

# WARE RIVER NEWS

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## Hospital property discussed at joint meeting

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – The Hospital Review Committee held a joint meeting with the Historical Commission to share updates about the Mary Lane Hospital property.

At the April 11 meeting, Building Commissioner Anna Marques provided information

she gathered during an unscheduled walkthrough of the hospital on March 15 and another more recent walkthrough.

Marques said the second walkthrough was in response to a call the Fire Department received for a pulled alarm. She said there have been a lot of false alarms calls to the property.

"I got to see the room that was abated," Marques said. "A week

and a half prior it was closed off."

This room "shows potential" Marques said.

The abatement contractor, American Environmental, is about halfway done with the Wetherby building. Marques said chandeliers and other features have been removed from the building due to concerns about what would happen to them.

Marques said someone from

the Department of Environmental Protection, the agency overseeing the asbestos abatement, also toured the building and conducted that inspection. Marques said she couldn't go in some of the areas that the DEP inspector could.

Marques said the DEP did issue a notice of noncompliance with conditions of what needs to be fixed. It was not enough to shut-down the abatement process.

The notice of noncompliance, "did not warrant stopping the project," Marques said.

Hospital Review Committee Chair Howard Trietsch asked if the removal of the asbestos would make the site more appealing to potential developers.

Marques said in her opinion, it would.

Please see **MLH**, page 5

## School district recognizes staff and students

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Superintendent Michael Lovato recognized students who have achieved perfect attendance during the school year, and gave out several awards to both staff and students.

"We've done a lot this year, working with our administrators and our teachers to really remind students, and our teachers and families how important it is to be here every day," Lovato said. "But we think about the academic excellence that we expect of our teachers and that we expect from our students, it starts with coming to school."

At the School Committee's April 10 meeting, Lovato said having perfect attendance is not easy for students to earn, and he asked administrators to recognize those that have.

"We have five kids tonight with perfect attendance and without question, what they've been able to do is subpar to nothing," he said.

Please see **RECOGNIZE**, page 5

## Spaghetti fundraiser is a homerun

Supper benefited youth baseball/softball program

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – Quaboag Regional Middle High School hosted a spaghetti supper to benefit the Quaboag Youth Baseball and Softball program.

This was the second annual spaghetti supper where all proceeds go to support youth baseball and softball. The supper included spaghetti and meatballs, dinner rolls and a salad.

After the meal there was also a variety of cookies available to enjoy.

In addition to the meal, raffles



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

A spaghetti supper took place at Quaboag Regional Middle High School to support the Quaboag Youth Baseball and Softball.

were going on for guests to participate and win some fun prizes. There were more than 20 items donated by local businesses con-

sisting of gift cards and gift baskets.

There was also a baseball set to be won during the raffle.

Vice President of the Quaboag Youth Baseball and Softball program is Heather Gough who kept busy during the fun supper. Gough

was handing out a lot of uniforms to parents and their kids who par-

Please see **FUNDRAISER**, page 7

## FinCom gives FY 25 budget presentation

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Finance Committee Chair Ken Willette presented a high level overview of the proposed fiscal year 2025 budget to the Selectboard.

"At a high level, our reserves are in a good financial standing," he said at the April 16 meeting. "We do have a strong free cash account. We are well positioned to go forward in FY 25, not only to meet the operational needs of the town, but to look to some of the future capital needs of the town."

He said the town is about a \$40 million business enterprise, based on what is received from residents, state grants, offset fees and other things, in the projected fiscal year.

"With that, we operate a town that provides a good level of service to the residents, but some decisions had to be made in fund-

ing the FY 25 budget and not every department head was able to get every request recommended," he said.

Willette recognized Town Manager Stuart Beckley and former Town Accountant Tracy

Please see **FINCOM**, page 7

## Capital Planning reviews sewer dept. requests

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Capital Planning Committee went over sewer improvement project requests.

Attending the April 9 meeting was Sewer Chief Operator Ralph Zebrowski sharing the list of requests made by him and the Sewer Commissioners. Several projects revolve around pumps for sewer operation.

One of the requests is for copper reduction. The Capital Planning Committee wanted to figure out if copper reduction is an operation cost or if it falls under capital planning.

From what was discussed between the committee and Zebrowski the copper reduction project would be an operational cost.

Zebrowski is also looking to buy another pump that is up to date. Currently there is a \$25,000 stub for a pump and Capital Planning wants to know the actual cost of the pump. Zebrowski will look into the cost of the pump and inform the Capital Planning Committee as soon as possible.

When asked how long this pump installment will take, Zebrowski estimated the whole process will take a week to get into the system.



**THE CURRENT ALARM IS COMPLETELY USELESS."**

**RALPH ZEBROWSKI**  
SEWER CHIEF OPERATOR

Another project request was for an affluent chlorine alarm. This project was listed as a mandated project.

Zebrowski needs a new chlorine alarm to replace the current one that has supposedly ran its course.

"The current alarm is completely useless," Zebrowski said.

Another request for a pump is also a potential mandated project for the town's sewer plant. The operation of this pump helps remove sludge and can be shipped out. The concern Zebrowski has is the parts to replace current parts for the pumps are costly as is the installation.

Please see **PLANNING**, page 5

## Ridge Shinn is on a mission to regenerate the land

By Richard Murphy  
Correspondent

Finally, a day that felt like spring here in western central Massachusetts.

I was in Hardwick Center to meet with Ridge Shinn and it was warm enough that we could take seats, and sip coffee on the porch of Mimi's Coffeehouse.

Though many in farming in our neck of the woods know of Shinn, most of the citizenry don't. Shinn is a bit of a radical in that he advocates raising beef on a 100% grass diet.

The man has had long experience with livestock. In the late 1970s he was a founder of the American Minor Breeds Conservancy (now: The Livestock Conservancy). He was as important

as anyone in promoting breed preservation.

Since, he has been busy promoting the idea of grass-fed beef in different ways.

Shinn was a founder of the New England Livestock Alliance, Hardwick Beef, Big Picture Beef and other entities. He grazed cattle on a local land trust property and ran Hardwick-based Big Picture Beef.

What he is doing currently is different, but is still in the livestock game.

Shinn is executive director of Northeast Grass-fed Beef Initiative. The goal is to partner with farmers to support transitions to regenerative grazing and pasture management practices.

Please see **MISSION**, page 6



Submitted Photo

## LIONS CLUB WELCOMES NEWEST MEMBER

The Ware Lions Club welcomed its newest member, Cynthia Gravel, recently. Shown with Gravel is District Governor Curt Jameson, who performed the induction, and Ware Lions Club President and Gravel's sponsor, Judy Fair.

### BULKY WASTE DISPOSAL DAY

Saturday, April 27, 2024  
7am-12pm  
at ReSource Waste,  
198 East Street, Ware



#### ITEMS FREE FOR DISPOSAL

- Loveseats, Chairs & Couches
- Box Springs & Mattresses
- Power Equipment
- (Must be drained of all fluids)
- Etc.



#### PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Food Waste
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- Hazardous Waste



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- Truck Tires \$75
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- Passenger Tires \$30
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- Television, Computer Monitors \$40

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



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**NOTICE**

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

# Ware Grange hosts gardening workshop series for all ages

WARE – Since 2016, Ware Grange has been holding an annual gardening workshop series, helping local residents learn strategies for improving their garden and growing healthy plants.

This year's workshop series has many great topics in store for attendees, including gardening tools, heirloom plants, and upcycling in your garden, and will feature returning favorite speakers Roberta McQuaid and Allison Rosendale. Workshops will be held monthly from April through September.

New this year is a series of workshops of children called Kids' Corner at Ware Grange. This series, designed for preschool and elementary school aged children, will teach children about nature, farms and the environment.

The workshops will be led by Jen McNally, preschool teacher at St. Aloysius Catholic School in Hardwick. Each Kids' Corner workshop will include a story and a hands-on activity or craft relating to the featured topic.

Workshops will be held monthly from May through October, ending with the annual Pumpkin Carving event.

This year's workshop series for adults will include the following dates and topics:

Monday, April 29 at 7 p.m. - Getting a Head Start with Annual Flowers

Thursday, May 23 at 7 p.m. - Equip Yourself for Success

Friday, June 14 at 7 p.m. - Cottage Garden Biennials and Perennials

July (date TBA) - Upcycling in Your Garden

August (date TBA) - Houseplants

Friday, Sept. 6 at 7 p.m. - Unique Heirloom Plants

Kids' Corner at Ware Grange will be held as follows. All Kids' Corner workshops, except the Pumpkin Carving, will be held on Saturday mornings at 9:30 a.m.

May 11 - Planting Seeds

June 22 - Backyard Bugs

July 20 - Moo, Cluck, Baa, Farm Animals

Aug. 10 - Fun at the Fair

Sept. 7 - Leaves, Nuts, Cones, Trees and More

Monday, Oct. 28 at 6pm - Annual Pumpkin Carving

All workshops will take place at the Grange Hall at 297 Belchertown Road in Ware. For more information, visit Ware Grange on Facebook or at waregrange.org, or contact them at waregrange@comcast.net.

## Annual town election is May 4

HARDWICK – The Town of Hardwick's Annual Election will be held on Saturday, May 4, at Hardwick Elementary School, 76 School House Drive and the polls will be open from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

The Selectboard voted to

opt out of vote by mail for this election, so those who have previously submitted a vote-by-mail application will not be receiving a ballot for this election.

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Ch. 54 § 86 & 89, those who

are unable to vote during polling hours may request an absentee ballot from the Town Clerk's office no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, April 29.

The deadline for in-person absentee voting is noon on Thursday, May 2.

## Tri-Parish church seeks vendors for tag, craft sale

HARDWICK – The Tri-Parish Community Church announces their 18th Annual Plant and Bake Sale, on the Hardwick Common on Saturday, June 1 and Sunday, June 2 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 Inishowen Farms of North Brookfield, Stillman's Farm of New Braintree, Howe's Farm of New Braintree, Tracie's Greenhouse of Ware, the Hardwick Farmers Co-op of Hardwick and private gardens.

A delicious assortment of home-baked desserts and breads will also be sold. The

event is held rain or shine.

The church is also seeking vendors for their annual tag and craft sale to coincide with the plant and bake sale. Spaces on the Hardwick Common will be offered for \$35 each. Applications may be obtained by emailing Marguerite at mcrevier1.mc@gmail.com or calling 413-477-6942.

People should reserve their space early. All are welcome.

# 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 2022 showed Ware High School sophomore Remy Cahalan competing in the Dodgeball Competition as his fellow classmates look on.

## Town Wide Yard Sale set for April 27

RUTLAND – Rutland, the geographic center of Massachusetts, again celebrates as a community the 28th Annual Town Wide Yard Sale on Saturday, April 27 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Historically people have come from near and far to participate in this one-day event. The maps will be available starting on Saturday, April 27 at 7:15 a.m. at the Town Lines, on the Town Common in front of Community Hall and on the 4th of July Facebook page.

Participants pay to be on the map and all proceeds go to the Town's Fourth of July Celebration. Over the years this event raises over \$3,500 for the town's 4th of July Celebration each year.

According to Benjamin Barakian, Chair of the Town Wide Yard Sale Committee, "This year will be stronger than ever. As of April 10, they are on target to have over 200 participants selling from their yards, garages and on the Town Common too and this number will continue to grow. It's a day full of fun and joy."

This year again is being anticipated as a record breaker in the number of sites/locations and people selling their treasures both from their homes and on the Town Commons. The Yard Sale goes on in any kind of weather – sunshine, rain, warm or cold. People may call Ben with any questions at 508-886-3367 or email at rutlandyardsale@gmail.com.

Rutland is proud of its history and proud of their annual yard sale tradition. Community groups, businesses and all enjoy the day.

Several town organizations gather to sell their items for charity, businesses boom and the town streets and sidewalks come to life. Food Trucks will be in front of the Community Hall on Main Street.

The amazing part of the day is everything is done and cleaned up by 4 p.m. It's fun to watch people stop and pick up free things at the end of driveways at the end of the day. People should feel free to make this part of the day too, they never know what they can find for free.

## Library hosts MLH talk with Steve Granlund

HARDWICK – The Gilbertville Public Library, 259 Main St., Gilbertville, will host resident Steve Granlund to talk

about Mary Lane Hospital on Thursday, May 2 at 6 p.m.

Granlund will talk about the closure of Mary Lane Hospital

and its impact on the community. He has done extensive research on this issue and will share what he's learned.

Read the Ware River News online at [www.warerivernews.turley.com](http://www.warerivernews.turley.com)

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# Quabbin held presentation about parenting and anxiety

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

BARRE – Quabbin Regional High School welcomed Lynn Lyons to present a presentation on worrying called “Modeling Matters: What parents need to know (and do) to decrease stress, worry and anxiety.”

Lyons is a licensed clinical social worker and psychoanalyst based out of Concord, New Hampshire. She has traveled internationally as a speaker and trainer on the subject of anxiety.

Anxiety plays a role in families, at home and in schools.

With this presentation, Lyons has a special emphasis on cell phones and social media and how they impact worrying, stress and anxiety.

According to Lyons’ studies the rate of worrying and anxiety amongst adolescents began before the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the pandemic contributed to the increase of anxiety, worrying and stress, Lyons believes the initial increase had started about a decade earlier when technology began growing in popularity.

Technology such as smart phones and social media outlets were making their way into not only in homes but also into classrooms in school. Lyons believes that kids are more and more afraid of their emotions and social media is heavily involved in it.

“Inaccurate information is making it worse,” Lyons said referring to the use of social media being involved in daily life.

When discussing worrying, Lyons describes worrying as predictable, redundant and persistent.

Regarding anxiety, Lyons shared that anxiety demands both certainty and comfort.

Certainty revolves around someone wanting to know what’s going on in advance and to have some form of control. Comfort is the feeling of being safe and comfortable



Lynn Lyons of New Hampshire gave a presentation on worrying at Quabbin Regional High School.

Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

or else wants out of something.

Lyons shared a quote from David Barlow that defines anxiety as a form of someone’s way of overestimating and underestimating certain situations.

“Anxiety is an overestimation of the problem and an underestimation of your resource to deal with it,” Lyons paraphrasing Barlow.

In other words, what may seem like a big deal to the individual with anxiety may not be as big of a deal to others.

“It’s a bummer, not an emergency or crisis,” Lyons said.

Lyons then spoke about avoidance and how it is a primary trap that leads to anxiety taking over. Avoidance is a tactic people use when handling certain situations that may stress them out or trigger their anxiety.

This primary trap is the promotion of elimination and avoidance.

“The more you try to get rid of a worried thought or symptom, the stronger it gets,” Lyons said.

If someone is avoiding something that makes them anxious, it

does more harm than good.

Lyons suggests that parents should pay attention to connection. Humans need connection to bond and form meaningful relationships.

According to Lyons, being in front of screens get in the way of making those connections.

Back in 2012-2013 Lyons believes that smart phones really started to get into the hands of teenagers and the age of kids getting cell phones is getting even younger.

Lyons also believes that social isolation has a significant impact on the emotional and physical health of children and adolescents.

Getting kids involved in group work and volunteering opportunities help give purpose. Group work also gives children the practice and opportunities to connect.

School projects, sports, activities and clubs all offer real-life interactions. When fostering connection versus isolation, Lyons believes both anxiety and depression makes isolation.

Tracking is a source parents use as a digital app to track their

kids’ phones to know exactly where they’re located. Lyons feels that tracking is more intrusive and gets in the way of developing problem solving.

In other words, Lyons hopes parents begin promoting autonomy and support it in any way as their kids move into adulthood. Instead of relying on devices parents and their children can communicate responsibly and build on critical skills such as relationship repair, awkward empathy, self-disclosure and emotional literacy.

Before wrapping up her presentation, Lyons gave away two copies of her book “Anxious Kids, Anxious Parents.” Her most recent book “The Anxiety Audit” was released back in October of 2022.

