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Suicide prevention walk exceeds goal in first year Team Ethan led the first ever Out of the Darkness Campus Walk to benefit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention held at Grenville Park this past Saturday,

Out of the Darkness walk unites families and community

By Paula Ouimette Editor pouimette@turley.com

WARE - When Kristen Murphy was planning the first ever Out of the Darkness Campus Walk to bring awareness to suicide and help prevent it, she was hoping to reach 100

This past Saturday, over 130 people joined her and co-organizer School Resource Officer Jeannine

Bonnayer at Grenville Park, raising over \$4,600 to benefit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, an organization that Murphy and her family has received support from following the suicide of her son, Ethan Donnelly, last year.

At the start of the walk, Murphy thanked all of the participants for their support, as well as the businesses and organizations who sponsored the event. She thanked the Knights of Columbus for providing free hot dogs, and Ethan's father Shawn's band, Lyle's Leftovers, who performed throughout the day.

Please see **WALK**, page 6



School Resource Officer Jeannine Bonnayer (left) stands with the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Special Events Manager, Heather Claflin.

ATM lacks quorum, rescheduled to June 10

WARE - This past Monday evening's annual town meeting failed to reach a quorum by just 10 voters, and has been rescheduled.

The annual town meeting will now be held on Monday, June 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Ware High School.

Voters will take action on 27 articles, four of which are expected to be dismissed. A quorum of 100 registered voters is required in order to open the meeting and conduct necessary town business, including setting the fiscal year 2025 budget and addressing town infrastructure needs.



Warren Police Chief Gerald Millette and Superintendent Stephen Duff alongside the Quaboag cougar mascot during Cougar Fridays.

Quaboag school mascot greets students and staff

By Ryan Drago Staff Writer rdrago@turley.com

WARREN - Every Friday morning, the students at Quaboag Regional Middle High School are greeted by their school mascot.

Friday morning is now known as Cougar Fridays as the cougar mascot is awaiting students and staff at the student drop off.

Behind the cougar mask is student Kyle Withers. Every Friday morning, Withers gets up early and joins Superintendent of Schools Stephen Duff while he is on traffic duty for student drop off.

Withers has participated in Cougar Fridays throughout the school year and enjoys greeting students each week. Every Friday morning, he stands out waving and sometime holding out a cool sign.

Please see **COUGAR**, page 7

QHSUA welcomes new director

By Paula Ouimette Editor pouimette@turley.com

Members of the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance welcomed the new Prevention Director, Emily Kirby, following the retirement of Gail Gramarossa.

At the May 13 meeting, Kirby

introduced herself and shared information about her education and experience with substance use

and harm reduction. 'We are in a complete void," Kirby said, in terms of harm reduction in the Quaboag Hills area.

Kirby said there is no local access to syringes, with the closest being Amherst and Worcester.

She said there is also a need for

more sharps disposals. Kirby grew up in Berkshire County and has a bachelor's degree in nutrition and a master's degree in public health and public policy. She has worked for WIC, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and Berkshire Harm

Please see QHSUA, page5

RE PUBLIC SCHOOLS Ware High School senior Zoey Bain poses for a photo with her parents Matthew and Tiffany in front of her painting, which is displayed above the front desk in the Central Office.

State Auditor seeks signatures for November ballot question

By Paula Ouimette Editor pouimette@turley.com

WEST BROOKFIELD - State Auditor Diana DiZoglio has one wish for her birthday on June 5, and that's to gain the 13,000 signatures needed to get a question on the November ballot.

This ballot question would allow voters to compel the Legislature to be audited. The audit would be performative, and also look at how tax dollars are being spent.

"This is the same type of audit we do for every other entity," DiZoglio said. "Legislature is the only one refusing."

Last fall, over 75,000 residents across the commonwealth signed a petition after DiZoglio's request to audit the Senate and the House of Representatives was denied by the House Speaker and Senate

DiZoglio and her office staff have been traveling to towns and

Please see **BALLOT**, page5



State Auditor Diana DiZoglio speaks with residents at the West Brookfield Town Hall on May 5. DiZoglio is seeking signatures to get a question on the November ballot regarding an audit of the state Legislature.



pouimette@turley.com WARE - Graduating senior Zoev Bain has left a lasting legacy at Ware Public Schools, with the gift of a painting, which was unveiled at Central Office last

By Paula Ouimette

Editor

On May 8, Bain was joined by her parents Tiffany and Matthew Bain, along with her grandmother, her art teachers, and many more school staff and administration, to celebrate the completion of her colorful painting that immediately draws the eye of anyone entering the building.

Superintendent of Schools

Michael Lovato thanked Bain for her contribution to the school district, adding that he hopes to add more student artwork to Central Office in the near future.

"I recognize that it's a piece of you," Lovato said to Bain of her painting. "Thank you."

Please see **BAIN**, page 3

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Advertising Sales Dan Flynn dflynn@turley.com

Editor Paula Ouimette pouimette@turley.com

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@ Ware River News

Grange hosts new programs for kids

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

WARE - A local family came together with the help of a special grant from the state to create a program for kids to enjoy at the Ware Grange.

"This is to teach children about what they can do to enter our fair in August," Terry Vaill explained. "We want them to have fun and learn and be creative."

The Kids' Corner Workshops will be held with Jen McNally, and they will be on a Saturday morning once a month throughout the summer.

'We want to promote agriculture in the community," McNally explained. "We want this to boost both the fair and the Grange."

The next event will be Saturday, June 22 and will feature "Backyard Bugs." July 20 will be "Moo, Cluck, Baa, Farm Animals," and the long-awaited Grange Fair will be held on Aug. 23 and 24 for the whole community.

Children can come to the fair and enter fruits, veggies, baked goods and more after learning more about plants and animals at the Grange.

"It's great to be able to offer this to the families," McNally said. "Community, and supporting the community, in any way we can."

The events will feature fun crafts and activities, books to listen to and songs to sing, a tasty snack, and learning about a fun part of agriculture.

After the Grange Fair, look out for the upcoming fall-themed events on Saturday morning about trees, leaves, and nuts on Sept. 7, and a pumpkin carving event at 6 p.m. on Oct. 28.

Turley Photos by



Scarlette McGowan and her mom, Melissa Kopec learning to match seeds to their plants at the Ware Grange's Kids' Corner Workshop held this past weekend.



Randy Vaill shows children how to plant seeds after they decorated their pots.



Randy Vaill helps a child scoop soil into a pot.



Are You Old News?

Northern linhts

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.

Last week's photo from 1992 showed the newly installed officers of the Ware Disabled American



Submitted Photos by Kate Rasys Residents turned their phones to the night sky last week to capture these stunning images of the northern lights.

Submitted Photo by Donald Dunbar



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.



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Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

School staff supported Zoey Bain at the unveiling of her painting at Central Office. They are from left, Elizabeth Hanley, Pamela Grant, Amanda Gillmeister, Jessica Ross and Tiffany Bain.

BAIN from page 1

Bain said this is the largest piece of art she has ever created, and that she faced some challenges creating it. She said the most difficult part of this project was first drawing the design to scale on the large canvas.

"I think it just symbolizes growth, honestly," Bain said of her painting, which features textbooks, paint brushes, musical notes, as well as a diploma and mortarboard.

Art is Bain's favorite subject, and it has been since her early years in school.

"I just have art in me," Bain

Pamela Grant, Bain's High School art teacher, said she couldn't think of a better student to complete this project at Central Office. She said Bain was able to complete it in her Honors Independent Art course, and received a lot of support from her

While in the Ware Public Schools, Bain has had a great experience in the art program, particularly at the high school level where she has taken Art 1, Art 2, Drawing and Ceramics, in addition to Honors Independent Art courses.

Middle School art teacher Elizabeth Hanley said it has been amazing to see Bain grow as an artist since she first met her as a middle schooler, to now, as a soonto-be graduate.

"I'm just excited to see it," Hanley said before Bain and Lovato unveiled the painting.



Zoey Bain was joined by Superintendent of Schools Michael Lovato, School Committee Chair Brian Winslow and High School Principal Scott Slattery.



Zoey Bain holds a bouquet of flowers she received in appreciation for her artwork.

High School Principal Scott Slattery said displaying student artwork at the Central Office was a great thing, adding that Bain's painting was "amazing" and that she was an outstanding student.

School Committee Chair Brian Winslow also congratulated Bain for her accomplishment and shared his appreciation for her talent.

Bain's parents, Tiffany and Matthew, both expressed how proud they were of her.

Bain is undecided about her career following graduation, but she plans to continue her artwork, further exploring painting, ceramics and illustration.

'Ware Remembers' event is May 26

Donations for American flags accepted until May 16

WARE - The Ware Historical Society presents the 14th annual Ware Remembers 2024.

This is a ceremony to honor a loved one - living, deceased, military, civilian, Ware resident, non-resident - on Memorial Day weekend.

An American flag will be placed on the historic Ware Center Meeting House green through Flag Day for your donation of \$5.

A ceremony will take place on May 26 at 6 p.m. in front of the Ware Center Meeting House (or indoors with limited seating if inclement weather)

Forms are available at Ware River News, 80 Main St., All Saints' Church, U.S. Post Office Lobby Bulletin Board, Ware Library and Senior Center.

Each form is for one person, one name per flag, one donation of \$5. Multiple forms and donations can be submitted.

Each form must include the name of the person to be honored and a very brief description or memory of that person. What you provide will be read, but it must be concise.

The society must have the name and contact information of the person making the request. Anonymous donors are welcome but must provide a phone number

in case there is a question of spelling, pronunciation, etc. Checks must be made payable to the Ware Historical Society. Drop off or mail donations to Ware Historical Society - Ware Remembers 2024, 67 West Main

St., Ware, MA 01082. Forms with donations would be appreciated by Thursday, May 16.

If you have questions, call 413-967-4528 and leave a message with your callback number. Please repeat your name and number so that it is clearly understood.

Family Fun Day

HARDWICK - Artists and

volunteers will host a free Fun

Day with Music for children

and families from 10 a.m. -1

p.m. on Saturday, May 18, at the

Stone Church Cultural Center,

283 Main St. (Route 32) in

RanDom Band and entertainer

Seth Newton will demonstrate

instruments and music making.

Activities will include a scav-

enger hunt, keyboard games,

a singing circle, and a kazoo

is geared to children in grades

K-8 and is free. Refreshments

For more information, con-

tact Kathy McCrohon by calling

508-404-7552 or emailing info.

kmdc@gmail.com. Youth under

age 8 must be accompanied by

Inc. produces free Fun Day pro-

grams for families as part of its

mission to preserve and protect

the Gilbertville Stone Church

Cultural Center and to facilitate

its use by and service to the com-

Friends of the Stone Church,

Open to all ages, the program

Greg Brown of the BIG

with Music is

May 18

Gilbertville.

marching band.

will be served.

Ware Senior Center news

WARE - The Ware Senior Center, located at 1 Robbins Road, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

The thrift store is open each of those days from 9 a.m.-noon. Donations to the store are only accepted by Sue LaBarge, who can be reached by calling 413-544-1574.

