

WARE RIVER NEWS

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Winslow, Whitham elected to School Committee

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – According to unofficial results from the annual town election, a total of 763 votes were cast this past Monday.

Four candidates ran for two seats on the School Committee, with incumbent Brian Winslow securing his seat with 478 votes and newcomer Melissa Whitham getting 578 to replace outgoing School Committee member Christopher Desjardins, who opted not to seek reelection this term.

Candidates Kevin Slattery and Diane Reopell received 170 and 160 votes, respectively.

Selectboard Vice-Chair Josh Kusnierz ran unopposed and also retained his seat, securing 578 votes.

Kenneth Higney received 204 votes as a write-in candidate for a three-year term as a Parks Commissioner and Paul Harper received 17 votes as a write-in candidate for the three-year Cemetery Commissioner position.

Nancy Brown won a five-year seat on the Housing

Please see **ELECT**, page 3



Dave Nicoson and Richie Rucki accepted donations during AMVETS Post 2577's annual White Clover fundraiser outside of Walmart this past weekend.

AMVETS hold annual 'White Clover' fundraiser to help veterans

Staff Report

WARE – Ware AMVETS Post 2577 held its annual "White Clover" fundraising drive this past weekend, outside of the local Walmart.

The White Clover, meaning, "remember me" is the official flower of AMVETS,

it symbolizes the states from which the U.S. Armed Forces were drawn and the worldwide battlefields on which they fought. It is a four-leaf clover.

Since 1946, AMVETS throughout America have brought the White Clover into their communities to

benefit and assist the needy – both veterans and the general public. The White Clover program is an excellent project to raise funds that will benefit veteran's service activities.

Please see **FUNDRAISER**, page 2

Campground discussed at public hearing

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Planning Board met on April 8 for a public hearing on a potential campground being proposed in town.

The meeting was held at the Hardwick Town House and many residents attended the public hearing to hear the special permit proposal and address any questions, comments and concerns. The applicant seeking a special permit is Quabbin Glamping and Camping, LLC at 3305 Greenwich Road on 80 acres of land.

Presenting the project was John Samek, the proprietor of Hardwick Vineyard & Winery at 3305 Greenwich Road. Joining Samek during the presentation was Libby Talbot, who is a partner in the project.

The applicants are proposing a campground on two parcels of land in West Hardwick and have narrowed down to having possibly 50 campsites on location. These campsites will feature cabins, treehouses, tents, parking, and sites for RVs and campers.

Samek said he is aware of the neighbors of the site and has kept them informed

on his proposed project for a campsite on his land.

Copies of the plan were provided for the Planning Board to review and Samek also provided copies for the public to review and a map of the site as well.

"We understand this is a big deal," Samek said.

The applicants said they are confident that a campsite will help promote tourism and support local businesses in Hardwick.

Some neighbors are visible to the site according to Samek. When asked how many cabins will be on site as part of the campground, Samek said he's looking to have a total of 10 cabins.

After Samek's presentation, the Planning Board began with their own questions. Members asked about the lighting situation of the campsite.

With the site being off grid, Samek is looking for exterior lighting and will have solar lighting in place that is compliant with the local bylaws.

The board asked if Samek intends to have events at the campground and believes events are

Please see **HEARING**, page 5

Credit for Life



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

Ware High School seniors enjoyed Country Bank's Credit for Life fair on April 9. Shown from left are Shelby Hogan, Jason Mumper, Trevor Millet and Josh Dulak.

Annual fair helps students learn financial literacy

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Over 300 high school seniors attended Country Bank's Credit for Life fair at Ware High School last Wednesday morning.

Held on April 9, this event took place during both National Financial Literacy Month and National Financial Capability Month.

Students from Ware, Palmer and Belchertown high schools visited various

booths set up in the gym at the fair, which is designed to give these soon-to-be graduates a hands-on financial literacy experience and give them the tools they need to manage their personal finances.

"They are just more and more engaged," said Jodie Gerulaitis, First Vice President of Community Relations at Country Bank said of the students. "They're wanting to learn about financial education, asking great questions and absorbing all the knowledge."

Gerulaitis said Country Bank started Credit for Life over 15 years ago and the program continues to grow. Each year, multiple schools join together to give their students a chance to explore potential career choices, credit

Please see **CREDIT**, page 6

School Comm. hears results of SPED audit

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARE – Dr. Andrea Larmon of the Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative presented the findings of the special education audit that reviewed information from Ware Public Schools for the past three years.

"We were looking to see if service delivery grid services were actually being provided or not. Whether accommodations and modifications were being provided for students. Whether we had appropriate consent for evaluations for students for special education services. Whether the evaluators were using what's called evidence based assessment tools and

then we were also looking at adherence to mandated timelines," she said at the April 9 School Committee meeting.

Larmon said school districts have 45 days to complete an evaluation and there is 30 days within that the actual assessment has to be completed. She said the audit looked at whether evaluation reports were completed and submitted

and if an IEP meeting was held within that 45-day timeline.

"Once a child is found eligible for special education services, they have an annual IEP happen every year and we needed to make sure that those annual meeting dates were being met as well," Larmon said.

Please see **AUDIT**, page 11

Selectmen accept provisions for district agreement

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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WARREN – The Board of Selectmen met on April 10 to discuss the establishment of a regional 911 emergency communication district.

The town of Warren is looking to enter into a district agreement with the towns of Barre, Hubbardston, Oakham and Rutland. The Selectmen attended the regional dispatch informational meeting in Rutland and learned about how the state is ask-

Please see **WARREN**, page 5

Chamber breakfast held at Cedarbrook

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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WARE – Members of the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce met for breakfast at Cedarbrook Village at Ware this past week.

After a delicious breakfast provided by Cedarbrook Village, members of the Chamber would be a part of informative discussions covering multiple topics. The Chamber's CEO James Przypek welcomed all the members who attended and thanked Cedarbrook Village at Ware for the breakfast they provided.

The first group to speak was Ed Fisher of Fisher Tech Solutions and Patrick Hughes of Lantern Digital Marketing Agency.

Both Hughes and Fisher briefly spoke about their businesses and talked about digital marketing and technology. One of the main subjects brought up was the



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

Ware Town Manager Stuart Beckley spoke during the discussion at the Chamber Chat Breakfast held at Cedarbrook Village.

use of artificial intelligence.

According to both marketing and tech experts, there are advantages and disadvantages to using AI.

Hughes shared some input and said there is a lot of misunderstanding with AI and the biggest example of some of the negative infor-

mation from AI comes from social media.

"The country wants oversight of AI," Hughes said.

Both agree it is important for business owners, especially small businesses owners to review ideas, ask

Please see **CHAMBER**, page 7





KofC and Easter Bunny host annual egg hunt

WARE – The Ware Knights of Columbus sponsored an Easter egg hunt on April 13 behind the St. Mary’s rectory on South Street.

Over 50 children plus their parents attended. The Easter Bunny was present and there was candy and prizes for all who participated.

ABOVE: Children prepared to search for Easter eggs on the lawn of St. Mary’s rectory at the annual event hosted by the Ware Knights of Columbus this past Sunday.

RIGHT: The Easter Bunny joined the Ware Knights of Columbus at the annual Easter egg hunt.

Submitted Photos

Rally to be held outside Veterans Park this Saturday

WARE – On Saturday, April 19, the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, a rally will be held outside of Veterans Park, Main Street, from 3-5 p.m.

This rally is being facilitated by local residents and the grassroots organization Brookfields Fight Fear and is inspired by the 50501 Movement, where 50 protests will be held in 50 states on one day. These protests are against the policies and actions of the Trump Administration.

All are welcome to attend.

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www.turley.com

EQLT’s annual Geocache Scavenger Hunt kicks off

HARDWICK – The East Quabbin Land Trust’s Geocache Scavenger Hunt will begin on April 19 and run through May 4.

Appropriate for both children and adults, EQLT’s Geocache Scavenger Hunt pairs an outdoor scavenger hunt with a word game. Registration is open through May 2, and participants may register as individuals, a family or a group.

“Our annual Geocache Scavenger Hunt is a popular, family-friendly activity and a fantastic way to get outdoors to enjoy the first signs of spring at our preserves,” said Cynthia Henshaw, Executive Director of the East Quabbin Land Trust. “As a land trust, we are always encouraging people to get outside to enjoy nature, and the Geocache Scavenger Hunt is a fun way to do it.”

The Geocache Scavenger Hunt involves a

self-paced search for geocaches, or boxes, hidden at various EQLT preserves using GPS technology typically found on a smartphone. Each registrant may collect one item at each geocache.

Players then bring their items to the Reveal Party, which will be held at EQLT’s office, 120 Ridge Road, on Sunday, May 4 at 2 p.m. Scavenger Hunt participants will have the chance to meet and play a game against other participants at the Reveal Party using the items they collected during the Geocache Scavenger Hunt.

To learn more about it and to sign up, go to EQLT’s website at eqlt.org/geocache-scavenger-hunt/. Cost is \$20 per entry, with a reduced entry fee for children and youths under 15. Email Henshaw at chenshaw@eqlt.org for reduced-fee registration.

Are You Old News?



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

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



File Photo
Last week’s photo from 1989 showed the Ware High School Peer Education Group making a presentation to grade five students. Shown from left are Jen Lavallee and Stacy Sinclair.

Grange hosts first gardening workshop

WARE – Ware Grange’s first gardening workshop of the year, “Peas, Peppers, Potatoes and Pumpkins,” will be held on Monday, April 28 at 7 p.m. at the Grange Hall at 297 Belchertown Road.

The presenter will be Roberta McQuaid, author of the weekly “In the

Garden” column for Turley Publications.

It’s almost time to sow peas, and there are things you can do to prepare for the other “P” vegetables, too, from heating up your soil in anticipation of pepper planting, to green sprouting your potatoes, and starting pumpkin seed-

lings indoors to thwart bugs and get earlier yields. Learn how to store or process these vegetables so that you can save money on your grocery bill even after the gardening season has passed.

Visit Ware Grange on Facebook or at waregrange.org for more information.

FUNDRAISER

from page 1

Proceeds from this fundraiser drive go toward helping area veterans and the AMVETS members use the funds donated through these drives to support various activities at the Holyoke Soldiers Home and the Veterans Administration facility in Leeds with cookouts, pizza and bingo parties, and other outings as needed.

While food items and non-alcoholic beverages are part of the fare, all work is donated by AMVETS members. AMVETS Post2577 is also the Charter Organization for local Scouting America Troop 281 and provides oversight and financial support to the Scouts.

All funds raised from “White Clover” and other activities are retained for local use.



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette
Dan Witt and Bob Bruso took part in the annual White Clover drive hosted by AMVETS Post 2577.

Any veteran discharged in good standing, or any current service member is eligible to join AMVETS Post 2577 which meets on the third Tuesday of each month at

the American Legion Hall on Maple Street. AMVETS is a service organization dedicated to assisting Veterans and supporting the community.

