign out front. No doors or windows. No foundation. No floor or walls or ceiling. At least not in the manmade sense.

Gravel, granite and earth are the floor. The vast canvas of blue sky is the ceiling. The sentinel of trees lining

the path form the walls. The foundation is made from mountains rather than poured cement, but they hold me up and give me far more strength than concrete ever could.

In my church, I listen to our pastor preach words of truth, faith and hope. Inspiring me. Redirecting me. Providing spiritual nourishment. Leading me along the path to a life of purpose.

In my cathedral, I listen to nature preach a homily in a language all its own. No words are needed, but it speaks to me nonetheless. Giving my life meaning and purpose. Deepening my faith. Restoring my soul.

The melody here is different. The music does not reach my ears from a speaker in the corner of the room, but through a tapestry woven from rustling leaves, cascading streams and roaring waterfalls. The sounds blend



together, proclaiming God's glory not through spoken words, but through something equally powerful.

This place is no less

sacred than the church where I worship every Sunday. It is a sanctuary created by the hands of God himself. Built out of unending love. When I

am standing in the quiet stillness and immense grandeur of Creation, I bear witness to God's profound greatness.

There is a sacredness in this cathedral of earth and trees and sky which transcends human understanding. A peace which contradicts life circumstance. A gratefulness in spite of the many trials and challenges.

Out here, I experience deeply personal moments of connection. As though there is a thread joining heaven to earth. A yarn woven of reverent awe and immeasurable joy linking my human heart to the Divine.

My worship is not restricted to the confines of a building. It flows from me in equal measure out here in the wild places... where the wind dances and the water flows and the heavens themselves declare glory.

My soul is fed at both my church - my cathedral. But some days, I can hear God speaking to me louder in the church that was -built by human hands.

Land trust accepted donation for rail trail

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Resident and Mass Central Rail Trail Advocate Steven Hawk presented the East Quabbin Land Trust with the donation of a wishing well.

This Easter weekend gift came about when Hawk saw craftsmen Doug Maxfield posting about his creations on social media this past winter, and reached out to him to purchase one for the rail trail.

“I thought it would be a good addition down here on Church Street,” Hawk said.

Maxfield said he began making the wishing wells after his retirement, and that he repurposes the wood from two pallets to do so.

East Quabbin Land Trust Executive Director Cynthia Henshaw thanked Hawk and Maxfield for the donation of the wishing well, which will become part of a perennial pollinator garden at the trailhead, adjacent to the parking lot. Henshaw said the donation will add to the popular trail location.

“We love the Mass Central Rail Trail and the feature that it is,” Henshaw said.

Hawk spoke about the importance of giving back to



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

Mass Central Rail Trail advocate Steven Hawk (front row, center) was joined by members of the East Quabbin Land Trust, his family, and Town Manager Stuart Beckley for the donation of a wishing well to be placed at the trailhead on Church Street in Ware. Doug Maxfield (back row, right) made the wishing well using pallets.

LEFT: Doug Maxfield made this wishing well using materials from two repurposed pallets. The wishing well will be part of a perennial pollinator garden on the Church Street section of the Mass Central Rail Trail in Ware.



the community you live in; a lesson he learned as a teen at the Hardwick Youth Center growing up in the neighboring village of Gilbertville.

Hawk said the Mass Central Rail Trail spans 104 miles from Northampton to Boston, with ongoing efforts

being made to connect sections of the former railroad bed together. He said the trail is a hub, and will continue to bring foot traffic to town.

“It brings us all together,” he said. “It’s a piece of beauty.”

Town Manager Stuart Beckley said the town is working with the East Quabbin Land Trust to connect 1,500 feet of accessible

trail from Church Street to Grenville Park, following the purchase of the Pelski property.

“Because of the work with the land trust, this trail will continue,” he said.

Henshaw spoke about the importance of the new trail connection to Grenville Park, which she said was “the heart of the open space in Ware.”



Hardwick Youth Center members repurposed a wooden pallet to make a bench with the East Quabbin Land Trust.

Hardwick teens completed project with land trust

HARDWICK – In February, the Hardwick Youth Center teens met with Ellie Shea, Youth Education Coordinator and Executive Director Cynthia Henshaw from the East Quabbin Land Trust, along with volunteer Rick who taught them how to make a bench using a pallet.

Youth needed to use a “massive” crowbar to pry certain boards off the pallet before it was cut in two. They then needed to pound nails out of the boards because they would be used for the bench arms and legs.

Teens then measured the boards and cut to right

length, finally using a power drill to connect pieces of pallet with screws.

HYC Director Laurie Desjardins said the teens were so happy with the finished bench they made.

Two of the teens returned to help the land trust build more benches in March.

Later this spring, the benches will be painted and decorated by the youth, and placed along the Forest Play Trail at EQLT’s office on 120 Ridge Road, and along the Edible Plant Path that is being created near the Mass Central Rail Trail off Church Street in Ware.



Submitted Photos

Shown is a finished bench made out of a wooden pallet

Birding for Kids

EQLT held birding program at Paige library

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Paige Memorial Library hosted an East Quabbin Land Trust program this past weekend, which was about birding.

This was a fun program for kids as they learn about their local birds and how to identify them based on appearance and sound. Teaching this program was EQLT Youth Services Coordinator and TerraCorps member, Ellie Shea.

Shea brought binoculars, feathers, birding sheets, and a bird feeder craft to the library. The group stepped outside on the field near the Paige Memorial Library to see if any of their feathery friends were outside.

A couple robins were spotted and Shea talked about how to use the Merlin Bird App, which records bird calls and can help identify the species

of birds.

Another way to tell the difference is the feathers of the birds. Shea brought some samples of bird feathers for kids to observe and see if they can find out what bird each feather came from.

According to Shea, bird watching is for anyone and it’s all about “sitting and watching” and “having patience.”

Shea said she really got into birding this year and her favorite bird is the puffin, which lives further north in Maine. Many puffins nest on the Maine Islands and usually come to shore during the mating season.

After bird watching, the group made their way back to the craft room and began making pinecone bird feeders. In addition to the pinecones and rope, the crafters used sunflower seeds and sunflower butter to create a bird feeder. The sunflower butter is applied to the pinecone and sunflower seeds are sprinkled on top.

The East Quabbin Land Trust also had handouts of Birding Bingo, a game where players try to find the birds



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago
A birding bingo card can be played anytime you’re out in nature listening and spotting the birds in the area.

listed on their bingo card. Players can check off each one they see or hear.

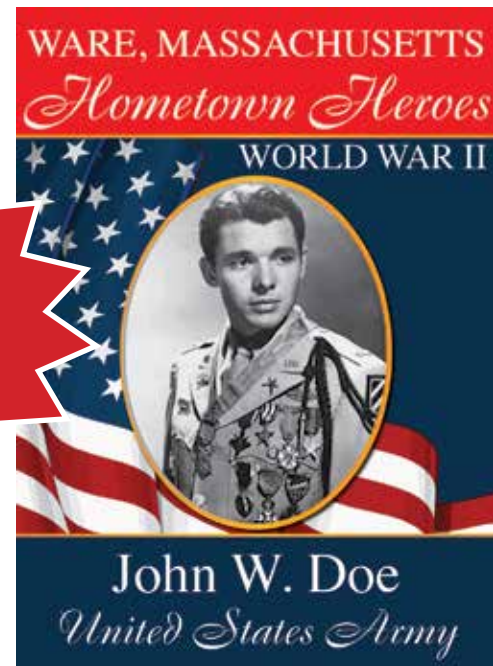
After finishing the bird feeders, guests got to take them home.

The East Quabbin Land Trust has a lot happening this spring. Folks can join EQLT on Earth Day, Wednesday, April 22 from noon-3 p.m. at the East Quabbin Land Trust Office, 120 Ridge Road. There will be bird house

Please see **BIRDING**, page 13

Pinecone bird feeders were made during the East Quabbin Land Trust’s Fun Birding for Kids program at the Paige Memorial Library.

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FUNDING from page 1

meeting to hear concerns about Rural School Aid funding, Chapter 70 funding, declining enrollment and more.

Also attending were Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools President Paul Haughey, who is also the superintendent of the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District; North Brookfield Public Schools Superintendent Tim McCormick; Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent Stephen Duff; and Tantasqua Regional School District Superintendent Deborah Boyd.

Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent Colleen Mucha said this was an opportunity to speak directly to the area's legislators, and share their concerns.

"The goal of today is we really wanted to have a united front," she said. "We are trying to work together."

Haughey spoke on behalf of the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools, and said there are a "lot of common threads" between all of the schools districts, including the rising costs of being a people-driven field.

"We're human resources heavy and as a result, there's a lot of expense in that," he said.

Haughey said the per pupil funding in Minimum Aid needs to be increased to at least \$150, but that a more accurate number would be much higher.

"It's still not enough," he said. "We need \$200-250 to make this run right."

Haughey said the cost of transportation for both general education and special education is "quite concerning." He said many school districts only receive one or two quotes for transportation to choose from when they go out to bid, which backs them in a corner financially.

Transportation costs



Turley Photos by Paula Oumette
North Brookfield Public Schools Superintendent Tim McCormick spoke about the need for consistent funding for rural schools.



Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools President and Superintendent of the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District, Paul Haughey, presented recommendations for changes to funding.



Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent Colleen Mucha spoke about having a unified voice to advocate for funding and aid.

should be fully reimbursed to regional school districts by the state, he said. As of right now, the reimbursement rate is projected to be between 80-90%.

He said a glitch in the Chapter 70 funding formula is hurting rural schools across the commonwealth.

"The rural factor is not built into 70 at this point and it's a major concern," he said.

Haughey said school administrators are all pushing to have Rural School Aid increased to \$60 million, and to create a "pothole" fund for school districts with declining enrollment, as well as an increase in charter school reimbursements and covering the expenses of new, state-mandated graduation requirements.

"We need to do better," Haughey said. "If graduation requirements are to change... there needs to be funding to support that as well."

Haughey said the work administrators and legislators have ahead of them is important and needs to be a priority.

"These are our children," he said. "We need people working together to get this done."

Efforts at efficiency

Mucha invited the superintendents and town officials to share efforts they have

taken to gain efficiencies when faced with the uncertainty of state funding.

She said the Quabbin Regional School District used COVID funding to purchase vans, which are used for student and athletic transportation.

"That has saved us a tremendous amount of funding," she said.

Boyd said the Tantasqua Regional School District purchased its own fleet of 45 vehicles to provide all transportation, include special education transportation, in house. While this has helped to regulate the increasing cost of transportation, the school district is still impacted by the labor force, and the cost of fuel.

Boyd said being designated "Hold Harmless" isn't enough for rural school districts anymore.

"That fact that so many of us are in Hold Harmless... means something's wrong with the formula," she said.

Boyd added that, "something feels broken on the state level, not just Chapter 70, but local aid."

"The pittance of money going to the towns is truly putting the burden on the towns," she said.

West Brookfield Town Administrator Theresa Cofski said that health insurance is a major cost driver

in the town's budget, and that they are in the process of enacting an "opt out" program.

"It's a process, but we're hoping it will be helpful," she said.

Mucha said the way that Rural School Aid is administered poses a challenge to school districts when they are trying to build and present their budgets to towns. She said it is awarded like a grant, and school districts don't know when they'll receive it, and that this year the aid was late.

"It's really hard to plan on that aid," she said.