ACTIVITIES Monday, May 20

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

Tuesday, May 21 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View

9:30 a.m. Quilting Club

10 a.m. Scat

11:30 a.m. Lunch 5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking (\$3

per class) 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5

Wednesday, May 22

9 a.m. Tai-Chi

10 a.m. Scat 10-11:30 a.m. Office Hours, Kirsten Krieger, Quabbin Region

DPH Nurse 11:30 a.m. Lunch 2:30-3:30 p.m. Knit-Crochet-

Thursday, May 23

9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View

Housing

9 a.m. Senior Spring Walk. Meet at Senior Center.

11:30 a.m. Lunch

9:30 a.m. Line Dancing for

10 a.m. Line Dancing 10 a.m. Scat

Beginners

p.m.)

2:30 p.m. Art Class Friday, May 24

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10 a.m. Scat 11:30 a.m. Lunch

1 p.m. Chair Yoga 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5

LUNCHES DINE IN 11:30 a.m.

All meals \$3.50 unless otherwise noted

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

Monday, May 20 Muffaletta Sandwich, Potato

Chips, Dessert of the Day Tuesday, May 21

Shepherd's pie, house salad, Dessert and Entertainment by Friends of the Ware Senior Center Wednesday, May 22

Memorial Day Lunch Beef Stew over Rice, Caesar Salad, Dessert of the Day

Thursday, May 23 Stuffed Shells, Mandarin Orange Salad, Dessert of the Day

Friday, May 24 Seafood Salad Sandwich,

All are welcome at this free Potato Chips, Dessert of the Day

an adult.

About FOSC

Friends of the Stone Church receives major funding from the Mass Cultural Council's Cultural Facilities Fund in partnership with MassDevelopment. Currently in the process of stabilizing the stone tower of thevenue, FOSC welcomes donations from the community at www. FriendsoftheStoneChurch.org or by mail to FOSC, P.O. Box 347, Gilbertville, MA 01031.

Muddy Brook habitat walk is May 17

HARDWICK - On May 17, join Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife for a Muddy Brook Wildlife Management Area habitat walk.

Muddy Brook supports one of the largest actively managed fire-influenced landscapes in the interior of Massachusetts. The regionally significant barrens and

oak woodland natural communities heard. support over 20 state-listed species and a wealth of other highly specialized and often rare plants and

Ecologists will provide an overview of the ecology and management of the site. If the weather cooperates, whip-poor-wills and many other species should be

The walk will take place from 7-9 p.m.; meet at Patrill Hollow Road. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes for walking.

Site walks will be held rain or shine, but will be cancelled or cut short if there is thunder and light-

Relay for Life photo fundraiser

BELCHERTOWN - The be four different backgrounds to Quaboag Valley Relay for Life will hold a professional photo shoot fundraiser on Saturday, May 18 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Hope Church on the Common.

For a \$30 donation to benefit the American Cancer Society, people will get four professional photos to print, post or do whatever they would like. There will

choose from.

Please call or text Sheryl at 413-478-8981 to reserve a time. This is a great way to get your family pictures taken, your children's pictures, senior pictures, or Relay for Life team pictures.

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Upcoming Events

Saturday, June 8 7pm-1:30pm

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GUEST COLUMN

Life Together

Ramadan began March 7 and lasted until April 9.

This Muslim time of fasting and prayer is a discipline of purity and awareness. The word Ramdan literally means, "scorching

This spring time is the time for awakening and rededication.

I walked through the streets of Old Jerusalem, and at 5:43 p.m. saw the families breaking their fast since 4:57 a.m. They were gathered in the back of their shop, and I could see their whole family sharing a meal at the end of another day.

Today there is no food in Gaza, no breaking fast, breaking bread.

Ramadan urges believers to live with discipline and these values: no drinking alcohol, fasting during the day, trust in Allah, creating healthy habits, focusing on spirituality, obeying Allah's commands, learning self-discipline, breaking unhealthy cycles, building Godconsciousness and developing as a person.

Ramadan is usually at the same time as the Christian time of Lent and Easter. A similar theme in Lent is the fasting of Ramadan; and the time of Easter is a time of rededication to new life.

The rhythm of sacred days, of most religious expressions, are grounded in the reality of repentance to renewal, from darkness to light, from despair to hope. This rhythm is like the beat of a heart; pumping life through the person to sustain life.

For those whom there is no religious expression, our humanity brings us to the reality that whatever we do or do not believe, is subject to this fundamental rhythm of life and death.

When we take time to be in a space that allows for the quiet peace we seek, we experience a time of respite. Whether Ramadan or Lent-Easter, or no ritual, we discover that our fear and anxiety block us from experiencing the deeper presence of the Holy.

I often struggle with the need for discipline in my life. It can be messy and unfinished. It is frustrating when my thoughts and feelings flood my awareness and am distracted.

What if there were a way to be fully aware and experience the joy of living?

What if we experienced the peace we seek through meditation, and focus our attention on being fully aware and awake? Meditation does not eliminate any religious expression, it may, like Lent and Ramadan, deepen our peace.

Where do you find a "moment of peace?" What discipline do you practice to engender healthy God-consciousness? What discipline do you practice to repair our broken world?

As we move through these days of introspection and honesty, may we find the peace we seek.

> Rev. Dr. Randy Wilburn Minister, Therapist, Consultant

Life Together is written by Rev. Dr. Randall K. Wilburn. With over 54 years as a parish minister, Wilburn is also an experienced marriage and family counselor. Life Together will deal with topics such as stress, grief, anxiety, healing and hope.

GUEST COLUMN

How we can further expand access to higher ed in Mass.

By Betty Francisco and state Sen. Jake Oliveira

Never before has the American dream of affordable, accessible higher education been in more jeopardy.

Not only has the U.S. Supreme Court's recent majority decision dealt a blow to racial equity in college admissions, but the staggering burden of student debt looms like a dark cloud over the aspirations of countless individuals.

Against this backdrop of uncertainty and injustice, Massachusetts has emerged as a beacon of hope, leading the charge in safeguarding the dreams of its residents through strategic investments in public higher education. Yet, the battle is far from won, and the need for urgent action has never been more pressing.

In the face of escalating tuition costs and economic barriers, the Healey administration and the state Legislature have taken bold steps to expand access to higher

education. Leveraging revenue from the Fair Share Amendment, Massachusetts has pioneered initiatives like MassReconnect, offering cost-free community college for residents aged 25 and older without prior degrees, the innovative Tomorrow's Teachers Scholarship Program, which cultivates a diverse educator workforce while address-

Please see **COLLEGE**, page 13



Memories on Mother's Day

I came across the column below and it brought back a wonderful memory of my oldest daughter being a year old and her having a fascination with pansy faces.

Fast forward to Mother's Day 2024, 16 years later, and I find a vase of fragrant double narcissus "Bridal Crown" and lilacs in my bedroom from said child. How sweet.

But before I even found and read the column, I was seriously thinking about devoting one of my perennial borders to a garden of memories. Most of the plants in my landscape hold special meaning anyway, but a garden devoted to my childhood would be neat.

It was certainly those early experiences that shaped my career and honestly my life in general. Maybe you can relate.

Read on for a "blast from the past."

Gardening was a big part of my childhood. Our backyard, while under an acre in size, was immense to me, full of nooks and cran-

We had a rock garden, and garden on a banking, a garden devoted to annuals, and of

Mute Swan

spotted a pair of mute swans on Long Pond in

and are white. The bill is pink to orange with a

curve and with the wings slightly raised over

their back. Immature swans keep their brown-

compete for food with other waterfowl. They

eat the leafy parts of fresh and salt water plants

eggs in a nest, which is a large pile of vegeta-

Europe and were brought to the United States

in the 1800s. These swans are usually seen at

ally silent. Mute swans do not have the same

vocal structure as native swans and can only

Nesting bluebirds

ident. He said "Two months ago I repaired an

old bird nest box and placed it in an apple tree

A pair of Eastern Bluebirds took to it, going

I received this email from an Oakham res-

tion lined with feathers placed near the water.

Rutland.

black knob at the base.

ish feathers for a full-year.

as well as algae and waste grain.

parks, but they are also in the wild.

make hissing and snorting sounds.

Two Rutland residents and my daughter

Mute swans are about 55 inches in length

They swim with their neck held in an S

Mute swans are beginning to aggressively

The female lays four to eight pale, grayish

Mute swans are native to Great Britain and

They got their name because they are usu-

By Ellenor Downer

course, a vegetable garden. We also had a few choice flowering plants and shrubs just outside of the screened porch and fruit trees and bushes tucked in here and there.

One of my favorite spring pastimes as a kid was to pick little bouquets of lily of the valley, lilacs or peonies and place them around the house. I also enjoyed moving plants from one place to another in the yard.

My mom is reminded of one of my adventures in transplanting each time the lawn mower maneuvers around a clump of lilacs planted smack dab in the middle of the upper

Most of the flowering perennials we had were handed down from my mother's grandmother ("Babci") or her Aunt Julia. They aren't rare by any means, but to know they came from a line of strong women before me makes me want to pass these same plants on to my daughter.

My daughter is just over a year old and she has already taken an interest in flowers. This, of course, has made me very happy.

She points them out on her shirt or in books, and each time we stroll around the yard she clamors relentlessly until I give her a stem or two to hold. Recently, a single pansy face held her attention long enough for me to actually do some work in the garden...nothing short of a miracle for a busy little girl like her!

When she is a bit older I think it would be fun to plant a memory garden. In it we could commemorate five generations of flowers and the ladies who grew them.

First, I would include all of the heirloom

flowers that my mom has tended over the years originating from her grandmother and aunt's garden: the deep purple bearded iris, the sweetly scented lemon lily and frilly pink peony. Then I'd add her favorites, the flowers I remember her growing when I was a kid: ground phlox, lily of the valley and candytuft.

Next would be my contribution, pretty primroses that originated in England and double columbines that I started from seed several seasons ago. My daughter could add her favorites too - this year pansies would have certainly made the cut!

Fast forward to the present day, Mother's Day 2024. Why not consider installing a memory garden of your own?

If you aren't lucky enough to have family heirlooms already growing in place, ask your mom or grandma what their favorite plants are and go from there. I'm sure that many are still available for purchase.

Involve the kids by making stepping stones, plant labels and other simple ornaments to decorate the space. Tailor the design to suit your taste – it certainly doesn't have to be grandiose, just special, like the gardeners who came before us.

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.

WARE RIVER NEWS



EDITOR Paula Ouimette pouimette@turlev.com



ADVERTISING SALES dflynn@turley.com



Greg Scibelli sports@turley.com



STAFF WRITER Ryan Drago rdrago@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:

submissions is Monday at noon.

More birds A Brimfield resident sent some of the

and Wildlife."

birds he has seen in an email dated April 29. He said, "Today in the yard, male ruby-throated hummingbird and male rose-breasted grosbeak. I rushed to put a cou-

@ DAVEGRANWND.com

then flew off with it."

courtship."

in and out with nesting material." He said,

"Today, from my kitchen window, I admired

the male, perched at the corner of the deck

rail. It was scanning the lawn for prey items.