Lyons has been traveling and presenting Modeling Matters since 2015 and was featured in the recent documentary “Anxious Nation”. Folks can listen to Lyons on her podcast, Flusterclux on multiple podcast outlets.

# Participants wanted for Ware’s Town Wide Tag Sale

WARE – The Town Wide Tag Sale to benefit the Ware Center Meeting House, a 1799 historic building in the first center of Ware, will be held Saturday, June 8 from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

The proprietors of the Meeting House have been working on the restoration of this building for over 25 years. It’s open to the public on alternate Sundays in the summer, during an educational day for third graders, and during special events.

Sign up at warecentermeetinghouse.org or send a check

for \$15 to Ware Center Meeting House P.O. Box 1401, Ware, MA 01082. Payment must be delivered by June 1.

Once registered, put your number on your house for shoppers to find you. Those shopping the tag sale can come pick up a list of streets having tag sales at the Ware Center Meeting House after 8 a.m. on June 8 and have fun shopping.

This is a rain or shine event. For more information or questions, email janicehills110@gmail.com.

# Paige Memorial Library lists events

HARDWICK – Register now at the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, to create a “Scrunch-Paint” tie-dye style silk scarf on Saturday, April 27 at 1:30 p.m. at the Town House.

Each participant will leave with a beautiful silk scarf masterpiece created under the direction of Gariné of Kalina Folk Arts. This workshop is for teens and adults.

This program is supported by a grant from the Hardwick Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Registration is required by emailing director.paigelibrary@gmail.com, calling 413-477-6704, or by stopping by the library.

**Ongoing programs**

Explore the library’s ongoing programs: the Paige Writing group meeting on alternate Tuesdays at 3 p.m., the Paige Book Club meeting at 2 p.m. monthly, and the Cookbook Club meeting at 5:30 p.m. monthly on the last Wednesday and Legos open building session from 2-4 p.m. on Quabbin Regional School District early dismissal days.

# BLCC scholarship application deadline April 19

WARE – Beaver Lake Club Corporation of Ware announces its annual Louis H. Healy Scholarship of up to \$1,000.

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

The scholarship is given in the memory of Louis Healy a long time and well-respected member of the Beaver Lake community and the town of Ware. Lou was an active leader and partic-

ipant in both town and community matters and his family and friends continue to celebrate his thoughts, ideals, and memory by awarding this yearly academic scholarship.

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

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

# Michael H. Deslauriers Scholarship applications available

WARE – The Ware Amvets Post 2577 will award the annual Michael H. Deslauriers Scholarship to a graduating senior residing in Ware regardless of the school district they attend.

Michael was a devoted musician sharing his talents with the town of Ware. He represented the town at the Quabbin Music Festival,

Western District Festival and was a member of the Ware Community Band.

A music graduate of Westfield State, he continued to honor the veterans of the town by playing taps at their burial ceremony and also at all the patriotic and Memorial events.

To apply for this award of

\$1,000, you need only to send your application, school transcript and an essay stating your accomplishments and what your future plans are. Applications are available at your guidance office and must be submitted by May 1.

Please mail to: Ware Amvets Post 2577, c/o Richard Rucki, 8 First Avenue, Ware, MA 01082.

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

### 2024 Seasonal Employment

Warren Parks & Rec. Dept. is accepting applications for Seasonal Positions including:  
**Lifeguard, Recreation Supervisor, and Counselors.**

Job description and applications available online at [www.warren-ma.gov](http://www.warren-ma.gov) or at Town Clerk’s Office.

Mail applications to:  
Warren Parks & Rec. Dept.  
P.O. Box 609  
Warren, MA 01083  
**Deadline: May 15, 2024.**

*The Town of Warren is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

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**SUNDAY, APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup> - 12PM TO 4PM**

Door Prize & Raffles

The Geezer Band

## Pasta for a Purpose

### Event to Benefit #CAMSTRONG (Cameron Prosperi)

# May 4, 2024

Entertainment & Demonstrations

**AMVETS POST 74**  
2150 Main Street  
Three Rivers, MA

**Event starts at 3 p.m.**  
**Dinner starts at 4:30 p.m.**

**\$15 Donation**  
Children 12 and under free  
For Tickets Contact Carol 413-433-4138  
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or visit the AmVets

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Northern Flicker

A Blandford resident saw a male northern flicker during the April 4 snowstorm among other birds at her snowbound feeding station.

I saw a male northern flicker before the snow storm last week near the Barre line. The day after the snow, I saw one by the edge of the road at the ball-field in the center of Oakham, the only bare spot.

The northern flicker is about 13 inches long. Distinguishing marks include a black band or necklace under its throat, black spots on its breast, gray head and long beak. The male has a black line at the base of its bill, which the female lacks. Both have a red patch on the neck and a white rump, clearly visible in flight.

The flicker is the only ground feeding woodpecker. Ants make up almost half of its diet. It also catches insects in the air and eats fruit, berries and seeds. It will come to feeders like the one in Blandford.

Flickers are cavity nesters and excavate a hole in a tree, fence post or cactus. They will use a nest box. The female lays seven to nine white eggs. They make a loud "kekekeke" for territorial display and a "woikawoiwakowa" during courtship. They also do muffled volleys of drumming.

### Flocks of robins

The Blandford resident also had a flock of about 25 robins in her yard. She said they departed before she could shovel clear strip of grass for them and put out mealworms. I saw many robins along the side of the after last Thursdays snowstorm and the day after as there was no other area clear of snow.

### Pileated woodpecker holes

I received a photo from a Charlton resident showing a tree with numerous holes made by a pileated woodpecker. It was impressive.

I usually hear the pileated woodpecker more than I see them. Recently, I heard one and looked for it in the area of its hammering. I saw this one and it kept up its excavating as I watched it.

### More snowstorm birds

A Brimfield resident, who sends me frequent bird sightings, said, "During the snow storm last week in addition to the usual suspects we had a field sparrow, a Carolina wren and about 36 goldfinch visit the yard. Some of the male goldfinch were beginning to show some yellow plumage."

### Black vultures

The Brimfield resident said his wife saw two black vultures in the center of Brimfield feeding on a dead opossum. He said, "They are showing up in western Massachusetts more often recently."

### Turkey vultures

A favorite roost for turkey vultures is near the transfer station in Barre on Depot Road. I saw several vultures circling over the area, several perched on lamp posts and a shed at the transfer station. One on the lamp post had its wings spread out. It was quite a sight to see.

I saw a turkey vulture spreading its wings like that several years ago on one of the high tension line poles in Oakham. It almost looked like it flew into the post.

### Ospreys and herons

This Brimfield resident makes regular trips to several ponds. He said in his most recent email, "In Warren at the pond on South Street the osprey pair that have nested there the past three years have returned. Last year there were three great blue heron nests there that produced young. This year only one pair of herons has returned so far. At my last visit it looked like a heron was incubating eggs or maybe just sitting down?"

He also said, "At the great blue heron rookery at Conant Brook Dam in Monson there are four nest this year. On a visit last week the four nests had birds incubating eggs. There were six nest here last year but one of the trees with a nest looked like it was in danger of falling over, guess it did. And another nest has disappeared." He said there is an osprey pair at the playing fields in Wilbraham by the YMCA/Spec Pond. He saw one of osprey bring sticks to the nest and at another visit one was sitting on the nest.

*People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.*



## Blueberry propagation experiment

A reader from Hardwick wrote in asking how to propagate blueberry bushes.

I've never tried to propagate blueberry bushes myself, but have always thought that it would make good sense, especially if you have a limited pocketbook and a few productive plants on hand already, or at least you know someone that does.

Obviously, you would not want to replicate a plant that doesn't produce well or one that turns out berries that aren't to your liking.

In researching this skill, I found there to be two schools of thought on the matter: propagation by either softwood cuttings or hardwood cuttings.

Softwood cuttings are taken when the bush is in active growth, usually late June through early July, roughly about two months after spring growth began. The growth is new, not woody, but should not be super pliable or light green in appearance either, nor should it contain any flowers or immature fruit.

A stem should be cut about 5-8 inches long and the leaves should be pinched off of the last couple of inches. Fill a 4 inch or slightly bigger pot with a material that will drain freely but not be too fertile.

You are mainly looking for anchoring material; good options being equal parts sand

and peat moss or sand and perlite. I've even heard of people using bark mulch.

Some experts employ a rooting hormone; others say the cutting will root regardless. I will use it because I have some on hand.

You will notice that there are different types of rooting hormone. Usually, it will say whether it is the type for softwood or hardwood cutting right on the container.

I'll dip the bottom of the stem into the hormone. Using a pencil, I'll make a hole in the material I've chosen to root the cuttings in and insert the cutting into the hole so at least those two or three nodes from where the leaves were, are covered.

I set the pots in the shade, and I mist them a few times daily so that they will not wilt and die before they form roots. Experts say that this method will yield roots in 2-7 weeks.

Some challenges include keeping the media wet enough to prevent wilting, but not so wet that you end up with fungal problems.

Hardwood cuttings, in contrast, are taken during the dormant season, usually around the time that you are pruning. One expert actually recommended using stems from branches that are pruned away.

The stems should be green or red in color and diameter-wise just smaller than that of a pencil. Much narrower stems seem to produce good results as well. It's important to cut off the tips of branches that contain any buds that look like flower buds - they are a little rounder in appearance.

The same pot size and anchoring material is recommended but you would use a rooting hormone geared towards hardwood cuttings; it is a bit stronger. Hardwood cuttings are handled the same way - placed in the shade and misted, but because they have to "wake up" then callus and root, they take a few weeks longer to show results in at least two months, maybe 3-4.

No matter which way you take your cut-



tings, it's important not to tug on them or disturb them in any way in their pot, even though you may be anxious to see how successful you've been. You will know they are rooted by the quality of new growth you'd see; maybe even a new branch coming from the base.

Once sufficiently rooted the cuttings can be transplanted into a more fertile media and a larger pot or into a nursery area in your garden.

I'm excited to try taking cuttings of my blueberry bushes. I may even take some from my mom's plants.

What a nice memory it would be to have the descendants of my childhood blueberry bushes growing on my own property.

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



## Can I claim Social Security and still work?

Dear Rusty:

I will be turning 63 soon. Can I apply for Social Security and continue to work?

Would I be limited to how many hours or how much I could make? I know my monthly SS amount would be cut by 30% or somewhere around there, but how would working affect me? I was trying to read up on this, but the \$1 and \$2 thing confused me. I have an offer to take a work-at-home position and need to decide soon, but it is a cut in income. The cut would be okay if I could draw my Social Security too.

*Signed: Wanting Work at Home*

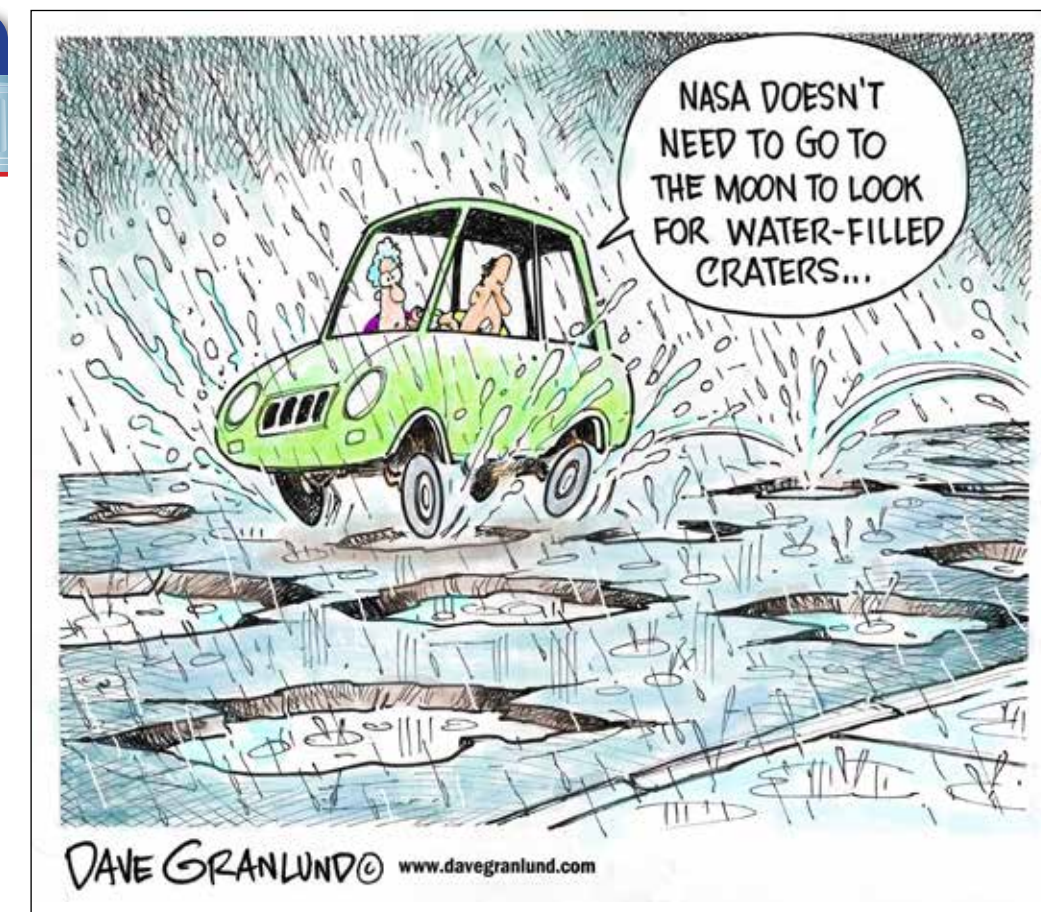
Dear Wanting:

If you claim your Social Security to start in the month you turn 63, you'll be claiming 4 years before your Full Retirement Age of 67, which means your monthly benefit at 63 will be about 25% less than it would be if you claimed SS at age 67. And if you are working before your FRA, you'll be subject to Social Security's "earnings test."

The 2024 earnings limit for those collecting early Social Security benefits is \$22,320 (this limit changes annually). If your annual earnings exceed the limit, Social Security will assess a penalty of \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit. They will recover that penalty amount by withholding future benefits until they recover what you owe.

If your work earnings are under the annual limit, you will get all your monthly SS benefits. But if you exceed the limit, they will find that out after you submit your income tax return (the following year) and issue you an overpayment notice, telling you how much you owe for exceeding the limit last year.

They will then withhold your benefits until they get back what you owe or you can repay them in a lump sum. To avoid the overpayment notice, it is best to inform Social Security in advance that you will exceed the annual earnings limit and they will simply withhold your monthly SS benefits during the year for enough



months to avoid overpaying you.

So, what you should do depends largely on how much your earnings from your new work-at-home position will be. If your earnings are below the annual limit, no penalty will be assessed. If you only exceed the annual limit by a little bit, then you can still work and earn and simply repay them what is owed for exceeding the limit or have your SS benefit temporarily withheld.

If you only exceed the earnings limit by a little, you'll still get benefits for most months of the year. But if you significantly exceed the annual earnings limit, you could even be ineligible to receive SS benefits until you either earn less or reach your full retirement age, the earnings limit goes away at your FRA.

So, what you should do depends on what "a cut in income" means in terms of your expected annual earnings amount. If your total annual earnings will be under the annual limit, your SS benefit won't be affected. If you only exceed the limit by a little bit, then

you will get SS benefits for most months of the year. But if your annual earnings are significantly over each year's annual earnings limit, then you won't get SS benefits for most months of the year and may even be temporarily ineligible to receive benefits.

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

## Oliveira: 'We need more homes'

Senator weighs in on housing needs in Pioneer Valley

By Nick Boonstra  
Staff Writer  
nboonstra@turley.com

In a recent phone interview, state Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) highlighted the work being done on Beacon Hill to address the housing crisis that thousands in the Pioneer Valley and across the commonwealth are facing, while also emphasizing the areas in which more work needs to be done.