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By Paula Ouimette
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"I put in a lot of time and effort, we all did," he said. "Probably the hardest thing is the comments, because you

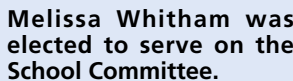
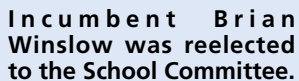
Committee members'

One comment said Lovato shows commitment to improving his leadership role

A special education teacher at Ware High School said she should have come forward sooner, but like many of the staff, she was fearful

"I speak up now, because I have nothing to lose," she said. "Ware is a wonderful

Winslow said he didn't think it would be this hard to say goodbye to Desjardins, as he presented him with a citation honoring his decades of service.



ELECT from page 1

Authority with 439 votes over write-in candidate Cynthia Allen, who secured 115 votes.

Other election results are as follows: Board of Assessors (three-year term), Gerald Fountain Jr., 572 votes; Board of

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



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Vacation plans, anyone?

Many people plan trips over April vacation! Not me, I am planning an escape to the garden.

I have been chomping at the bit to do



some gardening in spite of this crazy, post-winter weather we are having. Can you believe it snowed twice last week?

Maybe a dusting at your house, but Saturday's snowfall was a despicable four inches! At least forecasts for this upcoming week are improving, and I'm hoping that vacation week's are even better.

While it's best to wait until Memorial Day to sow bean and squash seeds, as well as transplant your tomato and pepper seedlings into the garden, there are many veggies that thrive in cooler spring temperatures. Here is a re-cap of a column from a few years back, outlining the veggie seeds that can be sown in the garden now:

Beet seeds can be planted as soon as the soil can be worked. Sow them close together and thin to three inches apart for full size beets – use the culled greens in salad. For a pretty beet try Chioggia for its alternating stripes of pink and white; pick early for best quality.

More interested in beet greens than beets themselves? Beautiful Bull's Blood grows well throughout the summer months without getting bitter.

Carrots will also grow well under cool conditions, although they may take longer to come up. Keep them moist to hasten germination. Experts recommend sowing fast-growing radish seeds to mark carrot rows as well as provide shade (and therefore moisture retention).

I've also heard of folks covering rows of carrot seeds with burlap or straw for the same reason. For the longest, straightest roots, be sure the seed bed is deep and rock-free. Thin twice, with an ultimate spacing of one inch apart.

Amazingly enough, carrots come in all shades of yellow and orange, purple and red, even white. Try Yellowstone, Atomic Red, Purple Haze and White Satin for an extremely colorful coleslaw.

Lettuce is one of the best crops to start now. In fact, it won't germinate at all when soil temperatures top 75 degrees.

Sow your seeds every couple of weeks for a continuous supply throughout the summer. Get creative with lattice or interplant with other crops to give lettuce a break from sun and heat.

When all your friends are complaining that their salads are bitter, you'll be rewarded for your efforts with sweet

greens. Look for seeds that suit your season. Consider New Red Fire or Slobolt for growing in the summer months; Tango or Lollo Rossa for fall and winter season extension.

Parsnips, like carrots, take a long time to come up and need consistent moisture in order to germinate. Try some of the tricks I mentioned above or just be diligent with the hose.

Old Sturbridge Village grows two great heirloom varieties – Hollow Crown and Student. Harvest some after a few hard frosts in the fall, but hold on harvesting the rest until early spring.

You will be in for a sweet surprise.

Peas have been a favorite plant of mine for the last several years. Sow them now and provide support for all but the dwarfest varieties. I plant them around the perimeter of my garden up against the fence, and will utilize "pea brush" for another row or two within the garden.

Be on the lookout for cut worms – in my garden they nearly always decimated my crop. If you see pea seedlings cut off at the soil line, gently cultivate around your plant and dispose of the chubby green or golden caterpillars.

Oregon Giant is a great snow pea, with flat pods perfect for stir fries. Tall Telephone (aka Alderman) is nearly six feet tall under optimal conditions, and yields upwards of 30 pounds of peas per one hundred foot row.

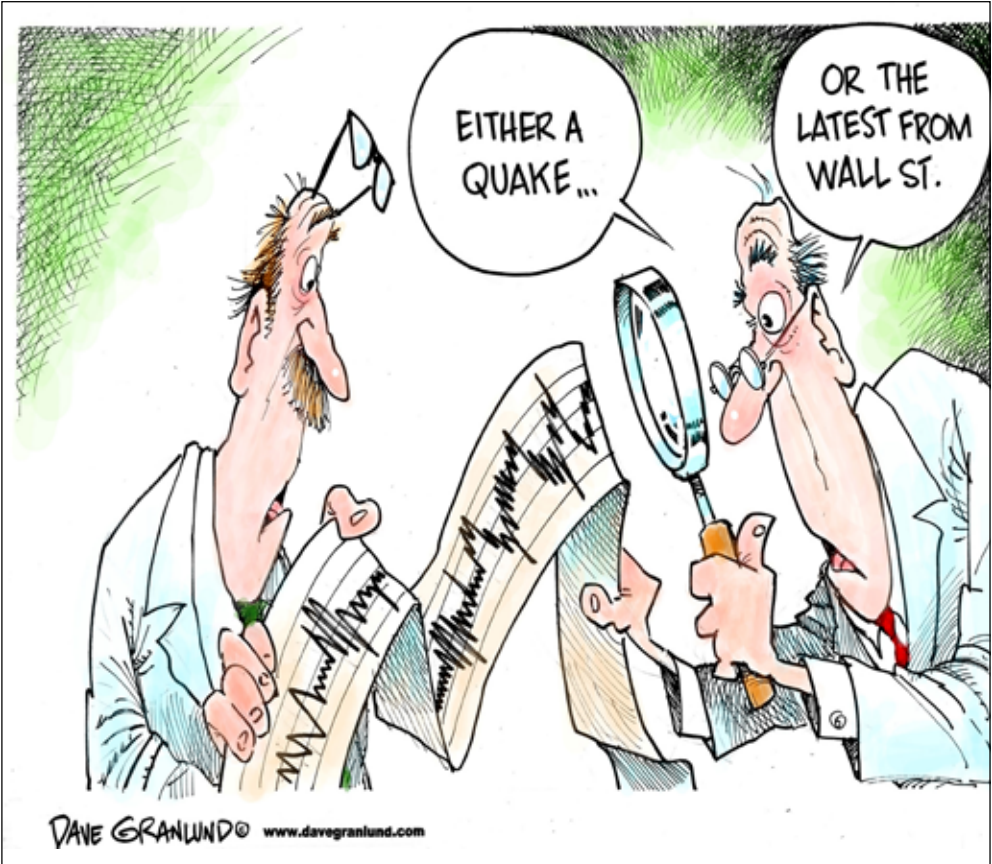
Spinach is another crop that must be started early to ensure success, and a crop I can't quite seem to master. I was never satisfied with the meal or two I ate before the plants bolted – I wanted more!

So instead of growing regular spinach, I now grow New Zealand Spinach. It isn't a true spinach, nor does it resemble one, but it can be grown throughout the summer and substituted for cooked spinach in nearly any recipe.

Soak the large seeds overnight before sowing to hasten germination. Pinch off and use the waxy leaves when they reach two or three inches long. New Zealand spinach also freezes extremely well.

Enjoy these earliest days in the garden; I know I will! The best vacation ever spent.

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



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Smith resigns from all elected boards and committees

Editor's Note: This letter was also submitted to the Town Clerk Nancy Talbot on April 10.

Today, my Massachusetts Official Voter Registration was changed by me. I am no longer a registered voter in the Town of Ware, so please be sure to remove me from the Ware Register of Voters.

Furthermore, please accept this letter as my resignation from all elected boards and appointed committees on behalf of the Town of Ware, effective immediately, without prejudice.

Please share it with the Selectboard and committee chairs I served, and please read it for the record at the next Selectboard meeting.

My resignation is from the following current boards and committees I serve: Selectboard, Capital Planning Committee, and Hospital Review Committee.

My primary residence (i.e. place of abode) has changed, and Ware will no longer be what I consider to be my place of "domicile" to vote and to serve the Town of Ware any longer.

I am proud to have served the Town of Ware without bias, personal agendas, and with good intentions to help move Ware forward in a professional,

knowledgeable and fiscally responsible manner through a "think outside the box," and with forward-looking lens for the good of the Town of Ware, long-term.

Anyone that really knows me understands my passion on topics of importance to the Town, and my commitment from being a public servant myself to respect the work of all Town employees, and to appreciate the work accomplished by them each day. Also, the importance of treating neighbors like neighbors in a small town and valuing personal commitment to community volunteering.

Over the past year, I am proud to have served with Selectboard members all who I myself had supported in order to help voters restructure the makeup of this Executive Board over the past five-six years necessary to advance important decisions and cast votes involving fiscally responsible budgets; improved capital planning for the various town departments and school buildings; water and sewer infrastructure projects; water storage tank(s) rehabilitations; Pelski land conservation; the long-overdue Town Charter review; and supporting the Hospital Review Committee's real mission and charge.

The legacy of the Town

of Ware lies in the hands of the voters and needs good leadership, so it's rewarding to have witnessed over the past several years a revived interest in the concerns of citizens, and participation by new faces on the various elected boards and appointed committees. Forward thinking individuals with broad perspectives and professional experience add value to local government decision making.

I wish everyone the best of luck!

To my many friends and neighbors, supporters, and even those that debated or opposed my positions I wish you all well and thank you for giving me the opportunity to have served the Ware community in both the background and at the forefront on various boards and committees for approximately 25 years after moving to Ware in 1997.

Very truly yours, and Respectfully
Terrance W. Smith



Will my Social Security increase if I keep working after applying?

Dear Rusty:
I am going to be 67 in a few weeks and I plan on working for another year or two.

According to Social Security, they count the best 35 years to come up with your benefit. I currently have 30 years, with 2024 and 2025 taxes yet to be filed. If I take my benefit now, will I get an upward adjustment after filing my taxes for those years or do I need to wait to apply for SS until after filing my taxes to get credit for those years?

Signed: Still Working

Dear Still Working:
Whenever you claim your Social Security benefit, SSA will look at your lifetime earnings record on

file at the time as received from the IRS and calculate your "Primary Insurance Amount" using that record on file. They will use your highest earning 35 years to do that calculation and, if you do not yet have 35 years, they will use "zero \$\$" enough times to make it 35 years. In other words, your benefit will always be calculated using 35 years, whether you actually have 35 years of earnings on record or not.

However, Social Security revisits your earnings record whenever additional information is received from the IRS, so if file your taxes and add the additional year's income after you start your Social Security benefits, you will get credit for those additional earnings. Essentially, you will be replacing one of the "zero \$\$" years originally used to calculate your benefit amount and Social Security will recalculate your month-

ly amount to reflect that, resulting in an increase to your monthly benefit.

Thus, as long as you work and earn and report your earnings to the IRS, Social Security will update your record and automatically give you a higher benefit if warranted by your more recent earnings. That recalculation usually happens later in the year after April 15, but Social Security will make any increase retroactive to the beginning of the calendar year, so you will get any higher benefit effective with January.

So, since you have already reached your Full Retirement Age, you can (if you wish) apply for Social Security now and be confident that Social Security will give you credit for any additional earnings after you apply. And for clarity, if you choose to wait beyond your full retirement age to claim, you will earn Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs), which will continue to increase your monthly benefit amount until you are 70 years of age. DRCs will add 8% to your PIA for each full year you delay (.667% for each month you delay past your FRA).