It flew to the ground and returned to the perch

with what appeared to be a beetle. The male

exact same perch and, like the male, was

scanning the lawn. It spotted a prey item and

returned with it to the perch: it looked like

another beetle. The female then exhibited

the crouched fluttering posture, like a hungry

hatchling. Within seconds, the male appeared

and was given the insect by the female. As

many of you know, the male of most (but

not all) bird species feeds the female during

"Moments later, the female landed at the

He said, "Ospreys in Wilbraham and Warren are sitting on nest as are the great blue herons in Warren. I I have to get to the Monson rookery soon to see what is going on

ple of feeders out. I had planned to do that

next week but the hummingbirds got here

yard: a couple have been irregular visitors

lately. Other back yard sightings were red-

winged blackbirds and a cowbird pair as well

He also had a turkey wander through the

earlier that expected."

as a Carolina wren.

He also said, "Some members of the Allen Bird Club are monitoring peregrine falcon nest and at one of the sites I'm watching, my wife and I saw three for sure and maybe four chicks in a nesting box setup by Mass Fish

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.

SOCIAL SECURITY By Russell Gloor

Future retiree worried about Social Security's future

Dear Rusty:

I keep reading that the Social Security Administration will only be able to pay out 75% of benefits come 2033.

If congress were to do nothing and this reduction in benefits occurred, would seniors already collecting benefits in 2033 have their benefits reduced or would it only be those who have not begun to collect have their future benefits reduced? I will be collecting my benefits no later than 2027, but my wife will not reach full retirement age until 2033 and we are looking for information on whether we need to adjust savings now to account for mine or my wife's possible reduction in benefits.

Signed: Worried Senior **Dear Worried Senior:**

If Congress does nothing to prevent Social Security's reserves from depletion, Social Security, by law, will only be able to pay out benefits equal to income, which is estimated to be about 23% to 25% short of what will be needed to pay full benefits starting in 2033.

That would mean everyone who is already receiving monthly Social Security benefits would get a payment 23% to 25% less than they were previously receiving and without reform, new beneficiaries would get benefits similarly reduced.

The action needed to prevent those cuts from happening resides with Congress and any program reform they enact would likely only affect those who are not yet collecting. Whether or how that would affect you and your wife as future SS beneficiaries depends on the scope of reform Congress will enact which, of course, is not yet known.

That uncertainty, itself, is reason enough to bolster your savings for your future retire-

The probability of Congress allowing the Trust Funds to be depleted, thus necessitating an across the board cut in everyone's benefit is, in my opinion, slim it would be political suicide. Congress already knows how to fix Social Security's financial woes they just currently lack the bipartisanship and political fortitude to do so and it's doubtful any Social Security reform will happen this election year rather, the opposing sides will likely just sling accusations at each other in 2024.

But rest assured that both sides of Congress

are acutely aware that reform of the Social Security program is needed soon, and we are already seeing signs that progress on reform may be forthcoming, but not until after the 2024 elections.

Congress is notorious for waiting until the last possible moment to act, and I don't suggest you alter your Social Security claiming strategy based on the unknown. But building a bigger nest egg for retirement is always a prudent goal.

Also, calling your Congressional Representative to endorse needed Social Security reform which ensures your future benefits will not be cut would be a good move.

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.

pouimette@turley.com The deadline for

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.

warren

Levee committee reviews quotes for inspection

By Ryan Drago Staff Writer rdrago@turley.com

WARREN - The Quaboag River Levee Committee reviewed quotes from businesses who will inspect the levee's flood control

Members of the committee met with several companies throughout the month of April. One of the companies, R.H. White, reached out and expressed interest in taking up the project.

R.H. White is a New England construction company that provides services in construction, maintenance and repair.

Services include design/build services, pre-construction services, general contracting, construction management, building fit outs, facilities management and maintenance, renovations and repairs, carpentry, mechanical construction, ground-up construction, natural disaster and extreme weather response and concrete work, masonry, and paving.

Committee members agreed that the quote from R.H. White seemed reasonable, and they were the only company who seemed interested in taking up the project.

If the committee decides to move forward with R.H. White, they want to make sure that all the valves are taken care of.

The committee members were not sure how many valves are on the flood control gates. There are either four or five valves total and they hope the company's quote will cover all of them.

"We want to make sure they

are going to cover all the valves," committee member Jeremy Olson

The company will have a three man mechanical crew to review the control gates. The quote may have to change if the valve count is at five. If so, the committee would have to vote on a new quote.

The Quaboag River Levee Committee would like to review images of the company's inspection on the valves and their condi-

Condition of the valves, if poor, may have a higher expense for repair or replacement. The committee made a motion to approve the cost for the inspection of the flood control gates.

The motion passes unanimously and hopefully the quote covers all the valves.

Vegetation removal

The next project the committee discussed was planning a section of vegetation removal. The plan is to choose an area of importance and then contact a reputable tree or land clearing company to do the

Olson stated that when it comes to levee maintenance, there just has to be an effort of clearing and vegetation. Olson thinks the best course of action is to handle brush removal and slash any small trees in the area.

"Figure out the scope of work," Olson said.

The Quaboag River Levee Committee will be reaching out to local companies with experience in brush removal and remove any brush in the area near the levee.

New equipment arriving for Cable Advisory

By Ryan Drago Staff Writer rdrago@turley.com

WARREN - The Warren Cable Advisory Committee reviewed an update on new equipment they are receiving from Ockers.

Ockers is a technology company that works on designing, installing and supporting cost-effective solutions that optimize business performance. Ockers' authorized service centers and certified technicians offer more than 700,000 computer related and communication technology products from over 3,800 of the world's leading hardware manufacturers and software publishers.

The Cable Advisory Committee will be receiving new equipment for Quaboag Regional Middle High School's media center and new desks for the Warren Community Access Television

Travis Baker received a notice from Ockers that they started receiving the equipment ordered by the committee.

The next step is to schedule a day to have all the equipment delivered by Ockers and have the supplies dropped off at the Shepard Municipal Building. Baker is hoping to get extra help in getting the new desks upstairs as the boxes they're packaged in are 100 inches long.

Once the desks arrive, the cable advisory began discussing how to reorganize the studio.

For a while the desks at the WCAT studio were in a L shape, but it might be time to reorganize the desk positions of the studio. Baker was thinking of doing two separate rows for the desks in order to have proper wire extensions during the installment.

Another choice is to relocate

Studio. Cable Advisory Chair the desks to one side of the studio improve the efficiency of local due to having a slight dent on the floor. The area where the committee is thinking of moving the desks is on a more even surface.

Update on cap increase

The Cable Advisory is looking for a cap increase and will make a motion for one at the annual town meeting. Baker said the Finance Committee reviewed the request and it was approved.

Then, Baker mentioned that the money from their account may be put into a general revenue account.

"This means that there's no longer a cap on our spending," Baker

This decision is supposedly coming from the new Municipal Empowerment Act. This bill is intended to help increase municipal flexibility, strengthen municipal finances, address municipal workforce challenges, and

operations.

Future improvements

The Cable Advisory plans to keep track of their funding and look into future improvements.

PTZ cameras have arrived as well as hardware for the installing. These cameras will be part of the project at the high school.

Baker is waiting to hear back from Superintendent Stephen Duff to see which teachers will be involved with the project over the summer.

The Cable Advisory is also looking to improve the connections from Quaboag to the WCAT Studio. Another improvement with the Cable Advisory will be discussed at their next meeting and will regard updating one of their computers.

BALLOT from page 1

cities, asking for help to collect the necessary signatures before the deadline, making a stop in West Brookfield on May 5.

DiZoglio said she has a "deep love and affection" for policy making and transparency in the Legislature, after spending six years as a state representative and four years as a state senator before taking her current office in 2023.

"We do so many great things here in Massachusetts," DiZoglio

Despite this, the commonwealth is ranked one of the least transparent state governments, she said.

"As your state auditor I've been given the really unique opportunity to have a platform; a singular voice," she said. "We need transparency. There are a lot of tough conversations that need to be had."

DiZoglio said she has been reflecting on the saying, "knowl-

edge is power," and she feels that this applies to a legislative audit, and how its results will spread knowledge and power back to the

"I've seen knowledge hoarded, essentially, by people in power," she said. "If we have knowledge about state budget and government, we have an opportunity to ioin in – to rise against or support."

DiZoglio said her office works to "bring light" to over 200 state entities. She is it is common practice in many other states to audit the Legislature regularly as well.

"The decisions that impact us all should be made in the light of say," she said.

DiZoglio said no system is perfect, but that the government should strive to be better.

"Our goal and our mission is to help," she said of the State Auditor's office. "To make sure everyday people get the best services.'

DiZoglio said the government cannot improve its service to constituents if potential problems can't be identified and addressed. She said it's "deeply concerning" that her office's efforts to get access to the Legislature have been demonized and talked down about.

"It doesn't say a lot of good things about how our system is running. What is there to hide?" she said.

DiZoglio said there have been 113 audits of the Legislature completed by her office dating back to 1849. Now, they are unable to get access to information about public tax dollars, she said.

DiZoglio said the audit is a nonpartisan issue, and it's more about those who have power and those who do not.

"Leadership has a lot of power," she said.

Retaliation is also a common occurrence is the Legislature, DiZoglio said, adding that this behavior is "unacceptable."

She said retaliation directed at herself personally is missing the mark, and coming back on the voters who elected her.

"This is something that need to be talked about over and over again...This is not the Massachusetts we know and love,' she said.

DiZoglio urged residents to "have a seat at the table" before decisions are made in the Legislature, asking them to help gather the remaining signatures for the ballot question before the June 5 deadline.

"You have the power to make change, I cannot do this without you," she said.

For more information about the audit or to sign the State Auditor's petition, visit dianaforma.com. For more information about the State Auditor's office and its role in state government, visit www.mass.gov/ org/office-of-the-state-auditor.

QHSUA from page 1

Reduction.

"I've had a lot of hands-on experience in harm reduction," Kirby said.

Recovery Center of HOPE update

Community Engagement Coordinator for QHSUA Abaigeal Duda said the Recovery Center of HOPE is an all pathways, regional recovery center on Main Street in

The idea to create the center (as well as the QHSUA) was discussed 10 years ago by the Quaboag Hills Community Coalition, as a way to address the opioid crisis and substance use.

"They started a group that eventually became the QHSUA and one of their main goals was to start a recovery center," Duda said.

Duda said the members did a lot of hard work, and now there is the Recover Center of Hope at 52 and 78 Main St., which is overseen by the Western Massachusetts Training Consortium.

"This wouldn't have happened without them. Now, they do such a good job making sure this continues," Duda said of the consortium.

Duda said the best thing about the center is the feeling you get when you walk through the door.

These are great people, and it makes all the difference," Duda

Representing the Recovery Center of HOPE were Julie Lutz, through Saturday. Operations & Administration Coordinator and Susan Daley, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator.

Daley said the center is truly a community, and it is run by people in recovery, as well as friends, family members and allies.

Lutz said the center provides social support for people in recov-

"Our peer recovery center supports people on their recovery journey...to move forward and build a meaningful life in recovery," she

Lutz said substance use affects all people in one way or another, environment where people can important decisions for the cen-

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engage in safe dialogue.

"We always welcome nonjudgemental and compassionate curiosity," she said. Lutz said All Recovery meetings are inclusive and nondenominational.