Retired Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent and Barre Select Board Chair, Dr. Maureen Marshall, said Rural School Aid should be awarded the same way that transportation reimbursements are – up front – so that school districts can plan more effectively.

"We're really concerned about something that's really a simple fix," she said.

Boyd agreed and said that Rural School Aid has become a "financial cliff" for school districts.

McCormick said rural school districts "really need a consistent number to plan with every year."

The uncertainty of Rural School Aid has had a neg-

ative impact on other services in towns, Marshall said, including police, fire and the maintenance of infrastructure.

"The impact on the local communities is significant," she said.

Clare Hendra, an Oakham representative on the Quabbin Regional School Committee, said the school's budget makes up about two-thirds of her town's budget. She said this has put other departments in town at real risk.

"Some departments are barely functioning and near disaster," she said. "If they [schools] are in trouble, it filters right down."

Response from legislators

Berthiaume said the commonwealth's budget will be released this week, and legislators will have a brief opportunity to file amendments. He said that unfortunately, the process can't be completed any sooner than it is.

Smola said himself and the other legislators present at the meeting were all on board with the recommendations put forward by the various town officials and administrators.

Smola said he has been pushing for the Chapter 70 formula to be fixed for some time.

"We should have been prepping for this two years ago," he said. "We should already be here with a solution. We should already have a fix to the Chapter 70 formula."

He said the formula needs to be wiped out and rebuilt, in order for it to be beneficial to the school districts and the towns.

Smola also raised concerns about the financial cliff created by the Student Opportunity Act, which is set to run out in fiscal year 2027. He also talked about the "unprecedented" number of communities seeking overrides.

"Education is the big one," he said in terms of costs in the budget. "It has

the biggest impact on municipalities."

Smola said school districts are facing declining enrollment across the commonwealth, and they are now fighting over the same people. He said many school districts are also holding on to brick and mortar infrastructure that should not be in service.

"That's not pragmatic and it's not practical," he said. "We've got to look at this through a different set of eyes."

Berthiaume said pressure from school administrators and town officials on State House leadership would have more of an impact than just from him and the other legislators.

Smola said they should ask legislators to take roll call votes before an amendment, and "get them on the record."

"If you want this short-term fix, that would be my recommendation," Smola said. "Your voice is going to be important to this process."

Marsi said it's the words and actions of citizens that "turns the wheel" of change at the State House.

Durant said legislators face an uphill battle on Beacon Hill, and he also advocated for the need for roll call votes.

"Because that's where people publicly announce their priorities," he said.

A unified voice

Mucha passed around a letter for administrators and town officials to sign, showing their unified commitment to advocate for funding changes for rural schools.

Haughey said school districts cannot continue to meet state mandates without a change in funding.

"We can only work with what we're given. We're going backwards, not forward, with resources...the Band-Aids are done," he said.

WARE BOS from page 1

He said it is also to start a dialogue about areas where Beckley's performance could be improved and how to get there in order to be aligned with the Selectboard's expectations in accordance with the town's charter.

Willette said the Selectboard will later enter into executive session to discuss Beckley's contract renewal with him.

Financial update

Beckley said there is a \$671,000 shortage in revenues and proposed departmental budgets for fiscal year 2027.

"That is after drawing on just about every available revenue and stretching things, including an anticipated free cash number," he said.

Beckley said the town is able to use 35% of free cash for its operating budget, something that has not been done in 12 years.

"It's not great practice to be used," he said.

Beckley said increases in salaries and insurance costs have driven up the proposed FY 27 budget. He said they will need to figure out a strategy to close the budget gap, both for this year, and moving forward.

Beckley also presented the Selectboard with an updated five-year financial model.

"The budget gap grows significantly from year to year," he said. "That has to be resolved."

If the budget gap is not resolved, it will grow from what it is now, to \$3 million in five years.

"We have to limit our expenses, or look at additional revenues," Beckley said.

Beckley said many neighboring towns are looking at override votes to close gaps in their budgets. He said this is tied into town expenses, as



Submitted Photos
Selectboard members Ken Willette, Josh Kusnierz, Nancy Talbot, John Desmond and Jack Cascio along with Fire Chief James Martinez, honored Deputy Fire Chief Jeremy Boulrice with an official pinning ceremony at the April 7 meeting.

well as school expenses.

He said the state can provide some help, but not a lot.

"Financially, we will have to figure it out as a town ourselves," he said.

Beckley said most of the expenses in the town's budget have been trimmed, but they can trim more. He said at some point, the deficit will begin impacting staffing.

Beckley said free cash certification and the tax classification to set the tax rate are behind this year, and he said free cash is waiting on reconciliation of the school department's closure of the FY 25 budget.

"The Town Accountant and the School Business Manager are working to go through all of the expenses and see that they're properly allocated to either the general funds or grants, or other

funding sources," he said.

Beckley said correcting the \$400,000 override that had previously been approved at town meeting would require an override vote.

Comments and concerns

Resident Cindy Allen Bourcier said the Selectboard's letter of support for Baystate Health's Convenient Care proposal influenced the court of law in keeping Baystate Health as the beneficiary of the Lewis Gilbert Trust.

"I just don't want people to downplay the importance of that vote," she said.

Hardwick resident Stephen Granlund asked about the money spent on attorneys researching the Gilbert will and trust. Beckley said between the



Deputy Fire Chief Jeremy Boulrice was pinned by his son, Lucas, while Fire Chief James Martinez looked on.

two lawyers, the amount was between \$35,000-40,000.

Granlund said the will of the people was not met.

"Ware has suffered enough undue financial strain," he said.

Barbara Granlund said the Route 9 underpass is a "hazard" and referenced a recent incident where a train car derailed.

Talbot said she has been in touch with the owners of the railroad, and will discuss the concerns and get more

information.

Talbot said the town recently received information from state Rep. Todd Smola with a structural analysis of the bridge from an engineering firm.

Beckley said railroad bridges are inspected by federal inspectors, and the report showed that two railroad lines (owned by the Department of Transportation) are in good shape, while the lines owned by Mass Central Railroad

identified a need for repairs.

Town Manager's report

Beckley said several rounds of interviews have been conducted to fill positions on the Fire Department.

The vacant buildings on Main Street should be demolished late May or early June, now that a hazardous materials assessment has been completed.

Beckley said the town received several grants including an IT grant to scan town records. He said the Fire Department received a grant for safety gear and the Water Department received a \$500,000 grant for a pilot study of a design for a per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances and water treatment plant.

He said the town will also receive a payment of \$69,000 from a PFAS settlement.

Turtle crossing signs

Resident Elizabeth Stefanik submitted a letter to the Selectboard requesting to place turtle crossing signs on both sides of the road on Upper Church Street, near the wetlands.

The Selectboard voted to support the request.

Annual town meeting date

The annual town meeting is typically held on the second Monday in May, according to town bylaws. The Selectboard discussed postponing the annual town meeting date to June 8.

The board voted to hold the annual town meeting on Monday, June 8 at 6:30 p.m., pending availability of the high school.

Appointment

Rosemarie Parker was appointed to fill a seat on the Ware Housing Authority in order to fill a vacancy that opened after the passing of member Nancy Brown.

'The Lion King Jr.' hits the Quaboag stage this weekend

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The great circle of life takes the stage as the Quaboag Regional Theater and 21st CCLC presents “The Lion King Jr.”

This school production features a cast of talented Quaboag Regional Middle High School students who will be in the amazing story based off the Broadway production. “The Lion King Jr.” is directed by James Joinville, Christine Taylor, and by seniors of the high school.

Taking on the role of directors for this show are Lukas Nimitz, Madic Andreoli, Haylee Nash and Kayden Smart. This show is an all-senior directed production as Joinville and Taylor oversee their roles in addition to the rest of the cast and crew.

This was the first time these four students have taken on the role of director for a theatrical play. This is part of a Quaboag Theater tradition as theater students who have been involved in the school’s theater department throughout junior high and high school soon learn what it’s like to work as a director, producer, or choreographer for the show.

After the production of “Legally Blonde”, Nimitz, Nash, Andreoli, and Smart were approached by Joinville to be the student directors for the next school production.

These four students have been involved in the theater program since middle school and show a great passion for the theater arts. Therefore, it showed that they were ready to take on a new role in the

program. When Joinville approached them, he said they were going to do a production of “The Lion King Jr.”.

When asked about the experience of not being on stage and directing off stage these four directors shared various answers. Nimitz always wanted to direct and thought it was nice to take on the role of director for “The Lion King Jr.”

For Nimitz, the experience felt different by not being on stage and stepping back directing those who are on stage.

Andreoli described the directing experience as “next level,” and it has been a nice experience working with the younger students who are making their way into the theater department.

Nash shared that directing is a completely different atmosphere compared to performing on stage. It was overwhelming at first, but it gave a whole new way of seeing a play. Nash said she’s more passionate about acting.

Joinville and Taylor assigned each director a scene to work on in the play. What takes the pressure off the responsibility of directing together is these four students know each other so well as they performed in various plays together at Quaboag. They feel they work as a united front.

Though all the directors agree each scene has a contrast in styles, they all feel the show will ultimately come out with a shared vision.

While working with the younger theater students, some of the directors saw

what they did or didn’t like when they were younger theater students. The four have had student directors in the past and learned to gain that mutual respect that comes while they work together to put on a great show at their school.

With the shows coming this weekend, the four student directors feel they have a good working relationship with the students performing in “The Lion King Jr.”

As the high school chapter reaches its end for these four seniors, they reflected on their experiences at Quaboag and in the theater department.

Andreoli said, “I am incredibly grateful for it. See the full picture of my theater career.”

Madic remembered all the shows he has performed in at Quaboag and will remember being a director for a show as part of a positive conclusion and part of all the hard work he put into theater.

“I can feel all the work I put into to get here,” Andreoli said.

Nash described this experience with “The Lion King Jr.” as a “bittersweet” moment. Knowing the seniors of the past who have directed shows at Quaboag, Nash knew “that’s going to be me at some point.”

For Nash, it doesn’t stop at high school when it comes to theater.

“Never stop being in theater,” Nash said. “I’m proud of me and the people I grew up with.”

The senior directors also reflected on the leadership of Joinville and Taylor. The knowledge they’ve gained is based off what these two teachers have taught them.

A building of trust was
Please see **LION KING**,
page 13

PERFORMANCES

Friday, April 17 • 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 18 • 7 p.m.

Sunday, April 19 • 2 p.m.



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Celia is shown alongside all of the seniors who enjoyed the belly dance program at the Warren Senior Center.

Warren seniors enjoyed belly dancing program

WARREN – The Warren Senior Center hosted the program, “Discover Belly Dance with Celia,” earlier this week.

This program is funded in part by a grant from the Warren Cultural Council, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Celia is based out of New Bedford and has been belly dancing for the last 20 years.

Celia has been offering belly dance programs for different age groups for the last 15 years. Her mentor in the profession was professional belly dance artist Melina Pavlata, co-founder and director of Moody Street Circus, her family-run studio.

What Celia enjoys about offering this program for seniors is the great sense of community. It’s about learning about other cultures in a relaxed and encouraging environment.

Celia began the program with a couple performances, including a birthday dance. She also gave performances with the use of a sword, staff, and ribbons.

It was now time for the

interactive part of the program where the seniors can learn easy, fun, and fundamental steps to belly dancing. Celia explained a brief choreography of belly dancing before the seniors gave it a try.