Oliveira, whose Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester district includes communities spanning from Warren to South Hadley, said that the first step toward helping both a veteran waitlisted for emergency shelter and a working family struggling to keep up with inflation was

the same.

"The bottom line is that we need more homes," he said.

When it came to the issue of housing affordability, Oliveira said that he approached the subject from a unique point of view relative to others in his role.

"As one of the few renters who's a member of the Legislature, I see things from a little bit of a different perspective from some of my other colleagues," he said.

He also pointed out the unfortunate reality of what a lack of affordable housing can mean for Massachusetts residents, and why it is so important to address the issue head-on.

"We don't want people living on the streets, we don't want people living in tents, we don't want people living in the woods," he said. "It's a public safety issue; it's a humanitarian issue."

Oliveira acknowledged that Massachusetts'

unique status as the only state in the nation with a right-to-shelter law had become a point of discussion as the housing crisis has escalated. However, he also clarified that this guarantee for emergency shelter only applied to families with children, and that over half of those families currently in the shelter system were citizens of Massachusetts and of the United States.

"There are a significant number of migrants that are being housed, but there's a significant number of Massachusetts residents that are in the system as well - veterans and seniors and other working families that are here in the



State Sen. Jake Oliveira

Please see OLIVEIRA, page 11

## WARE RIVER NEWS TEAM



**EDITOR**  
Paula Quimette  
pouimette@turley.com



**ADVERTISING SALES**  
Dan Flynn  
dflynn@turley.com



**SPORTS EDITOR**  
Greg Scibelli  
sports@turley.com



**STAFF WRITER**  
Ryan Drago  
rdrago@turley.com

The Ware River News (USPS 666100) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.

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www.warrivernews.turley.com

**PATRICK H. TURLEY**  
CEO

**KEITH TURLEY**  
President

**DEANNA SLOAT**  
Graphics Manager



www.turley.com

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

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.

# Supt. gives update on regionalization study

# Cable Advisory Committee discusses summer projects

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – Superintendent of Schools Stephen Duff gave an update on the Quaboag Regional School District’s regionalization feasibility study to include the town of North Brookfield.

At the April 4 Board of Selectmen’s meeting, Duff said the town of North Brookfield expressed interest in joining the two-town district, made up of Warren and West Brookfield, a couple of years ago. Duff said the school district received a grant for \$125,000 to conduct a feasibility study to look at adding the town to the regional school district.

The study was conducted by

the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools. The Regional Agreement Amendment Committee was formed and comprised of both district’s school committees, a selectman from each town, and parents.

If North Brookfield were included in the regional school district, the amount received from the state per student would significantly increase.

“We would get a greater amount of foundation money because North Brookfield would be part of our region,” Duff said. “You get extra money for regionalizing.”

Duff said right now, North Brookfield is a municipal school district and doesn’t qualify for transportation reimbursement like a regional school district does.

“So, for North Brookfield, the benefit to them, regionalizing with

Quaboag is one, they’re going to get their transportation reimbursement; two, the enrollment at North Brookfield High School is very low,” he said.

He said the senior class has 23 students, and less in lower grade levels. Last year’s graduating class had just over a dozen students.

“North Brookfield’s enrollment at the middle and high school level is decreasing significantly,” he said. “So, students don’t have the same opportunities that they have, say at Quaboag.”

Duff said the proposed regional agreement has not been approved by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the most recent draft of the agreement was returned to the committee with revisions.

“There’s a lot of factors that still need to be put into place,” Duff said.

The next step is getting approval from DESE, then each school committee will vote on whether or not to continue moving forward. Duff said both committees need to vote in favor before it goes to a town meeting vote.

Duff said all three towns would need to vote in favor of regionalizing if the vote goes to town meeting. Duff said he didn’t expect the vote to reach town meeting in the near future.

“We’re not even at a point where the school committee can vote on it until we have an approved regional agreement through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education,” he said.

WARREN –Cable Advisory Committee Chair Travis Baker reported to the other members of the committee about his meeting with the West Brookfield Cable Advisory Committee.

The West Brookfield Cable Advisory is in need of help with their channel and has been down for nearly six years. There are only two members on the town’s Cable Advisory Committee and one of them currently works for M-Pact-TV.

M-Pact-TV is the public access television station for the towns of Monson and Palmer. From what Baker was told their equipment in their studio is not hooked up and is probably no longer functional.

Baker said he learned that West Brookfield has fewer public access television subscribers than Warren does. He originally thought the town had more than Warren because he assumed that West Brookfield was slightly larger in population.

Members of the Cable Advisory Committee were surprised on how long West Brookfield’s local access channel hasn’t been operating. Baker pointed out that the struggles West Brookfield Cable Advisory has had started back around 2019.

From what Baker was told, in 2019 the town had a vote of no confidence against the head

person of the cable advisory and they were then relieved of their duties. A year later in 2020, the building where the studio was operating the channel was struck by lightning and caused significant damage.

Baker wanted to inform his fellow cable advisory members that West Brookfield’s cable advisory is desperately looking for help. Baker is looking to set up some form of collaboration with West Brookfield’s cable advisory and help them out.

“Be good neighbors,” Baker said. “Help them out along the way.”

The Cable Advisory Committee could help West Brookfield with studio operation and recordings for their town meetings. Baker said he will review their town bylaws prior to assisting the cable advisory.

Baker was thinking of helping West Brookfield cable advisory by giving them a mock set up of a studio similar to how Warren Community Access sets up theirs.

**Quote for new desk**

The Cable Advisory Committee reviewed a quote from Ockers Company that could help with new desk installation at the WCAT studio and at Quaboag Regional Middle High School. Ockers Company designs, installs, and supports cost-effective solutions that optimize business performance.

Please see **CABLE**, page 6

# Earth Day Community Cleanup this Saturday

WARREN – An Earth Day Community Cleanup will be held in Warren and West Warren, Saturday, April 20 from 9 a.m.-noon.

The rain date is April 21.

Volunteers are needed, including adults, supervised children and teens. Pick up your bags and street assignment at Warren Community Elementary School circle parking lot at 8:45 a.m. the morning of the cleanup.

## PLANNING from page 1

When asked by Richard Eichacker what the risk would be if not prepared Zebrowski informed the committee that any sludge would not be properly shipped. This may be a mandated project as well for the town sewer plant.

Zebrowski also talked about a request for a pump station truck replacement. Zebrowski said he is still looking for other options but has not looked into getting a used truck. Town Administrator and Capital Planning member James Ferrera mentioned that it can be difficult finding a decent truck that operates for sewer services.

“It has to be a similar type of truck,” Ferrara said.

The Capital Planning Committee thanked Zebrowski for attending their meeting and explaining each project the sewer plant and sewer commissioners were requesting.

### Prioritizing and rating projects

Eichacker wanted to share comments regarding the priority column in their spreadsheet for prioritizing capital improvement projects. Many requests are being categorized and being separated based off what is mandatory and must be taken care of right away.

The Capital Planning Committee is still going over projects that are considered outstanding. The committee is also waiting on what free cash is available to help cover the cost of some projects. Free cash and a capital stabilization balance is also being investigated.

Free cash is available until June 30 and recertification for free cash can happen in October.

The committee is continuing to review and discuss submitted departmental requests and categorizing them. The Capital Planning Committee reviewed some of the sewer requests again to place them in their spreadsheet.

Copper reduction, chlorine alarm and an additional pump project are all considered mandatory.

for nonmedical purposes, such as senior housing. Trietsch agreed that a legal opinion would be good to have, as the Lewis Gilbert Trust has language pertaining to medical use.

Town Manager Stuart Beckley said they have sought counsel from a trust attorney to research the will and the trust.

Ware resident Cindy Bourcier has submitted a packet of information to the attorney, and she has also filed a petition with the Hampshire County Court to halt distributions from the trust.

Bourcier said in her research, she has found more trusts that have been moved to the Baystate Health Foundation, the fundraising entity for Baystate Health, which owns the Mary Lane Hospital site.

“It’s not just the Lewis Gilbert Trust, it’s a whole bunch of them,” she said.

Bourcier said very little money

from the trust has come back to benefit the residents of Ware and Gilbertville as was intended. She said of \$4.8 million, only \$80,000 came back to Mary Lane Hospital.

Hardwick resident Stephen Granlund said he and Bourcier have been working together to research.

“Very little, sometimes nothing” came back to benefit the townspeople, Granlund said. He said most of the money went back to the foundation.

Granlund said there is a “lack of trust” between many residents and Baystate Health.

Trietsch said he has sent an email to Baystate Health representatives, but has not received a response. He said he believes Baystate Health is looking to “run out the clock” on the demolition delay.

Bourcier said it will be easier for Baystate Health to dissolve the

vacant for years. He said Westmass Area Development Corporation has a great reputation in the region, and the town’s zoning bylaws will help maintain local control.

“To say we lose control of the property is incorrect,” Ouimette said, in regard to working with Westmass. “We don’t want it sitting there empty for the next 10 years.”

“We don’t own the site, so we have limited control, but we still have some control,” he said.

A complete report of the walk-through and other reports can be found on the Hospital Review Committee’s page on the town website at www.townofware.com.

The Historical Commission will continue to discuss the Mary Lane Hospital property at its Monday, April 22 meeting in the Selectboard’s meeting room in the Town Hall.

## MLH from page 1

Committee member Terry Smith said the DEP’s report identified 1,825 “hot” asbestos samples taken from the buildings. He said six underground storage tanks were also located using ground penetrating radar.

Smith said his opinions about saving any or all of the buildings has changed.

“I think the Wetherby building could be saved,” he said. Smith added that he thought the town could even take ownership of that building and some of the land, depending on the proximity of the underground tanks.

Members of the Historical Commission have been reaching out to medical companies since enacting a nine-month demolition delay on the property at the beginning of the year.

Commission member Claudia

**“ THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR THE TOWN TO FOCUS ON.”**

**TERRY SMITH  
HOSPITAL REVIEW  
COMMITTEE**

Kadra said they have reached out to 33 potential companies, starting with sending letters, then follow-up phone calls when they didn’t get a response.

Kadra said the commission “didn’t get any hits.”

Kadra said the commission is seeking a legal opinion as to whether or not the site can be used

## RECOGNIZED from page 9

Lovato also recognized two of the school district’s teachers who received prestigious awards for their dedication to their students.

Teacher Dennis Birks was presented with the 2024 Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award.

“Without question, you deserve the award and without question, you should be recognized,” Lovato said. “He’s just done an amazing job.”

Teacher Meghan Lagimoniere was presented with the Country Bank Most Valuable Teacher Award.

“I want to thank you for your service as well, I do appreciate you,” Lovato said.

Lovato presented senior Noah Fales with the Superintendent’s Award, adding that Fales’ character and humility were respectable.

“Without question, he is somebody that can represent Ware well and I’m very proud that we would be my first student that I am recognizing on this award,” he said.

**Leadership Council**

Six members of the Ware Middle School Leadership Council shared their accomplishments and upcoming plans with the School Committee.

Alana Tolman said council members ran a food drive in November and a toy drive in December.

“All donations went to local organizations to help families in need,” she said.

Another event was a Snowball Dance, and the council hopes to hold a second dance before the school year ends. A Lucky Raffle was held in March, with all prizes donated.

“We raised over \$3,000,” Symphony Mendoza said.

Noah Rasys said the money raised helps fund field day at the end of the year. He said a spring cleanup around the school is also being planned following April vacation.

The students said being on the council has given them an opportunity to build

leadership skills and make their schools a better place.

### Superintendent’s report

Lovato said the school district has adopted a K-12 math curriculum, which was purchased with Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds and a grant.

“That’s one thing that’s been missing in our district for a minute,” he said. “We’re pretty excited.”

Lovato said the schools have been busy with Massachusetts Cumulative Assessment System testing, which will be completed after April vacation.

“We were very successful, students were very much participating, and staff were very much active and engaged,” he said.

Lovato said the school district purchased eclipse viewing glasses for all students, and staff shaped their lessons around it.

Lovato said there are some vacancies in the high school that he is working to fill, including a few math positions.

“We recognize it’s a challenge,” Lovato said. “We are continuing to actively look.”

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to culminate the unit on sound energy. Students designed and built musical instruments out of household items.

Grade five has begun a novel study unit, and teachers will offer a variety of novel choices for students. Grade six students have finished reviewing “Beowulf”, and even performed before their classmates.

The Student Council at the High School commemorated Autism Awareness Day by

displaying a Light It Up Blue banner in the foyer.

On Friday, April 19 at 6:30 p.m., Varsity Baseball will host Monson at Dunkin Donuts Park in Hartford, Connecticut. Admission is free.

Prom will be held on Thursday, May 2 at Great Horse Country Club in Hampden from 6-10:30 p.m. Promenade will be held in the high school gym at 4:30 p.m.

**Reorganization**

Lovato welcomed new School Committee member Michael DuBois and congratulated returning member Julie Slattery following the annual town election.

Brian Winslow was reappointed to serve as chair and Aaron Sawabi was appointed as vice-chair.



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<b>INSTANT FINANCING UP TO \$10,000</b>	LG TOP FREEZER 18 CU. FT. <b>\$699<sup>99</sup></b> WAS \$899.99	AMANA GAS RANGE #AGR1530CBAS • Stainless Steel <b>\$599<sup>99</sup></b> WAS \$699.99	GE FRONT LOAD WASHER #GFWSSOSNNWW <b>\$749<sup>99</sup></b> WAS \$999.99	20 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER <b>\$899<sup>99</sup></b> WAS \$1099.99	LG SMOOTH TOP ELECTRIC STOVE <b>\$729<sup>99</sup></b> WAS \$999.99	G.E. OVER-THE-RANGE MICROWAVE <b>\$229<sup>99</sup></b> WAS \$279.99

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## Town Clerks offer voter registration April 27

WARREN/WEST BROOKFIELD – Warren Town Clerk Laura J. Stockley and West Brookfield Town Clerk Heather E. Gough will hold voter registration in their offices on Saturday, April 27 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. for the annual town election, which will be held on Tuesday, May 7.

## Parks and Rec. offers balloon twisting workshop

WARREN – The Warren Parks & Recreation will sponsor a balloon twisting workshop with Kristy the Birthday Girl on Friday, April 26 at 6:30 p.m. at the Shepard Municipal Building gym, 48 High St.

This workshop is free for Warren and West Warren children ages 9 and up. Out of town students that attend Warren Community Elementary School are also welcome to attend.

Please register at <https://forms.office.com/r/aJjU5ZQK80?origin=link>.

## Quabbin Visitor Center lists free events

BELCHERTOWN – The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center will offer several free programs in April and May.

The Quabbin Interpretive Services program operates the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center, offering public and school education programs, teacher workshops, and general information about DCR's water supply resources and watershed management, the history of the Quabbin Valley and wildlife of the area.

Staff members are available to assist with visitor information and services. An automated telephone system, 413-323-7221, provides 24 hour access to current information on fishing, hunting, programs, rules and regulations, and public access.

All ages are welcome to these events. Email [QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov](mailto:QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov) with questions or to be added to the mailing list.

Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring water and snacks. Dogs are not allowed any-

where on the Quabbin Watershed. Space is limited.

To register for any of these events, visit [www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events](http://www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events).

### Exploring Quabbin Park

On Saturday, May 11 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., exploring Quabbin Park via the Tower Trail and Webster Road Trail at Quabbin Reservoir, 100 Winsor Dam Road, Belchertown.

The hike will begin at the Tower Trail parking area which is located just inside the Middle Gate off Route 9 in Belchertown.

(<https://maps.app.goo.gl/KeEppMJmKDSjjMFz8>)

Participants will hike up to the Observation Tower and take in the scenic view. The tower is currently closed indefinitely for repairs, so people won't be able to go inside.

Hikers will then utilize a connector trail down to Webster Road, and then loop back to where they began. The trail to the tower gains 475 feet of elevation.