Daley said peers determine what, when and how activities are offered at the center. Hours at the center have also increased significantly, offering support Monday

All Recovery meetings are held Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m., with additional times on Tuesday at 4 p.m., Friday at 6 p.m. and Saturday at 12:30 p.m. A Wellness Hour is held on Tuesday and Thursday at 1 p.m.

Coffee hours are held on Mondays from 1-2 p.m. and a book club has started on the first and third Monday of each month at 2 p.m. A peer-led writing group meets on Thursdays at 2 p.m.

Game nights provide fun for the whole family on the third Tuesday of each month at 5 p.m. Community Growth Meetings and that the center provides an to develop new ideas and make

ter are held on the fourth

Wednesday of the month. Snack and Spruce gives the community a chance to enjoy snacks and music while they clean the center on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m.

"We just kind of take

care of the space that takes care of us," Lutz said.

Art hour is held from 1:30-2:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, and Feel Good Fridays offer food and fellowship each Friday at 10:30 a.m. A Women's Recovery Circle is held on Saturdays from 10 a.m.-

Lutz and Daley said the center also helps people connect with important resources with the help of Public Health Nurse Kirsten Krieger of the Quabbin Health District for "Ask the Nurse" on the second Friday of the month from 1-2 p.m. Krieger provides blood pressure, blood sugar and wound checks, as well as confidential consultations for health issues, nutrition, foot care, cardiovascular and respiratory health, immunization and vaccines, diabetes management, women's health, mental health and more.

Community Resource Assistance for people living in Hampshire County is offered every Wednesday from 3-7 p.m. Staff can assist with MassHealth. SNAP benefits, advocacy, detox, substance use programs, resume building, job searches, job applications, interview preparation and provide housing information.

Transportation is another area the Recovery Center of HOPE can assist people in recovery with, through use of its Guiding Rides

Lutz said transportation is

"extremely challenging and a tremendous barrier," not only for treatment, but also to meet basic daily needs such as grocery shopping and laundry. The van even takes weekly shopping trips to Walmart and monthly trips to Trader Joe's.

"We're really willing to go anywhere," Lutz said. "It's made a big difference already."

John Morello's performance of 'Dirt'

Performer John Morello spoke with members of the alliance about his performance "Dirt" which has been presented at schools across the country and in Canada.

Duda said "Dirt" covers a number of issues young people face, including bullying, substance use and mental health.

"He's been kind of taking our

area by storm," Duda said. Morello is set to perform next at Ware Public Schools on May 23. Morello talked about his recent

performance at North Brookfield Public Schools, which kicked off Student Wellness Week in the school district. QHSUA member and organizer

of the North Brookfield event, Sue Lewandowski, said two students came forward to talk about what they are going through after watching Morello's performance.

Nekr Jenkins of Q-Drug said students at the Quabbin Regional School District still talk about

"Dirt" two years after Morello's An actor and stand-up comic,

Morello wrote "Dirt" as a one-person show that touched on his life experiences. Morello said he grew up with addiction in his family and he wanted to explore how he made it out, and how others didn't.

"I wanted to address some of those things I was feeling," he said.

The show, which features a series of intertwined monologues was never intended to be a school performance. After a teacher saw it performed in a theater, she invited Morello to bring "Dirt" to the

"It really took off with the students," Morello said. "When you make yourself vulnerable and make it a story and not a lecture...I think it makes it more accessible to kids and they appreciated that I wasn't talking down to them. It's a great conversation starter."

Morello said he has tried not to change "Dirt", which he has performed over the last 20 years.

"I just kept on doing my show and spoke my truth," Morello said. "With the idea that the right people will get it and the right people will connect with it."

Morello said he talks a lot about mental health, both through the characters and his own personal experiences.

"Talking about struggles gives us all hope," Morello said.

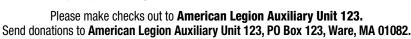
PLEASE DONATE TO **HOSPITALIZED VETERANS**

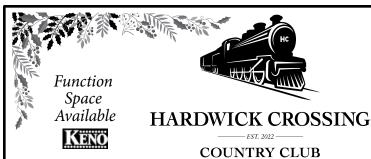
The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 123 in Ware is collecting items for donation to hospitalized VETERANS at the Edward P. Boland Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Northampton (LEEDS).

Items may be dropped off at the American Legion Building at 45 Maple Street in Ware on Memorial Day (May 27th) from 9:00 am to 3 pm. Pick up of donated items can be arranged by calling Michele at 413-544-1996.

- ✓ Personal hygiene products (men & women)
- ✓ NEW clothing (men & women)
- ✓ NEW shoes (men & women) ✓ Blankets ✓ Walmart gift cards
- ✓ Non-perishable foods
- ✓ Scrabble dictionary ✓ Uno cards ✓ Pre Fab wood pieces for Art Therapy (seasonal signs; bird houses; wood boxes; etc.)
- ✓ Adult coloring books
- ✓ Gel pen sets ✓ Crayola felt pen sets

Monetary donations are also accepted and will be used solely for purchasing items listed above.





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SUICIDE PREVENTION WALK



Walkers wore Honor Beads to represent different losses and to show support for suicide awareness and prevention.



Many walkers wore purple and teal to show their support for suicide awareness.



Residents showed their support by taking part in the Out of the Darkness Campus Walk.



Students from area school districts joined the walk to help prevent

WALK from page 1

Joining Murphy was Heather Claflin, the Special Events Manager for the AFSP's Massachusetts Chapter.

Like Murphy, Claflin's life has felt the impact of losing a loved one to suicide. Claflin said she started working for the organization a few months after the death of her cousin.

"I knew this is where I needed to be," she said. Claflin said AFSP is a national organization that hosts springtime campus walks, like that one at Grenville Park, as

walks. "By being here today, you're part of a national movement," Claflin told

well as fall community

the participants. Claflin announced that Team Ethan was the top fundraising group with \$1,000. There is still time to donate, by visiting www.afsp.org/ ware, now through the end of June.

To participate in other AFSP events, please

visit afsp.org/mawalks. Help is available by calling 988 or texting TALK to 741741.



Friends and family walked together. Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette



Each participant had their own reason for joining the cause.



Over 130 people participated in the Out of the Darkness Campus Walk at Grenville Park.



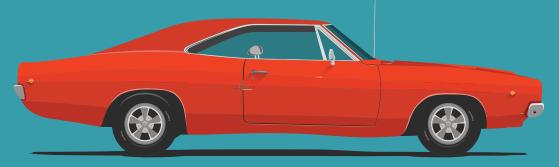
Ware High School students participated in the walk.



ALL WHEELS CAR SHOW Wednesday, May 22nd

GATES OPEN AT 3:00PM

Benefits the Palmer Food Share and Jubilee Cupboard Food Pantry of Ware and the Springfield to Boston Education Foundation



Cars, Trucks, Motorcycles, Tractors...open to anything with wheels.

Admission is \$10 per car or 3 non-perishable food items. No burnouts, excessively loud cars or motorcycles.

Join us at Palmer Motorsports Park, 58 W Ware Road, Palmer, MA For an evening car show, with food trucks and 97.7's DJ Crusin with Bruce Marshall

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Groom's Town Residence: Wedding Date:___ Wedding Location:

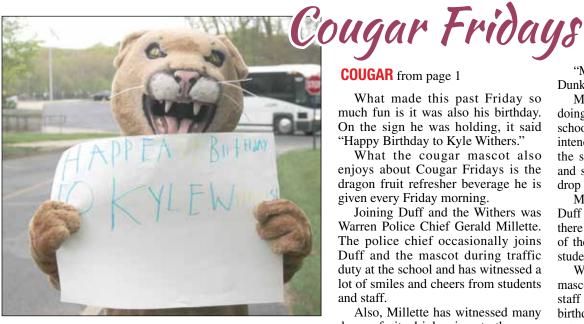
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Be sure to include a high resolution, clear photograph for printing.

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Cougar mascot Kyle Withers greets students and staff every Friday morning. This past Friday was also Withers' birthday.

COUGAR from page 1

What made this past Friday so much fun is it was also his birthday. On the sign he was holding, it said "Happy Birthday to Kyle Withers."

What the cougar mascot also enjoys about Cougar Fridays is the dragon fruit refresher beverage he is given every Friday morning.

Joining Duff and the Withers was Warren Police Chief Gerald Millette. The police chief occasionally joins Duff and the mascot during traffic duty at the school and has witnessed a lot of smiles and cheers from students

Also, Millette has witnessed many dragon fruits drinks given to the mas-

"Mr. Duff buys him a dragon fruit at Dunkin," said Millette.

Millette has also witnessed Duff still doing traffic duty every morning of the school year. As principal and as superintendent, Duff always enjoys greeting the students and staff every morning and still does traffic duty near student

Millette pointed out humorously that Duff also cracks a few jokes here and there when he greets the students. Most of the jokes are old dad jokes and the students laugh, but not as much as Duff.

Withers enjoys being the cougar mascot and greeting all the students and staff on Cougar Fridays. It was a fun birthday celebration for him, and he did get a surprise dragon fruit refresher.



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

The cougar mascot greets the Warren Fire Department.

Opioids and Opioid Rescue Training



- Understand what opioids are and why people become addicted.
- Address the stigma of addiction.
- How to recognize and respond to an overdose
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Join Us for This Training at:

Education to Employment (E2E) 79 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082 On: May 29th, 2024, at 4:30 pm Presented By:

Kirsten L. Krieger RN, BSN; Public Health Nurse (413) 967-9648 ext. 112

Email: kkrieger@townofware.com

Website: www.quabbinhealthdistrict.com

Please RSVP via email or phone

Training provided courtesy of the following organizations:







Credit for Life fair takes place at Tantasqua

Staff Writer rdrago@turley.com

STURBRIDGE - Tantasqua Regional High School hosted the Credit for Life fair last week welcoming hundreds of high school students.

The senior classes of Tantasqua, Quaboag, and North Brookfield schools gathered at the gymnasium where dozens of volunteers were prepared to assist the students in the fair. Credit for Life is where students learn the real-life budgeting and money management skills they will use throughout their life-

Tantasqua High School Principal Peter Dufresne welcomed the students and volunteers. He described the Credit for Life fair as a "real world simulation of how to work your finances."

Dufresne commented on how great the fair is and encouraged all the seniors to learn as much as possible. If Credit for Life had existed when he was a student, Dufresne admitted that he would've wanted to experience it.

"I wish I had this when I was in high school," Dufresne said. Dufresne introduced Jodie

Gerulaitis, the Vice President of

Community Relations at Country volunteers at the credit booth and Bank. Gerulaitis also encouraged the students to enjoy the simulation, learn what they can and understand the importance of credit and keeping a budget.

The students visited every booth and after drawing a random credit score and choosing a job in the exercise. Not all credit scores were good, but Gerulaitis encouraged students to make it work no matter how high or low their selected credit score was.

"This is a good experience to what you'll be involved with in the life and it can change as individufuture." Gerulaitis said.

Ellis Cropper was one of the

explained how credit scores impact many necessities in life adults will

"Credit scores affect every element," Cropper said. "Approval for car loans, mortgages, interest rates,

One of the booths that can be impacted by credit is insurance. The insurance booth involved first time volunteer Keith Blanchette.