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

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

The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

Turley Election Policy

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

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

Tell Us What You Think

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warren

Town Clerks to hold voter registration day April 25

WARREN / WEST BROOKFIELD – The Town Clerks of Warren, Laura J. Stockley, and West Brookfield, Klarissa Rose, announce that voter registration will be held in their offices on Friday, April 25 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. for the annual town election which will be held on Tuesday, May 6.

Easter egg hunt at Lucy Stone Park on April 19

WARREN – The annual Easter egg hunt will be held at Lucy Stone Park on Saturday, April 19 with a rain date of April 26. Egg hunts will be organized by age group with children ages 5-7 starting at 10:30 a.m.; ages 8-10 starting at 10:45 a.m.; and ages 4 and under starting at 11 a.m. Please bring your own Easter basket. There will be an Easter raffle, refreshments and a

chance to have your photo taken with the Easter Bunny.



Spring town-wide cleanup to be held April 19

WARE – Keep Ware Beautiful will host its annual spring town-wide cleanup on Saturday, April 19 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Meet on the front steps of the United Church of Ware, 49 Church St., and join volunteers as they pick up litter and help to Keep Ware Beautiful. This is a great resume building and a chance to earn community service hours.

Ware Senior Center news

WARE – The Ware Senior Center, located at 1 Robbins Road, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. The thrift store is open each of those days from 9 a.m.-noon. Donations to the store are only accepted by Sue LaBarge, who can be reached by calling 413-544-1574.

ACTIVITIES Monday, April 21 *Closed for Patriot's Day*

Tuesday, April 22

- 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
- 9 a.m. Movin & Groovin to the Oldies with Lisa. \$3 per class
- 9:30 a.m. Quilting Club
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch. Safe Presentation by Ware Fire Department. Sign up for lunch by noon on April 18.
- 1 p.m. Cornhole
- 5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking. \$3 per class
- 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

Wednesday, April 23

- 9 a.m. Tai-Chi
- 10-11:30 a.m. Kirsten Krieger Quabbin Region DPH Nurse office hours
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. Chair Yoga
- 1 p.m. Knit-Crochet-Laugh

Thursday, April 24

- 9 a.m. Walking Club.

Meet at Senior Center.

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

Friday, April 25

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

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

Monday, April 21
Closed for Patriot's Day
Tuesday, April 22
Meatloaf, Baked Potato, Veggie of the Day, Dessert of the Day
Wednesday, April 23
Chili Dog, French Fries, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day
Thursday, April 24
Turkey Waldorf Sandwich, Potato Chips, Dessert of the Day
Friday, April 25
Grilled Cheese Sandwich, French Fries, Dessert of the Day

WARREN from page 1

ing towns to shift to a district model.

Town Administrator James Ferrera said there are numerous dispatch centers throughout the state and Massachusetts wants to see that number of centers reduced. Therefore, towns are joining together in a regional district model and now Warren has the possibility to join four other towns in their own emergency communications district.

This would allow the five towns to have a say on what towns can enter or not enter into their district and boards will be formed to handle both administrative and operations of the district.

"The initiating towns will have a voice," Ferrera said, which will mean each town will have one vote.

It is a different approach where state money is involved. The Selectmen are satisfied with the idea that the town could save money and have open opportunities for grants by being in a district model and district agreement with other municipalities. A way to lower the cost by bringing other towns into the same agreement.

"It's moving forward in a

good way," says Selectmen Chair Derick Veliz.

The Selectmen voted to accept the provisions of sections 18O to 18V, inclusive, of Chapter 6A of the general laws providing the establishment of a regional 911 emergency communication district and to enter into a district agreement with the towns of Barre, Hubbardston, Oakham, and Rutland.

All five of the towns have to accept the provision in order to move forward with the district. The Selectmen feel they made a good presence at the Regional Dispatch information meeting in Rutland and feels that Warren with this agreement will get a better service for a lower price.

Acceptance of a state grant

The Selectmen had a discussion and possible vote to accept a state grant in the amount of \$46,603. This is a Community Compact Cabinet Information Technology grant for a new financial system at the Quaboag Regional School District.

Ferrera talked about the grant that the town received in coordination with the Quaboag Regional School District. The school district

is in need of a new financial system and the Town Administrator will help Quaboag with getting the grant implemented.

The Selectmen were impressed by Ferrera's efforts on getting this grant and accepted the grant in the amount of \$46,603.

Waterfield Design Group

The Selectmen had a discussion on the town of Warren entering into a contract with Waterfield Design Group for engineering services for the River and Central Street Improvement Project. These are funded through Community Development Block Grant and will help the town focus on its redevelopment efforts in West Warren.

The Selectmen approved the contract with Waterfield Design Group.

Town Administrator's report

Ferrera shared his report with the Selectmen and talked about all the projects happening in town. The computer project is 98% complete according to the Town Administrator and the vast majority of new town computers have been installed. It was discovered that the

Senior Center had two additional laptops and the use of those have been reduced to one laptop.

The Senior Center has several repairs ongoing including the heat pumps and repairs to their loading dock. The center did have pre-construction meeting and all parties involved were informed that the construction work will cause some disruption including a good portion of the parking lot being used for construction vehicles.

Also, the Senior Center will be without heat for a few days as the projects will be underway.

The Senior Center roof project is in process and a contract will be drafted with the company who drew the lowest responsible bid for the project.

Ferrera briefly talked about several vacant job positions that are now posted. One if for the police department, who is looking to fill a vacancy. There is also a highway department position for a heavy equipment operator.

Ferrera said he received 10 resumes from Indeed and passed them over to Highway Surveyor Jeremy Olson who also received submissions as well.

HEARING from page 1

likely to happen in the future. The biggest issue the Planning Board and the public addressed was excessive traffic and could drive through neighboring roads.

Samek says his proposal for a campground is not looking for an event atmosphere and is more of an economic opportunity for the town. If approved for the special permit and getting 50 campsites installed, Samek will be wanting to hire more help.

For the cabins, there are limitations on number of people per site. There would be a one car limit in addition to two people per cabin. Each cabin would have a firepit and there will not be a pavilion area built on site.

Samek does plan to have an access road from the campsite to the winery.

There will be procedures in place as far as check-ins and checkout and a keypad gate installed. Bookings will be online, and hours will be in place so there won't be constant late night check-ins.

The public made it clear that they don't want late night traffic and check-ins happening. In case of possible issues with squatters overstaying on the campground, Samek will have rules in place and campers can only stay a certain number of days. Samek wants to incorporate a four-day maximum stay limitation.

For the campers, Samek has sheds on site that will be turned into campers and each cabin will be 220 square feet. Samek wants the campground to operate over the course of three seasons from April to October.

The Board of Health will be getting involved and Samek knows he'll be working with other departments if

he is approved for the special permit. On a separate parcel Samek wants to rebuild an old school house and convert it into a country store.

For showers, there will be a four stall self-contained shower and alternative vehicles such as golf carts that can be used on the access trails to the campground and to the winery.

Back to supporting local businesses in the town, the Planning Board believes visitors would be most likely visiting the Quabbin during their stay. For amenities,

there will be more naturally related amenities.

One resident of Patrill Hollow Road addressed a concern of traffic being on the road and there is emergency access off that road. According to the resident, the road is not well maintained. Samek talked about proposing a traffic management plan to help handle any traffic situations in the area of the campground.

Another resident spoke and brought up the common issues campgrounds have and those are campfires and

fires starting due to droughts. Samek said there will be fire extinguishers in place and staff will be recruited to monitor the campground throughout the day.

Many residents feel this idea of a campground will be good for the town and think Samek is doing a good service. Samek feels camper clientele are seeking relaxation and not a partying atmosphere.

Samek said, "the campground will not have outdoor live music."

Samek is looking to pur-

sue a traditional campground atmosphere with Quabbin Glamping and Camping, LLC. For respecting private property, Samek will have proper signage.

According to several residents who know Samek very well, they view him as someone who always addresses issues if they come about. "Someone to ensure that any issues will be addressed," said by one resident.

The public hearing would go back to the Planning Board and they agreed to see an updated map of the

campground site. A copy of the map will be added to the town's website for public viewing. The board discussed and set a date for a site visit of the campground location on April 18 at 5 p.m. This site visit was requested by Planning Board member Jeff Schaaf.

The board would then move the public hearing to April 22 during their meeting. The meeting will take place at the Hardwick Town House.

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Palmer High School students Naariah Mbi and Amani Lundy attended the Credit for Life fair held at Ware High School on April 9.

CREDIT from page 1
score, salaries and expenses, all while figuring out how to balance a budget.

“We have five fairs now, targeting over 2,000 seniors,” she said. “We’re evolving and growing.”

After students were welcomed to Credit for Life by Ware High School Principal Scott Slattery and Assistant Principal Michael Fazio, Gerulaitis explained how the fair worked, starting with selecting a career.

Each career came with a salary which was based on the commonwealth’s average pay in that field.

Once the students had their careers and salaries in hand, they visited the credit booth where they selected a credit score at random. Those who selected a low credit score were able to raise it by answering financial literacy questions, and they were also able to pick up part-time jobs to supplement their income.

Students who answered financial literacy questions also had the chance to pose for a selfie to share on social media, giving them a chance to win a \$100 Visa gift card.

After getting their credit scores, students visited booths for insurance, housing, furniture, transportation and more. The “Fun, Fun, Fun” booth offered students a chance to splurge and purchase big ticket and luxury items.

Belchertown High School students Gavin Boisjolie,

Adam Cooper and Brady Jolly all selected careers that were closely aligned with their post-graduation plans.

Boisjolie said he selected a career as an accountant, and he is focusing on that as his major in college. Cooper opted to be an office manager because he is looking to enter the world of business; and Brady chose to be a business manager for the same reason.

Ware High School Seniors Shelby Hogan, Jason Mumper, Trevor Millet and Josh Dulak enjoyed exploring the fair together.

Hogan selected a career in meteorology, and Mumper, Millet and Dulak all selected careers in business management.

Both Hogan and Dulak are planning to study their respective fields in college.

Palmer High School students Naariah Mbi and Almani Lundy also selected careers that reflected their future plans, with Mbi choosing to be a pharmacist and Lundy a registered nurse.

Gerulaitis said Credit for Life wouldn’t be possible without a crew of dedicated volunteers from Country Bank and from the members of the business community in the towns the bank serves. She said the volunteers are able to share their own insight with students as they move from booth to booth, and give valuable advice.

“It’s their advice that is most valuable,” she said.



Students budgeted their money to purchase furniture.

Credit for Life



Country Bank’s Dawn Piechota helped a student at the Reality Check booth.

Gerulaitis’ passion for growing financial literacy with young adults goes beyond the Credit for Life fairs, and all the way to the State House. She has been active in supporting a bill that would make financial literacy a mandatory graduation requirement for high school students.

If enacted, this bill would make the commonwealth the 27th state to have this requirement.

“We’ll keep advocating for it,” Gerulaitis said. “It’s a no brainer...you need to know this stuff. It’s as simple as one bad decision could affect your future.”

About Country Bank
Established in 1850, Country Bank has a rich history of supporting personal and business banking customers through financial

solutions with FDIC and DIF insurance for added security. Country Bank is a full-service \$2.0 billion mutual community bank serving central and western Massachusetts with 14 banking centers and two business offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton, Springfield, Uxbridge, and Worcester.