As part of the fun, Celia brought hip scarves for seniors to wear. Senior Center Director Sharon Meli helped out with the hip scarves and brought one of her own for the occasion.

“The whole point is to have fun,” Celia said as she began a circle of aspiring belly dancers.

A lot of seniors had a great time learning how to belly dancing, especially when they learned how to do the shimmy. Other moves learned include hip circles, figure eights, hip drops, snake arms, and various shimmies.

Belly dancing comes from Arabic culture, but there are also styles from Turkish culture, that Celia also knows and instructs. The finale of the program was going to be a drum solo and everyone participated alongside Celia.

Senior Center Director Sharon Meli got into the spirit of belly dancing.

al belly dance artist’s point of view, the biggest outcome from this program is to experience a form of cultural expression and feeling a sense of togetherness. The seniors came up and thanked Celia for her time at the Senior Center.

The Warren Senior Center will be hosting a Kentucky Derby celebration on May 7 at noon.

Towns host voter registration day before elections

WARREN / WEST BROOKFIELD – Town Clerks of Warren (Laura J. Stockley) and West Brookfield (Klarrisa Rose) announce that a Voter Registration will be held in their offices, on Friday, April 24, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. for the Annual Town Elections, which will be held on Tuesday, May 5.

WARREN BOS from page 1

There are options to look at, but there are also pros and cons to doing different scopes of work. The Senior Center is used as a cooling center during the hot summer months. Ferrera did mention that Green Communities funding will only support energy efficiencies and energy efficient units.

Selectmen Clerk David Dufresne thinks they could just do the ductwork and see how it goes. If there is an effect issue, then the board may consider doing mini splits. The board wants to find a project that is going to work for the building.

The numbers for these projects are only cost estimates. The town will get legitimate numbers when they go out to bid.

Vice-Chair Derick Veliz said the board wants to look at every possible option and consider savings in the long run.

The board asked Pringle what the work would look like if ductwork was done in the basement. Ferrera asked Pringle if there was a reason why Tighe & Bond didn’t look at the basement in the beginning.

According to Pringle, they’re only looking at a couple alternatives.

Ferrera said, “We’re looking for the best solution to solve the problem.”

The board and the Town Administrator want to know if replacing what they currently have at the Senior Center is the best solution. Also, should there be ductwork done in the basement. Pringle said that it can be investigated more.

The board will discuss this more at a later meeting, but before moving on,

Pringle did share his expertise on the basement project and thinks it may be more costly.

Building Commissioner update

The board heard from Building Inspector William Cantell regarding multi-family and assembly use structure inspections. For multi-family required inspections, Cantell sent letters out to the multi-family properties in town.

According to records, there are 49 in Warren.

Cantell received a total of 16 responses to the application. Eight of them were not complete. Cantell did send out secondary letters, but 33 property owners have not responded.

The goal for Cantell is to send out certified mailings, give 30 days for applicants to respond and afterwards a fining process would begin.

Cantell did go to town counsel for extra guidance to make sure the process he’s doing is done correctly. Now that it’s April, Cantell wants to begin this process. Both the board and the Building Commissioner want the public to understand that this is being done for the safety of everybody who uses these buildings.

Not just tenants, but people who deliver to these properties and emergency response workers who have to access these buildings in case of an emergency. For the sake of safety, inspections have to get done at these multi-family properties.

“These are people’s homes,” Dufresne said. From the Selectmen’s point of view, Cantell did his due diligence and should send out these final letters.

As for assembly use struc-

ture inspections, Cantell shared his update. The Building Commissioner is waiting for a few responses from several churches in Warren.

Cantell did highlight how well Upper Room Christian Fellowship is doing and is meeting compliance. An architectural occupancy improvement report was received as Upper Room is doing an excellent job complying. Cantell says they’re waiting for quotes to get other improvements accomplished.

An assembly use structure off Winthrop Terrace and has to be inspected as an assembly building. An inspection was done there but the owners got a home inspector instead.

Town Administrator’s report

Ferrera shared his report for the month of March. The Town Administrator continued to work with departments on the fiscal year 2027 budget and Annual Town Meeting warrant articles for June 11.

Ferrera has started contract negotiations with the Police Chief on a successor agreement. He also participated in budget and contract negotiations with the Central Massachusetts Regional 911 District.

Ferrera shared he successfully defended the town’s position in an unemployment claim.

The Town Administrator held a kick-off meeting with H2M Architects and Engineers to develop a cost-effective solution to meet the current and future needs of the Fire Department. He also attended Pathfinder’s annual budget presentation. The Town of Warren’s annual

assessment will be increased by a total of \$10,916.00 or 2.44%.

Ferrera participated in Community Reading Day at Warren Community Elementary School and thanked the students for letting him visit and read during the event.

He conducted five interviews for the position of Executive Assistant to the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator. As of this April 9 meeting, the board appointed Christina Havens to the position.

The town has worked with CivicPlus on the implementation of two new website programs that will keep the Town compliant. The town is continuing to work with Tighe & Bond on the HVAC study at the Senior Center.

Ferrera participated in a discussion with Palmer Motorsports at Palmer Town Offices over quality-of-life concerns during special events. He also held a press announcement on the town’s Green Communities award in the amount of \$155,000 for a weatherization project at Warren Community Elementary School.

Acceptance of State Grant

The board voted to accept a state grant from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security/ Department of Fire Services in the amount of \$12,438.81 for the Fire Department. Warren Fire Chief Adam Lavoie explained and said they’re the recipient of this year’s firefighter safety grant, which has come at a good time for the Fire Department.

Contract with CMRPC

Ferrera explained to the board that a contract between the town and the Central

Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission is for the purpose of developing a Housing Protection Plan. Last fall, the town had applied for a One Stop for Growth grant, and a Housing Protection Plan was recommended.

The town got funded for this grant and it does require a \$3,000 match from the town. The grant covers \$22,000, combining a total of \$25,000.

A Housing Protection Plan is going to do an assessment on the current housing market in town and identify hot it can be developed. In other words, try to grow the housing stock in town. The board accepted the contract.

Review of ATM articles

The board reviewed the Annual Town Meeting articles for June 11. Ferrera shared that the Finance Committee is planning on meeting with the Fire Department to address the articles for two new positions and the keyless entry system.

Ferrera had spoke with Attorney Jeff Blake about the Quaboag Regional School District budget and mentioned they could put in the above minimum in an article. As long as the initial budget request is placed in front of the voters to make a decision on.

There are three options for a budget, with one being a level service budget.

Ferrera said, “Whatever the School Committee certifies as their final budget, is what we have to at least present to the voters.”

The numbers are still not concrete at this point and are likely to change.

Based on the information Ferrera has got so far from the school, if it passes

then the town may have to do a 2.5 Override question. These decisions can impact tax rates, town services, and departments would take a hit in cuts.

An override means you can “tax above your levy limit,” Ferrera said. “Allowing to fund services that you need beyond your level capacity.”

The town currently does not tax to their levy limit.

Dufresne said, “Once you have that override it never goes away.”

Warren is a low to moderate income community, and the Board of Selectmen take that into consideration when it comes to affording an override.

“It’s very difficult in terms of community to afford a 2.5 Override,” Veliz said.

The level funded amount always seems to go up every year. Ferrera explained that there are two types of overrides. There is a debt exclusion and then there’s an actual override. From the Town Administrator’s point of view, the town does not have a balanced budget.

Selectmen Chair Richard Eichacker asked if another town meeting can happen to look at the budget again and do another vote and maybe bring the above minimum amount down after the Annual Town Meeting and if a potential 2.5 Override vote fails to pass.

Ferrera believes that if this is the case for the town, then there would be a regional meeting with the school for the purpose of the school budget. The Selectmen will hear more during their joint meeting with the Finance Committee on April 11.

Infrastructure asset comm. heard project updates

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The Infrastructure Asset Improvement Committee met to discuss updates on current projects.

Giving the updates at the April 8 meeting was Jeff Faulkner of Tighe & Bond.

Faulkner began by discussing the water tank project on Anderson Road, which is being rehabilitated. The water tank is currently in the process of being sandblasted and the project is expected to be accomplished prior to Memorial Day weekend.

For the Barnes Street well project, there is a 48-hour pump test being completed. A report is being worked on and will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection. The report has some minor comments to it that will be reviewed.

For cistern/well improvements, Faulkner said the condition of the wells are being looked at. They appear to be in fine shape and will be modified slightly during the construction phase. Faulkner expects low levels of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

A PFAS study was conducted about a year ago and led to applying for a grant for the next phase. Pilot testing and a preliminary design is expected to happen next.

The town received a \$500,000 grant to get the process moving. All that is left is to complete some paperwork and make sure the work is done on time.

For the Asset Management Study, the town is getting grant money for that as well.

Tighe & Bond visited sites the week before and wants

Please see **UPDATES**, page 10



Twenty-one police officers from four area police departments participated in the training about coercive control as abuse.

Police officers participated in domestic violence training

WARE – Twenty-one police officers from Ware, Warren, Hardwick and Gardner participated in a training hosted by the Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force.

The training was held at the Fire Station with Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force Coordinator Monica Moran; three district attorneys, Erin Aiello (Chief of the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Unit for the Northwestern District Attorney), Jessica Fleet

(Worcester District Attorney) and Mary Pat Wickstrom (2nd Assistant District Attorney and Supervisor of the Worcester District Court); Behavioral Health Network advocate Melissa Hutchins and Alianza DV.

Police officers participated in a coercive control scenario, and discussed what should be considered coercive control under the new law that recognizes it as abuse. Officers then broke into groups to write an affidavit based on the scenario.



Submitted Photos

Ware and Warren police officers worked together during the training.



Quaboag Hills

CHIP GENERAL BODY MEETING

Open to the General Public!

Join us to review progress, hear updates, and discuss next steps for the CHIP initiative.

FOOD AND DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED!

MAY 1, 2026

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

E2E Center,
79 Main St.,
Ware, MA 01082

RSVP BY APRIL 24

Scan QR Code or Use Link:
<https://forms.gle/Bq8VtsUvLs2yan8V6> to Register



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Indians win big in special matchup at Dunkin' Park

Joseph Cygan swings and connects on a hit.



By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

HARTFORD, CT— Over the past couple of years, Shane Szado and Kyle Kaczuwka were teammates on the Monson Post 241 Legion baseball team.

Last Saturday night, Szado and Kaczuwka, who are both seniors, opposed each other for the first time at the varsity level as starting pitchers.

The matchup between the Monson and Ware varsity base-

ball teams took place under the bright lights of Dunkin' Park in Hartford, Connecticut.

Just like during the past two seasons, Kyle Kaczuwka and his Indians teammates were able to celebrate a 19-5 victory over the Mustangs at the home field of the Yard Goats, who are the Double A affiliate of the Colorado Rockies. The non-league contest ended after 4 1/2 innings due to the 10-run mercy rule.

Please see **INDIANS**, page 10



Turley photos by Maddox Bear

Aubrianna Gilmore slides into second and calls for time.

Indians beat Palmer in marathon matchup

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER— The rivalry between Ware and Palmer High School's added another dramatic chapter last Thursday afternoon, as the two varsity softball teams faced off in a hard-fought battle that lasted four hours.

Undeterred by a 14-run deficit entering the fourth inning, Ware launched an impressive rally.