The insurance booth volunteers explained to students how important insurance is in all aspects of

Please see **CREDIT**, page 15



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

Tantasqua seniors Ryan, Jace and Aaron were ready to try out the fair and learn how to manage their finances better for the future.

National Grid is inviting you to an Informal Open House **Learn More: Palmer to Ware Improvement Project**

National Grid's Palmer to Ware Improvement Project is a proposed transmission line project that will upgrade a deteriorating electric transmission line. The upgrade will focus on portions of the 10.35-mile-long segment of overhead power lines that run through Palmer, Ware, and West Brookfield. Once upgraded, the newly rebuilt transmission line will provide enhanced electric reliability for the region.

> National Grid is hostingOpen Houses for the Palmer to Ware Improvement Project. We encourage you to join us to learn more about the project.

If you are unable to join us at the in-person event and are interested in learning more about the project, please email info@O15nproject.comto set up a meeting with a member of our project team.

Questions? Contact us!

Phone Number: (800) 674-9510 Email: Info@O15nproject.com

Website: PalmerToWareImprovementProject.com or scan the QR code.

national grid 7-57 Wells Ave., Suite 27, Newton, MA 02459





JR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

Turley photos by Jack Cascio NEAP.smugmug.com

Jake Riethle is all business as he gets into position to play this shot.

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Three straight wins put Indians in tournament



Jonathon Adkins readies to set up the next shot.

Nathan Harmon seems to deflate the ball with this power shot.

WARE – Last week, the Ware High School boys volleyball team rebounded from 3-2 loss to post three consecutive 3-0 victories, taking down Duggan, Commerce, and Chicopee. The wins brought Ware to 10-6 on the season, and they have qualified for the State Division 2 Tournament and have a shot at qualifying for the Western Mass Tournament as well. The Indians are scheduled to finish up the regular season this week with playoffs beginning next week.



Remy Cahalan rises high above the net for this spike.

Indians, Cougars invade Polar Park

By Tim Peterson Sports Correspondent

WORCESTER— During the course of the regular season, several high school baseball teams had the opportunity to play a game at Polar Park in Worcester.

Two of those teams were the Ware Indians and the Quaboag Cougars. The rivals battled each other on the beautiful home field of the WooSox, who are the Triple-A affiliate of the Boston Red Sox, last Monday afternoon.

With the help of a couple of unearned runs in the top of the first inning, the Indians players enjoyed their bus ride back to Ware following a 4-2 victory.

"It was very nice getting a chance to play a game at a local Minor League ballpark," said Ware head coach Scott Slattery. "The parents from both schools did a very good job of organizing this game for us. I would love to play another game at a Minor League Park next year."

The booster clubs from the two high schools helped out a lot, but former Quaboag School Superintendent Maureen Binienda played a major role in making sure the baseball game between the two teams would take place at Polar Park this year. Binienda, who's currently the interim Superintendent of the Easthampton Public Schools, was previously the Superintendent of the Worcester Public Schools. She contacted the people in the WooSox organization about playing a game at their ballpark.

I WAITED A WHOLE YEAR, **BUT IT JUST FEELS GREAT** TO BEAT MY FATHER'S **TEAM. HE HAS HELPED ME SO MUCH THROUGH-OUT MY BASEBALL CAREER. IT WAS A FUN GAME TODAY. WE'RE VERY GRATEFUL FOR EVERYONE WHO MADE** THIS GAME POSSIBLE FOR US. IT WAS A COOL **EXPERIENCE.**"

BRADY GUIMOND WHS SOPHOMORE

Current Quaboag School Superintendent Steve Duff announced each batter during the

Quaboag sophomore Madison Schreier also did an outstanding job of singing the National Anthem before the start of the game.

While it was a memorable day for the players from both teams, it was a little bit extra special for Ware sophomore righthander Brady Guimond. His father, Brian, is the longtime Quaboag varsity baseball coach.

Please see **POLAR PARK**, page 11

Girls tennis sweeps a doubleheader

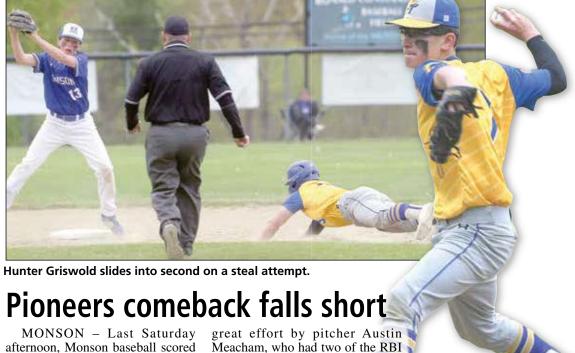
BARRE - Doubleheaders are more of a baseball thing, but Quabbin Regional girls tennis had a split doubleheader last Friday afternoon as the Panthers hosted two different teams and played consecutive matches. First, the Panthers would sweep Doherty High School 5-0. Following that, the Panthers got a 4-1 win over Tyngsborough.

In the win over Doherty, Annabelle Magill, Camryn Orsini, and Carlee Rich all picked up singles wins. Both doubles teams were also victo-

rious. In the Tyngsborough match, Magill and Rich both scored wins and the doubles teams of Farrah Wojcik and Kalina Dyer and Madelyn Stauder and Elizabeth Matheson both won as well.

The wins were followed by a 5-0 sweep of Gardner High School. Dyer got a match in singles action against Gardner and picked up a 6-2, 6-0 win. Magill and Rich also won singles matches. The doubles team of Mia Ducos and Haley Ayer got a win in the match. Quabbin girls tennis is now 13-1 on the regular season.





three times in the fourth inning to lead the Mustangs to a win over

for the Mustangs. The Pioneers were led with two hits each from Pathfinder. In the 5-3 decision, Miguel Velasquez and Hunter Monson got some big hits from Griswold. Griswold scored two of the top of their lineup to back a Pathfinder's three runs.



Miguel Velasquez fires a throw across the diamond.



Brayden Mega

pitches for the

Pioneers.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com Edward Szostek beats the throw to the base.

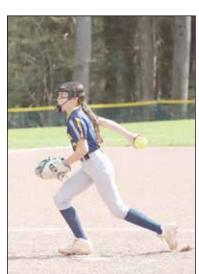
Panthers suffer pair of defeats

BARRE - Last Thursday and Littleton on the road 10-0. Friday, the Quabbin Regional High Regional 10-8, then losing to schedule.

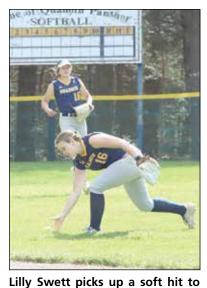
The Panthers are now 2-11 on School softball team took a pair the season and had three games of losses, falling to Montachusett remaining on its regular season



Catcher Abby Rogowski makes a throw down to second.



Juliana Guilderson makes a pitch for the Panthers during recent action.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli Kherington Deschenes swings and connects.

Wilbraham Monson Academy names new hockey coach

& Monson Academy is pleased to Boys Varsity Hockey program beginning with the 2024-25 season. Coach Biondo will take the Council.

WILBRAHAM - Wilbraham helm with a strong foundation of current and new student-athletes announce Lawrence Biondo has and support from the entire WMA been named Head Coach of the community. The Titans compete as a full varsity member of the New England Prep School Athletic

prep school person, through and through," Head of School Brian P. Easler said. "He played at prep school, has coached at prep schools, sent all of his kids to prep schools, and now he chose to

"Coach Lawrence Biondo is a return to prep school teaching and coaching after retiring from the New York City Police Department. He is fully committed to WMA and the development of our hockey

Please see **COACH**, page 10

Quabbin League wants to fill remaining roster spots

Rosters spots are dwindling, but there are still some spots available as the Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball has begun it season. There are still several open spots to get filled despite the season being underway.

Registration for the 2024 season is now open and any interested players can go to www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org to get registered, or to seek more information or make inquiries about the league.

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. The league can also pro-rate registration at this point. Simply contact a league board member. Contact information is located at the registration link.

Offense comes up big for Mustangs



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com Brody St. Martin, covered by a teammate looks to make a pass.



the season.

Landon Couture heads up

the field.

Dominic Kierkla angles toward the goal and looks to shoot.



Goalie Osvaldo Nieves winds up for a long Seth Mitchell makes a rush up the field.



Thompson Speedway holds Icebreaker event

THOMPSON, CT — A much nicer day awaited fans on day two of the 50th Icebreaker at Thompson Speedway held last month. Six star-studded features took to the 0.625-mile oval on Sunday, as did the peaks of sunshine to greet the fans in the stands. While the Street Stocks were able to start their 2024 track championship season on Saturday, the rest of the track championship lineup got their year started with plenty of action on Sunday along with the roar of the mighty NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour with their return to Icebreaker weekend.

Following strong qualifying efforts in time trials, Justin Bonsignore and Jake Johnson led the NASCAR Whelen Modifieds to a short start after Bobby Santos III lost a right rear tire in mid-pack, dragging Dave Sapienza, Andrew Krause and Eric Goodale into the turn one wall. Back under the green flag, Johnson slid back to third on the restart and gave second to a hard-charging Craig Lutz with Bonsignore still at the helm. Lutz grabbed his chance to take over the lead on a lap 25 restart following a grenaded motor in the Tim Connolly

A second motor expired in the first 33 laps for Trevor Catalono but Lutz again retained control ahead of Bonsignore and Ron Silk. Silk methodically made his way to Lutz's back bumper, pulling up alongside the #46 on lap 59 and using the slide job in turn one to come back and lead lap 60. The field would slow once more

Please see **SPEEDWAY**, page 11

COACH from page 9

program for the long term, and I can't wait to see how it grows under his leadership."

Biondo's hockey resume includes both playing and coaching experience at the prep school and collegiate level. As a coach, count Avon Old Farms, St. Benedict's Prep and The Harvey School in his prep school experience.

Joining Biondo will be Steven McGeary as Assistant Coach. Formerly the Boys Ice Hockey Head Coach at Wyoming Seminary, McGeary played at Bethel University (MN). Assistant Coach and Goalie Coach Brian Musa '92 will round out a stellar coaching staff. Musa has over two decades of coaching experience, played goalie at Elmira College and is USA Bronze Goalie certified.

As a player, Biondo was a threeyear member of a Deerfield Academy team that won the 1983-84 Prep School

Championship, and he lettered all four years at Tufts University. He played on the Olympic Development U16 summer program at Lake Placid, N.Y., and the Springfield Pioneers AA Bantam championship team that included WMA alumnus Rick Bennett '86.

Already a current English faculty member at WMA, Biondo retired as a lieutenant in 2023 after 20 years of service with the NYPD. Two of his five children are recent alumni of WMA, both Class of 2021, and they are currently matriculated at United States Military Academy West Point and Florida Atlantic University.

'I look forward to building upon the hockey program here at WMA and appreciate the full support I'm receiving from the school," Biondo said. "We have a solid schedule, we're expanding our off-and-on-ice program and we're eager to begin the season this

Pioneers set to get regular season underway

By Tim Peterson Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Since they joined USL League Two in 2019, the Western Mass. Pioneers have finished first in the Northeast Division standings twice. They've also finished in second place twice.