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Country Bank can be reached by calling 800-322-8233 or visiting online at countrybank.com.



Belchertown High School students Gavin Boisjolie, Adam Cooper and Brady Jolly attended the Credit for Life fair.



Jodie Gerulaitis, First Vice President of Community Relations at Country Bank, explained how the financial literacy event works.



Ware High School Principal Scott Slattery welcomed students to the Credit for Life fair. This event had seniors from Ware, Palmer and Belchertown high schools.



Country Bank’s Jessica Pajonk holds the bin containing a range of credit scores for students to draw from.



Students visited the “Fun, Fun, Fun” booth where they were tempted with a number of exciting purchases.



Country Bank’s Jasmine Robinson offered advice to a student.



Country Bank’s Teresa Grove gave guidance at the Housing booth.

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CHAMBER from page 1

questions and have important discussions to how AI factors into their content. While taking questions, Dr. David Ewen, the Chair of the Western Mass Chapter of SCORE shared some input about the use of AI.

According to Ewen, there have been fears in the past about technology possibly eliminating certain jobs. When it comes to the use of AI and how it impacts jobs and businesses, Ewen said “the person using AI will take your job.”

In the past, technology may have taken a job away, but two new ones would come in. However, in the modern world and AI use growing in popularity, it is still uncertain how impactful AI will be.

“We live in a different time now,” Ewen said.

The next informative discussion was about Business Training, Financial Planning and Insurance. The presenters were Melissa Fales from Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation, Renee Niedziela of J. Stolar Insurance Agency and Nicholas Manolakis from Mass Mutual’s Charter Oak Financial.

Fales talked about helping businesses in underserved areas and how her organization works with a lot of small businesses starting off.

Niedziela talked about the importance of insurance and the high rates and how they impact people and businesses. What plays into these high insurance rates is that companies can’t pay every claim that is in their books. Natural disasters, fires play a significant role with insurance throughout the country.

Niedziela says business insurance is getting more expensive and it is wise to negotiate with companies and “look at your billing options.”

Manolakis would then speak and talk about his work in helping companies create employee benefit packages. From Manolakis’ point of view, one of the biggest challenges businesses face is finding or keeping good employees depending on what benefits and programs are being offered. Other challenges are property markets and businesses not making enough to continue to pay their running costs.

The next topic was about maximizing membership. Przypek and Tanya Bullock of Life’s Memories & More talked about a checklist they handed out for members to review and to help further maximizing membership for the chamber.

“The chamber is as strong as it’s members,” Bullock said.

Both talked about the website and the login settings and how to keep information up to date. There are plenty of resources available to help members as they continue to run their business. More information can be found at www.qhma.com.

The last discussion was about working with municipalities. Representing Ware was Town Manager Stuart Beckley and Building Commissioner Anna Marques. For the Town of Palmer, Town Manager

Library hosts Easter bake sale, egg hunt

HARDWICK – The Gilbertville Public Library, 259 Main St., will host an Easter bake sale on Thursday, April 17 from 1-4 p.m., followed by an Easter egg hunt from 4-5 p.m. and more.



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago
Palmer Town Manager Brad Brothers talked about what has been happening in Palmer.



Renee Niedziela talked about insurance and how it impacts small businesses.



David Ewen of SCORE talked about his organization and shared input about the use of AI.

Brad Brothers and Heidi Mannarino attended the Chamber Chat Breakfast.

Each town manager shared what has been going on in their towns and what can be developed in the future.

Brothers says he “believes in working with people” and the importance of small businesses growing in the community. Beckley discussed vacant properties in Ware

and potential opportunities for economic development, a mixture of business and housing.

Ware is currently reaching out to health services after a recent zoning change to the Mary Lane Hospital property as a healthcare district.

Przypek thanked everyone for attending the Chamber Chat breakfast and said he looked forward to the next gathering.

Select Board hears from National Grid/Verizon New England

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Select Board began their April 14 meeting with a public hearing on a petition from National Grid/Verizon New England.

National Grid/Verizon New England request permission to locate poles, wires, and fixtures including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures along and across a public way, North Road.

The company’s representatives were at the public hearing and addressed the Select Board their intentions to locate all the equipment and the necessary sustaining fixtures along North Road. There were no residents in attendance and there seemed to be no questions, comments or concerns about the project during the public hearing.

The Select Board moved on to close the public hearing and approve the petition of National Grid/Verizon New England.

New business

The Select Board had to vote on the contracts for the Highway Superintendent, Fire Chief, Police Lieutenant, and Police Chief. Select Board

chair Kelly Kemp said these contract negotiations were already completed and agreed on in previous meetings. The board voted and approved the contracts for these positions.

The board would then move to a discussion and vote on a special event for the Tri-Parish Annual Plant, Craft, Tag, and Bake sale on the dates of May 17 and 18.

This popular East Quabbin area event features perennials, annuals, heirloom vegetable plants, and herbs in time for spring planting. A delicious assortment of home-baked desserts and breads will also be sold, and numerous craft vendors will be there on both days.

The Select Board voted and approved the special event taking place on Hardwick Common.

Town Administrator Justine Caggiano talked about the date for the Annual Town Meeting and was seeking the Board’s vote to approve the date of June 7. The meeting will take place at Hardwick Elementary School and Caggiano mentioned the warrant is open and is to close on April 28.

Caggiano will provide a draft of the articles for the Select Board at their next meeting after the warrant is closed. Anyone can submit articles to the Select Board by April 28.

The Board agreed and approved to open articles for submission until that date.

Letter to nonprofits

The Select Board had a discussion and vote on the

Please see **HARDWICK**, page 13

Town Clerk lists voting info for town election

HARDWICK – The annual town election will be held on Saturday, May 3 with polling hours from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Hardwick Elementary School 76 School House

Drive. The deadline to register to vote in this election is Wednesday, April 23 at 5 p.m. and the deadline to vote by mail is Monday, April 28 at 5 p.m.

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Gathering

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Palmer has received funding in a settlement between Massachusetts and pharmaceutical companies, placing them at blame for the current opioid crisis.

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Local children create ‘Celebrate Hardwick’ quilt for raffle

HARDWICK – A very special thing happened at the Paige Memorial library. Each year in January, February, and March, Pam Hinckley, a former Hardwick Public School teacher, a seamstress, and expert knitter, volunteers her services and skills to teach two classes in knitting, one for teens and tweens and one for adults. It is always a joy to hear the laughter and happy talk at Pam’s workshops. This year she offered a sewing class “Kids Can Sew”. The library provided two sewing machines, Pam brought one, and three students brought their own. At

the end of the class Pam gave her machine to the student who learned on it. Students practiced using the machines, then made pincushions, cloth bags with handles, and zippered cases. For their final project they made a lap size quilt with help from Pam. The pattern is a “coin” quilt where pieces of fabric are sewn, or stacked, like coins. The students donated their quilt to the library with the request that it be used to raise funds for library programming. Stop by the library for a chance to win the quilt. The quilt will be on display until Saturday, May 8 when the winning ticket will be

drawn. The library staff are very proud of these young people, their dedication



The students who made the “Celebrate Hardwick” quilt signed their names on the back.



Pam Hinckley is shown holding the quilt her students made.

Submitted Photos

Students in Pam Hinckley’s “Kids Can Sew” class at the Paige Memorial Library created this quilt which will be raffled off on Saturday, May 3. Tickets are available at the library located at 87 Petersham Road.

to learning a new skill, their generosity, and their community support. The Paige Memorial Library is celebrating Hardwick, its love of libraries, and its history. Quilts play a big part in the library’s history. The early Ladies Library Society made quilts to raise money for books. In 2000, the book

quilt that hangs in the library today was created by Pam Hinckley, Joann Benoit, and Kaye Boothman. Its design honors the library and the families of Hardwick who decorated cloth to represent a book on a bookcase. Historically, quilt making was a necessity for many families. Quilts kept

people warm and were an important recycling practice. The library is calling the “Kids Can Sew” quilt the “Celebrate Hardwick Quilt” because it is preserving an historic skill and tradition of quilts for the library. Come to the Paige Memorial Library to see the Book Quilt and our Celebrate Hardwick Quilt.



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SPORTS

Panthers leave runs on base in loss to Clinton

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

CLINTON—If they could’ve come up with a couple of clutch hits with the bases loaded against Mid-Wach rival Clinton, the Quabbin Panthers would’ve probably had a 3-1 record instead of being at the .500 mark.

The Panthers left the bases loaded in four of their first five at-bats during last Friday’s 5-4 loss to the Gaels on a chilly afternoon at the Clinton Veterans’ Athletic Complex.

“We did have a ton of scoring chances,” said Quabbin varsity baseball coach Mark Battista. “We left the bases loaded in four innings. We also made a couple of mistakes in the field that also hurt us.”

Quabbin (2-2) hasn’t won more than five games during the regular season since they qualified for the 2021 Central Mass. Division 3 tournament with a 7-6 record.

The Panthers began the 2025 regular season with a 14-1 non-league home win over Quaboag on April 1. They also defeated rival Gardner, 5-2, in another home game twenty four hours before mak-

Please see **PANTHERS**, page 10

Ware stays perfect on the season

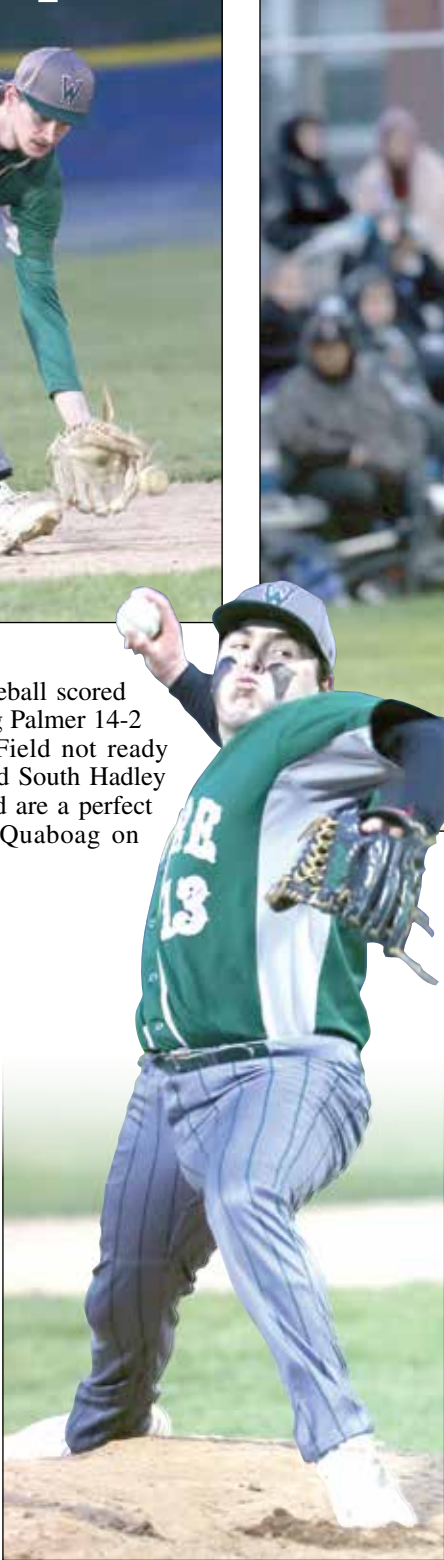


Brady Guimond picks up a grounder.