After the top of the seventh inning, the Lady Indians were holding a 19-18 lead.

Palmer responded with a run in the bottom half of the frame, which forced the Suburban East League match-up into extra innings.

Following a scoreless eighth inning, Ware scored seven more runs in the ninth and managed to secure a 26-24 victory at Albin Slesinski Field in Palmer.

The contest began in bright sunshine and finished under the lights.

During the four hours in between, the two neighboring rivals combined to score 50 runs on 33 base hits.

"We have a young squad, and we've trailed in every game so far this season," said Ware head coach Charlene Vallee. "The girls finally realized they have

the ability of making a comeback. Everyone contributed."

The Lady Indians (1-3), who had lost their first three regular season games by 12 runs, celebrated a win for the first time since defeating Pioneer Valley Regional High School, 13-5, in a non-playoff road game last May.

Leading the offensive attack for Ware was junior shortstop Aubrianna Gilmore, who had six of her team's 21 base hits and drove in three runs. She had two singles, three triples and hit a two run inside the park home run in the seventh inning. She only needed a double to hit for the cycle.

"Aubrianna played extremely well," Vallee said. "She's a first-year member of our softball team. She plays the game with a lot of energy, and it lit a fire for the rest of the players."

Ware freshman catcher Naomi Torres chipped in offensively with four singles and a walk. She also threw out a runner trying to steal second base.

The trio of freshman third baseman Gabby Kaczuwka, senior second baseman Maddy Slattery, and freshman starting pitcher Lucy Herbert finished the contest with two base hits apiece.

Herbert, who hurled all nine innings, won her first career varsity game.

"This is Lucy's first season as a starting pitcher for the varsity team," Vallee said. "I thought she grew a lot in

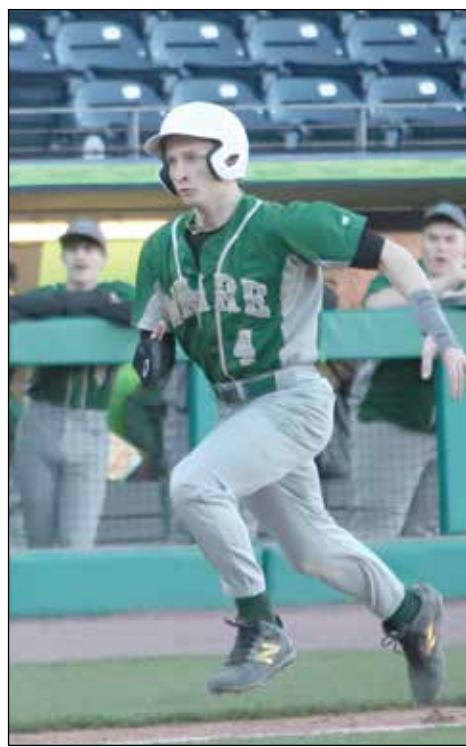
Please see **SOFTBALL**, page 10



Brodie Koczur makes an easy throw to first.



Kyle Kaczuwka heads for first on a base hit.



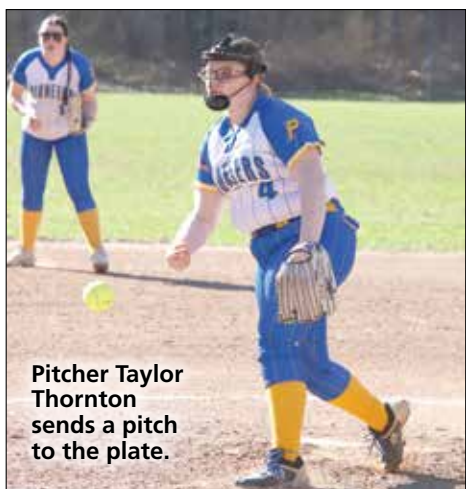
Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Logan Millet hustles home on a soft hit.



Ellisyn Gelinas sends an easy throw to first.



Julietta Tweedell hustles home on a hit.



Pitcher Taylor Thornton sends a pitch to the plate.



Emily Forcier squares up some contact.



Carly Juda makes a throw across the diamond.



Addison Doktor swings and connects on a base hit.

Pioneers score early, but fall to Comp

PALMER — Pathfinder softball was able to push across a couple of runs early, but Chicopee Comprehensive came

roaring back and ended up turning the game around, defeating Pathfinder 25-9 last Thursday at Pathfinder Tech. The Pioneers

fell to 0-4 on the season while Chicopee Comprehensive rose above .500 to 3-2.



Lucy Hebert makes a run for first base.

Madi Slattery makes a throw across the diamond.

sports

Candlepin League NEWS

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Thursday Night Mixed at Bogey

EAST BROOKFIELD – The Thursday Night Mixed League at Bogey Lanes is nearing the end of the bowling season.

Holding onto first place is the four-person team (Team Four) of Kaelin Skye, Ryley Burdett, Nate Fontaine, and Aaron Fontaine with a record of 66-22. Team Four has six-point lead over the second-place team, Walking my Goldfish (60-28).

Team Four bowled against the Scorpion Bowlers during the first week in April. In game one, Team Four defeated Scorpion Bowlers by a score of 416-402. Ryley Burdett of Team Four bowled well with 119.

In game two, Team Four held onto the lead long enough to win 440-434. Aaron Fontaine of Team Four bowled well with 154 to clinch the second win for his team.

In game three, Team Four clinched the sweep over Scorpion Bowlers by winning the last game 447-385. Nate Fontaine led the team with 141 to finish. His brother finished with 116 and a series of 380 while Burdett finished with 114 and a series of 327. The final score was 1303-1221 in favor of Team Four.

Spare Bears bowled against The B Team at Bogey

Lanes. In game one, Spare Bears and the B Team tied 385-385. In game two, the B Team won by a score of 408-369. Joe Mullen of B Team was over his average by scoring 102.

In game three, B Team won by a score of 395-361. Mullen broke the century mark again with 100 in the final game. Final score was 1188-1115 in favor of B Team.

Walking my Goldfish bowled against Music Man. In game one, Walking my Goldfish won by a score of 388-381. Game two was also won by Walking my Goldfish, 436-390. 124 was bowled by Aaron of Walking my Goldfish. The team also won the last game, 425-398. Steve Burritt of Music Man finished with 107.

Team Twelve bowled against the Bowling Hogs. In game one, Team Twelve won by a score of 410-383. John Miller of Team Twelve began the match with 111.

In game two, Bowling Hogs won by a score of 389-387. Game three was won by the Bowling Hogs, 409-405. The final score was 1202-1181 in favor of Team Twelve.

Slide or Die bowled against Glen Echo Rollers. In game one, Glen Echo Rollers defeated Slide or Die by a score of 407-377. In game two, Glen Echo Rollers won again by a score of 398-376.

In game three, Slide or Die won by a score of 407-392. The final score was 1197-1160 in favor of Glen Echo Rollers.

Town Clerk shared upcoming Annual Town Election info

HARDWICK – Town Clerk Ryan J. Witkos announced there will be two contested races on the ballot at Hardwick's Annual Town Election on Saturday, May 2.

Polling hours will be from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Hardwick Elementary School, 76 School House Drive.

Elizabeth V. Cyran of Hardwick Pond Road, and Zachary E. Spencer of Barre Road will face off for a three-year term on the Select Board. The incumbent, Eric Vollheim is not seeking re-election.

Heidi Johnson of Lyman Road, and Lisa J. Nash of Charity Hill Road, will face off for a three-year term on the Board of Health. The incumbent, Paul Mailhot is not seeking re-election.

Those running unopposed are as follows: Ryan J. Witkos*, Town Clerk, three years; Jennifer S.

Kolenda*, Assessor, three years; Colin R. Brown, K-12 Quabbin Regional School Committee Member, three years; Lisa Gaskill*, Barry P. Koch, Paige Memorial Library Trustee (two positions); Paige Agricultural Fund Trustee, Stanley D. White*, five years; Ryan J. Witkos*, Moderator, three years; Harry T. Comerford*, Jennifer E. Garvey*, Planning Board (two positions.)*denotes incumbent.

The last day to register to vote for the Annual Town Election is 5 p.m., Wednesday, April 22.

The vote by mail application deadline is Monday, April 27 at 5 p.m. Those voters qualified to vote absentee should contact the Town Clerk's office.

Voter registration will be held at the Myron E. Richardson Building, 307 Main St. on Wednesday, April 22 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

said this article has "a long-term benefit" for the town when it comes to saving for these projects.

Another article is for \$330,000 and is for a final design for a project that will bring the wells online and bypass the cistern. Faulkner believes this is a project that is reasonable to do.

The third and final article discussed is for a water service line inventory update, also for \$330,000. The committee may want to look into the principal forgiveness for this project, which can be about 40% off through the State Revolving Fund program. The town could be required to contribute anywhere from \$125,000 to \$150,000 for this project according to the calculations by Faulkner and the committee.

UPDATES from page 8

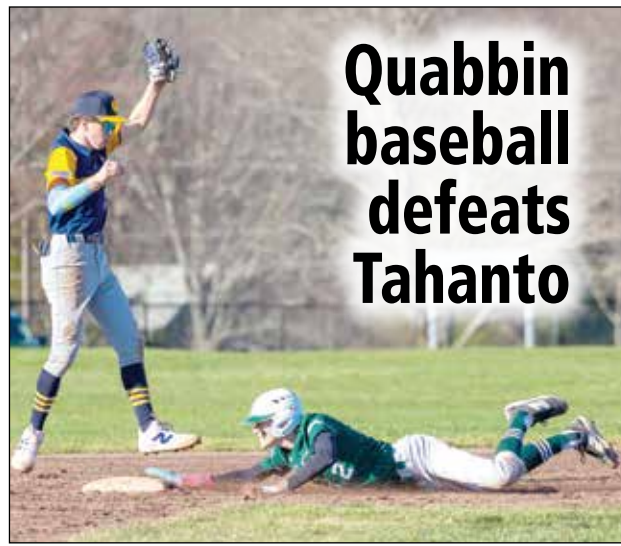
to do a workshop with the water department sometime in May.

Tighe & Bond is planning to do their visit and see wastewater assets that are currently visible and talk to operators about the main concerns and see what rehabilitation work is needed for the plant.

This would be for a treatment plant rehabilitation project, which would be about an eight-10-month project. A comprehensive wastewater management plan would possibly be next.

Town meeting articles

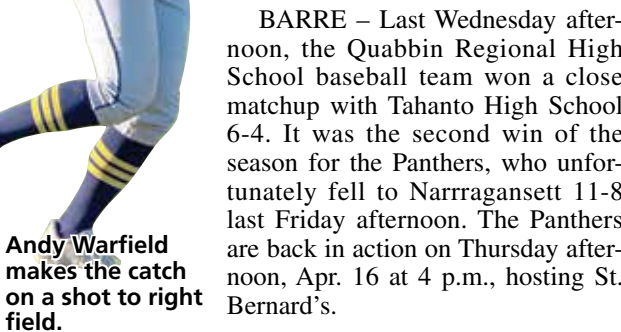
One article the committee recommended the annual town meeting warrant is for the amount of \$400,000 for a comprehensive wastewater management plan. Faulkner



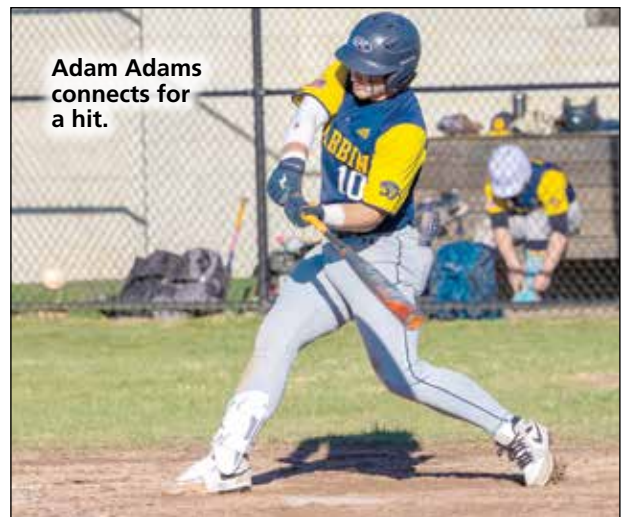
Abe Brown makes a leaping catch as Tahanto's Luke Stevens steals second base.