Register here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/ce6482df->

ca1943e78057b9bf42c06a5c,

### Quabbin's Hidden History

On Sunday, May 12 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. learn about Quabbin's Hidden History: Webster Road on this approximately .5 mile easy hike.

Meet at the Hank's Meadow parking lot.

(<https://goo.gl/maps/4Ri-Eq17PCNEf6s9E7>)

Quabbin's ghost towns are hiding in plain sight - if you know where to look. This two-hour guided interpretive walk will teach you how to read the natural landscape as you uncover clues that reveal the hidden history of Webster Road.

Explore old cellar holes and historic stone walls, get to know some native and invasive plants, and learn more about the families who lived in the town of Enfield a hundred years ago.

Register here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/8fa0a8815fd-1474c801926220047b22f>.

Please see **EVENTS**, page 13

**CABLE** from page 5

In addition to new desks, PTZ cameras will be installed in the school media center and auditorium. The company had quoted both projects for the school and the studio at \$38,460.

When asked if it there was a more inexpensive direction, Baker noted that after looking over used options and equipment Ockers was the cheaper choice.

The items and upgrades they will be getting from Ockers will also benefit activities at the school such as video editing courses and photography courses. Baker said Superintendent Stephen Duff will be discussing ideas with media course educators to see how the Cable Advisory Committee can help with these school programs.

The school currently has a rolling rack for equipment and can stay there for resources as many school meetings are recorded in the school. The Cable Advisory Committee plans on getting this installation project done in the summer where school is on break.

However, it was mentioned in the meeting that Quaboag does

host summer programs and some may take place in the media center. Baker will keep in contact with facilities director Marc Astrella to see when summer programs are taking place and be able to schedule an installation date.

The committee voted to accept the quote from Ockers and move forward with the project.

### Memorandum for CAP increase

The Cable Advisory Committee discussed the memorandum for a CAP increase request to finance the Quaboag equipment and studio production. This request will go to the Finance Committee and Board of Selectman for approval.

This CAP increase will help support the funds for the Ockers project, but the Board of Selectman would make the final decision of approving a CAP increase for the Cable Advisory. In the past, Baker said the board has approved a CAP increase for the cable advisory.

The Cable Advisory Committee voted to accept the memorandum for the CAP increase.

**MISSION** from page 1

If all that is not enough, he has, with Lynne Pledger, written "Grass-Fed Beef for a Post-Pandemic World: How Regenerative Grazing Can Restore Soils and Stabilize the Climate". Our world has changed since COVID and Pledger and Shinn look at how we should adapt to our new world disorder with a local answer.

The book is available from its publisher, Chelsea Green as well as Amazon, and other outlets.

How necessary is the mission?

Shinn pointed out that when he moved to Hardwick, there were 13 dairy farms. Now, there are none.

So how is the land being used? Has it gone to housing in that pretty town?

No. The farms still cut the hay, but as there are no cows, the hay is sold off.

This is essentially a mining operation as the nutrients in the soil go into the hay and are not replenished. The nutritional value of the soil declines.

Contrast this with a situation in another state where some of the farmers have decided to heed

Shinn's message.

Wyoming is known for cold weather most of the year. Our region of the Bay State is not a tropical climate, but there is no comparison with the harsh winters out west.

Shinn spoke of farmers in the Cowboy State who keep cattle in the conventional manner and others who opt for the grass-fed method he advocates.

One farmer, Glenn, utilizes the method and his cattle remain outside throughout the winter, and it's a long winter.

So, what is the method that Shinn advocates? The term he

used was Adaptive Multi-Paddock Grazing or AMP. The cattle are moved regularly, and the land regenerates.

This is key because the top of the plants grazed are the most important as that is where the nutrients are.

Cows are not mowing machines. They are herbivores with no top teeth.

With adequate browse, they can be moved to the next paddock and photosynthesis can do its job and regenerate the pasture. By the time they get back to the first paddock, they can repeat the process.

This is the method Shinn prac-

ticed when he had stewardship of a land trust property that would see it improve during his tenure.

At one point, he stated, "water is the real story." That conventionally farmed land resists absorbing water but water will readily penetrate the soil of regenerated land, and thus plant productivity and biodiversity are improved.

Plants breathe in carbon and is not carbon sequestration greatly to be desired?

The word regenerative is in the sub-title of Pledger and Shinn's book and is the opposite of the Big Ag system of CAFOs. CAFO stands for Concentrated Animal

Feeding Operation.

They do concentrate animals, lots of them in a feeding operation. Thus, there is horrible waste products and the degradation of the land.

This is ultimately our food supply.

Shinn mentioned the words of authors Professor David Montgomery and wife and collaborator, Anne Biklé. People say you are what you eat, but the aforementioned couple has it as "You are what your food eats."

In the end, what we eat is a product of soil, and we too are products of that soil.





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**When**  
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**Where**  
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**or via Zoom**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87040636216?pwd=Q0c4MmVxUTZzc91eDlYzFQdHB5Zz09>

# Effective Community Interviewing Training

Please join the Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council (QVFPC) for a training provided by the Collaborative for Educational Services (CES). Help us implement our Community Food Assessment by joining the data collection team and interviewing your neighbors through community chats!

This training is focused on how important building trust is when collecting data from community members who are sharing personal stories. You will learn how to respectfully approach people's lived experience, record their responses, and provide support.


For more information please contact Caitlin at [cgeaghan@townofware.com](mailto:cgeaghan@townofware.com).

Pre-Registration is required. Register today at <https://forms.gle/dfH6F9CbAkCzfSej9> or scan the QR Code below.

[www.healthyquaboag.org](http://www.healthyquaboag.org)

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**REGISTER NOW**



Matt Jablonski is the President and juniors coach of Quaboag Youth Baseball and Softball and was handing out spaghetti suppers to guests.

**FUNDRAISER** from page 1

ticipate in youth baseball and softball.

The businesses who sponsor the teams include G.D. Property Management, Pollard Building & Construction, SubaGuru of Massachusetts, Mero Carpentry Inc, Bell & Hudson Insurance, Fountain & Sons, Sherman Oil, Country Corner Citgo, Central Package Store, Wickaboag Family Chiropractic, and Quirk Wire Co. Inc.

Felicia Zwirecki was running the raffles including the 50/50 raffle. All proceeds from the raffle go to the Quaboag Youth Baseball and Softball program.

Preparing the meals was Matt Jablonski, his wife Jessica Jablonski and Quaboag's cafeteria staff. Jablonski is the president of the program and the coach of the juniors team.

The Jablonski's appreciate all the support from businesses and the whole community as the spaghetti supper brings everyone together to connect.

"This brings all the families and community together," Jablonski said.

Quaboag Youth Baseball and Softball games began earlier this month and will be taking place at Dean Park, Quaboag Regional Middle High School, West Brookfield Common and West



A raffle was taking place during the spaghetti supper with proceeds going to support youth baseball and softball. The prizes were donated by local businesses.

Brookfield Elementary School. Members of Quaboag Youth Baseball and Softball would like to thank School Superintendent Stephen Duff and the Quaboag school district for hosting their spaghetti supper. The program would also like to thank the school's cafeteria staff for helping with the preparation of the meals.



A delicious salad goes along with the main course of spaghetti and meatballs.



The cafeteria was busy preparing the spaghetti supper.

# Photography with AI - It's here!

## Quabbin Photo Group talk is April 22

BELCHERTOWN – The April 22 meeting of the Quabbin Photo Group will feature a talk by Belchertown resident, Mark Lindhult entitled "Photography with AI - It's Here".

Lindhult will discuss the ways in which AI is being applied to take and process digital photographs, whether they are captured with a digital camera or a cell phone. Computational photography with AI is ubiquitous now with panoramas, background blur and auto-focus eye detect.

Powerful tools such as generative fill now provide photographers with new ways to process their images to enhance their visual and artistic impact.

Lindhult will also show examples from software that generates images with text prompts. From his talk illustrating the capabilities of AI he hopes to initiate a discussion about the future of photography.



Submitted Photo

The Quabbin Photo Group will feature a talk by Mark Lindhult about photography and AI on April 22 at 7 p.m. at the Hope United Methodist Church in Belchertown and via Zoom. Lindhult used an AI image generator called Dall-E to create this image using the prompt "waves crashing against a rocky Maine coast with a big splash".

The Quabbin Photo Group meets at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall of Hope United Methodist Church, 31 Main St. A zoom link is available by emailing Gail Platz at gsplz@

verizon.net.

Lindhult taught digital technology classes to environmental design students at UMass Amherst for 35 years involving CAD, 3D modeling, animation

and Photoshop. Since retiring he has focused his creative energies on photography and processing his images using a wide range of digital tools.

**FINCOM** from page 1

Meehan for their work to build the budget. He also recognized the town's new accountant and Treasurer Ashley Walker.

He said the school department's balanced budget request "almost aligned" with Beckley's recommendation.

"That has not been the history in the past years," Willette said. He thanked the school department for following Beckley's guidance and finding internal sources to close the gap.

Future needs of the school department include replacing the roofs at the Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School, which will be discussed more in the coming weeks.

"At the end of the day, we were able to come to an agreed budget number in a very collaborative manner," Willette said.

Willette said one of the highlights of this year's budget is that it funds the needed staffing requirements at the town's library. He said it was a three year process to get funding into the budget.

Library staffing has been increased to maintain accreditation in order to get the library off the state watch list.

Some requests for additional staffing were not recommended by Beckley or the Finance Committee including two new firefighter positions, one new police officer and a police department administrative assistant.

The two new firefighter positions could be paid for if the Fire Department receives a three-year grant.

"If it's successful, those two

new firefighter positions could be in the town employ by perhaps next summer," he said. He said 100% of salary and benefits are absorbed by the grant, but by the third year, the town would be looking at adding \$200,000 into its budget to support those positions.

Willette said the Council on Aging director identified a position that has been vacant for a while and chose not to seek funding for it. He said the Veterans Agent will also reduce his funding request due to receiving more state funding.

He said another highlight of this year's budget is it funds the recruitment and retention incentives that were negotiated with the collective bargaining units.

"These are strong incentives for employees to remain with the town and are good recruitment and retention bonuses," he said.

Willette said the Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical School District had a small reduction in its budget for FY 25.

**Update from National Grid**

Representatives from National Grid including Bethany Rocha and Ashton Cameron gave an update on the Palmer to Ware improvement project

Rocha said the project came about due to the need to address the deteriorating conditions of the existing O15N transmission line. The project will address ongoing woodpecker damage throughout the structures of the transmission line and provide upgrades.

"This line is incredibly remote throughout the entirety

of it, not just within Ware...so the street crossings, I believe, are very minimal," Rocha said.

She said National Grid won't be extending right of way, and it will be maintained at its current width.

Rocha said the structure will be built for the 115 kV specifications but continue to run at 69 kV.

The project includes replacing all 19 existing wood structures with 13 engineered steel structures; reconductoring 10.4 miles and replacing shield wire with optimal ground wire; installing new grounding and signage for all structures to conform to current standards; and making access improvements as necessary, including vegetation management and tree removal.

The new structures will average 90 feet in height and the current structures average 60 feet.

"They will be taller, the configuration is different," Rocha said.

Only 1.15 miles of the project runs through the town of Ware, starting at the substation on Route 32 bordering West Brookfield and ending at the Palmer substation.

Construction of the project is expected to start in July 2027 with an estimated completion date of December 2028.

If people have any questions or concerns about the project, they may contact National Grid's Public Outreach team by calling 800-674-9510, emailing info@O15nproject.com or visiting PalmertoWareImprovementProject.com.

**Reorganization**

Selectboard Vice-Chair Josh

Kusnierz congratulated the board's newest members, John Desmond and Terry Smith, following the April 8 election.

Selectboard member Jack Cascio nominated Kusnierz for chair, and he accepted. Nancy Talbot also expressed interest in being chair, which Smith seconded.

All members, aside from Cascio, voted in favor of naming Talbot as chair. Kusnierz was named vice-chair after being nominated by Smith.

Desmond was selected to serve as clerk.

**AEDs in cruisers**

Cascio thanked a number of people, including Police and Fire department staff for working with him to get AEDs in police cruisers.

"The cruisers now have AEDs in them and they're joining the ranks of many of the surrounding towns of Ware," he said. "I have to give special thanks to my wife Cathy...who for 20 years has been talking about AEDs. It's because of her, that she prompted me to jump on board and finding out how important AEDs are."

**Liquor license hearing**

An all alcohol package store license was transferred from Brusco's Liquor Mart to 144 Main, Inc.

The hours of operation for the business would stay the same. The license transfer was unanimously approved.

**Annual town meeting**

The annual town meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 13 at 6:30 p.m. at Ware High School.

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# Patriots Day at Old Sturbridge Village



Three soldiers taking a break at the fire and lounging against their jeep.

Re-enactors represent Revolution to World War II

By Emily-Rose Pappas  
Staff Writer  
epappas@turley.com

STURBRIDGE – Old Sturbridge Village hosted a weekend celebrating the patriots who served in some of the major American wars.

The Village hosted several historical re-enactment organizations to join the weekend and provide demonstrations, and wear the garb of a soldier from the 1700s to the 1940s.

The Revolutionary War featured a group in ceremonial gear at a typical camp the rebellious early Americans would have pitched. A boy held a flag and waited to support the 25th Continental Regiment.

Rob Keenan, the director of the regiment, has always loved history, and being able to step back into it as a re-enactor.

“It’s re-experiencing and being able to teach about the times of our forefa-

Please see **PATRIOTS**, page 15



Civil War soldiers of the Battery B 1st of Rhode Island standing with a canon.



Members of the American Revolution, holding a flag and tending to the camp.

Turley Photos by Emily-Rose Pappas



A soldier sends reports to home base using a radio that American soldiers would use to contact each other across fields.

RIGHT: Rob Keenan is dressed as a soldier of the 25th Continental Regiment, rifle at the ready.



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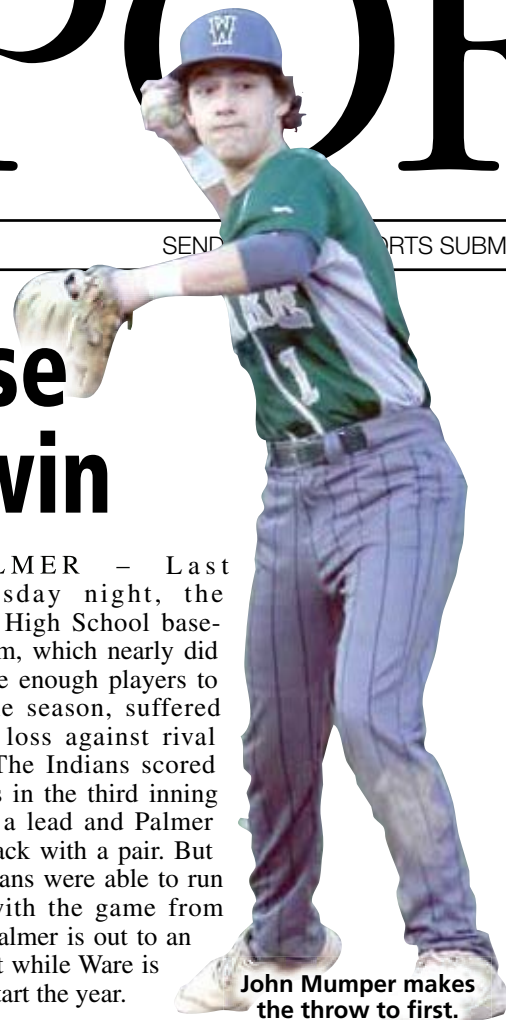
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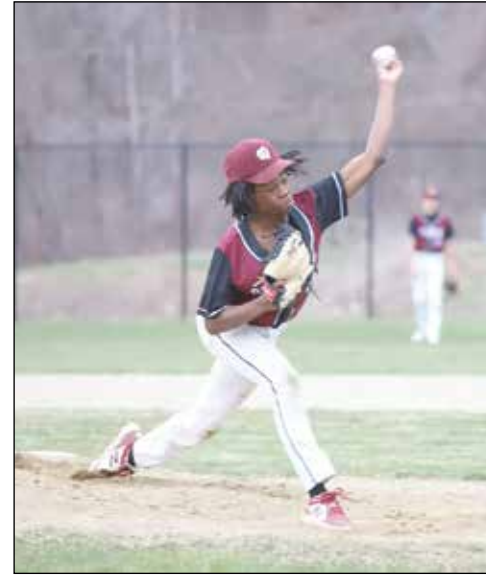
Jack McKeever fields the ground ball to second base.