The members of this year's squad will be looking to make their fifth appearance in the USL League Two playoffs. The 2020 season was canceled due to the COVID 19 Pandemic.

"We're going to try our best to put together another winning season," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari following his team's 9-0 friendly win against 3rd Eye FC at Lusitanio Stadium last Friday night. "We do have nine returning players and a bunch of new players. The older players will need to show the new guys how we do things here. Every game that we play is very important because it's very difficult to make up points in this

The Pioneers finished the 2023 regular season with a 10-1-3 record (33 points). They finished in second place, one point behind the Seacoast United Phantoms, who finished in first place. The Pioneers lost to North Carolina Fusion U23 in the conference quarterfinals by the final

score of 2-1. The Pioneers were scheduled to kick off the 2024 campaign on Tuesday night with a road match against the Boston Bolts. They'll be facing Pathfinder FC in the home opener at 7pm on Saturday

It'll be the second game of a doubleheader at Lusitano Stadium. The New England Mutiny will be hosting Maine Footy at 4pm in their season

Saturday will be a very busy day for Molinari. He was named as the Mutiny head coach by Joe Ferrera, who's the General Managers for both soccer teams, during the offseason.

"I told Joe if he wasn't able to find a head coach for the women's soccer team, I would help him out this year," said Molinari, who has been coaching the Pioneers since 2012. "Tomas Duben will be helping me out as an assistant coach.'

Molinari is also the Director of Coaching for the Western United Pioneers.

Dennis Gomes and Jay Willis are returning as the Pioneers and you have to start from the assistant coaches. beginning," Molinari said. "It's a

Duben, who played in about



Jared Smith looks to send the

Tactical Analyst.

coaching staff."

Goalkeeper coach.

"Tomas knows a lot about

soccer," Molinari said. "He can

also relate to the players very

well. It's a very good connec-

tion between the players and the

John Voight as the Pioneers

ular season home matches will

be against Black Rock FC (May

31), Seacoast United Phantoms

(June 7), AC Connecticut (June

11), Boston City FC (June 21),

Albany Rush (June 28), and

"Every year is a new season,

Vermont Green FC (July 13).

Ciro Viviano has replaced

The Pioneers' other six reg-



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com Kwame Adu-Gyamfi gets ready to shoot.



Patrick Gryczewski attempts to get around an opponent.



30 matches for the Pioneers

improve in every game." during the past several seasons, is One of the Pioneers veteran also the Pioneers new Scouting &

players is Connor Hicks, who helped the Monson boys' soccer team win back-to-back Division 4 state titles. As a senior in 2016, Hicks scored an incredible overtime goal to beat Cohasset High School in the state finals.

Hicks played college soccer at AIC and has been a member of the Pioneers since 2019.

"I'm getting a little bit older, but it's nice to be back playing for the Pioneers again," said Hicks, who's one of the defenders. "We've made the playoffs every year that I've played for this soccer team. I really enjoy the atmosphere here. It's a lot of fun signing autographs and taking pictures with the kids."

This will be Hicks final season playing for the Pioneers, as he's planning to move to Florida this lot of fun watching your players



Zach Sauer looks to pass.

Midfielder Khalid Rose, who's another fan favorite, is also returning.

Alec Hughes, who was one of the Pioneers leading goal scorers a year ago, is back again this year. He was a senior on the UMass men's soccer team last

One of the Pioneers newcomers is striker Scott Testori, who was the leading goal scorer on the 2023 UConn men's soccer team.

The Pioneer's captain is Nicholas Oberrauch, who's a defender.

Pioneers' starting goalie in the friendly match.

Gianluca Cersosimo was the

The tickets prices for all the Pioneers regular season home

matches are \$10. Children 6 years old and

younger are free.





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Registration now open to take part in Bay State Games

WOBURN - Registration for the 42nd annual Bay State Summer Games is now open. The 2024 Summer Games will include thirty sports with competitions from May 11 – July 27 at venues throughout eastern and central Massachusetts including Game On in Fitchburg, Boston Sports Institute in Wellesley, Union Point Sports Complex in Weymouth, and North Star Ice Sports in Westborough. Bay State Games participants range in age from 5 to over age 75 and represent more than 300 Massachusetts communities as well as surrounding New England States in some sports. From grassroots participants to accomplished amateur athletes, the Bay State Games provide opportunities for the athlete in all of us.

Seven high school showcase sports will take place for a variety of sports, including baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, soccer, softball, and volleyball. Athletes currently in grade 8-11 who live or go to school in Massachusetts are eligible to attend regional tryouts during the month of June. These tryouts will determine teams representing the various regions of the Commonwealth that will compete against each other in July. Check each sport page for specific eligibility requirements.

The Summer Games include a wide variety of individual sports including swimming, track & field, figure skating, pickleball, wrestling, weightlifting, badminton, and more. These sports are open to a wide range of ages and skill levels from youth participants to masters-aged athletes. Adaptive sport divisions in archery, swimming, and track & field are offered, as well. Bay State Games also organizes tournaments for pre-existing teams in rugby, and 6v6 field hockey.

Returning in 2024, Table Tennis will take place on June 1 at PingPod in Boston after a 5-year hiatus from the Summer Games sport lineup. New venues include Babson College, which will host the Girls Basketball Showcase, and NorthStar Ice Sports, which will host Figure Skating and the Girls Ice Hockey Showcase. Game On in Fitchburg will serve as a hub venue for eight sports. Bay State Games expects 1,500 athletes and their families to attend competitions at Game On during the second week of July.

For questions, email info@ baystategames.org or call 781-

Ware Lions host 9-hole golf tournament

HARDWICK - The Ware Lions Club will host a 9-hole best ball golf tournament on Saturday, May 18 at the Hardwick Crossing Country Club, 262 Lower Road, Gilbertville.

Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. and shotgun start is at 9:30 a.m. One player is \$50, and a foursome is \$200.

hole-in-one (\$10,000). Proceeds from the tournament will raise money for the Ware Lions Scholarship Fund. To reserve your space, text

This includes cart, lunch and

Matt at 413-237-5335 or email matt @stgermainins.com. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

SPEEDWAY from page 10

on lap 89 for the spinning Matt Swanson in turn four, leading to a frenzy of teams jumping down pit road for their respective tire changes. Patrick Emerling stunned the competition by winning the race off pit road followed by Silk, Johnson, Bonsignore and Austin

Silk moved up way high as they motored through turns one

Center will be hosting an educa-

tional presentation on Thursday,

May 22 at 12:30 p.m. at the senior

center located at 557 South Barre

Road for current beneficiaries and

for those who will soon be eligible

and two, forcing Emerling to pull back on the outside and giving him the lead. The final laps saw Emerling and Bonsignore battle for third as Silk continued to grow his lead more and more. Ron Silk took the dominant Icebreaker 150 win followed by a consistently fast Jake Johnson and a hardcharging Patrick Emerling, whose radiator sat steaming in victory

BARRE - The Barre Senior run from 1 to 1.5 hours, including your Medicare coverage options

The presentation will be con-

Why it's important to evaluate

The pros and cons of each of ers.

your current Medicare coverage

ducted by Ed Spater, a licensed

insurance agent, who will explain

the basics of Medicare including:

Medicare 101 educational event is May 22

time for questions.

Quaboag Regional Middle High School lists honor roll

WARREN – Quaboag Regional Middle High School announced the third quarter honor roll for the 2023-2024 school year.

Grade 12, 1st Honors

Camrin Bolduc, Antonio Congelos, Bryce Douglas, Olivia Dumas, Chloe Fredette, Lily Gianfriddo, Cameron Giroux, Laine Hatstat, Ayla Iwaniec, Christian Judd, Rachel McGrath, Hanna Nemeroff, Asya, Osei-Opoku, Thomas Robidoux, Kenady Sloan, Owen Stevens, Haileigh Swistak, Alina Taro and Matthew Tiberii.

Grade 12, 2nd Honors

Ethan Araujo, Mason Blount, Aeron Bridges, Zachary Carlson, Matthew Carter, Raven Casey, Ryan Fernandez, Jason Houle, Dawson Kelly, Abigail Long, Selina Mohamed, Dennis Pease, Lily Potvin, Aurora Powers, Jacob Routhier, Adrianna Russell and Riley Sloan.

Grade 12, 3rd Honors

Alexandra Cacace, Aidan Flood, Amber Gagnon, Kendall LaRiviere, Aiden McManaman, Laura Orne, Jaden Ostiguy, Grason Patchkofsky, Dylan Piazzo, Hunter Regan, Alexander Russo, Joseph Standrowicz and Patrick Toomey.

Grade 11, 1st Honors

Isabelle Aberle, Aviendha Andreoli, Lila Broadley, Samuel Carrasco, Skylar Cook, Abigail Jolin, Elise Kopec, Dante Martino, Norah McElroy, Erin McGrath, Matthew Miller, Corah Neilsen, Samuel Oveka, Nora PenningtonRussell, Norah Schwenker, Richard Tracy, Sydney Tracy, Parker Tunley, Sebastian Veliz-Baldizon and Nina Vorobiova.

Grade 11, 2nd Honors

Mackenzie Archambault, Juliette Boos, Casyn Carpenter, Parker Chaffee, Michael Enetzelis, Daniel Hobart, Joshua Leaming, Sadie May, Blake Merrill, Madison Neilsen, Alessa Parks, Katelynn Swistak, Cristyna Tambolleo, Hart Waz and Makenna Williams.

Grade 11, 3rd Honors

Emily Hubbel, Evelyn Luukko, Jack Morgan, Joseph Reynolds, Brasen Sauriol, Caydence Tetreault, Emily Hubbel, Evelyn Luukko, Jack Morgan, Joseph Reynolds, Brasen Sauriol and Caydence Tetreault.

Grade 10, 1st Honors Shelby Bridges, Jacob Cacace,

Hayssa Freitas, William Lopes, Reece Miner, Olive Moulton, Madison Sears and Kyle Withers.

Grade 10, 2nd Honors

Madic Andreoli, Emma Astrella, Juliana Augusto, Kenadi Chenevert, Gretchen Conn, Emma Dion, Brennan Doe, Kadin Dufault, Serenitee Gagnon, Briana Hawk, Landon Hogan, Evangeline Iwaniec, Morgan Lakota, Lily Lancey, Gianna Lindsey, Brayden Lopato, Haylee Nash, Kaitlyn Nault, Lilly Nimtz, Camden Olivo, Jacob Plante, Grace Smart, Jack Stevens, Elijah Wilhelm, Alyson Williams and Camden

Grade 10, 3rd Honors

Madelyn Bagg, Jaylin Bailey, Rylie Barton, Milo Biedron, Adam Convery, Isaac Cowher, Madeline Dufresne, Gabriela Feeney, Alison Jones, Mia Letendre, Jackson McGarry, Madeline Potvin, Gabrielle Riendeau, Makayla Savoie, Jacob Toomey, Matthew Twomey and Ashton Winders.

Grade Nine, 1st Honors

Logan Baldwin, Cameron Bennett, Riley Black, Sierra Brote, Ava Cassavant, Brielle Gerulaitis, Riley Gray, Josephine Hescock, Lexi Kelly, Lucian Kerkow, Emma Landine, Lyndie Miller, Jonah Phillips, Persephone Piermarini, Caden Prinsen, Breya Sauriol, Lillian Sturges and Jasmine White.