Turley photos by Jeffrey Haynes
Ian Haupt beats Tahanto's Thomas Chamberlain to first base for the game-winning out.



Andy Warfield makes the catch on a shot to right field.



Adam Adams connects for a hit.

Quabbin baseball defeats Tahanto

INDIANS from page 9

"I've known Shane since I attended his dad's (Craig) baseball camps at Monson High School. He's one of my best friends," said Kaczuwka following the game. "This was also the first time that I was a starting pitcher during my varsity career. It was an awesome experience competing against friends on a Minor League Field. We would like to thank the parents and the sponsors for making this opportunity possible for us."

The Indians, who had a 4-1 overall record, have now won all three games that they've played against the Mustangs (2-2) at Dunkin Park.

Kyle's older brother, Nathan was the winning pitcher in last year's game at Dunkin Park, which was a 14-3 Ware win. The Indians won the inaugural game, 11-3, in 2024.

Kaczuwka, who's normally the Indians starting catcher, wasn't informed that he would be the starting pitcher in last Saturday's game until prior to the start of the game.

"I wasn't really sure who would be our starting pitcher in tonight's game until we arrived here," said Ware

interim head coach Shawn Clark. "We have three games this week and we wanted to save both Brady (Guimond) and Jack (Gaudreau). I talked with my assistant coaches about it. We decided to give the ball to Kyle. He was ready to go and pitched very well."

Kaczuwka, Guimond, and Gaudreau are three of the Ware seniors. The other four seniors listed on the Indians varsity roster are centerfielder Troy Dufresne, second baseman Brodie Koczur, first baseman Alex Orszulak and Marek Luongo, who's a reserve player.

Kaczuwka, who's a righthander, pitched the first four innings. He allowed one run on four hits with three strikeouts and just one walk. Szado, who's also a catcher, has pitched a couple of innings at the varsity level in the past. He made his first start of the season on the mound.

The other three Monson seniors are shortstop Jack Beaupre, centerfielder Ben Pignone, and right fielder Austin Meacham.

"Even though we lost the game, it's always very special getting the opportunity to play a game here, especially for our four seniors" said Monson head coach



Turley photo by Maddox Bear
Aubrianna Gilmore tags the runner at second base.

SOFTBALL from page 9

today's game."

After scoring 16 runs in the first two innings, the Lady Panthers (1-3) only scored three runs on three hits between the third and eighth innings. It gave the Lady Indians an opportunity to make a comeback.

"We sometimes fall into complacency," said Palmer head coach Heather Korzec. "We also should've made a few more plays defensively. We're still a work in progress."

Senior centerfielder Hannah Roy and eighth grade leftfielder Harper Brouillette led the home team with three hits.

Senior first baseman Amhia Mcelreavy and freshman Jill Holbrook, who was the starting pitcher, chipped in with two hits.

Holbrook allowed 21 runs on 21 hits during the eight innings that she was standing in the middle of the circle.

Eighth grader Emily Provost, who took over for Holbrook in the fifth inning, allowed five runs on just one base hit. Holbrook returned to the pitcher's circle at the start of the sixth inning.

"We have two very good pitcher's this year," Korzec said. "Both of them need experience pitching at this level. Their pitching styles are also a little bit different."

Brouillette capped off the Lady Panthers seven run first inning with a two-run single into right field.

After Ware scored three runs in the top of the second, Roy had a three-run triple, as the Lady Panthers exploded for nine runs.

Roy added a two-run single in the third and it was beginning to look like Palmer wouldn't have very much trouble defeating Ware for the first time since 2024.

Trailing, 18-4, the Lady Indians scored three runs in the fourth, five in the fifth, and added two more in the sixth.

With two outs in the seventh inning, Gilmore hit a two run inside the park homer slicing the Lady Indians deficit to 18-17. Wared tied the score when freshman Thanishka Cordero, who was a defensive replacement, smacked a run scoring double down the left field line. Torres drove home the go-ahead run with a line-drive single to center.

Palmer scored the tying run when eighth grade shortstop Jaelyn Swiatlowski, who drew a leadoff walk in the bottom of the seventh, crossed the plate following a wild pitch.

Ware retook the lead two innings later by scoring seven more runs

Palmer rallied for five runs in the bottom half of the frame before Herbert ended the marathon with a strikeout.

The two softball teams are scheduled to meet for the second time on May 11 at Ware High School.

Curtis Orlik. "Those guys have put together a pretty good varsity baseball career."

Beaupre (2-for-3) tripled to rightfield leading off the top of the first inning.

"I played on the same travel baseball team with Jake in Worcester last summer," Kaczuwka said. "I threw him a high curve ball, and he hit it hard to rightfield. I kept throwing strikes after that and trusted my defense to make the plays."

With runners on first and second with no outs in the bottom of the first, Kaczuwka blasted a Szado pitch to deep centerfielder for a two-run double. It was also his 100th career base hit.

"It just felt awesome to get my 100th career base hit in tonight's game," said Kaczuwka, who went 3-for-4 at the plate with four RBIs. "I've worked so hard to achieve that milestone."

The last member of the Ware varsity baseball team to record 100 career hits was Dylan Sutkaitis, who graduated in 2024.

"Dylan was one of my role models when I was younger," Kaczuwka said. "He was an outstanding hitter and catcher."

The Indians wound up

scoring eight runs in the first inning.

Freshman Joe Cygan, who started the game at third baseman, knocked in two runs with a single to center. He also scored on a wild pitch. Orszulak also had an RBI single. The Indians other two runs came home on a bases loaded walk and a groundball out.

"It was very important to take an early lead," Clark said. "It took a lot of pressure off Kyle."

Ware scored two runs in the second, four in the third, and five in the fourth.

Junior Niko Mathieu, who started the game at second base, pitched the final two innings for the Mustangs.

Monson eighth grade first baseman Tommy Murphy recorded his first career varsity base hit leading off the third inning.

Szado also contributed with a pair of singles in his three trips to the plate.

The Mustangs' other hits came from Ben Pignone, sophomore third baseman Anthony Tulloch, and Mathieu.

Monson scored four runs in their final at-bats against Cygan, who's a hard throwing righty.

See more PUBLIC NOTICES on Page 15

public notices

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
Premises: 58 Church Street, Ware, MA 01082

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by George H. Plouffe to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for PennyMac Loan Services, LLC, and now held by PennyMac Loan Services, LLC, said mortgage dated January 21, 2020 and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 13519, Page 182, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for PennyMac Loan Services, LLC to PennyMac Loan Services, LLC by assignment dated July 22, 2022 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 14625, Page 323; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on **May 7, 2026 at 01:00 PM Local Time** upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

situated on the corner of Church and Cottage Streets in Ware, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, described as follows:

BEGINNING at the Northeast corner of land now or formerly of John W. Lambert, same being the Southeast corner of the tract herein conveyed and on the Westerly line of said Church Street;

Thence Northerly along the Westerly line of said Church Street, one hundred ten and one-half (110 and 50/100) feet to the corner of Church and Cottage Streets;

Thence Westerly along the Southerly line of said Cottage Street about one hundred fifty-two (152) feet to a stone bound at the corner of land now or formerly of John F. Robinson and Jane M. Utley;

Thence Southerly on a line of land now or formerly of said Robinson to a stone bound at the corner of land now or formerly of said Robinson and Utley and to land now or formerly of said Lambert;

Thence Easterly about one hundred fifty-two (152) feet to the place of BEGINNING.

For current title see deed recorded herewith.

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 January 15, 2020 and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 13519, Page 178.

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.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, 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 in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762

Attorney for PennyMac Loan Services, LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701
04/09, 04/16, 04/23/2026

ADVERTISEMENT TO BID
MGL c.30 §39M Over \$50K
The **WARREN HOUSING AUTHORITY**, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Parking and Driveway Reconstruction at State Aided Development: Winthrop Terrace (667-1) in Warren, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by **GCG ASSOCIATES, INC.**

The Project consists of but not limited to: Reclamation of Roadway and Parking Areas, paving, expansion of parking areas, new granite curb, remove and reset granite curb, cape cod berm, line striping, dumpster pads, removal and disposal of trees.

The work is estimated to cost **\$265,000.00.**

All bidding Requests for Information (RFIs) shall be submitted online by 05/01/2026 at 2:00PM EDT for general bids.

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.30§39M and to minimum wage

rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §26 to 27H inclusive.

THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. All Bids shall be submitted online at biddocs.com and received no later than the date and time specified.

General Bids will be received until **08 May 2026 at 11:00AM EDT** and publicly opened online, forthwith.

General bids and sub-bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (including all alternates) and made payable to the **WARREN HOUSING AUTHORITY**. Note: A bid deposit is not required for Projects advertised under \$50,000. Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for review at biddocs.com (may be viewed and downloaded electronically at no cost).

The Contractor and all subcontractors (collectively referred to as "the Contractor") agree to

strive to achieve minority and women workforce participation. The Workforce Participation benchmark is set at **6.9% for women and 15.3% for minorities**. The Workforce benchmark percentages are a statutory requirement under MGL c. 149 § 44A(2)(G).

PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT: None

The hard copy Contract Documents may be seen at:
Nashoba Blue Inc.
433 Main Street
Hudson, MA 01749
978-568-1167
04/16/2026

NOTICE

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



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public safety

Ware Police Log

During the week of April 7-14, the Ware Police Department responded to 22 miscellaneous calls, 18 administrative calls, seven traffic violations, eight emergency 911 calls, three harassments/stalks/threats, six trespasses, five thefts/larcenies, nine disturbances, one fraud, one damage/vandalism, three assist other agencies, one motor vehicle accident, one smoke investigation, one fire investigation, six animal calls and 25 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

Tuesday, April 7

1:55 a.m. Assist Other Agency, West Street, Services Rendered
2:27 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasant Street, Citation/Warning Issued
5:26 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Belchertown Road, Investigated

Wednesday, April 8

6:48 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation/Warning Issued
8:31 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Advised
8:43 a.m. Fraud/Deception, North Street, Services Rendered

1:40 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Bank Street, Investigated
2:17 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Bank Street, Services Rendered
4:30 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Otis Avenue, Could Not Locate

Thursday, April 9

2:06 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Main Street, Report Made
4:29 p.m. Theft/Larceny, West Street, Could Not Locate
4:53 p.m. Warrant Services, Otis Avenue, Arrest Made
5:40 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Palmer Road, Services Rendered
6:57 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, North Street, Investigated
7:41 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Pleasant Street, Investigated
8:51 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, West Main Street, Advised

Friday, April 10

12:14 a.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Belchertown Road, Assist Given
10:03 a.m. Warrant Service, West Street, Arrest Made
12:34 p.m. Abandoned

911 Call, Cummings Street, Investigated

12:45 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Palmer Road, Could Not Locate

1:52 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Could Not Locate

3:07 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, West Street, Services Rendered

6:29 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Otis Avenue, Assist Given

9:56 p.m. Damage/Vandalism, West Street, Assist Given

Saturday, April 11

9:37 a.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, West Street, Advised

10:31 a.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Cottage Street, Advised

10:35 a.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Park Street, Protective Custody

2:41 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, West Main Street, Investigated

3 p.m. DUI/Impaired, Church Street, Could Not Locate

4:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Investigated

6:13 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, North Street, Services Rendered

Sunday, April 12

12:08 a.m. Assist Other Agency, North Street, Services Rendered

2:01 a.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, Palmer Road, Services Rendered

10:20 a.m. Smoke Investigation, West Street, Investigated

10:30 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Could Not Locate

3:11 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Fisherick Road, Advised

4:25 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Services Rendered

6:52 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Aspen Street, Could Not Locate

7:03 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, West Main Street, Arrest Made

7:41 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Pulaski Street, Could Not Locate

8:13 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, West Main Street, Advised

8:26 p.m. Fire Investigation, Wrin Street, Advised

Monday, April 13

2:01 a.m. Suspicious/

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.

Wanted, West Street, Investigated

9:27 a.m. Assault, West Street, Services Rendered

9:30 a.m. Theft/Larceny, North Street, Services Rendered

11:25 a.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Church Street, Could Not Locate

12:01 p.m. Damage/Vandalism, West Street, Services Rendered

9:55 p.m. Theft/Larceny, North Street, Services Rendered

Tuesday, April 14

3:05 a.m. Suspicious/Wanted, West Street, Services Rendered

4:19 a.m. Traffic Violation/Hazard, Cherry Street, Investigated

8:43 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Main Street, Services Rendered

1:20 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Investigated

Warren Police Log

During the week of March 22-28, the Warren Police Department responded to 149 building/property checks, 21 community policings, nine emergency 911 calls, one fraud/forgery, one assist other agency, three ice/water rescues, one larceny/theft, one trespasser/prowler, one motor vehicle accident, one animal call and 18 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Sunday, March 22

1:46 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Spring Street, Transported to Hospital

12:52 p.m. Water/Ice Rescue, Main Street, Rescued

12:54 p.m. Water/Ice Rescue, Bridge Street, Rescued

5:06 p.m. Welfare Check, Washington Street, Report Filed

9:59 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned, Southbridge Street, Officer Spoke to Party

Monday, March 23

6:39 a.m. Falls, Old Douglas Road, Mutual Aid Transport

8:29 a.m. Suspicious Person, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party

9:19 a.m. Motor Vehicle

Stop, Comins Pond Road, Written Warning

11:06 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned, Keys Road, Officer Spoke to Party

11:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint

7:07 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Main Street, Report Filed

Tuesday, March 24

12:37 a.m. Abdominal/Back Pain, Burbank Avenue, Transported to Hospital

9:10 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Vehicle Towed

12:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Bemis Road, Criminal Complaint

1:23 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Cutler Road, Report Filed

3:19 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Main Street, Report Filed

6:43 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Main Street, Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, March 25

2:16 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Crescent Street, Report Filed

9 a.m. Water/Ice Rescue, Main Street, Removed from Scene

Thursday, March 26

11:45 a.m. Welfare

Check, Independence Lane, Investigated

9:24 p.m. Breathing Difficulty, Yankee Drummer Drive, Transported to Hospital

Friday, March 27

7:23 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Criminal Complaint

5:23 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Main Street, Report Filed

Saturday, March 28

5:55 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Quaboag Street, Transported to Hospital

7:18 a.m. Trespasser or Prowler, Crescent Street, Officer Spoke to Party

9:08 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

10:15 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

3:50 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Brimfield Road, Call Transferred

5:34 p.m. Suspicious Person, Main Street, Report Filed

7:08 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Chapel Street, Transported to Hospital

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of April 6-13, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 65 building/property checks, 26 directed/area patrols, 16 radar assignments, one traffic control, 10 emergency 911 calls, eight citizen assists, two assist other agencies, three complaints, one safety hazard, two brush fires, one investigation, one larceny/theft, one vandalism, one scam, two animal calls and 16 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, April 6

10:27 a.m. Medical Emergency, Upper Church Street, Transported to Hospital

3 p.m. Scam, Fleming Road, Officer Handled

3:21 p.m. Assist Citizen, Petersham Road, Officer Handled

3:46 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Off Ruggles Street, Transported to Hospital

4:45 p.m. Investigation, Main Street, Spoken To

7:10 p.m. Medical Alarm, Hardwick Pond Road, Transported to Hospital

7:41 p.m. Assist Citizen, Telephone, Negative Contact

Tuesday, April 7

8:54 a.m. 911 Lockout, Bridge Street, No Action Required

10:58 a.m. Larceny/Theft/Shoplifting, Barre Road, Report Taken

11:01 a.m. Assist Citizen, Greenwich Road, Services Rendered

11:12 a.m. 911 Neighbor Dispute, Off Ruggles Street, Peace Restored

5:47 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Officer Handled

11:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Wednesday, April 8

1:59 a.m. Safety Hazard, Upper Church Street, No Action Required

12:35 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Greenwich Road, Officer Handled

5:08 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Dispatch Handled

Thursday, April 9

10:32 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Services Rendered

11:45 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled

2:16 p.m. Fire/Brush, North Road, Extinguished

2:53 p.m. Assist Citizen, Church Lane, Officer Handled

3:12 p.m. Assist Citizen, Brook Road, Services

Rendered

8:44 p.m. Complaint, Lower Road, Officer Handled

10:29 p.m. Complaint, Lower Road, Services Rendered

Friday, April 10

8:19 a.m. Fire/Brush, North Road, Extinguished

5:40 p.m. 911 Assist Citizen, Brook Road, Officer Handled

Saturday, April 11

6:58 a.m. 911 Misdial, Joslyn Road, Patient Refusal

9:22 a.m. Vandalism, Maple Street, Investigated

9:32 a.m. Medical Alarm, Church Lane, Services Rendered

Sunday, April 12

4:16 p.m. 911 Complaint, Broad Street, Officer Handled

JOSEPH WARREN

from page 1

There was more to Warren than just being the man who gave the town its name back in 1834 – 59 years after his death in 1775.

The town had a unique journey throughout history. The area was a part of the Quaboag Plantation back in the 1660s, followed by being a part of Brookfield in 1673.

In 1741, the town was incorporated as Western, but for years there was a lot of confusion with the town of Weston.

In January 1834, a town meeting was held to appoint a committee to come up with a new name for the town. Within a few months, the town was renamed as Warren in the spring of 1834 and was named after Warren who was still well known even though he died nearly six decades prior.

During Warren's lifetime (1741-1775), there was a lot of activity happening in the British occupied American Colonies. The French and Indian War (1754-1763) was happening in North America and was between Great Britain and France, along with their Indigenous allies.

This war was financially costly for Great Britain, and the colonies went through some terrible times.

During this period, Warren was well educated and attended Harvard at the age of 14. He graduated in 1759 at the age of 18 and would receive a master's in medicine.

Warren had lost his father in 1757, but in his presentation, Londergan shared a quote Warren's father once said. "I would rather have a son dead than a coward." A saying that stuck for the remainder of Warren's life.

Warren became a medical apprentice to Dr. James Lloyd, considered to be one of the best physicians in the Colonies. Londergan described Warren as being an individual who was around the right people at the right time.

During his career as a physician Warren was well connected with fraternal organizations and members of high society. He took a lot of house calls as a physician with clients being members of the highest levels of Boston society.

Warren married Elizabeth Hooten in 1764, who came from a wealthy family. His medical practice was successful, which included a practice in dentistry and even helped during the smallpox epidemic in 1764.

Warren was also well connected with many notables including John Adams, Sam Adams and Paul Revere.

Londergan described Warren as a respected and well-liked man.

During Warren's lifetime there were various British Acts against the Colonies. There was the Writs of Assistance (1761), the Sugar Act (1764), the Currency Act (1764), the Stamp Act (1765), the Quartering Act (1765), the Declaratory Act (1766), the Townshend Acts (1767), the Tea Act (1773), and the Coercive (Intolerable) Acts of 1774. These would soon lead to Colonists questioning the British government as they continued to push taxation without representation.

Warren began to show sympathies for the Colonists. By 1767, when Warren was 26 years old, he was pretty much in the middle of everything and was considered a leader as many people knew him and respected him.

At 28, Warren was named the Grand Master of Masons in Boston. Soon he was not just known as Dr. Warren, but also a Patriot as he continued to support and promote the Patriot movement and continued to write incendiary articles.

1770 was the year of the Boston Massacre. Warren treated the wounded and autopsied the dead. In 1772, Warren started committees of correspondence and safety. He became chairman of

the Committee of Safety. The news of these groups would spread to all the Colonies as Warren continued to promote the possibility of liberty for the Colonies.

Warren was elected President of the Provincial Congress. Londergan shared Warren's speech dated Aug. 24, 1774.

As part of the speech, Warren said "When liberty is the prize, who would shun the warfare? Who would stoop to waste a coward thought on life? We esteem no sacrifice too great, no conflict too severe, to redeem our inestimable rights and privileges."

Londergan also discussed the Suffolk Resolves, which was drafted by Warren. These were a set of resolutions declaring the rejection of British authority, which included rejection of acts, economic resistance and military preparation for armed resistance against the British.

The Suffolk Resolves were adopted by delegates of Suffolk County, Massachusetts, including Boston, and soon was unanimously adopted by the First Continental Congress in September 1774.

Londergan also shared the story of one of Warren's most memorable public speeches. In one speech, he arrived dressed in a Roman toga to symbolize the rising of dem-

ocratic ideals in the Colonies. This symbol of the toga was a message Warren was sending to the British.

According to Londergan, the Roman toga was Warren's way of saying, "this is what an empire looks like."

This speech was given weeks before the events of Lexington and Concord. In this speech, Londergan shared the excerpt, "Our liberty must be preserved; it is dearer than life."

On June 17, 1775, the Battle of Bunker Hill or Breed's Hill took place. Though Warren was appointed to the rank of Major General, he declined to take charge of the Colonial forces and joined the privates in the trenches.

During the battle, the British had two unsuccessful assaults, resulting in many casualties. The third assault was successful, and the militia retreated. Warren is believed to be the last man to leave the field.

Unfortunately, he was shot and killed and was buried in a mass grave on Breed's Hill. Months after the battle, the mass grave was found, and Paul Revere was able to identify Warren's body.

The story of Warren will always leave an incredible mark in U.S. history. An amazing historical figure that makes people question

what other historical impacts Warren could've made if he had lived after the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Londergan believes he could've been a potential president of the nation around the time of Washington, Adams and Jefferson.

Warren is considered as one of first martyrs of the American Revolution and without his leadership, things would be different. Warren was a man who motivated people and got involved in various causes that paved the way to the American Revolution.

"We're named after a hero," Londergan said.