## Ware offense scores big win

**PALMER** – Last Wednesday night, the Palmer High School baseball team, which nearly did not have enough players to start the season, suffered a 13-2 loss against rival Ware. The Indians scored six runs in the third inning to take a lead and Palmer came back with a pair. But the Indians were able to run away with the game from there. Palmer is out to an 0-3 start while Ware is 2-1 to start the year.



John Mumper makes the throw to first.



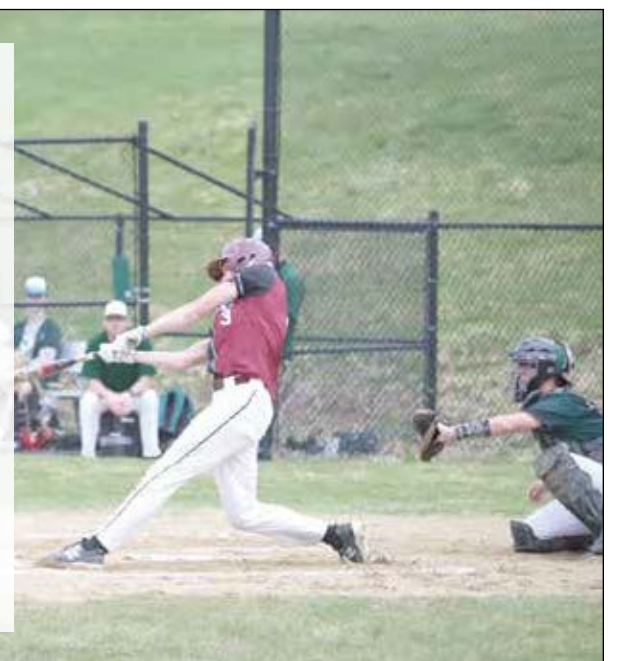
Giovanni Twomey fires a pitch to the plate for the Cougars.



Brasen Sauriol fields a ball to left field.

## Cougars suffer first loss

**WARREN** – Last Wednesday afternoon, Quaboag baseball saw its three-game win streak to start the season snapped as they faced a much larger school in Grafton. Despite a good start by Quaboag, Grafton was able to get the offense going as the game went on and came away with a 10-0 decision. The Cougars were shut out for the first time this season after wins over Blackstone, David Prouty, and Bartlett. Quaboag seeks to rebound on Friday, April 19 at Quabbin Regional High School at 2 p.m.



Ryan Fernandez swings and connects.



Nathan Kaczuwka sends a pitch to the plate.



Kyle Kaczuwka slides into third base.

## Ware baseball heads to Hartford

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

**WARE** – Its one thing to play under the lights. Ware High School baseball players have done that before at Memorial Field.

It's another to play under the lights of a professional baseball field.

That's what the Indians will be doing on Friday night, April 19 as the Indians head for Dunkin Donuts Park in

Hartford, Conn., home of the Hartford Yard Goats, a Double-A affiliate of the Colorado Rockies.

Several teams throughout Western Massachusetts have played games there during the past couple of years, including Agawam, Chicopee, Chicopee Comprehensive, South Hadley, and Minnechaug.

Ware will face a familiar rival in Monson High School at this game, and

efforts to make this special game a reality fell on Marilou Kaczuwka, mother of two players on the team.

"I started the effort of putting this game together back in April of 2022," Kaczuwka said. "With the help of Coach (Scott) Slattery, we got the athletic director on board with the idea in the spring of 2023. I knew some parents in Monson so I reached out to them to see if they would be interested in playing against

Ware at Dunkin Donuts Park – with no hesitation they were in."

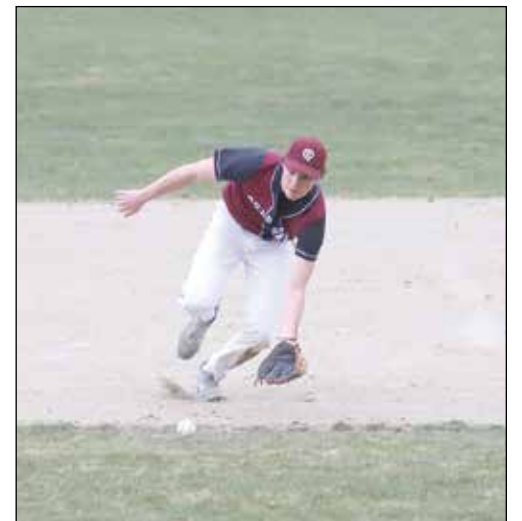
The school committee was presented with the plan, and approved it.

The cost was a little more than \$3,800 for the package that includes a night game, an open concession stand, use of the indoor batting cage to prepare for the game, the video board complete with

Please see **WARE**, page 10



Liam McGrath fields the routine grounder to third base.



Matt Tiberii fields a slow roller to short.

## Rams double up on Mustangs

**SOUTH HADLEY** – Using neighbor South Hadley High School's turf field, Granby boys lacrosse hosted Monson last Monday night. The Mustangs, which co-op with Pathfinder, fell on the road 12-6 to the Rams. The Rams were led by Riley Goodhind with four goals and three assists. Kamdyn Lopez and Connor McDonnell had three goals and two assists each. Monson is 1-1 this season while the Rams are out to a 2-1 mark.



Landon Couture sprints for the opposing goal.



Samuel Lauzier looks to make a pass on the run.



Osvaldo Nieves sends a pass up the field.



Brody St. Martin observes the offensive area looking to make a pass.

## Panthers rebound from with win

**BARRE** – Last Tuesday afternoon, Narragansett Regional High School visited Quabbin Regional baseball. The Panthers scored a big 10-6 as they saw their offense get going for the first time this season. The Panthers were shut out in their opener. The Panthers saw their record go to 1-2 with a loss at Lunenburg, but it was very competitive as the Panthers were edged 9-8. Quabbin hosts Quaboag on Friday, April 19 at 2 p.m.

## Tough start for Panthers

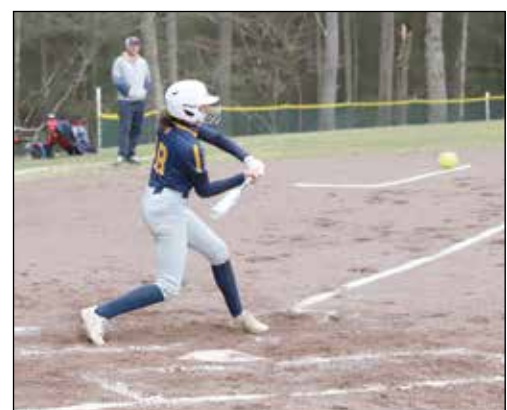
**BARRE** – Last Tuesday and Wednesday, Quabbin softball suffered consecutive losses. The Panthers lost to

Narragansett 13-5 and fell 24-5 against Lunenburg on the road. For the Panthers, they are now 0-3 on the season and

had one game postponed by rain. The Panthers look for their first win on Friday, April 19 against Quaboag at 2 p.m.



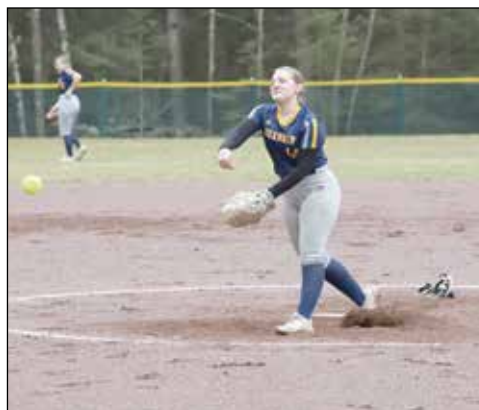
Lilly Swett watches a pitch cross the plate.



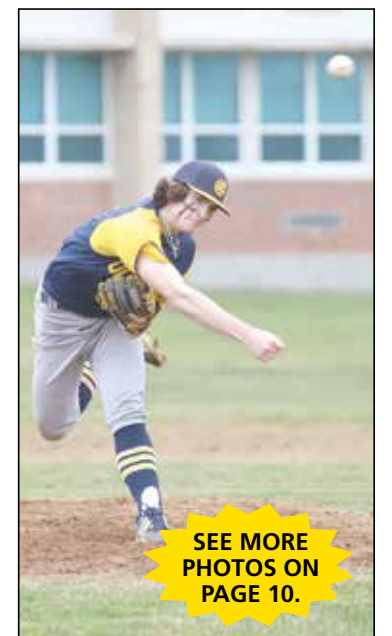
Kherington Deschenes connects on a base hit.



Mady Breault sends a pitch away.



Catcher Haleigh Parkinson throws down to second.



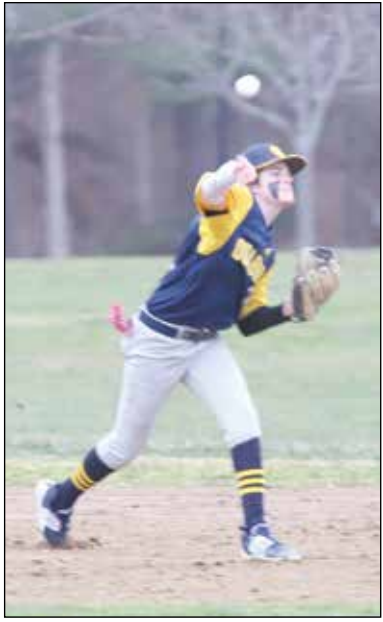
Adam Adams delivers a pitch for the Panthers.

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 10.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

# sports

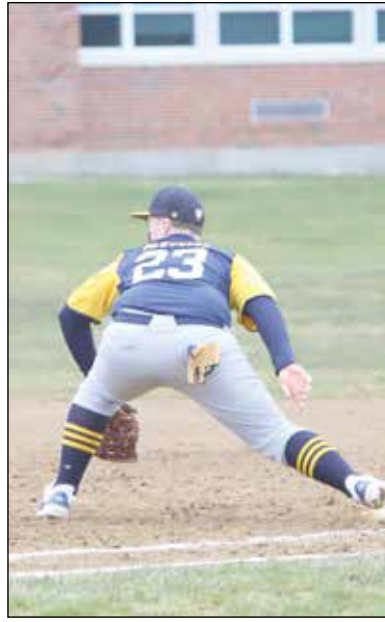
## PANTHERS REBOUND FROM WITH WIN



Aiden LaPointe follows through on a throw to first base.



Sam Morgan sends a throw back to the mound.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
Finn Leander digs out a throw at first base.

## Some roster spots still open in Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League

Rosters spots are dwindling, but there are still some spots available as the Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League prepares for its season opener on Sunday, April 28 featuring three games.

Registration for the 2024 season is now open and any interested players can go to [www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org](http://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org) to get registered, or to seek more information or make inquiries about the league. The league website will also be updated

over the next month with information about the upcoming season.

The league plays most Sunday from late April through late August with playoffs following that. The league plays a 15-game schedule and typically fields six teams each year. Games are usually played at 10 a.m. with fields in Easthampton and South Hadley used as well some expansion to the surrounding area this season. The league does not play on Mother's Day or

Memorial Day weekends.

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

## Candlepin League News

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

### Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – The Commercial Elks League are only a couple weeks away from their season finale.

As of April 2, there is a close battle for first place between Acres (22-6) and The Champs R Here (21-7). Team BK is in third place at 16-12 and is hoping to win out the remainder of round three.

In fourth place, The Blue B's (16-12) are aiming to win out as well. Last in Line is in fifth place at 11-13. Life is Good and Compression are in sixth and seventh place and are awaiting their opponents for the playoffs.

In one match, the #1 seed Acres bowled against Team BK. This match would give Acres the opportunity to distance themselves from Champs R Here. Team BK is looking to win all three games and total pinfall in an effort to receive a playoff berth.

In game one, Team BK won the first game 395-391. Acres bowlers Paul Tereso and Bryan Surprise started off strong bowling 103 and 110. Mark Fitzpatrick held onto a slim lead to win game one by four pins and started with a 100.

In game two, Three of the four bowlers on Team BK broke the century mark to win 428-397. Dave Cobleigh of Acres bowled a 121 and Tom Bedard of BK was high man on his team with a 107.

In game three, Team BK won 398-384 for a three-game sweep over Acres. Carrying the team was Mark Fitzpatrick finishing strong with a 119 and a series of 321.

Team BK won total pinfall by a final score of 1221-1172.

Life is Good bowled against the Champs R Here. In game one, The Champs started off with a win 388-339.

In game two, Life is Good bounced back and won 388-355. In game three, The Champs R Here won the last game 388-371. John Colkos of Champs R Here led the team with a 112 in the last game.

Champs R Here won total pinfall 1131-1098 and received three points. With Acres losing all four points to Team BK, Champs R Here move ahead and are the #1 seed.



### Monday Night Men's League Prepares for Playoffs

The top four teams of the Monday Night Men's League will be participating in the season finale playoffs.

Over the next couple weeks, the playoffs for the 2023-2024 Monday Night League crown will be determined. Week one will feature the top four teams competing in semi-final matches. The two winning teams in the semi-final will bowl each other for the championship the following week.

The top four teams are Tag Team, who finished in first place at 65-51. Second place finisher at 65-51 is Pinheads. Four Stooges are in third place and finished with a regular season record of 64.5-51.5.

Fourth place team is Pin Pigs who finished with a regular season record of 63.5-52.5. Four points shy of Pin Pigs was Yahtzee at 59.5-56.5.

Monday night bowling continues as Palmer's longest running candlepin league starts off the first round of playoffs on April 15. The finals will be on Monday, April 22.

Visit Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes at 1446 North Main St. The alleys can be reached by calling 413-289-0013.

## Win keeps playoff hopes alive for Thunderbirds

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (30-35-3-2) snapped their six-game slide with a 4-2 comeback win over the Providence Bruins (40-20-6-3) on Sunday afternoon inside a sold-out MassMutual Center, the 19th such crowd this season.

The afternoon started rocky, as Patrick Brown connected on a forehand from the slot area on the day's first shot to give Providence a 1-0 lead 46 seconds into the contest.

T-Birds starting goaltender Colten Ellis put himself into a pickle at 9:24 of the first when he mishandled a puck to the side of his net. After a pair of Bruins dislodged it, the

third man on the attack, rookie Jaxon Nelson, deked to the backhand to beat Ellis and give Providence a 2-0 advantage. It was Nelson's first professional goal.

Brandon Bussi drew the net for the Bruins, and after shutting out the T-Birds on March 10, he had his sights on duplicating the feat on Sunday, holding the T-Birds off the board past the midpoint of regulation.

With their backs against the wall, the T-Birds leaned on

their Man of the Year to jump-start the squad. Off a draw at 13:08 of the middle stanza, Drew Callin pushed past his opponent to hack a shot toward Bussi's crease. The normally stout netminder sprung a leak this time as the puck sneaked under his legs to get Springfield on the board, cutting the lead to 2-1.

Following matching minors and another penalty to the Bruins, Springfield's man

advantage earned a 4-on-3 opportunity, and the AHL's leading goal scorer made his presence known as Adam Gaudette rifled a one-time snapper over Bussi's glove at 14:40, tying the score off a perfect cross-ice setup by Jakub Vrana.

Special teams proved paramount for Springfield, as the penalty kill went a perfect 5-for-5, including two clutch successes in the final period. Gaudette provided more heroics at 10:32 of the third when he skated in on the right wing on a 2-on-1 and blistered a wrist shot over Bussi's blocker to give the T-Birds a 3-2 lead on his 44th goal of the season.