Grade Nine, 2nd Honors

Jennifer Adams, Emma Ambruson, Kira Bouchard, Devlyn Bridges, Abigail Degnan, Hunter Dodson, Haylee Dumont, Jackson Gundlach, Emily Lalashius, Natalie Luukko, Katie Manzaro, Kasey Narov, Lani O'Clair, Mallory Piazzo, Brielle Sullivan and Gavin Williams.

Grade Nine, 3rd Honors

Jade Fontaine, Scott Garrand, Aiden Gundlach, Emily Hannah, James Kozyra, Liam McGrath, Patrick Needham, Sophia Paolucci, Leo Paquette, Connor Peet, Dylan Smith, Billie Stebbins and Kristian White.

Grade Eight, 1st Honors

Anthony Araujo, Violet Atwood, Jack Beall, Cadence Cieslak, Austin Letourneau,

Alyssa Lussier, Bryann Lussier, Aydan Marsh, Liliana McIsaac, Maeve Smith, Caroline Stevens and Natalia Veliz-Baldizon.

Grade Eight, 2nd Honors

Maci Astrella, Mackenzie Bennett, Andrew Boudreau, Harper Bradley, Liam Bray, Lincoln Brown, Julisa Carrasco, Yesenia Carrasco, Allie Choquette, Julianna Hibbard, Nathen Louis, Evelyn Lyon, Robert Menard, Emma Nault, Lucia Norman, Hunter Oldenburg, Karl Prosser, Jonas Rossi, William Sexton, Connor Snay, Logan Spring, Buddy Stocks, Leah Thomasian and Jontae Todd.

Grade Seven, 1st Honors

Elaina Amoros, Teagan Bessette, Annabelle Bloom, Lyric Bradley, Kaylee Jette, Kennah Martino, Desmond McElroy, Ryley Morin, Stella Paquette, Julia Queiroga, Jonathan Reynolds, and Maxwell Evalina Santos Sturges.

Grade Seven 2nd Honors

Kayla Barrett, Grayson Contacos, Aiden Galarneau, Brody Kenney, Abigail Landine, Hayden McAnuff, Delaney Merkel, Travis Pensinger, Mikhail Salcines, Ryder Tunley and Audrey Wilhelm.

Grade Seven, 3rd Honors

Mavio Atkins, Kamryn Chenevert, Davin Douglas, Cayden Dupell, Faith Glover, Farrah McDonald, Logan Parks and Adelina Petersen.

Concert and dinner at First **Church of Monson**

MONSON - Wings of Song under the direction of Nym Cooke will present their spring concert "Rough Seas, Safe Harbor" at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 18.

The concert is free and open to the public.

A pre-concert dinner will be served by the Music Committee at 5:30 p.m. The menu is baked haddock, baked potato, coleslaw, Italian bread and apricot squares.

Tickets for \$20 are available by calling Gail at 413-267-4818.

What to consider when deciding

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right for you

QRSD receives One8 Foundation grant

From the desk of Colleen Mucha, Superintendent QRSD

BARRE - Quabbin Regional School District announces they have received a grant from the One8 Foundation to fund the implementation of Project Lead the Way Launch curriculum for all students in grades kindergarten through sixth grade across the

Project Lead the Way is an applied learning curriculum, meaning that students learn by engaging in direct application of skills and use of tools to solve real world problems. Currently, students at Quabbin Regional Middle High School have opportunities to engage with the Project Lead the Way curriculum in grades 7-12.

The Project Lead the Way curriculum and courses are part of our Innovation Pathway programming. High school students may choose to take courses in CyberSecurity, Computer Science Principles, Principles of Engineering or Computer Integrated Manufacturing. These courses prepare students with career readiness skills such as developing as collaborators and thinkers while adopting a prob-



The Quabbin PLTW champions are pictured during their recent professional development session sponsored by the One8 Foundation. Shown from left are Tricia Worthington, Cassidy Bulger, Rebecca Vincent, Julie Brown, Andrea Collette and Ashley Cranston.

PLTW courses may also be recognized for college credit.

With the addition of the PLTW curriculum at the elementary level, students will begin building essential skills as early as kindergarten. Their educators have selected the curriculum modules carefully to vertically align with the high school offerings and Innovation Pathway programs.

lem-solving mindset. High School Students will begin to work through the engineering design process now in elementary school.

> They will work collaboratively and think critically as they design and innovate. Educators are confident that this will allow their students to achieve the Vision of the Graduate - They will be: Respectful, Responsible, Resilient

> > Please see **QRSD**, page 12

The information is specific to Massachusetts. The session will

for Medicare.

Brady Guimond made his first start against his father's team, and he was the winning

POLAR PARK from page 9

pitcher. "I was supposed to be the starting pitcher in last year's home game against Quaboag, but John Mumper wound up starting that game," Brady Guimond said. "I waited a whole year, but it just feels great to beat my father's team. He has helped me so much throughout my baseball career. It was a fun game today. We're very grateful for everyone who made this game possible for us. It was a cool experience."

Guimond, who was also the starting pitcher against Monson at Dunkin' Park in Hartford, Connecticut in the middle of April, went the distance against the Cougars allowing two runs on eight base hits. He didn't issue any walks and recorded 11 strikeouts.

"I really wasn't expecting to go the distance in today's game," Guimond said. "When we faced Monson at Dunkin' Park, we used several different pitchers."

The Indians, who had a 9-4 overall record following the victory, were the visiting team.

The Cougars, who were looking to reach the .500 mark, had a 5-7 overall record.

Guimond had a 3-0 lead to

protect before walking out to the mound for the first time in the bottom of the first inning.

"When I walked out to the mound for the first time, I felt like a big leaguer," he said. "Having an early lead also gave me a lot of confidence."

Not very many big league pitchers have their father's standing in the third base coaches'

"This was the third time that we've played Ware since Brady has been on the varsity baseball team, but it's the first time that he has been a starting pitcher against us," Brian Guimond said. "I wasn't sure that he was going to start against us in today's game until he went out there in the bottom of the first. I just told my guys that he has a slow curveball, and you must keep your shoulder tucked. He did a very

Brian Guimond, who graduated from Ware High School in 1993, and Slattery were teammates on the same baseball team, which captured the Western Mass. title. Slattery's father, John, is the Indians scorekeeper.

John Mumper, who started at shortstop, began the Indians first inning rally by lining a leadoff single into centerfield against Quaboag senior righty Ryan Fernandez. After stealing both second and third, Mumper,

who's one of the Indians four seniors, scored with one-out on another line-drive single by junior first baseman Nathan Kaczuwka (2-for-3). After the next batter reached first base on a fielder's choice play, senior DH Octavio Cotaj hit a flyball to the outfield that was dropped allowing two more runs to cross the plate.

"The backdrop here is a lot different than we're used to and our outfielder just didn't see the ball well," Coach Guimond said. "We didn't take infield/outfield practice and it was the first flyball of the game. We just kept battling back after that. We never gave up.'

Fernandez, who went the first 52/3 innings, allowed three runs (one earned) on six hits. He walked four and had six strikeouts. He was replaced by senior righthander Matt Tiberii, who started at shortstop.

The Cougars loaded the bases with no-outs in the second inning following three straight singles by junior third baseman Brasen Sauriol, sophomore left fielder Connor Burgess, and senior centerfielder Tyler Withers. Then freshman first baseman Liam McGrath drove home Quaboag's first run with a sacrifice fly. Guimond then struck out the next two batters, which quickly ended the

Cougars rally.

Fernandez helped himself with a RBI single to center in the following frame, which sliced the Cougars deficit to 3-2.

The Indians had at least one base runner against Fernandez in each inning that they batted, but they made several outs on the

"We had a lot of runners on base, but we just kept making costly mistakes," Slattery said. "Brady pitched well, and we played well defensively.'

Sauriol hit a double down the left field line and he advanced to third on a wild pitch. He was tagged out by sophomore catcher Kyle Kaczuwka trying to score on a groundball to the shortstop.

Kyle Kaczuwka also had an RBI single to left with two outs in the seventh giving the Indians an insurance run.

With two outs in the bottom of the seventh, Tiberii blasted a triple to center, but Guimond got the next batter to hit a ground ball to the shortstop for the final out of the game.

The two neighboring high schools could possibly meet for the second time this season during the upcoming MIAA Division 5 state tournament. The state finals are scheduled to be held at Polar Park in the middle of June.

If you have job postings to fill, get them the exposure they need.

Join us in highlighting what positions you have available in our Job Connection!

Each week this available jobs section will run in your community newspapers.

> 4.75" x 4" \$150 for three papers \$40 for each additional paper

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Call Dan today 413.297.5886 or 413.283.8393

I public safety

Ware Police Log

During the week of May 5-14, the Ware Police Department responded to 28 miscellaneous calls, 35 administrative calls, five traffic violations, 13 emergency 911 calls, four thefts/larcenies, three frauds/deceptions, two harassments, two breaking and entering/burglaries, six motor vehicle accidents, six animal calls and 22 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

Sunday, May 5

7:13 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Mountain View Drive, Investigated

Monday, May 6

5:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Street, Citation/Warning

7:04 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Citation/Warning

Issued 8:42 a.m. Traffic Incident/ Crash, West Street, Report Made 10:07 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Pulaski Street, Assist

Given 12 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/ Threat, West Street, Report Made 5:24 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Greenwich Plains Road, Services

Rendered 5:39 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Dispatch Handled

Tuesday, May 7

5:12 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Street, Citation/Warning Issued

7:29 a.m. Assist Other Agency, North Street, Services Rendered 7:45 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/ Threat, North Street, Services Rendered

11:15 a.m. Assist Other Agency, West Street, Assist Given 2:05 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Church Street, Investigated

6:55 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Quabbin Tower, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

8:52 p.m. Theft/Larceny, South Street, Services Rendered

9:30 p.m. Theft/Larceny, North

Hardwick Police Log

9:30 p.m. Theft/Larceny, North Street, Advised

Wednesday, May 8

6:22 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Street, Citation/Warning

6:44 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued

7:21 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Church Street, Citation/Warning 8:09 a.m. Traffic Incident/

Crash, Eagle Street, Services Rendered

12:43 p.m. Fraud/Deception, Osborne Road, No Action Required

2:15 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Church Street, Services Rendered 2:18 p.m. Fraud/Deception,

North Street, Advised 4:34 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Could Not Locate

5:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle stop, Parker Street, Citation/Warning

7:39 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Investigated

Thursday, May 9

11:24 p.m. Breaking and Entering/Burglary, Valley View, Could Not Locate

Friday, May 10

11:40 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Convent Hill Road, Could Not Locate

12:43 p.m. Theft/Larceny, North Street, Services Rendered

Saturday, May 11

6:59 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning

12:09 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Pleasant Street, Dispatch

2:44 p.m. Traffic Incident/ Crash, West Street, Report Made

Sunday, May 12 2:49 a.m. Assist Other Agency,

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.