At the end of the presentation Londergan shared that there should be a statue of Warren somewhere in the town that is named after him. Though there is a bust of him inside the Warren Public Library, a bigger memorial should be placed to highlight his actions.

Londergan has contacted several State Legislators, the Town Administrator, and the Board of Selectmen about the idea to get a statue of Warren placed somewhere in town. The guests loved the presentation as it highlighted a man who not only inspired the name of the town, but also made a historic impact leading up to the birth of the United States.

Earth Day community cleanup to be held April 25

WARREN – The annual Warren-West Warren Earth Day Community Cleanup will be held on Saturday, April 25 from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., with a rain date of April 26.



Volunteers are needed, from adults to teens and supervised children. Help to keep your town clean and beautiful.

Pick up your bags and street assignment at Warren

Community Elementary School's circle parking lot the day of the event at 8:45 a.m. Volunteers can register at <https://forms.office.com/r/puDfQSQ0mf> or by scanning the QR code. Registration is also available at warren-ma.gov under "Parks & Recreation Commission."

This cleanup is sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

LION KING from page 7

made between these theater students and their teachers. Nash shared that Taylor is "the mom of theater" and works hard for all students. These aspiring directors appreciate the leadership of Joinville and Taylor who entrusted them to take on these directing rolls.

Playing the role of Scar in "The Lion King Jr." is eighth grader, Kai Menard. The audition process consisted of readings, segments of songs, including the familiar Lion King song "Can You Feel the Love Tonight". Menard said everyone was singing that song during the auditions.

There was also a dancing segment during auditions, including a segment from "I Just Can't Wait to Be King". Menard got to read lines for Scar, a role she was interested in getting.

When Menard heard the news that she got to be Scar, she said "I thought I was going to fall out of my chair at lunch."

Hearing this news made Menard feel extremely proud.

To prepare, Menard focused on understanding the backstory of Scar and what leads to him being evil. Menard wanted to try and embody the character as Scar is described as an entirely "different side of mean."

Menard plans to "be prepared" as Scar in "The Lion King Jr."

Natalia Veliz-Baldizon is a sophomore at the high school and will be playing Rafiki in "The Lion King Jr." Veliz-Baldizon describes Rafiki as a mature role in the story, with various entrances and exits.

There are also two songs that come with the role, but Natalia feels ready to take on this mature character. She also auditioned for the role of Scar.

While practicing, Veliz-Baldizon was trying to get into what her character is doing in the story. Rafiki appears as the storyteller or "watcher" of the story. As she puts it, "acting without really saying anything."

Watching the movie "The Lion King" (1994) helped Veliz-Baldizon better understand the role of Rafiki, who also carries a stick throughout the play. When asked about working in a show with student directors, Veliz-Baldizon says they get along great with the cast and teach the students to importance of having fun and enjoy the experience.

Performances of the "The Lion King Jr." will be on Friday, April 17 at 7 p.m., Saturday, April 18 at 7 p.m., and Sunday, April 19 at 2 p.m. For tickets and information, visit <https://quaboagperformingarts.ludus.com/200521144>.

Annabelle Mary (Hunt) Turley

1941 – 2026

PALMER – Annabelle Mary (Hunt) Turley, of Palmer, Massachusetts, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, on April 3, 2026.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, on May 20, 1941, and raised in Rhode Island, she was the only child of the late Horace and Mary Hunt.

Annabelle was the beloved wife of Patrick Turley for nearly 64 years. She was also the loving mother of Keith Turley (Holly), Doug Turley (Jeanne), and Beth Turley Ellis (Cory), and a proud grandmother to seven: Robert Turley (Bethany), David Turley, Andrew Turley, Gordon Turley, Connor Turley, Carter Ellis, and Althea Ellis.

A gifted artist, Annabelle expressed her creativity through watercolor painting and the pieces she created as a member of a national tile painting guild. She was also an avid gardener who filled her yard with vibrant, carefully tended flower and herb gardens, and she delighted in preparing delicious meals for family and friends. Her passion for history and lifelong learning shaped her work in museum education at Old Sturbridge Village, her famous "10-cent tours" of King Brook Farm, and the papers she presented as a member of Tuesday Club.

Annabelle was deeply committed to her community where she served on the Board

of Directors of the Palmer Public Library and helped found the Library Loft, a used bookstore whose proceeds support library programs. She also touched the lives of many through her dedicated service at Trinity Episcopal Church.

Her inclusive nature made her home a gathering place full of warmth, love, and laughter, and her generous spirit ensured that everyone felt welcomed and valued.

Whether playing tennis at the Farm, stepping in as goaltender during pond hockey games when her children were young, or searching the woods for the perfect Christmas tree, Annabelle was game for anything. A good sport in every setting, she valued the company of others over competition itself.

She cherished time sailing in Maine and visiting Grand Cayman Island with friends and family, but her greatest joys were often the simplest moments: sharing good food, laughter, and the beauty of nature with loved ones.

Calling hours will be held on Thursday, April 23, 2026, from 4-7 p.m. at Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home, 1475 North Main St., Palmer, MA 01069. Her funeral will follow on Friday, April 24, 2026, at 11 a.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church, 20 Park St., Ware, Massachusetts, 01082. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Palmer Public Library or Trinity Episcopal Church in her memory.

Annabelle will be deeply missed and remembered for the love, warmth, and joy she brought into all of the lives she touched.



Richard G. O'Brien, 76



WARE – Richard G. O'Brien, 76, of Ware died on Friday, Feb. 6, 2026, at Baystate Medical Center in Palmer.

He leaves his beloved wife of 54 years, Karen (Reynolds) O'Brien, of Ware. He also leaves his three children; Cynthia Riggie of Ware, Richard O'Brien and wife Melissa of Hardwick, and Robert O'Brien of Ware. He leaves his two brothers; Gary O'Brien of Hardwick, and Ronnie O'Brien of Ware; and five beloved grandchildren, Joey, Dustin, Kylie, Courtney and Eithen.

Richard was born in Ware, to the late Richard and Florence (Johnson) O'Brien. Richard served in the U.S. Navy for four years, stationed on the John F. Kennedy aircraft carrier in the Mediterranean.

Upon his return home he started his 45-year career working as a machine operator

at Kanzaki Paper, formerly known as Ludlow Papers.

Richard spent many years enjoying camping up at Bald Mountain in Vermont, making many memories with his family. He was also an avid golfer, competing in the Calcutta tournament, and spending much of his time at Dunroamin Country club in Hardwick.

A calling hour for Richard will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2026, from 10-11 a.m. in the Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St., Ware. Burial with military honors will follow at Hardwick Cemetery, Petersham Road (Route 32A), Hardwick, at 11:30 a.m.

Charbonneau Funeral Home is honored to serve the O'Brien family. An online tribute page is available at charbonneaufuneralhome.com.

Death notices

Lamb, Marilyn Louise
Died April 10, 2026
Services April 24, 2026
at 10 a.m., St. Stanislaus Parish,
West Warren

O'Brien, Richard G.
Died Feb. 6, 2026
Services April 18, 2026

Turley, Annabelle Mary (Hunt)
Died April 3, 2026
Services April 24, 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.

BIRDING from page 5

building, crafts, and lawn games.

At Mandell Hill there will be bird watching taking place and an educational hike. Meeting place will be at the Mandell Hill kiosk at 1 p.m.

The East Quabbin Land Trust will also be hosting a Geocache Outdoor Scavenger Hunt. Between April 18 and May 3, participants search for five geocaches (boxes) on EQLT properties using GPS coordinates on their phones.

Players collect one item from each geocache (one item per registration).

On Sunday, May 3, players bring their items to the reveal party and play a game with other scavenger hunt participants. Registration is required for this scavenger hunt and is \$20 per registration, children under 14 are free.

For more information and to register, visit <https://eqlt.org/geocache-scavenger-hunt/>. For more about the East Quabbin Land Trust, visit www.eqlt.org.

At the Gilbertville Public Library, 259 Main St., Gilbertville, there will be "Self-Publishing without Tears" on Saturday, April 18 at 2 p.m. At the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, kids grade five and up will learn to make their own accordion-style notebook on Wednesday, April 22 at 1 p.m. A small business owner workshop will be held at the Gilbertville Public Library on Tuesday, April 21 at 6 p.m.

Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15						16		
17				18						19		
20				21	22			23				
			24	25				26				
27	28	29		30			31			32	33	34
35			36			37			38			
39					40				41			
42				43				44				
45				46				47			48	
			49				50			51		
52	53	54			55			56		57	58	59
60					61			62		63		
64					65					66		
67					68					69		

CLUES ACROSS

- Greek goddess of marriage
- Tropical American blue jay-like bird
- Abba __, Israeli politician
- Dark olive black
- Light, crinkled fabric
- Notre Dame has a golden one
- Leaked blood
- Confronted
- Negligible amount
- Facilitated
- Hill or rocky peak
- Minneapolis suburb
- Songs to one's beloved
- Brake horsepower
- Angry
- Children's game
- Spelling is a type of one
- Obtained in return for labor
- Indicates center
- Chinese dynasty
- Old World buffaloes
- Slang for time off

CLUES DOWN

- Greek cupbearer of the Gods
- Ancient Syrian city
- Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
- Range of mountains
- One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
- Spoke
- City in Georgia
- Theatrical
- CNN's founder
- Icelandic poems
- Bjorn __, tennis player
- Bowfin genus
- One point north of northeast
- Political divisions in ancient Greece
- Electroencephalograph
- Cool!
- Male parent
- Where some gymnasts work
- Dish of Vietnam
- Sailboats
- Shelter (Scottish)
- Completed

CLUES DOWN

- Discharge
- Arrest
- Partner to cheese
- Coffee receptacle
- Stagnate
- Satisfies
- Snake-like fish
- Consume food
- Type of school
- Erase
- Inform
- Girl's given name
- Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- Every one of two or more things
- Northern India city
- Seventeenth stars in a constellation
- Weapon
- Amounts of time
- Isodor __, American Nobel physicist
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Witness

IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory of

Michael J. Swistak

16th Anniversary

November 19, 1961 - April 17, 2010

Theresa S. Zaganiacz

8th Anniversary

July 1, 1930 - April 29, 2018

They were our strength, our guiding light,
Standing beside us through every fight.

With hearts so full of endless love,

They lift us still from up above.

They taught us courage, showed us grace,
Left warmth no time can erase.

And though they're gone, they still remain
in love, in strength, in all we gain.

We love and miss you both so very much,

MaryAnn & Mark

Blair & Andy,

Morgan, Beckett and Delaney



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MISCELLANEOUS

ST. JUDE THANK YOU FOR answering my prayers. P.F.

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OPPORTUNITY

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Holyoke Wilds, a licensed cannabis cultivation facility in Holyoke, MA, is seeking reliable individuals for general cultivation and product manufacturing positions. Duties include assisting with plant care, trimming, cleaning, product manufacturing and other general tasks within the facility.
Start Date: Within the next few weeks to months
Pay: Varies based on experience. Ranges from \$16 to \$20 per hour.
Requirements: Applicants must be 21 or older and eligible to work in the United States. Background checks are required under state cannabis regulations.
Interested candidates should email holyokewilds@gmail.com with their contact information and brief work history.

Holyoke Wilds is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, or veteran status.

