

WARE RIVER NEWS

SERVING THE WARE REGION FOR 129 YEARS

Vol. 138 No. 7

USPS 666100

\$31 PER YEAR - \$1.00 A COPY

THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

www.warerivernews.turley.com

Litany for a Broken World

Hardwick author releases ninth science fiction novel

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

HARDWICK – Resident and author Lisa Janice “LJ” Cohen has recently released her ninth novel, the first in a trilogy called “Litany for a Broken World”.

Cohen began writing science fiction novels about 20 years ago, having previously worked as a physical therapist for 25 years.

“I wrote this book...or sort of this book, six years ago,” she said.

Cohen said she was inspired to write “Litany for a Broken World” after hearing a story about a tent city in Boston on NPR. She decided to set her novel in the world of the unhoused.

“I thought it would be important enough to do that,” she said. “As a physical therapist you worked with unhoused patients.”

It is also set in the multiverse, where some of the characters are able to travel between universes.

“The walls between the universes are a little bit



Hardwick author Lisa “LJ” Cohen reads from her newest novel, “Litany for a Broken World” at the Stone Church Cultural Center on March 16.

Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

porous,” Cohen explained. “The multiverse is a really interesting concept.”

Cohen held a book reading and signing at the Stone Church Cultural Center on March 16, welcoming ques-

tions from the audience and sharing her creative process.

She started by thanking those in attendance for their support, and reading the novel’s two epigraphs, one by Rabbi Tarfon and the second

by William Sloane Coffin, which she heard at the funeral of her husband’s coworker.

“It struck me, and I knew I had to use it,” Cohen said.

Please see **AUTHOR**, page 5

Hearing reviews social services

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – The Community Development Authority and Pioneer Valley Planning Commission held a public hearing to discuss the fiscal year 2025 Community Development Block Grant application.

“We do a service plan with them and identify the steps they need to take. We work with them in an order they choose.”

– Paula Kularski

This grant is offered annually by the Department of Housing and Community Development, with this year’s award amount available to the town up to \$850,000.

If awarded, up to 20% of the grant can be used to fund various social services, including The Literacy Project, which offers high school equivalency preparation and career pathways; Behavioral Health Network’s Planned Approach to Community

Health; Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation’s Senior Outreach Program and the Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force.

At the March 17 hearing, a representative from each of these social services organization presented their requests for funding, while explaining how these services benefit the communi-

ty. Colleen Kucinski, Executive Director of The Literacy Project spoke about how the non-profit has helped many in the community earn their high school equiv-

agency diploma by offering both in-person and online classes for adult learners. Each year, The Literacy Project holds a commencement ceremony for its graduates in Grenville Park.

This year, The Literacy Project will celebrate its 40th anniversary.

Paula Kularski of the Behavioral Health Network explained how the PATCH program is a model of how

Please see **SERVICES**, page 11

School Committee hears update from special ed. audit

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – School Committee member Christopher Desjardins said the special education auditor met with seven parents and 10 general education teachers and completed 24 classroom observations in the buildings.

At the March 11 School

Committee meeting, Desjardins said the auditor was looking at common themes through her interviews with the parents, including issues with communication and lack of services. For the teachers, the theme was lack of support.

The auditor noted that the high school was 40% compliant in terms of having the required support for the students; the middle school had

about 29% compliance; and the elementary school was 100%.

Superintendent Dr. Michael Lovato said on the day that the auditor came through the schools to observe, the principals had to pull the special education support from those classrooms to fill teacher absences.

“The special education teachers were assigned to

fill some of the regular education absences, therefore when she [the auditor] went in there, they were not available for that service,” Lovato said. “And so that’s how we were out of compliance.”

Lovato said issues with communication were identified throughout the school district, from teachers to administration.

“It wasn’t identified with one group, but it was a

consist message across the board,” he said.

Desjardins said there needs to be a district-wide improvement with communications, and that phone calls need to be returned to parents.

He said in terms of absences, there needs to be substitutes every day, and suggested the committee

Please see **AUDIT**, page 5

Selectmen appoint new Housing Authority member

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Board of Selectmen began their meeting with a discussion to appoint Mark Carron to the Warren Housing Authority until the annual town election on May 6.

Carron attended the Board of Selectmen’s meeting and expressed his interest in joining the Housing Authority, which is currently experiencing a lot of vacancies. Recently, the Selectmen appointed Travis Baker to the Housing Authority and is now looking to appoint another member to help fill those vacancies.

There was one resident who addressed his concerns about appointing a new member to the board. The resident said that there is a history of poor management groups in the town’s Housing Authority and the resident does not want to have a repeated incident.

Members of the board told the resident that the appointment is short term, and the residents will have the opportunity to vote for or

Please see **WARREN**, page 7

‘Ireland to America’ program presented at Town House



By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Paige Memorial Library welcomed musician and performer Roger Tincknell to the Town House this past weekend.

The program was called “Ireland to America”, where guests could sing, clap, dance and witness the multi-instrumentalist who provides music programs for all ages.

This program was supported in part by a grant from the Hardwick-New Braintree Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. This event was also supported by the Friends of Paige Memorial Library.

Please see **IRELAND**, page 8

PB continues health care zoning hearing

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The Planning Board continued with the public hearing on a proposed Health Care Services zoning bylaw amendment.

This public hearing was continued from the Feb. 20 Planning Board meeting to consider the newly proposed health care services amendments to the zoning map which will include the Mary Lane Hospital site. There are various adjacent parcels and sections as part of this zoning proposal.