The two-goal day for Gaudette was his 12th such game this season.

With Providence clamoring for an equalizer in the final minute, Callin, rookie Dylan Peterson, and Kean Washkurak gutted out a defensive zone sequence to clear their end. Washkurak capped things off with an empty-netter from the red line to give the T-Birds the victory.

The T-Birds look to earn a second straight win over the Bruins when they travel to Providence for a rematch on Friday night at the Amica Mutual Pavilion at 7:05 p.m.



WARE from page 9

player photos on it, and use of the visiting bullpen. Kaczuzka said she has also secured an announcer for the event.

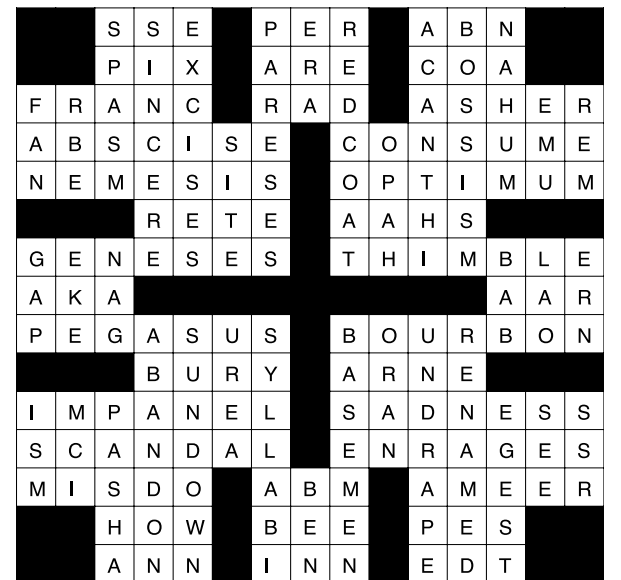
To help pay Ware's half of the cost, the Indians hosted a breakfast with Santa event over the winter, and it was a huge success.

"The parents of the kids helped by decorating, cooking, cleaning, and donating raffle baskets and we had a hot coca bar for the kids and adults to enjoy," she said. "The boys on the team helped seat and serve the people pancakes, sausages and muffins as well as collect the tickets and sell raffle basket and 50/50 tickets. At the end of the breakfast, we had Santa present the team with their 2023 Western Mass. Championship plaques."

This one fundraiser brought in almost more than double than what she was expecting. Since the fundraiser was such a success, we did not have to sell tickets for this game and admission is free for everyone.

Kaczuzka hopes the community will turn out for the game, and hopes it will promote the game of baseball in town.

"This is a fun free Friday night out during school vacation," she said. "We are hoping younger kids in the community come and support this and that will start their interest in baseball."



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very proud of  
you and your  
accomplishments.  
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at Springfield  
College.



Love Dad. Mom & John

# QHSUA members look at survey results

By Paula Ouimette  
 Editor  
 pouimette@turley.com

Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance's epidemiologist Maegan Boutot shared feedback gathered from a recent survey sent to alliance members.

The alliance serves the towns of Barre, Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, Hardwick, Hubbardston, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren and West Brookfield. Some of the towns, particularly Brimfield, Hubbardston, Holland, Monson, Oakham and others, lack representation.

"We have a lot of folks who work in the region attend our meetings, but not as many who live in those towns," Boutot said at the April 8 meeting.

She said the survey was distributed to those who attend the alliance's meetings and are on the email list.

Boutot said the survey showed that members preferred monthly meetings being held on Monday mornings, or even in the afternoon. An afternoon session would potentially open up the meetings for more youth and community members.

Hybrid meetings were the primary choice as well as virtual. Having in person meetings posed a challenge for working people.

Boutot said those taking the survey also asked for more research updates.

"Research is a broad subject," she said. It can cover prevention, treatment, recovery or events with speakers.

Survey takers said it would be great to have more speakers at meetings.

Boutot said the survey also showed that alliance members wanted to receive more information about kratom and hemp-based cannabis, as well as neurodivergence, mental health and substance use.

Boutot said there was less interest in policy making.

"People seem to be more interested in the science than the rules and regulations," she said.

The alliance will still continue to be involved in policy making, Boutot said.

"We're still involved in them and still working on them," she said.

The alliance is now forming working groups with community members to focus on different areas of substance use prevention, including vaping prevention and education, school substance prevention and more.

"We are here to listen," Boutot said. "We are learning and growing...the team is growing."

### Safe Storage update

Drug Free Communities Program Director Rebecca Edwards said Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance is running a Safe Storage campaign, to encourage people to safely store their medications and substances in their homes.

Proper storage includes keeping medications out of sight and reach of children; in a locking medicine box; or in a locking, scent-free pouch (for cannabis). It also means disposing of unused or expired medication at the police station or CVS in Ware.

QHSUA member Mark Klee is also working with pharmacy partners to find ways to distribute lock boxes from those locations in the future.

Edwards said people can also ask for Dispose RX, a tablet that makes the medication unusable and safe to throw away. These are available at Walgreens or your local health department.

For more information, visit [www.qhsua.org/safe-storage](http://www.qhsua.org/safe-storage).

### Grant updates

Community Engagement Coordinator for QHSUA Abigail Duda said the alliance is applying for the next cycle of the STOP Act Grant in May. The grant would target underage drinking in 12-20 year olds.

This is a federal grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

"We did have a STOP Act Grant that was extended through December 2023," Duda said. "This round will build on what was already established. We are really excited to apply for this."

Duda said the alliance was able to accomplish a lot with the first grant round, and the second one, if received, will focus on the towns of Palmer and Ware.

### Events and updates

QHSUA member Sue Lewandowski said John Morello

will visit North Brookfield Public Schools on May 8 and meet with students before welcoming community members from across the region to his "Dirt" presentation that evening.

The evening presentation will be held from 5-7 p.m. in the elementary school. A meet and greet will be held afterward.

"We really want a huge group," she said. "It isn't just for North Brookfield."

Lewandowski said Morello will be in the school all day speaking with students prior to the performance that will be held in the Elementary School.

Various organizations and service providers will have tables set up in the building, including QHSUA. The school band will also perform, and food will be available.

Duda said Youth Mental Health First Aid training will be held on April 24 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. via Zoom.

"It is our goal to get as many people trained in this as possible," she said. "So you can recognize signs of distress, whether substance use or mental health."

Those that participate in the Youth Mental Health First Aid training can also choose to take part in a separate "train the trainer" session that will be held over three days.

Nisha Humayun, the Project Coordinator for Community Health with Healthy Quaboag, talked about the Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council and how its members are being trained on how to interview community members to complete the food assessment.

Dave Burns of the Palmer Police Department said the collaborative Community Strong Wellness events being held at the Palmer Public Library will continue on select Thursday afternoons from 1-4 p.m.

The next Community Strong Wellness event will be held on April 25. People are encouraged to stop in and meet the staff, or share any questions or concerns they may have.

This regular monthly event will assist people looking for help with problematic substance use, mental health concerns, housing stability, financial assistance, health insurance questions and more.

# NEWS FROM THE QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



Students enjoy watching the eclipse on April 8.

## Grade 8 went to Washington, D.C. April 8-11

From the desk of Colleen Mucha, Superintendent QRSD

BARE – Each year, in the early spring, Quabbin Regional Middle School eighth graders descend upon the nation's capital and this year's trip had some added excitement.

The bus ride down to Washington, D.C. was filled with anticipation and wonder and it was sure to be truly out of this world.

On Monday, April 8, the buses found an open spot in a Maryland Home Depot parking lot. All 140 students climbed off the buses to not only stretch their legs, but to also witness the solar eclipse.

Students donned eclipse glasses and pointed toward the sky with great delight. Students could be overheard asking one another if they were seeing the same thing and if it felt colder to them.

This moment is one that our students will likely remember forever. Together with their classmates, they witnessed an extraordinary event that will not be repeated for another 20 years.

When asked by their own children if they remember the solar eclipse, many will be able to recall exactly where they were and who they were with, a lasting shared and meaningful experience for all.

The same can be said about the other events of the week. Students were able to visit the Washington



Submitted photos  
 Chaperones shown are from left, Mrs. Brown, Ms. Eyler-Pelletier, Ms. Hicks and Mr. Deschamps.

Monument, National Air and Space Museum, National Zoo and even the Botanical Garden, just to name a few.

Students marveled at the architecture, history and beauty of the area. They learned new and interesting facts and information as they bonded with one another, deepened and developed lasting friendships.

Here are just a few of their thoughts about the trip including something that may have surprised them.

"My favorite thing was the American History Museum. Something that surprised me was how faded the constitution is. My favorite food was Ramen at the African History Museum," said

Andrew. "Something that surprised me was how the bricks changed at the Washington Monument and my favorite thing was the zoo," said Aubrie.

"My favorite thing on the trip was the Botanic Garden. Something that surprised me was how quickly the trip ended. My favorite food was the pineapple from the hotel and it was a very fun trip, lots of walking but worth it. I made a lot of good friends so I'm happy about that," said Lealani.

"My favorite thing was the Air and Space Museum, all of the Vietnam War names surprised

Please see **QUABBIN**, page 13

### OLIVEIRA from page 4

commonwealth," he said.

Oliveira pointed to Gov. Maura Healey's \$4 billion Affordable Homes Bill, filed in October, as having the potential to significantly address the housing shortage in Massachusetts, with its call for the creation of over 40,000 new homes for both low- and middle-income residents.

"It's not just low-income folks that are struggling to afford home rates," Oliveira said. "It's also middle-income families and working families as well." He added that he hoped to see the House and Senate take up their own versions of the bill this spring.

Importantly, some of these new homes might already be hiding in plain sight.

"My family came to Ludlow in the early part of the 20th century from Portugal and Poland to work in the Ludlow mills, and a lot of those mill buildings have remained vacant for decades now," Oliveira said.

He said that the state was assisting with having these buildings redeveloped for both affordable and market-rate housing. He said that there were plenty of other locations and abandoned buildings throughout the valley that could be redeveloped in the same way, citing the former Belchertown State School campus as another example of such a work in progress.

He also said that these sorts of redevelopments of existing buildings were helpful in ensuring the character of the communities in which they sit are maintained.

"You can develop those buildings in a respectful manner which doesn't really require new construction," he said.

Oliveira stressed that the senior population was an especially important one in the conversation around housing.

"A family who's been in a home for a couple decades, they might have paid off their mortgage, but they're struggling to afford property taxes to stay in their homes," he said.

He said that the Legislature had already passed an expansion of the Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit, which applies to certain Massachusetts homeowners and renters over 65 and helps offset the cost of their property taxes or rent. This expansion was signed into law by Healey in October as part of a suite of tax cuts that go into effect this year.

Oliveira also recognized that the issue of affordable housing was only one part of the broader issue of the cost of living in Massachusetts and affordability in general.

He said that the EARLY ED Act, a comprehensive bill passed by the Senate earlier this month that would reform early childhood education in Massachusetts, included provisions to make childcare more affordable for working families in the state.

"We're seeing so many families being priced out, or having to make a decision whether or not they go to work or they stay home with their children, because they can't afford childcare," he said.

He went on to say that supporting childcare provid-

ers with better wages, expanding the Commonwealth Cares for Children Grants program and making middle-class families eligible for childcare subsidies were important steps toward solving this problem.

He also cited a prescription drug reform bill passed by the Senate in November as critical to improving affordability for Bay Staters, saying it would be a

"huge game-changer for any senior or family that relies on these life-saving prescriptions." He added, "Massachusetts could be leading the way on this."

Away from the State House, Oliveira was in Ludlow last month along with state Rep. Aaron Saunders (D-Belchertown) to advocate for mobile-home owners facing steep rent increases from park

owners, a situation he said people throughout the Commonwealth have been reaching out to him about.

"Hopefully we're putting some pressure on these owners of these properties," he said.

Ultimately, he said, "We're trying to do everything we can to make Massachusetts a more affordable place to live and to raise a family and retire with dignity."

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**\*Be sure to indicate "Summer" in the subject line of your email.**

# public safety

## Ware Police Log

During the week of April 7-16, the Ware Police Department responded to 15 miscellaneous calls, 45 administrative calls, 12 traffic violations, 19 emergency 911 calls, two safety hazards, three thefts/larcenies, two fires, one fraud/deception, three harassments, two damages/vandalisms/mischiefs, six motor vehicle accidents, two fires, eight animal calls and 16 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

**Sunday, April 7**  
10:28 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Highland Village, Investigated  
2:23 p.m. Damage/Vandalism/Mischief, Main Street, Report Made  
3:01 p.m. Outside Fire, West Street, Services Rendered  
5:44 p.m. Theft/Larceny, North Street, Services Rendered  
10:53 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Homecrest Avenue, Dispatch Handled

**Monday, April 8**  
7:29 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Belchertown Road, Citation/Warning Issued  
10:32 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Osborne Road, Dispatch Handled  
3:33 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Upper North Street, Patient Refusal  
3:34 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Belchertown Road, Arrest Made  
7:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Vigeant Street, Citation/Warning Issued  
7:28 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Belchertown Road, Report Made  
8:39 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call,

Pulaski Street, Dispatch Handled  
9:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Palmer Road, Citation/Warning Issued

**Tuesday, April 9**  
11:19 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Greenwich Road, Vehicle Towed  
11:47 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Pulaski Street, Arrest Made

**Thursday, April 11**  
7:53 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Dispatch Handled  
9:04 a.m. Theft/Larceny, South Street, Report Made  
12:04 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Church Street, Dispatch Handled  
12:35 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, No Action Required  
2:43 p.m. Fraud/Deception, North Street, Report Made

**Friday, April 12**  
12:09 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, North Street, Investigated  
4:15 a.m. Breaking and Entering/Burglary, Valley View, Investigated  
11:57 a.m. Theft/Larceny, Spring Street, Report Made  
5:42 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Maple Avenue, Report Made  
5:52 p.m. Damage/Vandalism/Mischief, East Street, Report Made  
6:34 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Services Rendered  
8:41 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Palmer Road, Vehicle Towed  
11:36 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Greenwich Road, Services Rendered

**Saturday, April 13**  
9:42 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Services Rendered  
1:17 p.m. Safety Hazard, Babcock Tavern Road, Could not Locate  
3:22 p.m. Safety Hazard, East Street, Services Rendered  
3:44 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Main Street, Dispatch Handled  
6:56 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Monson Turnpike Road, Advised  
7:35 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Pulaski Street, Services Rendered  
8:51 p.m. Traffic Violation/Hazard, Cherry Street, Citation/Warning Issued

**Sunday, April 14**  
2:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Eagle Street, Arrest Made  
Arrest: Dennzel Davis, 31, Ware  
Stop for Police, Fail; Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle; Marked Lanes Violation; Speeding Rate of Speed Exceeding Posted Limit; Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle  
9:08 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Warebrook Drive, Services Rendered  
9:26 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, High Street, Investigated

**Monday, April 15**  
1:19 p.m. Traffic Violation/Hazard, West Main Street, Vehicle Towed  
2:31 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Palmer Road, Dispatch Handled  
8:32 p.m. Fire Complaint, Eagle Street, Investigated  
9 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Gilbert Court, Services Rendered

## Warren Police Log

During the week of April 7-13, the Warren Police Department responded to 95 building/property checks, 24 community policings, 15 emergency 911 calls, one fraud/forgery, one threat, one harassment, one complaint, one trespasser, three larcenies/thefts and 47 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

**Sunday, April 7**  
7:15 a.m. Serve Warrant, Connor Drive, Arrest(s) Made  
Arrest: Keith E. Callahan, 41, West Warren  
Warrant  
9:47 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ware Road, Citation Issued  
2:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Vehicle Towed  
2:16 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Main Street, Information Taken  
5:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Central Street, Written Warning  
8:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
8:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
8:48 p.m. Neurological/Head Injuries, Old West Warren Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