WARE – Last Thursday, Ware baseball scored its second win of the season, defeating Palmer 14-2 on the road with Ware’s Memorial Field not ready for play yet. The Indians also defeated South Hadley and Frontier during the past week and are a perfect 4-0 on the season. They next host Quaboag on Thursday, April 17 at 7 p.m.



Trevor Millet makes a play on the run.



Nathan Kaczuwka delivers a pitch to home plate.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Jason Mumper crosses home with a run.



Brodie Koczur makes a play at second.



Elijah Wilheln makes a return during second singles.

Cougars fall to Grafton

WARREN – Last Wednesday afternoon, Quaboag Regional boys tennis had a tough round against visiting Grafton. The Cougars suffered a rare sweep 5-0. They dropped to 1-3 on the season after also losing to Belchertown last week. Their only win this season is a 5-0 sweep of Southbridge. Coming up, the Cougars have a long layoff before being back in action on Monday, April 28 at Leicester.



Christian Marshall gets an overhand return.

Offense struggles in fourth loss



Tyler Rodrigues goes for the goal.

MONSON – Last Wednesday afternoon, Monson boys lacrosse, which co-ops with Pathfinder Tech, fell at home to Granby 12-2. Monson suffered its fourth



loss of the season without a win. The Mustangs search for their first win in their next matchup on April 18 at home against Northampton at 5 p.m. They host Central on Apr. 22 at 4 p.m.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Goalie Riley Hurst goes low for a save.

Orioles score opening win

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN—The Pathfinder Tech and Belchertown softball teams are both hoping to finish in first place in the Tri-County League standings this spring.

Belchertown, who scored five runs in the second inning, defeated the Lady Pioneers, 7-2, at home on a sunny and cool afternoon, last Wednesday.

“We’re hoping to con-



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Lianna Carrasquillo fields a throw to third.

tend for the league title this year, so this is a very exciting win for us against one of our biggest rivals,” said Belchertown head coach Michael Lafayette. “We lost both games we played against Pathfinder last year. The Lady Orioles (1-1)



Kendra Burke winds and fires to the plate.

in today’s game,” said first-year Pathfinder Tech head coach Phil Gallo. “They just made the plays, and we didn’t.”

The winning pitcher in last Wednesday’s contest was Belchertown freshman righthander Madeline Williams. It was also her first career varsity victory.

“It’s very special to win my first varsity softball game today” Williams said. “We played very well as a team. I was a lot more nervous in our first game of the season.”

Williams allowed two runs on just three hits, which were all singles, with six

Please see **ORIOLES**, page 10



Max Sturges goes to his side to send the ball over the net.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Cam Olivo sends an underhand hit away.

sports

T-Birds offense falters in loss to Penguins

WILKES-BARRE, PA — The Springfield Thunderbirds (34-30-2-4) could not get their offense in rhythm in a 4-1 loss to the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins, who rebranded as the Carbondale UFOs (38-22-7-1) on Saturday night inside Mohegan Arena at Casey Plaza.

In his AHL debut, rookie forward Jacob Hudson could not have dreamt of a better script for his first shift with the T-Birds just 1:45 into the contest. He jumped on the ice, picked off the puck from fellow rookie Harrison Brunicke at the Penguin line, and snapped a perfect wrist shot past the glove of Joel Blomqvist to give Springfield the 1-0 advantage.

From that point forward, though, the Penguins, rebranded on this night as the Carbondale UFOs, kept the pressure on inside the Springfield defensive zone. At 13:32, Tristan Broz broke through on an odd-man rush, taking a beautiful drop pass from Sam Poulin and beating Colten Ellis to tie the game. The rookie's 19th goal of the year turned out to be just the first of two in a 20-second blitz for the UFOs, as fellow ookie Nolan Renwick cashed in for his first pro tally at the goal crease following a centering pass from Chase Stillman at 13:52. The two strikes gave the home team the 2-1 lead heading into intermission.

Ellis continued to be the busiest man on the ice in the second period. The T-Bird netminder saw his save total rise to 30 through just 40 minutes of game action. Among his best work in the period were splendid close-in shots from Emil Bemstrom and Broz.

Offense continued to be hard to find for the visitors, and the UFOs eventually added to their lead at 16:44, just seconds after a power play had concluded. Owen Pickering sent the puck to the back door from the right circle, where Atley Calvert wedged it through Ellis to extend the lead to 3-1.

The story did not change much in the third, as Wilkes-Barre/Scranton continued outpacing Springfield in the shot department, finishing the night with a 44-23 advantage in shot attempts. Ellis's terrific night would not be enough despite his 40-save effort. Bemstrom sealed the night with his 22nd of the season into an empty net with 1:31 remaining.

Springfield returns home to close the regular season for a two-game set against the Charlotte Checkers at the Thunderdome next Friday and Saturday.

ORIOLES from page 9

walks and seven strikeouts against the Lady Pioneers.

“I’ve been coaching Madeline since she played softball at the youth level. She pitched very well in today’s game,” Lafayette said. “She’s a very consistent pitcher who always throws strikes. We also have a solid defense behind her.”

The Lady Pioneers managed to take a 1-0 lead with one-out in the top of the first inning.

Junior catcher Emily McNeaney reached first base following a walk. Then senior centerfielder Greenly Lagimoniere grounded a single between the shortstop and the third baseman into left field. Senior third baseman Lianna Carrasquillo drove home the game’s first run by hitting a line-drive single into right field. Williams retired



WARE STAYS PERFECT ON THE SEASON
Alex Orszulak gets an out at first.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

PANTHERS from page 9

ing the 45-minute van ride to Clinton. Their other loss was at home to Oakmont Regional, who are the two-time defending Division 3 state champions.

The Panthers loaded the bases for the first time against Clinton (3-1) with one-out in the top of the first inning.

Freshman left fielder Abe Brown swung at a strike three pitch thrown by junior righthander Aiden Dubois leading off the frame. Brown was safe at first base following a wild pitch. After the next batter hit a fly ball caught by the centerfielder, Brown stole second base. Then junior Adam Adams, who was Quabbin’s starting pitcher, drew a walk and junior second baseman Sam Morgan lined a single into left field.

Dubois got out of the jam without allowing any runs with the help of a 6-4-3 inning ending double play.

With two-outs in the following inning, Quabbin junior third baseman Wes Sanderson and sophomore right fielder Zach Mielnicki drew back-to-back walks. Then an infield hit by Brown loaded the bases for the second time.

This time, the Panthers took a 1-0 lead when junior centerfielder Chase Talbot hit a ground ball to the Gaels first baseman

which should’ve been the third out. The first baseman’s toss to the pitcher was a tad late resulting in an infield hit. Sanderson scored on the play. The visitors did leave the bases loaded once again.

While the Panthers offense failed to score more than one run during the first two innings, Adams retired seven of the first eight Clinton batters that he faced.

With a runner at first with one-out in the third inning, Clinton junior Josh Nelson hit a comebacker. Instead of throwing the ball to second base, Adams decided to get the out at first base. It turned out to be a costly mistake as junior right fielder Brian Silvester lined an RBI single into left field which tied the score.

Walks by Sanderson, Brown, and Adams loaded the bases again with two outs in the top of the fourth.

Quabbin would retake the lead when junior second baseman Sam Morgan was hit-by-a-pitch.

The home team quickly tied the score in the bottom half of the frame.

Senior DH Ethan Frisch drew a leadoff walk. He stole second and advanced to third on a throwing error by the catcher. Junior shortstop Jake Notaro drove Frisch home by blasting a double to the gap in left center.

Adams retired the next three batters and was

replaced on the mound by Brown before the start of the fifth inning.

Adams allowed two runs on four hits with three strikeouts and two walks in four innings. He threw 65 pitches.

The Gaels, who lost to Pittsfield in the 2024 Division 4 Elite 8 game, scored the go-ahead run with one out in the bottom half of the fifth inning. The home team put two runs on the right field scoreboard in the sixth inning and held a 5-2 lead entering the top of the seventh.

Freshman first baseman Jake Doty began the Panthers seventh inning rally against sophomore righty Braydon Huban with an infield hit and Sanderson walked bringing the tying run to the plate. After the next batter flied out, Brown fisted an RBI single into right field. Then Talbot hit a ground ball to the second baseman scoring Sanderson.

With the tying run standing on third base, Huban ended the Panthers comeback hopes and the ball game with a fly ball out.

“If we had a couple of key hits, we could have scored more than seven runs in today’s game,” Battista said. “We should win a lot of games this year.”

The Panthers will be looking to even the season series when they host Clinton on May at 4 p.m.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Bogey Doubles

EAST BROOKFIELD – The Bogey Doubles on Monday nights met for the first time in April as the season is about to end.

During the second round of matches, the team of Clauson & Santora bowled against Renaud & Ward. In game one, Renaud & Ward defeated Clauson & Santora by a score of 307-255. Steve Renaud Sr. started the match with a 135 and his partner Tina Ward bowled 126.

In game two, Renaud & Ward won again by a score of 254-243. Both Renaud & Ward slowed down in game two with scores of 94 and 114, but it was enough to win.

In game three, Clauson & Santora won the last game by a score of 265-260. Gary Santora bowled a 120 to help his team win one game. The final score was 821-763 in favor of Renaud & Ward.

Next match was Murphy & Kenneson bowled against Pellett & Nester. In game one, Murphy & Kenneson won by just three pins, 249-246. In game two, both teams tied at 264. In game three, the two teams tied again by scoring 245 each. Murphy & Kenneson held on to a three-point lead and won total pin-fall, 758-755.

Gauthier & Clough bowled against Mondor & Brayton. In game one, Gauthier & Clough won by a score of 258-251. Dan “Shoe” Gauthier bowled 114 to get the first game victory.

In game two, Mondor & Brayton won by a score of 260-254. Jesse Mondor

bowled a 105 to help win game two for his team. In game three, Mondor & Brayton won again by a score of 267-245. Mondor broke the century mark again with a 102.

The final score was 778-757 in favor of Mondor & Brayton.

Aaron Halbedel & Aaron Fontaine bowled against Talamini & Gravel. In game one, Talamini & Gravel won by a score of 264-252. The high game was bowled by Aaron Fontaine with 128.

In game two, Talamini & Gravel won again by a score of 275-240. In game three, Talamini & Gravel won the last game for a three-game sweep over Halbedel & Fontaine, 800-739. In the first match, Fontaine scored a series of 410; this round he scored 126, 102 and 107 for 337.

Sandman & Marvin bowled against Rando & MacDougall. In game one, Rando & MacDougall won the first game by a score of 277-274. Duncan MacDougall began the match with 120.

In game two, Sandman & Marvin won by a score of 277-270. Luke Marvin bowled his own 120 game to get his team the win. MacDougall slowed down in game two and bowled 106.

In game three, Sandman & Marvin won by a score of 279-261. Marvin finished with 121 and a series of 347. His teammate, Travis Sandman, had a series of 321. MacDougall had a series of 324 in a losing effort.