The board reviewed and read a letter and a proposal that was submitted to them in regard to what is in the best interest of the community and what appropriate use or uses will be placed in the area that follows the proposed zoning of

health care services. The Planning Board will keep the letter and proposal in their records for future reference.

Planning Board member Richard Starodj believes there is no accomplishment by just continually talking about the proposed zoning district. The ultimate decision will happen when the residents vote on it at town meeting.

“Get it to the point of actually voting on it,” Starodj said. The board suggested that whoever presents the article at the town meeting will have to keep the presentation brief and to the point of what is being proposed.

Secretary Liz Hancock wanted to go over the list of uses sections of the proposed zoning district,

Please see **ZONING**, page 3

Submitted Photo by Julie Bullock
Roger Tincknell is a performer who presented his program “Ireland to America” at the Town House in Hardwick this past weekend.



SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

sports.turley.com

Ware 7/8 wins Blue/Green Division

WARE – On Saturday, March 8 at home, the Ware 7/8 boys Suburban basketball team defeated Ludlow in the championship game. The final score of the matchup was not reported by the league.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Ray Kularski goes for the layup.



The Ware 7/8 boys Suburban basketball team defeated Ludlow in the Division finals on March 8.



Sincere McLauren goes for a basket.



Raiden Druin shoots ahead of a block.



Jack Musnicki gets a shot off.



Finn DeMarco attempts to get a layup through a Ludlow blocker.

Hall of Fame names senior all-stars

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced the team rosters for the 2025 Western Massachusetts Senior High School All-Star Games. On Thursday, March 20, the Hall of Fame will host the 2025 All-Star event on the Jerry Colangelo Court of Dreams at the Hall of Fame. A total of 60 players were selected from different divisions within the region to participate in three games that will showcase the top seniors in their final high school contest.

“We are proud to host the top high school basketball players from Western Massachusetts at our 14th annual All-Star celebration at the Basketball Hall of Fame,” said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. “Residents of Western Mass. are encouraged to join us as we honor these exceptional seniors as they play the final game of their high school careers.”

A committee of local coaches and media members who represent each division on the boys’ and girls’ sides selected the teams. Using the designated classes for the PVIAC Tournament, the players will be divided into six teams: two girls’ teams, two boys’ teams of Class A and B players, and two boys’ teams of Class C and D players. Only graduating seniors are eligible for the All-Star Games. Rosters can be found on the next page.

For the 14th year, the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame will recognize one boy and one girl as the Western Massachusetts Players of the Year. A special presentation will be made for the recipients during

Please see **ALL-STARS**, page 10

Lusitano awards return

The Lusitano Club returned to their tradition of giving out awards and scholarships

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—More than 3,400 high school soccer players from throughout Western Massachusetts have been honored at the Lusitano Alumni and Fans (LAF) Awards Banquet during the past 35 years.

Because of the COVID 19 pandemic, the soccer banquet has been a lot smaller, but it’s always a very special event.

Six scholarship winners were honored at this year’s LAF banquet, which was held at the Gremio Lusitano Club in Ludlow on March 9.

The six award recipients are Thomas Wadas (Ludlow High School), Gabriella Fialho (Pope Francis/Ludlow), Samantha Lowe (Pathfinder Tech), Kylee Gamache (Franklin County Tech), Kennady Marino (East Longmeadow High School), and Burke Warchol (Longmeadow High School).

Wadas, who’s ranked seventh in the senior class academically with a 4.5 G.P.A., will be playing college soccer at UMass Amherst. He’s also a member of the



Turley photo by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Samantha Lowe represented Pathfinder Tech at this year’s event.

National Honor Society.

“I’m going to be playing soccer at UMass, which was my top college choice,” Wadas said. “Staying close to home was really important to me.”

A year ago, UMass lost at third-seeded Denver, 3-0, in the Elite 8 of the NCAA Division 1 tournament. The Minutemen finished with a 13-4-5 overall record.

“UMass had an outstanding season last year,” Wadas said. “I’m just going to try my best to make an impact as a freshman. I’m really looking forward to playing soccer at the next level. The college game is a lot more physical and quicker.”

The UMass men’s soccer coach is Fran O’Leary.

Wadas, who’s planning to study business in college, was a four year starter for the

Ludlow boys’ varsity soccer team, which is coached by Greg Kolodziej.

“Coach Kolodziej made a big impact on my life both on and off the field,” Wadas said. “I’m going to do everything that he has taught me at UMass. I’m also going to miss playing soccer for him a lot.”

Wadas, who was a team captain last fall, was selected to the All-State soccer team twice.

The Lions won three out of the past four Western Mass. Class A titles. They also advanced to the Elite 8 of the Division 1 state tournament each year.

“The new state postseason tournament format allowed us to play a few more

Please see **AWARDS**, page 10

Hockey co-op makes state tournament

GARDNER – Quabbin Regional High School participates in one co-op program during the winter months, sending some players to football rival

Gardner High School for ice hockey. This year’s team was able to make the state tournament with a 10-8-1 record, securing the No. 24 seed in the Division 4 State Tournament. The Wildcats faced North Reading in the Round of 32 on Feb. 25 out in Eastern Mass. North Reading, however, had too much offense on its side and defeated the co-op 7-2 in that matchup. Gardner’s season ended at 10-9-1.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Gardner and Quabbin have co-oped in hockey now for several years.

See more hockey photos on page 10.



Gardner had a season that ended in the state tournament.