**Monday, April 8**  
6:29 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Winthrop Terrace, Transported to Hospital  
10:47 a.m. Larceny or Theft, Main Street, Officer Took Call  
10:49 a.m. Falls, Main Street, Transported to Hospital  
2:14 p.m. Intoxication, Brimfield Road, Transported to Hospital  
2:30 p.m. Trauma, Brimfield Road, Mutual Aid Transport  
5:05 p.m. Threats, Comins Pond Road, Criminal Complaint

**Tuesday, April 9**  
8:38 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ware Road, Vehicle Towed

10:02 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Vehicle Towed  
11:11 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ware Road, Report Filed  
3:13 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Crouch Road, Transported to Hospital  
4:20 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Old West Brookfield Road, Mutual Aid Transport  
11:18 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned, Maple Street, Officer Spoke to Party

**Wednesday, April 10**  
7:29 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Boston Post Road, Written Warning  
8 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Vehicle Towed  
8:56 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Written Warning  
10:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Written Warning  
1:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road Extension, Written Warning  
4:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
4:40 p.m. Complaint, Reed Street, Information Given  
5:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
5:41 p.m. Trespasser or Prowler, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party

**Thursday, April 11**  
1:32 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
7:32 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Comins Pond Road, Transported to Hospital  
8:44 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Parkview Street, Citation Issued  
9:07 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued  
9:59 a.m. Unattended Death, Pine Street, Report Filed  
3:53 p.m. Larceny or Theft,

*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.*

Quaboag Street, Officer Spoke to Party  
8:21 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Chapel Street, Report Filed

**Friday, April 12**  
1:24 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued  
8:01 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued  
8:25 a.m. Power Lines Down, Otis Street, Referred to Other Agency  
9:30 a.m. Power Lines Down, New Reed Street, Investigated  
12:14 p.m. Complaint, Milton O. Fountain Way, Officer Spoke to Party  
1:30 p.m. Harassment, Milton O. Fountain Way, Officer Took Call  
3:38 p.m. Breathing Difficulty, Winthrop Terrace, Transported to Hospital  
8:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

**Saturday, April 13**  
6:19 p.m. Trauma, Town Farm Road, Transported by Life Flight

## Hardwick Police Log

During the week of April 8-15, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 45 building/property checks, 51 directed/area patrols, nine traffic controls, five radar assignments, 11 emergency 911 calls, five assist other agencies, one citizen assist, two safety hazards, one motor vehicle investigation, one investigation, one fire, one motor vehicle accident, one complaint, one animal call and eight motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

**Monday, April 8**  
9:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
10:10 a.m. Medical Emergency, Upper Church Street, Transported to Hospital  
2:36 p.m. Abandoned Motor Vehicle, Prospect Street, Investigated  
3:28 p.m. Fire/Other, Barre Road, Investigated  
5:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Vehicle Towed

**Tuesday, April 9**  
1:02 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Hardwick Road,

Transported to Hospital  
1:16 p.m. 911 Safety Hazard, North Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
1:37 p.m. 911 Animal Call, Off Ruggles Street, Services Rendered  
2:11 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Bridge Court, Transported to Hospital  
11:14 p.m. Investigation, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled

**Wednesday, April 10**  
5:29 a.m. Medical Emergency, Main Street, Services Rendered  
10:52 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Greenwich Road, Transported to Hospital

**Thursday, April 11**  
6:58 a.m. Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital  
3:44 p.m. Assist Citizen, Turkey Street, Officer Handled  
3:53 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Turkey Street, Merge

**Friday, April 12**  
1:30 a.m. 911 Lockout, Church Lane, Services Rendered  
11:56 a.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Barre Road,

Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
2:25 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Main Street, Officer Handled  
5:07 p.m. Assist Other Agency, North Road, Officer Handled  
5:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Bridge Street, Investigated

**Saturday, April 13**  
7:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Turkey Street, Written Warning

**Sunday, April 14**  
9:53 a.m. Safety Hazard, Goddard Road, Removed Hazard  
2:48 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Call Canceled  
4:02 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Mechanic Street, Transported to Hospital  
6:08 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Services Rendered  
8:39 p.m. Assist Other Agency, North Road, Dispatch Handled

**Monday, April 15**  
5:08 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Jackson Road, Transported to Hospital

## Baystate Wing partners with Palmer Police to provide Naloxone

PALMER – Baystate Wing Hospital and the Palmer Police Department have joined forces in an effort to prevent opioid-related deaths by installing NaloxBoxes in accessible locations on campus.

The installed boxes provide free public access to the overdose-reversing drug Naloxone. NaloxBox, similar to mounted Automated Electronic Defibrillators (AED), is a publicly available overdose response tool made accessible to the general public.

“The NaloxBoxes have been installed at Baystate Wing Hospital in Emergency Department waiting room bathrooms and Entrance 3 - the History Hallway. There is also a NaloxBox in the main lobby of the Griswold Center lobby,” said Danielle Olive, clinical program manager of Baystate Behavioral Health Griswold Center-Palmer. “Each box contains Narcan, the brand name of Naloxone, a medication that can reverse an opioid overdose. The boxes have been installed in accessible areas that are open to the public so that, if someone is overdosing, a person or a loved one can immediately access the medication and administer it.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drugs take nearly 300 lives every day.

Naloxone is a life-saving medication that can reverse an overdose from opioids, including heroin, fentanyl, and prescription opioid medications, when given in time. Naloxone quickly reverses an overdose by blocking the effects of opioids.

It can restore normal breathing within 2-3 minutes in a person whose breath has slowed, or even stopped, as a result of opioid overdose. More than one dose of naloxone may be required when stronger opioids like fentanyl are involved.

Olive and Sergeant David Burns are collaborating with the Northampton Department of Health and Human Services Drug Addiction Recovery Team (DART) and the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance. They have been meeting and are planning to host events and forums in the future that will include community involvement.

They are in the beginning stages of developing an Opioid Task Force with Baystate Wing team members that will work to address addiction-related issues and reduce stigma about substance use.

“As a police officer, I have seen first-hand the devastation of opioid addiction,” said Burns. “I firmly believe that by working together, healthcare organizations, law enforcement, and community advocates can have a serious impact on substance use in our community. Our partnership is an effort to help to save lives and help with the adverse effects of those dealing with problematic substance use and substance use disorder by beginning a regional collaboration.”

“Opioid abuse affects everyone,” said Karli Barrett, vice president, chief nursing officer, and chief administrative officer for Baystate Wing Hospital. “The



Submitted Photo  
Shown from left are Danielle Olive, clinical program manager of Baystate Behavioral Health Griswold Center-Palmer, and Sergeant David Burns, Palmer Police Department.

NaloxBox placements give easy access to those in need and put the general public on notice that they too can save a life. We are proud to be a part of this collaborative effort to facilitate the delivery of this life-saving medication and to continue collaborating with local partners to address the needs of our community. We are grateful to work closely with the Palmer Police Department, for their donation of the NaloxBoxes and for their commitment to maintaining them.”

The Baystate Behavioral Health Griswold Center-Palmer has been providing outpatient mental health and addiction recovery services. The team of providers cares for the long-term needs of the psychiatric patient and provides services for all ages from young children through the end of life.

The multidisciplinary team is committed to supporting patients during both the evaluation period and throughout the stages of recovery. The Griswold Center also has providers who specialize in substance use disorders.

The team offers individual and group therapy, and individual counseling for adolescents, and provides medication for opioid use disorder, including buprenorphine (suboxone) and naltrexone (vivitrol).

For more information, please call 413-370-5285.

## Fisher Museum Harvard Forest hosts open house

PETERSHAM – Fisher Museum Harvard Forest, 324 North Main St., welcomes the public for a free open house on Saturday, April 27 from 1-4 p.m.

This is an opportunity for the public to visit and get to know Harvard Forest. They will have an afternoon filled with games, guided tours and a tree planting in honor of Earth Day.

The afternoon will begin with a series of guessing games in the Fisher Museum followed by a welcome. The first tour will depart at 2 p.m. This will be an hour and half tour led by Greta Vanscoy, Education Coordinator and Field Technician and Jackie Hatala Matthes, PhD, senior scientist at Harvard Forest. The shorter (45 mins) tour will depart at 2:30 p.m. and will be led by Clarisse Hart, Director of Outreach and Education at

Harvard Forest. The tours will explore the forests and delve into research carried out at Harvard Forest.

The lawn will be filled with games and art projects throughout the afternoon. The day will end at 3:30 p.m. with a tree planting in celebration of Earth Day.

This event at the Harvard Forest is free and open to the public. No RSVPs are required. There is plenty of parking spaces available. Everyone of all ages is welcome.

The Harvard Forest welcomes individuals with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities.

If people require accommodations or have questions about the event, they may call 978-724-3302 or email hfvisit@fas.harvard.edu.

The Harvard Forest, founded

in 1907 and located in Petersham, Mass., is Harvard University's outdoor laboratory and classroom for ecology and conservation, and a Long-Term Ecological Research site funded by the National Science Foundation. Its 4,000-acre property, located on unceded Nipmuc land, is one of the oldest and most intensively studied research forests in the U.S. Open to the public year-round, the site includes educational and research facilities, the Fisher Museum and miles of recreational trails. Harvard Forest scientists and educators host educational programs for thousands of K12 and university students each year and work closely with the Nipmuc people to ensure that this land and its benefits are accessible and sustaining. People may learn more by visiting <http://harvardforest.fas.harvard.edu>.

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## John Joseph Therrien, 93

John Joseph Therrien, 93, passed away peacefully in the early hours of April 4, 2024.

Born in 1931 to his parents Emmanuel and Catherine Therrien in Swanton, Vermont, John was the oldest of six.



Just shy of his 21st birthday, John entered the Air Force and spent his time in the service working as a Radio Control Operator while seizing the opportunity to travel to Greenland.

Upon his return to the U.S., he met Barbara, the best friend of his sister Kathy. The two dated for six months and became engaged at Christmas in 1955.

The couple wed in 1958 and spent over 65 years devoted to one another. In 1959, they welcomed their first child, Deborah, followed by Karen (1960) and David (1964).

For years John worked at the Ware Shoe Company and in 1973, he began his career at FlexCon where worked his way up in the Shipping & Receiving Department. He worked at FlexCon for more than 20 years and in 1996 retired; much to the chagrin of his clients who greatly valued the quality and consistency of his work.

He was so good at his job that Boeing once gave him an award for the caliber of his work. Though he received a hat and certificate for this, the real reward was a job well done as John had an incredible work ethic.

His family will tell you that, much like his attention to detail in his work, he applied that same degree of care to wrapping gifts that were next to impossible to open-but never arrived damaged.

John was an incredibly knowledgeable local historian and a member of both the "Friends of the Quabbin" and "The Swift River

Valley Society". He contributed often to newsletters and was published in various works about the Quabbin.

John and his wife Barbara spent countless hours walking through the Quabbin. They shared their love of this "accidental wilderness" with their children and grandchildren often taking the kids blueberrying and hiking while telling stories of the towns that were once there.

His keen eye for the beauty of the Swift River Valley was well reflected in his beautiful photography. John's office drawers were filled with neatly organized photographs and film canisters of landscapes, flora, fauna, wildlife, and the people he loved.

John was a proud veteran and active in the American Legion and the Department of Veteran Affairs. He hoped to help others who served their country.

John and Barbara were frequent visitors of the Bar Harbor area, making time to explore Acadia National Park and stopping for one of their favorite meals of Lobster Stew and fresh popovers at the Jordan Pond House with evenings spent at the quiet cottage on Seal Cove.

John passed away only two months after his beloved wife, Barbara. He is survived by his children, Deb Lizak and DJ Beaulieu, Karen Therrien (of Ware), and David and Heidi Therrien (of Omaha); his grandchildren, Heather Willis, Amanda Therrien and Brittany Bottger; his great-grandchildren, Jenna and Kyra Langlais, and Millie Bottger; and his great-great grandchildren Gavin, Mia, Bentley, Aubrey and River. John leaves behind his sisters Theresa, Mary Ellen, Elaine

and her husband Ed, brother JR, brother-in-law Donald Thurber and his wife Marie, and sister-in-law Kate Thurber. John was preceded in death by his sister Kathy Mundell, brothers-in-law Dee Thurber, and Roger and wife Doris Thurber.

John clipped the poem below from a newspaper many years ago. As we reflect on his long, well lived life, we know that he is still very much here with us- especially in the Quabbin.

*Do not stand at my grave and weep,  
I am not there, I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow.  
I am the diamond glint on snow.  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.  
I am the gentle autumn rain.  
When you wake in the morning hush,  
I am the swift, uplifting rush  
Of quiet birds in circling flight.  
I am the soft starlight at night.  
Do not stand at my grave and weep.  
I am not there, I do not sleep.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry.  
I am not there, I did not die.*

- By Mary Elizabeth Frye

At the family's request, a celebration of life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the following: The Alzheimer's Association, 225 North Michigan Ave., Floor 17, Chicago, IL 60601. Multiple Sclerosis Association of America, 375 Kings Highway North, Suite B, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034.

The Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St. in Ware, is honored to have served the Therrien family.

An online guest book is available at charbonneauafh.com.

## Kelsey Ryan Roach, 31

WARE - Kelsey R. Roach, 31, of Ware, passed away on Saturday, April 6, 2024, at Baystate Wing Hospital.



Kelsey was born at Mary Lane Hospital in Ware on Jan. 16, 1993, to her loving and devoted parents, David N. and Kimberly A. Roach of Ware, whom she leaves behind. She also leaves the love of her life, her son, Eli LaBier; her brother, Jonah Roach; her grandmother, Norma Roach of Cudjoe Key, Florida; her grandparents, Jean and Robert Messier of Ware; as well as her niece, Schayleigh Young and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. She was predeceased by her fiancé, Alex LaBier; her sister, Kayleigh S. Roach; her grandfather, David G. Roach; her cousins, Benjamin Roach, Amber Staiti, and Neveah Lord; and by her uncle Stephen Messier.

Kelsey had a love for dance and spent many years on the stage. In recent years, she had developed a love for gardening, paddleboarding, yoga

### Death notices

**Roach, Kelsey Ryan**  
Died April 6, 2024  
Services April 13, 2024

**Therrien, John Joseph**  
Died April 4, 2024

and doing arts and crafts with her son Eli.

One of her favorite pastimes was spending time with her family and never missed an opportunity to be a part of a family celebration. Kelsey will be missed dearly.

Calling hours for Kelsey were held on Friday, April 12 from 5-7 p.m. in the Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St., in Ware. A funeral mass was held the following morning, Saturday, April 13 at 11 a.m. in All Saints Church, North Street, in Ware. Burial will be in Mount Carmel Cemetery immediately following mass.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Country Bank, West Street in Ware in the name of Eli LaBier.

Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St., in Ware is assisting her family with arrangements.

An online guest book is available at charbonneauafh.com.

### Ware River News OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

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

## Social Science Club of Ware accepting scholarship applications

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

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

The student must be involved in school and community activities.

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

The application procedure is as follows: Student must submit a properly typed, formatted, one-page letter, indicating how they have fulfilled the scholarship criteria. If applicable, please mention in the letter any employment held by the student and any special financial circumstances (i.e. sibling(s) in college, family illness or hardships, etc.).

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

letter of recommendation from a teacher or advisor.

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

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

## Wings of Song perform spring shows

### 'Rough Seas, Safe Harbor'

STURBRIDGE - Wings of Song, a community chorus that draws its 50+ members from many communities in south-central Massachusetts and northeastern Connecticut, has begun rehearsing for a one-of-a-kind musical program that it will offer three times this spring: on Saturday, May 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Church, 16 East Main St., Webster; on Saturday, May 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the First Church of Monson, Congregational, 5 High St., Monson; and on Sunday, May 19 at 2:30 p.m. at St. Anne-St. Patrick Parish, 16 Church St., Fiskdale (Sturbridge).