The final score was 830-808 in favor of Sandman & Marvin. The Monday Doubles at Bogey Lanes will conclude in four weeks.

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share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

Worcester Railers drop decision to Reading Royals

READING, PA – The Worcester Railers HC (34-29-76pts) fall to the Reading Royals (32-29-9-2, 75pts), on Friday night in shootout loss by a final score of 4-3 in front of a crowd of 3,509 at the Santander Arena. The Railers are back on the ice next at the Santander Arena on Friday, April 11th at 7:00 p.m. EST.

Reading quickly got on the board and made it a 3-0 game before the end of the first off the sticks of Matt Miller (1-0-1), Shane Sellar (1-0-1) and Mason Primeau (1-0-1). The Railers finally netted one off the stick of Anthony Repaci (2-0-2) about halfway through the game. Lincoln Hatten (1-0-1) and Repaci each tacked

on goals in the third to tie the game up 3-3. As neither team scored in OT, the game went to a shootout where Matt Brown potted the only goal to give the Royals a 4-3 shootout win over the Railers. The loss for Worcester forces a winner-take-all game on Saturday night for the fourth and final playoff spot in the North

Division.

The Royals got to work quickly with a goal from Matt Miller (14) just 11 seconds after puck drop giving the Royals a 1-0 lead over the Railers. Reading added to their lead off the goal from Shane Sellar (12) on a busy scrum out in front of the net of Michael Bullion in net for Worcester 7:32 into the first

period. Mason Primeau (12) deflected a point-shot off of his skates on the power-play to give Reading a 3-0 lead over Worcester 16:42 into the first period.

The first action of the second period came from Railers captain Anthony

Please see **RAILERS**, page 12



Aubrey Ortiz fires a throw home.

a bunt single by senior first baseman Vivian Ross.

“We just capitalized on their mistakes in the second inning,” Lafayette said. “We’re also aggressive on the bases.”

Burke, who has recorded more than 750 K’s during her

varsity career, allowed seven runs on just four base hits. She walked four and had eight strikeouts.

With one-out in the third inning, Mitus delivered an RBI single to center giving the home team a 6-1 advantage.



Isabella Nompleggi gets an out at first.

Ross led off the fourth with a walk before stealing both second and third. She scored the Lady Orioles final run when sophomore third baseman Emily Waller grounded out to the second baseman.

Overall, Belchertown stole

eleven bases in the home win.

The Lady Pioneers scored an unearned run in the fifth with the help of a couple of fielding errors.

The two league rivals are scheduled to meet for the second time at Pathfinder Tech at 3:30 p.m. on April 29.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

AUDIT from page 1

Larmon said she conducted interviews with 51 individuals, including parents of special education students, general and special education teachers and service providers, all of the principals and assistant principals, the director of students services and superintendent.

She observed 23 classrooms across the three schools and reviewed 224 active special education files spanning from March 1, 2022, to March 1, 2025.

“At the elementary school, there were services in every classroom that I observed, so they had zero lack of service,” Larmon said.

The middle school there was a lack of support staff in two of the seven classes and at the high school there was a lack of support in four of the 10 classes she observed. Larmon said it is the building principal’s responsibility to make sure that IEPs are being followed.

Larmon said substitute staffing is a challenge to all school districts across the commonwealth and she recommended that Ware Public Schools look into hiring permanent building substitutes to prevent special education staff from being pulled to provide classroom coverage.

Larmon said parents being interviewed expressed concerns about the lack of implementation for accommodations and modifications. She said the lessons plans from teachers were requested but

these were not given to her at the time of the report.

“I don’t have any way of confirming or denying the accommodations and modifications,” she said.

In terms of appropriate consent for evaluations, Larmon said a parent or guardian has to sign a consent form giving the school district permission to provide an assessment for a student.

She said of the files reviewed, 189 had signed consent forms but four did not. She said this does not mean that a form wasn’t signed, but it was not present in the students files.

“Part of our job as a special education department is to make sure everything that’s relevant to a student is contained within their special education file,” Larmon said.

Larmon also looked at the use of evidence-based assessment tools used to provide evaluations.

“We are required by IDEA and Mass General Law to use more than one measure when we do any kind of evaluation,” she said. “That means you can’t just use observations. You have to use observation and some kind of assessment tool that’s going to back up that observation.”

Larmon said 28 of the files were missing evidence-based assessment tools and the evaluations were primarily completed by observations.

“Sometimes it happens that you try to evaluate a child using an evidence-based assessment tool and the child cannot access that tool or is

unable to answer the questions or perform the expectations and if that happens you still need to document that you have done that, that you have used that assessment tool and how the child was able to access or not access that,” she said. “That’s one of the things that’s really important that’s lacking from a lot of these reports. Even if they attempted it, it’s not documented there and so that needs to be documented.”

Larmon said evaluations lacking evidence-based assessment tools mainly occurred prior to and at the beginning of Dr. Ginger Coleman’s tenure as Director of Student Services.

“They primarily occurred in reports from related service personnel,” Larmon said.

In terms of adherence to mandated timelines for evaluation reports, of the files 136 were completed on time and 20 were not. Those 20 not completed on time were due to various reasons including not having a service provider available, or the evaluator had a large caseload.

For IEP meetings mandated timelines, 132 were held within the 45-day timeline and 28 were not.

“The delay in meetings appears to correlate to the lack of completed evaluations and reports,” she said.

Annual IEP reviews are required to be held within one year of the last IEP. She said annual reviews were held on time in 150 files and not in 74 files.

Another frequent concern

from parents and teachers was communication and lack of response to phone calls and emails from the special education department.

“There’s no law that governs this, but in my report, I did talk about recommendations to remediate those,” Larmon said.

Larmon said after looking at all the files, she noted that they were not organized in a consistent manner. She said the administration is ready to undertake this task.

“Once the files are more organized, it’s going to make it more functional to make sure that the things that are supposed to be in there are in there,” Larmon said. “That was my concern and it’s being thankfully addressed.”

The next steps

Ware Teachers Association President Amber Boucher said concerns about adequate staffing from the union were brought to the superintendent over a year ago. She said the school district only has one school psychologist and no attempts have been made to hire more.

“When we are canceling meetings [IEP meetings], because we don’t have these cases done...the school psychologist hasn’t had a chance to do it because they are so overwhelmed. This is the responsibility of administration to handle, and our students should not be suffering for that,” Boucher said.

Boucher said the union also tried communicating these concerns to the School

Committees and were forced to bring out a vote of no confidence against Superintendent Dr. Michael Lovato in a public forum.

She said the staffing issues have “created immense amounts of problems.”

School Committee Vice-Chair Aaron Sawabi said he has served in his role since 2007, and the past five to 10 years he’s received a lot of complaints related to special education. He said his job is to bring that complaint to the superintendent.

“We need to push this down as a School Committee. We need to hold the superintendent accountable...but let’s put this behind us and move forward and get the services and the accommodations we need for our students,” Sawabi said.

Lovato said his and Coleman’s first big initiative when they came to the school district in 2023 was to get consistent evaluations using evidence-based assessment tools.

“When you give a child a diagnosis of special education, it’s not something you take lightly. So it shouldn’t be done through an observation,” he said.

Lovato said the second thing they focused on was ensuring that accommodations were being communicated to staff.

“There’s no doubt that there are challenges when you look at some of the coverage that occurs with subs. We’re trying to work on it. We’re working on some different

solutions for what that looks like,” Lovato said.

Lovato said permanent substitute positions have been built into the school district’s budget but hiring has been difficult. He said many of the substitutes do not want to work full-time and he is not sure the school district could afford hiring a teacher instead.

Lovato said communication from his office and Coleman’s is being logged to address concerns raised by parents and teachers in the audit.

“We’re not going to sit here and debate whether communication happened or not, if people feel that communication’s not happening, then we need to make sure that we’re addressing that as a whole,” he said.

Lovato said he is requesting funding from the town to replace the school district’s current information management system, which would allow them to make improvements to communication.

Lovato said he accepts that the changes that need to happen with special education are his responsibility as superintendent. He asked the School Committee to adopt the findings of the audit in order to move forward.

“It’s my responsibility today, and I will work on doing it,” he said.

The School Committee voted to accept the audit report and instructed Lovato to address items outlined in the findings; requiring him to report back to the committee as the findings are addressed.

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public safety

Ware Police Log

During the week of April 6-15, the Ware Police Department responded to 30 miscellaneous calls, 25 administrative calls, eight traffic violations, 12 emergency 911 calls, four motor vehicle accidents, 11 harassments, five thefts/larcenies, two damage/vandalisms, five frauds, two breaking and enterings, one structure fire, 13 animal calls and 22 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

Sunday, April 6
2:54 p.m. Disturbance/ Nuisance, Convent Hill Rod, Report Made
5:40 p.m. Harassment/ Stalk/Threat, Pleasant Street, Services Rendered
5:49 p.m. Theft/Larceny, West Street, Services Rendered
6:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Vigeant Street, Citation/Warning

Monday, April 7
12:23 a.m. Assault, North Street, Advised
10:13 a.m. Harassment/ Stalk/Threat, North Street, Advised
9:15 p.m. Assault, Webb Court, Advised

Tuesday, April 8
7:01 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Highland Village, False Alarm
9:29 a.m. Traffic Incident/ Crash, West Street, Vehicle Towed
3:21 p.m. Harassment/ Stalk/Threat, Park Avenue, Advised
3:55 p.m. Fraud/ Deception, South Street, Report Made
4:02 p.m. Harassment/ Stalk/Threat, North Street, Services Rendered
4:05 p.m. Harassment/ Stalk/Threat, North Street, Advised
5:01 p.m. Abduction, Palmer Road, Investigated
5:56 p.m. Damage/ Vandalism, Upper Church Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
7:26 p.m. Theft/Larceny, West Street, Services Rendered
7:38 p.m. Theft/Larceny, West Street, Services Rendered
8:04 p.m. Traffic Violation, Route 32, Arrest

Made
Arrest: Malcom Gill, 49, Providence, Rhode Island Warrant
Arrest: Maurice O. Davis Jr., 45, Westfield
OUI-Drugs; Marked Lanes Violation; Speeding Rate of Speed Exceeding Posted Limit; Drug, Possess Class B

Wednesday, April 9
6:10 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Upper Church Street, Dispatch Handled
7:27 a.m. Traffic Incident/ Crash, Walker Road, Services Rendered
9:56 a.m. Harassment/ Stalk/Threat, Palmer Road, Services Rendered
11:30 a.m. Harassment/ Stalk/Threat, West Street, Report Made
11:40 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Street, Citation/ Warning Issued
8:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Belchertown Road, Citation/Warning Issued
10:37 p.m. Breaking and Entering/Burglary, Fisherdick Road, Taken/ Referred to Other Agency

Thursday, April 10
11:12 a.m. Trespass/ Unwanted, Gilbertville Road, Advised
11:41 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/ Warning Issued
11:48 a.m. Drugs, West Street, Services Rendered
12:43 p.m. Breaking and Entering/Burglary, Sky View Drive, Investigated
8:32 p.m. Harassment/ Stalk/Threat, North Street, Services Rendered
11:25 p.m. Harassment/ Stalk/Threat, Valley View, Advised

Friday, April 11
1 a.m. Robbery, West Street, Investigated
12:06 p.m. Fraud/ Deception, Main Street, Services Rendered
1:34 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Belchertown Road, Investigated

Saturday, April 12
6:16 a.m. Traffic Incident/ Crash, Babcock Tavern Road, Assist Given
7:42 a.m. Fraud/ Deception, West Main Street, Advised

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.

4:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Criminal Complaint
6:43 p.m. Structure Fire, Coffey Hill Road, Services Rendered
11:39 p.m. Fraud/ Deception, North Street, Services Rendered

Sunday, April 13
1:36 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Main Street, Services Rendered
7:56 a.m. Theft/Larceny, Anderson Road, Report Made
11:16 a.m. Harassment/ Stalk/Threat, Charles Street, Services Rendered
11:40 a.m. Damage/ Vandalism, Highland Village, Report Made
11:55 a.m. Theft/Larceny, Dugan Road, Report Made
3:05 p.m. Traffic Incident/ Crash, Palmer Road, Report Made
4:58 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Morse Aveue, Dispatch Handled

Monday, April 14
3:48 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, East Street, Investigated
4:34 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, East Street, Services Rendered
8:33 a.m. Assault, East Street, Services Rendered
8:35 a.m. Harassment/ Stalk/Threat, North Street, Advised
5:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gilbertville Road, Citation/Warning Issued
7:43 p.m. Fraud/ Deception, North Street, Services Rendered

Tuesday, April 15
6:50 a.m. Electrical Hazard, Beaver Road, Assist Given

Warren Police Log

During the week of March 29-April 5, the Warren Police Department responded to 78 building/property checks, 20 community policings, 12 emergency 911 calls, two safety concerns, one electrical fire, two complaints, one motor vehicle accident, one larceny or theft, one animal call and 19 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Saturday, March 29
9:35 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Boston Post Road, Written Warning
9:54 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
12:37 p.m. Complaint, Bemis Road, Officer Spoke to Party

Sunday, March 30
9:57 a.m. Welfare Check, Brimfield Road, Transported to Hospital
2:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
2:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
2:52 p.m. Safety Concern, Bacon Street, Investigated
4:20 p.m. Falls, Southbridge Road,

Ambulance Signed Refusal
6:35 p.m. 911 Hang-up/ Misdial/Abandoned, Spring Street, Officer Spoke to Party

Monday, March 31
12:31 a.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Yankee Drummer Drive, Transported to Hospital
2:57 p.m. Choking Southbridge Road Extension, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Tuesday, April 1
12:03 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
3:57 a.m. Bleeding, Pine Street, Transported to Hospital
2 p.m. Falls, South Street, Mutual Aid Transport
5:06 p.m. Complaint, Cottage Street, Information Given

Wednesday, April 2
5:18 p.m. Power Lines Arcing, Southbridge Road, Fire Extinguished
5:51 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/Silent, Spring Street, Officer Spoke to Party
11:55 p.m. Knee Injury, Winthrop Terrace, Transported to Hospital

Thursday, April 3
1:04 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
1:34 a.m. Electrical Fire, Crescent Street, Investigated
8:25 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Pine Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
2:08 p.m. Seizures, Old West Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital
4:13 p.m. Power Lines Arcing, Richardson Street, Investigated
11:30 p.m. Safety Concern, Southbridge Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Friday, April 4
3:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Southbridge Road, Transported by LifeFlight
7:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Cross Street, Written Warning

Saturday, April 5
12:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brimfield Road, Written Warning
6:19 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Main Street, Report Filed
8:08 p.m. Chest Pain/ Heart Problem, Cottage Street, Transported to Hospital

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of April 7-14, the Hardwick/ New Braintree Police Department responded to 66 building/property checks, 51 directed/area patrols, four radar assignments, five traffic controls, 14 emergency 911 calls, two citizen assists, three assist other agencies, two scams, two trespasses, one harassment, one threat, one larceny/ theft/shoplifting, one motor vehicle investigation, two motor vehicle accidents, one animal call and 14 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, April 7
9:05 a.m. Assist Citizen, Church Lane, Services Rendered
10:20 a.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Greenwich Road, Transported to Hospital
6:30 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Services Rendered

Tuesday, April 8
4:19 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Ridge Road, Report Taken
9:55 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Barre Road, Officer Handled
10:53 a.m. Motor Vehicle

Investigation, Main Street, Negative Contact
5:08 p.m. Disturbance, Prospect Street, Spoken To

Wednesday, April 9
11:14 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Lower Road, Officer Handled
4:41 p.m. Complaint, Main Street, Services Rendered

Thursday, April 10
5:03 a.m. 911 Scam, Hardwick Road, Investigated
8:53 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Church Street, Services Rendered
3:27 p.m. Trespass, Patrill Hollow Road, Officer Handled
3:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
4:03 p.m. Medical Emergency, Delargy Road, Transported to Hospital
8:08 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Collins Road, Services Rendered

Friday, April 11
10:12 a.m. Trespass, Petersham Road, No Action Required
12:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Church Street, Citation Issued

1:36 p.m. 911 Harassment, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital
4 p.m. Scam, Ridge Road, Report Taken

Saturday, April 12
1 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Pine Street, Transported to Hospital
4:49 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital
6:32 p.m. 911 Threat, Main Street, Services Rendered
7:47 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Services Rendered

Sunday, April 13
11:40 a.m. 911 Larceny/ Theft/Shoplifting, Hardwick Road, Report Taken
3:59 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
4:40 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, North Road, Transported to Hospital

Monday, April 14
6:04 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Written Warning
7:06 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Lower Road, Transported to Hospital

Open burning season open through May 1

WARE – Open burning season is now open by permit and runs through May 1. Permits will be available online only at ware.firepermits.com. If you are already registered for the site from last year's open burning sea-

son, you only need to log in and apply for a 2025 burn permit. Please make sure you link your bank account for UniPay for a smoother process. The bank requires time to process your payment and

your permit will be inactive until payment is approved. Cash will not be accepted at the fire station for a burn permit. All processing fees are required through the online website.

Tri-Parish Community Church lists Easter services

HARDWICK – Tri-Parish Community Church will hold its Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 20 at 5:45 a.m. at the East Quabbin Land Trust office, 120 Ridge Road. All are welcome to attend.

The Easter Sunrise Service will be led by Deacon Virginia Rich. The Tri Parish Community Church will also hold an Easter worship service to be led by Pastor Nathan

Pederson on Sunday, April 20 at 10 a.m. at the New Braintree Congregational Church, 3 Oakham Road, New Braintree. The church is handicapped accessible and all are welcome

support community journalism



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Paige Memorial Library lists upcoming, ongoing events

HARDWICK – Come join the staff at the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, for programs to educate and entertain.

Did you know you can suggest a program and we will attempt to find a presenter?

Ongoing programs

Story Time on Wednesday mornings with a story, an activity, and social interaction. Come at 10:30 a.m. to meet the other children with a story at 11 a.m. Paige Writers on Tuesdays at 3 p.m. FUNdamentals of Art on Tuesdays at 6 p.m.

On April 22, explore using soft pastels, a dry medium of ground pigments pressed into sticks, or bring your own project and join with others to socialize and share know-how. You must register.

Next Book Club on Wednesday May 14 at 2 p.m. Cookbook Club on the last Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m.

Upcoming events

On Saturday, May 3 at noon, there will be an anti-bullying presentation by Dennis Wise, young adult novelist and speaker on peer bullying. Supported in part by the Hardwick-New Braintree Cultural Council,

Tri-Parish hosts 19th annual event Plant, bake, craft & tag sale

HARDWICK – The Tri-Parish Community Church is pleased to announce they will be holding its 19th Annual Plant, Bake Sale, Craft & Tag Sale on the Hardwick Common Saturday and Sunday, May 17 and 18 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. each day.

This popular East Quabbin area event will feature traditional, favorite, and connoisseur perennials, plus selected annuals, heirloom vegetable plants, and herbs in time for spring planting. There is a wonderful variety in plants offered through several local vendors including Stillman’s Farm and Howe’s Farm and Garden of New

a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

On May 8, there will be a ticket drawing for the Celebrate Hardwick Quilt created by students of Pam Hinckley’s “Kids Can Sew” class donated to the library to raise funds for programs. Make a donation, get a ticket, and maybe it will be yours.

On Saturday, May 10 at 1 p.m. birds of prey and Indigenous American artifacts funded by the Hardwick Cultural Council. WINGMASTERS is a partnership between Julie Anne Collier and Jim Parks, licensed raptor rehabilitators and educators. This program is supported in part by the Hardwick-New Braintree Cultural Council, a local agency that is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

On Saturday, June 7 at 1 p.m. The Westfield Wheelman will oppose the Hardwick Haymen using old-fashioned rules for a game of vintage baseball. Join the Hardwick Haymen team to play ball or to cheer them on to victory.

For more information or to register, call 413-477-6704 or email Director.paigelibrary@gmail.com.

John J. Pilch, 82

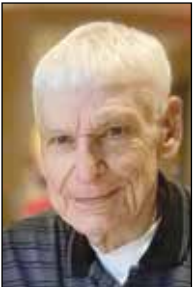
WARE – John J. “Jack” Pilch died Monday, April 7, 2025, 51 years to the day after his beloved mom, following a long illness.

He was one week shy of his 83rd birthday, having been born in Ware on April 14, 1942, to John S. Pilch and Mary (Bigda) Pilch.

He leaves his devoted wife of 60 years, Lucille (Cloutier) Pilch, his cherished children - Chrissie (and Tony) Mancini of Avon, Connecticut, Johnny Pilch of Ware, and Patti (and Bill) Munroe of Los Altos, California, and his adored grandchildren, Kyra Munroe of Berkeley, California, and Jake Munroe of Los Altos, California. He also leaves his siblings, Mariann Robertson of Medway and David (and Ellen) Pilch of Ware.

Jack worked his entire career at the former Ware Machine Works, which had been started by his father, eventually becoming its President before his retirement in 2005.

He loved NASCAR, old country music, old Westerns, and food; and



his family woke up most Sunday mornings to the smell of bacon and the sound of polkas. His son made sure that the last music he heard was polkas and Johnny Cash.

When he retired, he decided to start cooking the evening meal, and he spent his early mornings in Wal-Mart and Big Y, shopping for what he would make. He became a very good cook, constantly tweaking his recipes.

He was an active member of the Swift River Sportsman Club for many decades, and everybody who attended a clambake there until about 10 years ago enjoyed his “secret recipe” clam chowder. He was also a lifelong member of Club 12 and a member of the Hardwick Rod and Gun Club.

Jack was happiest outdoors, and he loved operating the backhoes and loaders that his company manufactured. He was an avid hunter and ice fisherman, and venison was a staple on the menu at his home.

He also enjoyed working his land, and he cut several dozen cords of wood annually to heat his house and

to give to family, friends, and the machine shop. He was proud of his vegetable garden and maintained that until he was no longer able to do so.

He always had a well-loved and spoiled dog by his side, and his family members often commented that they’d like to come back as one of his pups. It was a great source of disappointment when he lost his last one and was too ill to get another.

Jack was a devoted and loyal friend. An introvert, he was never the life of the party, but he stood by his friends and would do anything they needed. He was the first to volunteer whenever a friend or family member had a project.