HELP WANTED

SEASONAL FACILITIES CREW wanted at Norcross Wildlife Foundation. For a full job description, please visit www.norcrosswildlife.org or email info@norcrosswildlife.org

The Town of North Brookfield is looking for a **part-time Program Assistant** for the Council on Aging. Please submit a resume with a letter of interest to the **Selectmen's Office, 215 Main St., North Brookfield, MA 01535**; or by email to selectmen@northbrookfield.net.

WANT TO WORK THIS SUMMER part or full-time? Help wanted for assisting in landscape maintenance and installation projects. Liberty Orchards Landscape, 413-283-6408.

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

AGAWAM APT. FOR RENT. 2 bed, 2 bath, gas heat, private basement washer/dryer hookup, \$1600 mo. No utilities. No pets. Call 413-789-6206.

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ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

FOR RENT

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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See more PUBLIC NOTICES on Page 11

public notices

**Ware Zoning Board of Appeals
Notice of Public Hearing**
A-2026-01

NOTICE is hereby given that the Ware Zoning Board of Appeals, per the powers given under M.G.L Chapter 40A, will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, April 29th 2026 at 4:00PM** on the application of Beverly Allard, for an Administrative Appeal (A-2026-01) on the decision to deny a building permit made by the Building Commissioner & Zoning Enforcement Officer, per Section 4.8.7 of the Zoning Bylaw, and pursuant to MGL Chapter 40A. Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this hearing will be conducted in person and via remote means, in accordance with applicable law. This means that members of the Zoning Board of Appeals as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means. In person attendance will be held in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, 126 Main Street, Town Hall, Ware, MA. It is possible that any or all members of the public body may attend remotely, with in-person attendance consisting of members of the public. The meeting may be accessed remotely via zoom. Go to <https://zoom.us/join> or join by phone. Phone Number: 929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 784 604 1861; Password: 01082.

SITE LOCATION: 267 Osborne Rd, Ware MA. Said premises being further described in deeds recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 15488, Page 139. Property is also identified as Assessor's Parcel # 40-0-14. Zoned: Rural Residential (RR).

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

time and place designated.
WARE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
04/09, 04/16/2026

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Sarah L. Bouthellier to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mortgage Network, Inc., its successors and assigns, dated April 30, 2013 and recorded with the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds at Book 11299, Page 184, subsequently assigned to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc., as Mortgagee, as Nominee for Mortgage Network, Incorporated, its successors and assigns by assignment recorded in said Hampshire County Registry of Deeds at Book 14142, Page 183 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at **2:00 PM on May 7, 2026** at 126 Eagle Street, Ware, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit: A certain lot of land, with all the improvements thereon, laid out and designated as Lot number twenty-two (22) on a plat of land entitled, "Mountain View Plat," Ware, Mass., owned by Eagle Realty Company, Central Falls, Rhode Island, April, 1925, W.H. and H. W. Brainard, Engineers, Palmer, Mass., which said plat is duly recorded in the records of land evidence in Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, said lot being bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING on the North by Chester Avenue, one hundred (100) feet;

THENCE on the East by Eagle Street, fifty (50) feet;

THENCE on the South by Lot No. 23 as shown on said plat, one hundred (100) feet;

THENCE on the West by Lot No. 44 as shown on said plat, fifty (50) feet.

BEING the same premises conveyed to the Mortgagor by deed recorded immediately prior hereto.

BEING known as tax parcel ID number 62-84.

The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney's fees and costs.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$5,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE. FinCEN reporting will be required of all successful purchasers, absent a lawful exemption.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Present Holder of said Mortgage,
By Its Attorneys,
ORLANS LAW GROUP PLLC
PO Box 540540
Waltham, MA 02454
Phone: (781) 790-7800
22-007927
04/16, 04/23, 04/30/2026

Town of Warren Board of Selectmen Liquor License

Notice of Public Hearing

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 138, the Warren Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing for a new on premises all alcoholic beverages restaurant liquor license for Sizedog Enterprises, LLC DBA Countryside Tavern, petitioner Brian K. Sizer, located at 83 Mechanic Street, Warren, MA 01083. An in person hearing on the above application will be held at the Warren Senior Center located at 2252 Main Street, West Warren, MA on **Thursday, April 23, 2026, at 6:00pm.** Written comments can be sent to the Board of Selectmen at 48 High Street, P.O. Box 609, Warren, MA 01083 or via email to selectmen@warren-ma.gov.

Per Order of the Board of Selectmen Licensing Authority
Chair, Richard J. Eichacker
04/09, 04/16/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The Trial Court Probate and Family Court

Hampshire Probate and Family Court

15 Atwood Drive Northampton, MA 01060

(413)586-8500

Docket No. HS26P0192EA

Estate of: Jorge Gil Fernandes

Also known as: Jorge G. Fernandes

Date of Death: 11/19/2025

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Allison Hunter of Ware, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Allison Hunter of Ware, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/28/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A **Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.**

WITNESS, Hon. **Diana S. Velez Harris**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 31, 2026

Mark S Ames,
Register of Probate

04/16/2026

WARREN PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT

Pursuant to MGL, Chapter 40A, §5, notice is hereby given that the Warren Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, April 27, 2026 at 7:00 PM** to consider a proposed Zoning Bylaw Amendment. The Hearing will be held at the Warren Senior Center located at 2252 Main Street in West Warren.

The Board is proposing to see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaws by amending Section 10 – Flood Plain District.

The proposed Zoning Bylaw amendments are available for review at the Office of the Planning Board or the Town Clerk during normal business hours. Anyone interested or wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.
04/09, 04/16/2026

TOWN OF HARDWICK BOARD OF HEALTH PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Hardwick Board of Health will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, April 22, 2026 at 7:00 PM at the Hardwick Elementary School Cafeteria, 76 School House Dr., Gilbertville, MA 01031.**

The purpose of this hearing is to receive public comment on the proposed Groundwater Protection Regulation for the Muddy Brook Valley Aquifer and Well-head Protection Areas. A copy of the draft regulation is available at the Board of Health office during regular business hours and on the Town's website. Written comments may be submitted to boh@hardwick-ma.gov
04/09, 04/16/2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Lily M. Lunani to Bank of America, N.A., dated January 4, 2008 and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 9363, Page 285 in the original principal amount of \$110,400.00. For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 9363, Page 302, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Bank of America, N.A. to ABS Loan Trust V, recorded on December 24, 2018, in Book No. 13166, at Page 244 ABS Loan Trust V to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee of CSMC 2021-JR2 Trust, recorded on March 21, 2024, in Book No. 15093, at Page 133 Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee of CSMC 2021-JR2 Trust to U.S. Bank Trust National Association as trustee for BP-JR2 Loan Trust, recorded on June 12, 2025, in Book No. 15444, at Page 342 Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee of CSMC 2021-JR2 Trust to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as trustee on behalf of and for the benefit of BP-JR 2 Loan Trust, recorded on June 24, 2025, in Book No. 15456, at Page 90 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at **3:00 PM on May 14, 2026**, on the mortgaged premises located at 76 Aspen Street, Ware, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, TO WIT:

Parcel 1
A certain parcel of land situated on the Westerly side of Aspen Street in said Ware and bounded as follows:

Beginning at an iron pin driven in the ground at the northeast corner of lot conveyed on West line of street;

Thence Southerly on said street seventy-five (75) feet to an iron pin;

Thence Westerly on land formerly of Samuel H. Giguere ninety-five (95) feet to an iron pin;

Thence Northerly seventy-five (75) feet to land formerly of J.H. Storrs, at an iron pin; and,

Thence Easterly ninety-five and one half (95-1/2) feet to place of beginning, containing more or less.

Parcel 2
The land in said Ware off the Westerly side of Aspen Street, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at an iron pin at the Northwesterly corner of other land now or formerly of Wdowiak, said iron pin being set North 66° 16' 52" West ninety-six and 04/100 (96.04) feet from the iron pin in the Westerly line of Aspen Street marking the Northeast corner of said other land;

THENCE North 66° 16' 52" West along remaining land now or formerly of Laurette C. Smith one hundred sixteen and 87/100 (116.87) feet to an iron pin at Aspen Grove Cemetery;

THENCE South 19° 11' 20" West fourteen and 34/100 (14.34) feet to a stone bound;

THENCE South 18° 47' 29" West fifty-five and 96/100 (55.96) feet to an iron pin at the Northwesterly corner of land to be conveyed by Laurette C. Smith to Laura Demers; the last two (2) courses being along land of Aspen Grove Cemetery;

THENCE South 63° 46' 18" East along said land now or formerly of Laura Demers one hundred twelve and 72/100 (112.72) feet to an iron pin at the Southwesterly corner of other land of Wdowiak;

THENCE North 22° 25' 55" East along said land of Wdowiak seventy-five (75) feet to the point of beginning. Containing 8,314 square feet and being Parcel "B" on a Plan of Land in Ware, Mass., surveyed for Lauretta C. Smith by Robert H. LeMaitre dated September 15, 1979 and recorded in Hampshire County Deeds, Plan Book 112, Page 74. SUBJECT TO rights reserved by Laurette C. Smith a/k/a Lauretta C. Smith in a deed given by her to Louis G. and Marguerite Wdowiak recorded at Hampshire County Deeds, Book 2128 Page 107, if still in force and effect.

BOTH PARCELS are the same as were conveyed to us by deed of Louis C. and Marguerite Wdowiak dated Sept. 23, 2004 and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds at Book 7997 Page 307. Subject to a first mortgage dated January 4, 2008 and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds at Book 9363, Page 285 in the original principal amount of \$110,400.00. For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 9363, Page 302, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Bank of America, N.A. to ABS Loan Trust V, recorded on December 24, 2018, in Book No. 13166, at Page 244 ABS Loan Trust V to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee of CSMC 2021-JR2 Trust, recorded on March 21, 2024, in Book No. 15093, at Page 133 Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee of CSMC 2021-JR2 Trust to U.S. Bank Trust National Association as trustee for BP-JR2 Loan Trust, recorded on June 12, 2025, in Book No. 15444, at Page 342 Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee of CSMC 2021-JR2 Trust to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as trustee on behalf of and for the benefit of BP-JR 2 Loan Trust, recorded on June 24, 2025, in Book No. 15456, at Page 90 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at **3:00 PM on May 14, 2026**, on the mortgaged premises located at 76 Aspen Street, Ware, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, TO WIT:

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of **Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars** by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF AND FOR THE BENEFIT OF BP-JR 2 LOAN TRUST Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES,
P.C. 150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
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04/16, 04/23, 04/30/2026



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Highway Dept. Skilled Laborer / Truck Driver

The Town of New Braintree Highway Dept. is seeking qualified applicants for the immediate full-time position of Skilled Laborer / Truck Driver. Applicants must have a valid Massachusetts Driver's License, Class B (CDL) with DOT Medical Examination Certification and a Hoisting Engineer License Class 2B with DOT Medical Examination Certification. Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and an employment application to: Highway Department, 110 West Brookfield Road, New Braintree MA 01531.

Highway Dept. Seasonal Laborer

The Town of New Braintree is seeking a qualified candidate to perform seasonal work in the maintenance of town commons, roadways, grounds and cemeteries. Applicants must have a valid Massachusetts Driver's License (Class D). This is a seasonal position for 20 hours per week with a flexible schedule, May through October. Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and employment application to: Highway Department, 110 West Brookfield Road, New Braintree MA 01531.

For further information, please contact Richard Ayer, Highway Superintendent, at 508-867-2451, or via email at Highway@newbraintree.gov.

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