Admission to all three concerts is free, with a freewill offering collected at intermission.

"Rough Seas, Safe Harbor" will take audiences on a huge sea voyage, much of it aboard a whaling ship that might have left New Bedford, in, say, the 1850s, and sailed practically around the world, separating crew members from their families for as long as two years.

Nym Cooke, who served as Music Director for a similar program presented by the Revels organization based in Cambridge, (the "Sea Revels"), has combined 29 stirring, eloquent songs of the sea into a seven-part odyssey. The individual sections of the program are titled "Home

Port", "Setting Sail", "At Sea", "Shipwreck!", "Foreign Ports", "Wives and Mothers at Home" and "Return and Reunion".

The individual songs vary tremendously in their points of origin, but collectively they weave a moving tapestry of life at sea - and also of life at the home port, for those left behind. There are recently composed choral works such as Allister MacGillivray's "Away from the Roll of the Sea" and Leon Dubinsky's "We Rise Again".

There are many short, anonymously composed sea songs, including chanteys (work songs) with titles like "Blow, Ye Winds, in the Morning", "Away Rio!" and "Cape CodGirls" (all of these capstan, or pumping chanteys).

There's a dockside street cry, "New Oysters!" and the part-song "To Portsmouth"; both are sung as rounds, and hail from 17th century England. There are classics of the sea-faring repertory, songs such as "What Shall We Do With the Drunken Sailor?" and "Blow the Wind Southerly".

There's an 18th century New England fuging tune, "Ocean" by Supply Belcher of Farmington, Maine, and the U. S. Navy's sig-

nature hymn tune, "Eternal Father, Strong to Save".

There's "The Last Hymn," the gripping narrative of the aftermath of a shipwreck, that will surely leave no eye dry. There are passionate songs of parting ("Fare You Well, Mary Ann"; "Adieu, Sweet Lovely Nancy") and of homecoming ("The Jamestown Homeward Bound"; "Rolling Home to Old New England").

There are choral arrangements by Cooke ("Sailing Away"; "Where Am I to Go?"); there's a song about a young lady committed to an insane asylum by her cruel parents while her lover is at sea ("I Love My Love"); there are unforgettable, moving anthems of the ocean like "The Mingulay Boat Song"; "Leave Her, Johnny" and "The Seamen's Hymn".

As always at Wings of Song concerts, there are audience sing-alongs, seven of them this time, including "Somos el Barco" ("We Are the Boat"), "Deep Blue Sea" and some of the songs already mentioned.

Wings of Song will sing a cappella; with piano accompaniment by Brooks Milgate or Nancy

Please see **WINGS**, page 15

### QUABBIN from page 11

me and my favorite food was Chipotle," said Aiden.

"Getting closer to former and new friends and raspberry lemonade smoothie," said Nick.

"My favorite thing was the zoo. Something that surprised me was the amount of names for the people

that died in the 9/11 attack," said Sophie.

Offering students the opportunity to experience, learn and discover new things together brings the Quabbin Regional School District great joy. We are proud of our students and our staff and we are always humbled when we hear how well they represented our school,

district and community.

One of our goals is to provide students with diverse experiences where they can learn together. There is no better place than Washington, D.C. to deepen their understanding of civics and the purpose of government.

### EVENTS from page 6

#### Memorial Day at Quabbin Park Cemetery

On Sunday, May 26 from 11 a.m.-noon, a Memorial Day Commemoration will be held at Quabbin Park Cemetery.

Refreshments will be offered at 10 a.m. and the parade and services begin at 11 a.m. No registration required.


In 1868, Major General John A. Logan, the Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, named May 30 as a special day for honoring the soldiers that had died in the Civil War. Like communities across the United States, the towns of the Swift River Valley commemorated their war dead each year on Memorial Day until the towns' demise in 1938.

Since 1947, Quabbin Park Cemetery has been the center of Memorial Day services for the four towns. Please join the Friends of Quabbin, the Swift River Historical Society, the Veterans Council of Belchertown, Chauncey D. Walker Post #239, American Legion and the staff of the DCR Quabbin Reservoir for our annual Memorial Day Service at Quabbin Park Cemetery.


The public is welcome but please, no dogs.  
(<https://goo.gl/maps/tDuKU2VLjxnVbdc8>)  
Quabbin Park Cemetery tour  
Following Memorial Day events on Sunday, May 26 from 2-3 p.m. take an easy walking tour of Quabbin Park Cemetery. The walk is on uneven ground  
(<https://maps.app.goo.gl/rv4tzdEPrroba1jV9>)

After they Memorial Day remembrance ceremony, join DCR staff for a cemetery tour focused on the stories of some of the Valley residents that served and lost their lives in service to the United States. The tour will begin at the town monuments.

Register here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/31306340e82941628d5e7fb1bee3b017>.



*In Loving Memory of*  
**Michael J. Swistak**  
14TH ANNIVERSARY  
November 19, 1961 - April 17, 2010



**Theresa S. Zaganiacz**  
6TH ANNIVERSARY  
July 1, 1930 - April 29, 2018

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They say there is a reason,  
They say that time will heal,  
But neither time nor reason,  
will change the way we feel.  
For no one knows the heartache,  
that lies beneath the smile.  
No one knows how many times,  
we have broken down and cried.  
We want to tell you something,  
so there won't be any doubt,  
You're so wonderful to think of,  
but so hard to live without.

*We love and miss you both,*  
**Mary Ann & Mark**  
**Blair & Andy**  
**Morgan, Beckett and**  
**Delaney**

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- Midway between south and southeast
  - For each
  - Airborne (abbr.)
  - Photographs
  - They \_\_\_
  - It's important in respiration (abbr.)
  - Monetary unit
  - Cool!
  - A son of Jacob
  - Cut off
  - Devour
  - Agent of one's downfall
  - Best
  - Network of nerves
  - Partner to "oohs"
  - Origins
  - Sewing utensil
  - Alias
  - Swiss river
  - Greek mythological figure
  - Type of whiskey
  - Lay to rest
  - "Rule, Britannia" composer
  - Select jury
  - Feeling
  - Action regarded as morally wrong
  - Makes angry
  - Act incorrectly
  - Defensive nuclear weapon
  - Class of escort aircraft carrier
  - To what degree
  - Buzzing insect
  - The human foot
  - "The Leftovers" actress Dowd
  - A place to stay
  - Sun up in New York
  - Cuts out surgically
  - Can't move
  - Baseball stat
  - British soldier
  - Traditional medicine plants
  - Political party controlled by managers
  - Hebrew prophet
  - Supporter
  - Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
  - Liberty Mutual mascot
  - Georgia rockers
  - A place where building is done
  - Large, deep-bodied fish
  - Clothing retailer
  - Supplement with difficulty
  - Annoy constantly
  - Founder of Babism
  - Indigenous person
  - in parts of Asia
  - Sea eagle
  - Leave behind
  - Time of day
  - Colorless crystalline compound
  - They lay out course requirements
  - A diamond has three
  - Algerian coastal city
  - Remove cover
  - Restrictened
  - Distinctive practice
  - Defunct phone company
  - Turkish officer of high rank
  - Eliminate from the body
  - Witness
  - Soviet Socialist Republic
  - Founding Father Franklin
- CLUES DOWN**
- An involuntary muscular contraction
  - Earnest

# Classifieds

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## public notices

**Notice of Public Hearing Planning Board LEGAL NOTICE**  
Pursuant to MGL Ch. 40A, Sec. 5, the Ware Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, May 2, 2024** during their normally scheduled meeting starting at 7pm in the Town Hall meeting room, 126 Main Street, Ware MA. The purpose of this hearing is to consider amendments to Sections 4.1 (Use Designations) and 4.9 (Overlay District Regulations) of the Town of Ware Zoning Bylaws to revise language that pertains to the floodplain bylaw sections in order to meet criteria for the National Flood Insurance Program.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this hearing will be conducted in person and via remote means, in accordance with the applicable law. This means that members of the Planning Board as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means. In person attendance will be held in Town Hall Meeting room, 126 Main Street, Ware MA. It is possible that any or all members of the public body may attend remotely, with in-person attendance consisting of members of the public. The meeting may be accessed remotely via Zoom. Go to <https://zoom.us/join> or join by phone. Phone Number: 929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 784 604 1861; Password: 01082.

A complete copy of the proposed changes can be found at the Planning & Community Development Department Office and on the department web page at [www.townofware.com](http://www.townofware.com). Anyone interested or wishing to be heard should appear at the time and place designated. All interested parties are invited to attend.

WARE PLANNING BOARD  
Ed Murphy III, Chair  
04/11, 04/18/2024

Book 14612, Page 320; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on May 30, 2024 at 12:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:  
38 West Main Street, Ware, MA 01082

A certain piece of property with buildings thereon located on West Main Street, Ware, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, bounded

Northerly by West Main Street, seventy one and 1/2 (71.5) feet;

Easterly by land now or formerly of Mary N. Lewis one hundred and eight and 1/2 (108.5) feet;

Southerly by land formerly of George S. Marsh, forty seven (47) feet;

Easterly by said land formerly of Marsh thirty two (32) feet;

Southerly by land of Michael Brown thirty four and 3/4 (34.75) feet; and

Westerly by land of Edward McBride one hundred and fifty-one (151) feet.

Also, a right of way as heretofore used Easterly of the dwelling house of Fisherdkick and Winter to West Main Street; also a right of way over a proposed way, described in deed of Richard H. Lewis to Edson Lewis.

The premises are conveyed SUBJECT to a right of way from the land now or formerly of the estate of Mary N. Lewis adjoining the premises hereby conveyed over the rear portion of these premises into and over the private way first above mentioned to said West Main Street.

Being the same premises conveyed to the Mortgagee herein by deed of Lisa Rodrigues and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds herewith.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagee's Title see deed dated February 1, 2019 and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 13193, Page 134.

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

**FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00)** Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

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23 Messenger Street  
2nd Floor  
Plainville, MA 02762  
Attorney for AmeriHome Mortgage Company, LLC  
Present Holder of the Mortgage

(401) 217-8701  
04/04, 04/11, 04/18/2024

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Donald Roy **(860) 874-8396**

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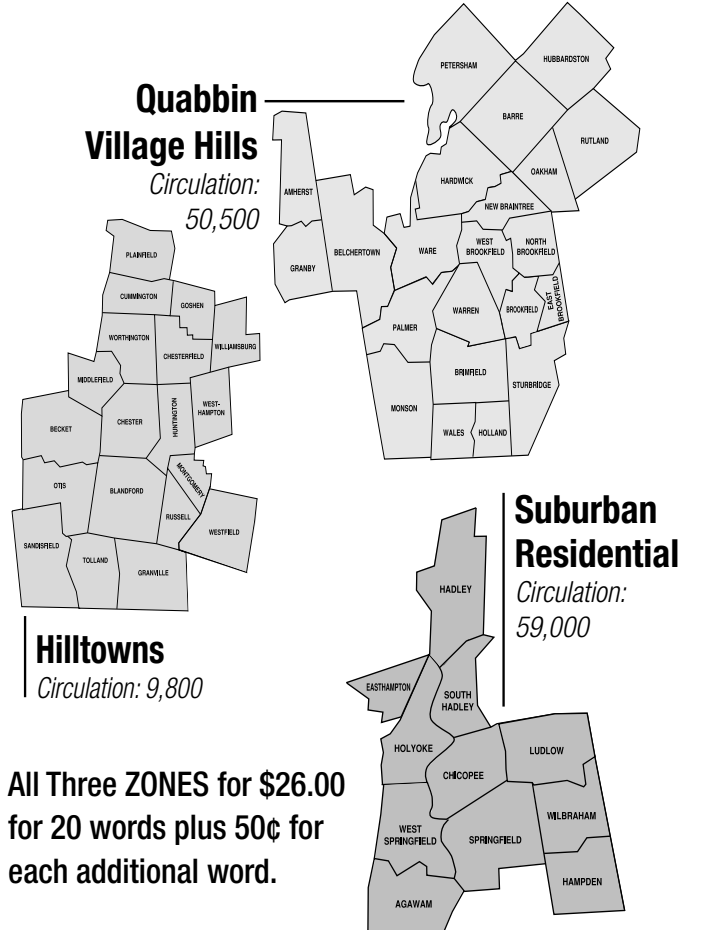
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# public notices

**Ware Conservation Commission LEGAL NOTICE**  
 The Ware Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 6:30 PM** pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. 131 c40. The hearing will

include consideration of a **Notice of Intent (NOI)** by Peter Shelburne, for construction of an addition to the single-family home located at 19 Point View Drive. Said hearing will be held in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Hall, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082. To view application and related plans, contact the

Conservation office at 413.967.9648. Pursuant to MGL Chapter 4, Section 13, a copy of this legal notice can be found on the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association's (MNPA) website: <http://masspublicnotices.org>. 04/18/2024



From left, Doug Quigley, Chris Schleper and David Emerick of the Sturbridge Martial Band are shown playing classic songs for soldiers to march into battle to.

Stan Kumor, the First Lieutenant of the Marines, is shown standing ready in a traditional uniform.

## Patriots Day at Old Sturbridge Village

**PATRIOTS** from page 8

thems," Keenan said. Visitors got the chance to meet three people from the 1812 Marine Guard who were aboard the U.S.S. Constitution.

The members of the Historical Marine Education Incorporation, a non-profit historical organization, played the ship's surgeon, Dr. Amos Evans, and the surgeon's first mate, Matt Villamaino.

The First Lieutenant of the Marines, Stan Kumor, taught people about what a soldier would have had on the ship, and his wife, Jackie Kumor, had a table of toys from the era that children could hold.

"I love the time period," Jackie said. "Seeing what women did and what roles they played while the men were at war. They owned properties and it was only after America became a country they no longer could."

The Sturbridge Martial Band was also present, and three skilled musicians played the fife and drum to present a classic song soldiers would march into battle to.

The American Civil War had many people dressed and ready, and Ray Pedro of Battery B 1st of Providence, Rhode Island had an original 1845 canon.

The 15th Massachusetts Infantry was also present, and shared about where they originated in Worcester County.

And finally, to remember World War II, several organizers put together a reenactment of rifle maneuvers, and fired the 80-year-old weapons on the field by the blacksmith shop.

B. Historical from Connecticut also had a tent of technology used for communication during the war.

The event gave visitors a look into history as soldiers from the 1940s walked alongside American Revolutionaries in this timeline crossover. Stay tuned for the upcoming Redcoats to Rebels coming this summer.



The 15th Massachusetts Infantry from the Worcester Country ready to join the fight with the Union.



Turley Photos by Emily-Rose Pappas

Jackie Kumor displays the toys, dolls, and games that children of the time would have played with.

**WINGS** from page 13

Ducharme; and with a "fo'c's'le band" comprised of guitar and pennywhistle (Tim Loftus), concertina (Chris Maden), fiddle (Hunter Foote), stand-up bass (Ellen Bradley), banjo and harmonica (Leslie Sweetnam), and percussion (Sarah Jo Burke).

This is sure to be an unforgettable adventure – both musically and narratively – and the concert venues are sure to be crowded, so be sure to arrive early for a good seat.

All venues are handicap accessible. Audience members are invited to join the chorus for tasty (and free) refreshments after each concert.

These concerts are sponsored in part by the Monson and Sturbridge Cultural Councils, local agencies supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. Wings of Song is grateful for this support – and for the continued support of their many faithful audience regulars, supplemented by first timers whom they are always glad to see.

Anyone needing more information is encouraged to email Cooke at [nymcooke@gmail.com](mailto:nymcooke@gmail.com) or Wings of Song President Carol Curtin at [carolcurtin77@gmail.com](mailto:carolcurtin77@gmail.com).

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Must be able to work with figures, possess strong computer skills and excellent customer service skills. Assessing and municipal experience preferred. Submit your resume along with a cover letter to Jim Ferrera, Town Administrator at [townadministrator@warren-ma.gov](mailto:townadministrator@warren-ma.gov).

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