He was also the king of nicknames. If you were close to him, you had one, or two, or more.

The loss of Jack is deeply felt by those who love him. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the dog rescue of your choice. There will be a private service for immediate family only.

Charbonneau Funeral Home is assisting his family with his arrangements. An online tribute page is available at charbonneauafh.com.

Death notices

Crevier, Carl C.
Died April 14, 2025
Services April 25, 2025

Pilch, John J. “Jack”
Died April 7, 2025

Ware River News
OBITUARY
POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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Ware River News

Carl C. Crevier, 71

WARE – Carl Chester Crevier, age 71, passed away in the early morning hours on Monday, April 14, 2025, at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, after a brief illness.

Carl was born in Ware on Feb. 23, 1954. He was a son of the late Francis H. Crevier and Nellie (Lak) Crevier.

Carl was raised and educated in Ware, and was a graduate of Springfield Trade School. He moved to Las Vegas, Nevada in 1982, and resided there for 42 years prior to moving back to Ware in 2023.

Carl was employed for many years at McCarran International Airport. He loved going to estate and tag sales. Carl loved eating out and socializing with



his friends.

He lived simply and humbly. His family takes comfort in the thought that Carl has been reunited with his parents, his brothers: David, Alan, Donald and Clifford who passed on before him. Carl leaves behind his surviving siblings: his brothers; Lawrence Crevier and his wife Francine, Roy Crevier, James Crevier and his wife Lisa, and his sister, Jean Plouffe and her husband Bob, sister in law Patti

Crevier and many numerous nieces and nephews.

A Visitation will take place on Friday, April 25, 2025, from 10-11 a.m. in the Cebula Funeral Home. A Prayer Service will take place on Friday, April 25, 2025, at 11 a.m. in Cebula Funeral Home, 66 South St., Ware. Carl will be laid to rest following the prayer service in New St. William Cemetery in Ware.

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

HARDWICK from page 7

letter that will be sent to nonprofits in relation to the Payments In Lieu Of Taxes policy. The board members wanted to go over the letter and proofread to see if all the wording is appropriate and has all their requests are noted.

Kemp wanted to go over

one of the paragraphs and wanted to update the wording. The board settled for the word “encourage” as part of the edit.


“Encourage is good,” said Select Board member Eric Vollheim.

The board voted and approved the letter for non-profit organizations in the Town of Hardwick.



IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory of

**Michael J. Swistak**
15th Anniversary
November 19, 1961 - April 17, 2010

**Theresa S. Zaganiacz**
7th Anniversary
July 1, 1930 - April 29, 2018

Your lives were a blessing,
the memories a treasure.
You are loved beyond words
and missed beyond measure.

We love and miss you both
MaryAnn & Mark
Blair & Andy
Morgan, Beckett and Delaney

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Dark blacks

7. Construct a wall to confine

13. Most inappropriate

14. A type of board

16. Sacred Hindu syllable

17. Flatterer

19. The Granite State

20. Tears down

22. China’s Chairman

23. Former Houston footballer

25. Periods of time

26. Expressed pleasure

28. World alliance

29. A Brit’s mother

30. Television network

31. Brother or sister

33. Type of spirit

34. ___ Ladd, actor

36. A medium oversees it

38. One time province of British India

40. Wrong

41. The highest parts of something

43. Insect

44. Baseball stat

45. A way to use up

47. Where wrestlers compete

48. It helps elect politicians

51. As fast as can be done

53. Genus of legumes

55. Samoa’s capital

56. Monument in Jakarta

58. Former French coin

59. Exploiters

60. College sports official

61. Uninterrupted in time

64. Stephen King story

65. Marked by no sound

67. Weathers

69. Denouncements

70. More beloved

CLUES DOWN

1. Winged nut

2. It cools a home

3. Kisses (French)

4. Oxford political economist

5. Keyboard key

6. Leaf pores

7. Agrees with publicly

8. Not around

9. Czech city

10. Muscle cell protein

11. Greek letter

12. Movements

13. Ned ___, composer

15. Popular series Game of ___

18. Exclamation that denotes disgust

21. Helper

24. Gift

26. Up in the air (abbr.)

27. Treat without respect

30. Trims

32. Slang for lovely

35. City of Angels

37. Guitarists’ tool

38. Island nation

39. Delivered in installments

42. A baglike structure

43. Cooking vessel

46. Gets in front of

47. Wounded by scratching

49. More breathable

50. Medical dressings

52. Indiana hoopster

54. Married Marilyn

55. An ancient Assyrian city

57. Congressmen (abbr.)

59. Approves food

62. Ventura’s first name

63. Between northeast and east

66. Atomic #71

68. Email designation

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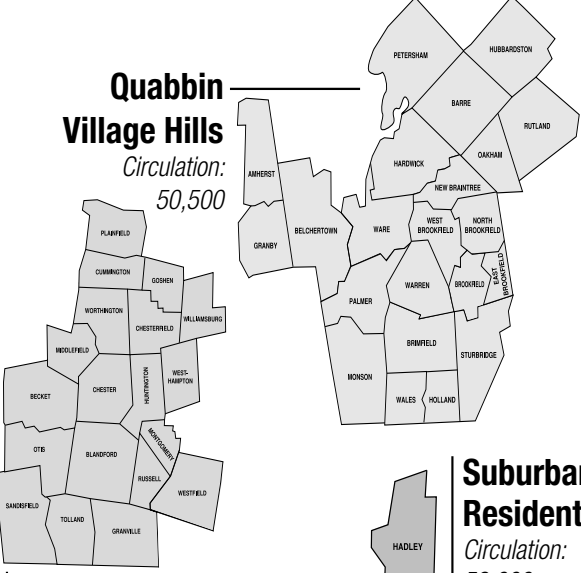
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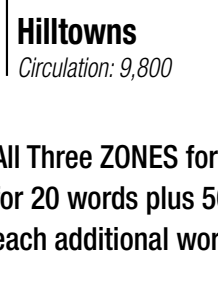
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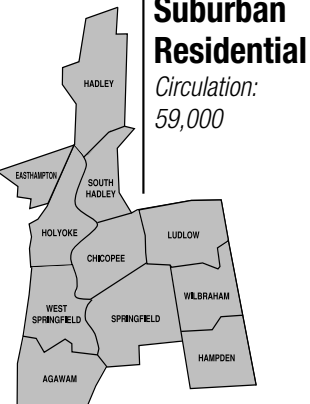
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notices

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. HS25P0221EA
Estate of:
Todd M. Prescott
Also known as:
Todd Prescott
Date of Death: 11/27/2024
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Kelli Prescott 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: Kelli Prescott 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 05/07/2025. 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: April 04, 2025
Mark S Ames, Register of Probate
04/17/2025
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampshire Probate and Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton, MA 01060
(413)586-8500
Docket No. HS25P0197GD
In the matter of: Carol Adams
Of: Ware, MA
Respondent
Alleged Incapacitated Person
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Department of Developmental Serv of Springfield, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Carol Adams is in need of a Guardian and requesting that
Jason L. Adams of Worcester, MA
Mary Adams of Sneads Ferry, NC
(or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.
The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appoint-

ment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of 05/01/2025. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.
WITNESS, Hon. Diana S. Velez Harris, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 27, 2025
Mark S. Ames, Register of Probate
04/17/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Probate and Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton MA, 01060
Docket No. HS17P0622GD
In the interests of Carol L Adams
Of: Ware, MA
RESPONDENT
Incapacitated Person/ Protected Person
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR TERMINATION OF A GUARDIAN OF AN INCAPACITATED PERSON
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Dept. of Developmental Services of Springfield, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court:
Terminate the Guardianship of the Respondent.
The petition asks the court to make a determination that the Guardian and/or Conservator should be allowed to resign; or should be removed for good cause; or that the Guardianship and/or Conservatorship is no longer necessary and therefore should be terminated. The original petition is on file with the court.
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 05/01/2025. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file

the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expenses.
WITNESS, Hon. Diana S. Velez Harris, First Justice of this Court
Date: March 27, 2025
Mark S. Ames, Register of Probate
04/17/2024
Hardwick Planning Board
Notice of Public Hearing
Notice is hereby given that the Hardwick Planning Board per Hardwick Zoning Bylaw, Sections 3.2.6.1.3 and 5.0 will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, April 29, 2025 at 7:45PM** at the **Town House, 32 Common Street, Hardwick, MA.**
This Hearing is regarding the application for Site Plan Approval by **Ware Solar II**

LLC to install a commercial ground-mounted 2.03 MW solar energy facility on 7.4 acres on **Osborn Road (map 94, lot 14), Hardwick.** A complete copy of the application can be inspected at the Municipal Offices in the Town Clerk's office during posted business hours. All interested parties are asked to attend.
Interested parties may also view this Legal Notice at <http://masspublicnotices.org>
Hardwick Planning Board
Jenna Garvey, Chair
04/10, 04/17/2025
Hardwick Planning Board
Notice of Public Hearing
Notice is hereby given that the Hardwick Planning Board per Hardwick Zoning Bylaw, Sections 3.2.6.L.3 and 5.0 will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, April 29, 2025 at 6:45PM** at the **Town House at 32 Common Street, Hardwick MA.**
This Hearing is regarding the application for Site Plan Approval by **Old Greenwich Plains Road Solar LLC** to install a commercial ground-mounted 2.96 MW solar energy facility on **37 acres on Old Greenwich Plains Road, Hardwick (map 91, lot 21, 23).** A complete copy of the application can be inspected at the Municipal Offices in the Town Clerk's office during posted business hours. All interested parties are asked to attend.
Interested parties may also view this Legal Notice at <http://masspublicnotices.org>
Hardwick Planning Board
Jenna Garvey, Chair
04/10, 04/17/2025

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

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- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

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EQLT hosts Earth Day Children’s Activity Workshop on April 22

HARDWICK – The East Quabbin Land Trust will celebrate Earth Day with a free Children’s Activity Workshop during school vacation week, on April 22 from 3-5 p.m., at EQLT’s office, 120 Ridge Road.

Children and their parents/caregivers are welcome. Activities are unscheduled, and attendees can participate at their own pace.

Activities will include: a gathering fire, painting Kindness Rocks, exploring the Children’s Play Trail and building bluebird birdhouses (one for each child to take home)

Most activities will be held outdoors on the hillside next to the EQLT office in both wooded and open grassy areas. Children should be dressed for the weather and outdoor fun.

Please RSVP to atrevvett@eqlt.org by April 18.

About the East Quabbin Land Trust

The East Quabbin Land Trust fosters a meaningful relationship with the natural world by conserving, connecting with and caring for the farmlands, woodlands and waters in the East Quabbin region of Massachusetts. EQLT works closely with community members to foster vibrant communities through engagement with the outdoors.

Asparagus Festival set for May 17

WEST BROOKFIELD – On Saturday, May 17 during the town of West Brookfield’s Asparagus, Heritage and Flower Festival on the town common, the First Congregational Church, 36 North Main St., will offer their famous Asparagus Chowder from the church lawn.

Hot chowder by the cup, cold chowder to take home, heat and eat by the quart, cookies and cold drinks will be available from 10 a.m. until it runs out. Inside and outside dining is available.

Call the church for more information at 508-867-7078.

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