Kelly Road, Services Rendered 1:01 p.m. Traffic Incident/ Crash, Upper North Street, Report

8:52 p.m. Assault, Pleasant Street, Services Rendered

10:23 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Could Not Locate

Monday, May 13

7 a.m. Breaking and Entering/ Burglary, Valley View, Investigated 8:50 a.m. Assist Other Agency, East Main Street, Services Rendered

8:53 a.m. Traffic Incident/ Crash, Palmer Road, Could Not

10:27 a.m. Fraud/Deception, Shoreline Drive, Services

11:24 a.m. Outside Fire, North Street, Extinguished

12:41 p.m. Traffic Incident/ Crash, West Street, Report Made 1:02 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call,

East Street, Dispatch Handled 2:11 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call,

South Street, Services Rendered 3:42 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Mattson Boulevard, Services Rendered

During the week of May 6-13, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 73 building/property checks, 20 directed/area patrols, 11 radar assignments, 17 emergency 911 calls, three citizen assists, five complaints, one safety hazard, two animal calls and 16 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, May 6

8:20 a.m. Safety Hazard, Main Street, Removed Hazard

9:19 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital

9:48 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

4:01 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Lower Road, Services Rendered

Tuesday, May 7

8:06 a.m. 911 Animal Call, Pine Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

3:36 p.m. 911 Elevator Call/ Alarms, Old Petersham Road, Spoken To

4:19 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Pond Road, Transported to Hospital

5:52 p.m. 911 Disabled Motor Vehicle, Lower Road, Officer

Wednesday, May 8

2:04 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Main Street, Could Not Locate

Thursday, May 9

6:25 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Petersham Road, Written Warning

Friday, May 10

9:58 a.m. Parking Complaint, Main Street, Spoken To

10:40 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Grove Street, Vehicle Towed 3:57 p.m. Assist Citizen,

Unknown Location, Officer 6:53 p.m. Parking Complaint, Main Street, Spoken To

Saturday, May 11

4:31 a.m. Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

5:39 a.m. Medical Emergency, Old Greenwich Plains Road, Transported to Hospital

9:56 a.m. Parking Complaint, Main Street, Citation Issued 9:57 a.m. 911 Welfare Check,

Church Lane, Investigated 9:59 a.m. Medical Emergency, Lower Road, Transported to

3:06 p.m. 911 Assist Citizen,

North Street, Services Rendered

Sunday, May 12

9:22 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

6:54 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Barre Road, Transported to Hospital

10:35 p.m. Assist Citizen, Upper Church Street, Services

Monday, May 13

12:51 a.m. Medical Emergency, Hardwick Pond Road, Transported to Hospital

7:01 a.m. 911 Misdial, Main Street, Spoken To

QRSD from page11

and Innovative. Project Lead the Way will be taught during the elementary STEM classes with their teachers Mrs. Vincent and Miss Brown.

Recently, the team attended the first of several professional development offerings at the Worcester DCU sponsored by the One8 Foundation. Here they had the opportunity to participate in one of the learning challenges that they will teach to the third grade students next year.

Their challenge was to create a machine using wheels and axles that would transport a small speaker. Quabbin educators began

design and then they drew their ideas in an engineering notebook. They then collaborated again and determined, which design they wanted to try. The team got to work quickly and found success, but then one of the instructors challenged them to build the design using fewer wheels. Again they went to work to solve that challenge.

While the challenge was designed for early learners, it was still very engaging for the adults that were working through it for the first time. Educators were observed trying different iterations and making modifications until they felt the challenge was

by discussing possibilities of met. This involved communication between team members, critical thinking, redesign and a feeling of accomplishment when they met their goal.

What was interesting was that they also were not fully satisfied with their work and pushed themselves to try to make the design stronger and more supportive. While the team was given a time constraint, they completed three different designs - way to go

A huge shout out to all of the educators of the Quabbin Regional School District. Thank you for all you do. Happy Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week.

Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?

We invite you to join us Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm to explore these topics and more.

This group will be held in zoom, is

educational, confidential, and free.

Please contact Pat James 413-726-8661.



District Court Judge arraigned 21 in connection with UMass protests

Arraignments began May 13 in Eastern Hampshire District Court for people arrested in connection with protests that resulted in arrests last week on the University of Massachusetts campus.

Before District Court Judge Bruce S. Melikian today, 21 people pleaded not guilty to charges that included trespassing, rioters failing to disperse, and resisting arrest. Not all defendants face all three

In all, 130 people were arrested in the protest, among them UMass students, UMass faculty members and people from the community at large. Arraignments are planned for arrestees in groups of about 20 people each day until all have been processed, which could mean

arraignments run into next week.

"We understand there is significant community interest in these cases, particularly as there are similar protests taking place around the country. The Northwestern District Attorney's Office will seek just resolutions for each case individually, with prosecutors taking into account the specific facts around each arrest," said Northwestern District Attorney David E. Sullivan in a press release.

"We respect the right of people to speak out and engage in political protests as is fundamental to our democracy. At the same time, we understand the university may take steps to safeguard everyone on the campus," said Sullivan.

Prosecutors are now working to

obtain and review police reports and body camera footage which must be completed before any decisions are made about how to pro-

District Court Chief Michael Russo handled the May 13 arraignments. Defense attorneys Rachel Weber and Luke Ryan represented

Most of the cases were continued to July 8 for pretrial conferences. Going forward, cases will be continued to July 9, 10 and beyond, as needed.

Criminal charges are based on probable cause to believe a person has committed a crime. All defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in court.

Warren Police Log

During the week of May 5-11, the Warren Police Department responded to 90 building/property checks, 30 community policings, 18 emergency 911 calls, one harassment, four complaints, one missing person, one property damage, one fraud/forgery, one safety concern, three motor vehicle accidents, three animal calls and 31 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Sunday, May 5

8:07 a.m. Complaint, Southbridge Road, Officer Spoke to Party

9:01 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint 9:47 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop,

Main Street, Written Warning 11:31 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

12:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old West Brookfield Road, Report Filed 2:24 p.m. Missing Person,

Brimfield Road, Report Filed

Monday, May 6

8:04 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Main Street, Report Filed 9:56 a.m. Harassment, Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed 10:27 a.m. Complaint, Cottage Street, Officer Spoke to Party 4:26 p.m. Safety Concern, Boston Post Road, Officer Spoke

4:40 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Cross Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Tuesday, May 7 9:48 p.m. Burns, South Street,

Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, May 8 1:29 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint 2:07 a.m. Unconscious/ Unresponsive/Syncope, Pleasant

Street, Mutual Aid Transport 2:17 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Bemis Road, Transported to Hospital

8:49 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Boston Post Road, Citation Issued 11:22 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Boston Post Road, Transported to

Hospital

5:48 p.m. Moor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning 9 p.m. Complaint, Crescent Street, Investigated

Thursday, May 9

1:12 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued 9:59 a.m. Complaint, Quaboag

Street, Information Given

11:22 a.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problems, School House Drive, Transported to Hospital

9:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Parkview Street, Vehicle

Friday, May 10

6:27 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Moore Avenue, Report

11:45 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning 11:49 a.m. Seizures, Old West

Warren Road, Transported to Hospital 2:57 p.m. Property Damage,

Reed Street, Removed Hazard 3:22 p.m. Breathing Difficulty, Cutler Road, Mutual Aid Transport 4:02 p.m. Fraud/Forgery,

Brimfield Road, Report Filed 5:05 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Milton O. Fountain Way, Transported to Hospital

11:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, A Street, Written Warning

1:08 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop,

Saturday, May 11

Reed Street, Citation issued

Mobile Blood Donation Team holds drive June 5

PALMER – The community is invited to join the Baystate Health blood drive held on Wednesday, June 5, at Baystate Wing Hospital, from 8:30 a.m.-2

Additionally, Blood Drives will be held every other month on Wednesday throughout the year at Baystate Wing on Aug. 7, Oct. 9 and Dec. 11.

"The need for blood donations never takes a break. When you donate blood to Baystate Health, your precious gift remains in our local communities," said Nicole VanZandt, MLT III, Supervisor, BRL Blood Donor Services in a press release. "Please help us to ensure a safe and adequate blood supply is available by donating blood with the Baystate Health Blood Donor Program."

There is no substitute for human blood, VanZandt said. "Every donation is critical, and you can make a lifesaving difference. Blood donations take approximately one hour to complete, including the interview, donation, and refreshments. To donate blood, you must be at least 17 years old; weigh at least 110 pounds have a photo ID; be in good health (no colds, or sore throat); and have not donated blood within the past eight weeks."

Blood drives will be held at Baystate Wing Hospital, 40 Wright St., in Snow Conference Room C. In appreciation, all eligible donors will receive a \$10 gift card.

For more information or to book an appointment to donate blood please call the Blood Donor Center at 413-794-4600. Please be sure to note the Baystate Health hospital location where you would like to make your donation when you make your appointment.

Circle of Song concert is May 18

BARRE - After practicing for four months, Circle of Song is ready to wow the crowd at 7 p.m. at the Barre Town Hall on Saturday, May

Now 20 members strong, Circle of Song has a program with some really nice solos by Karen Guertin, Danny LeBlanc, Scott Bryant and Siobhan Moynihan, and an engaging dance routine led by Grace Jenkins. From foreign language to spiritual, to madrigal, show tunes, and contemporary ballad, the program will inspire you with an

engaged performance. Refreshments will be served at the end of the concert. For more information on the concert and how to join us for the fall, contact Julie Rawson by emailing julie@mhof. net or calling 978-257-1192



Touch-a-Truck coming to Brimfield on June 1

BRIMFIELD - Trucks of all sorts will be rolling into Brimfield on Saturday, June 1 not for construction, but for the town's first Touch-a-Truck event to be held at the Brimfield Winery, 35 Main St. from 10 a.m.-noon.

The morning will consist of over 20 different vehicles including fire trucks, tow vehicles, police cars and even a helicopter converging in town for the day. Attendees of all ages will be able to climb on, in, and around the many different vehicles as well as meet the crews and drivers.

different pieces of equipment and ask plenty of questions of the drivers and operators.

Children and adults alike will be

able to look up close at the many

Held on the 13th anniversary of



the tornado that came through the area in 2011, it is being organized by the Friends of the Brimfield Library and the Brimfield Fire department. The day is planned in honor of Toto the Tornado Kitten, a tiny cat who was found in the storm's debris and whose subsequent books and travels raised over \$78,000 for local animal shelters.

Toto passed away last November

and his legacy is being celebrated by the community with this special Touch-a-Truck event. A special table will be on display that is being donated to the Brimfield Library in Toto's honor and donations will be accepted by the Friends of the Library for funding future activities. The event is free for all; how-

ever, attendees are encouraged to

bring a bag or can of pet food to

be distributed to local animal shel-

ters. Snacks will be provided by the Sturbridge Coffee House. This is one of many community events sponsored by the Brimfield Winery. Anyone interested in participating by bringing a truck are wel-

come to contact the event organizers at toto2024event@gmail.com.

public notices

Participants wanted for Ware's June 8 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.

Grange hosts next gardening workshop

WARE – Ware Grange's next gardening workshop, "Equip Yourself for Success," will be held on Thursday, May 23 at 7 p.m. at the Grange Hall at 297 Belchertown Road.

Our presenter will be Roberta McQuaid, author of the weekly "In the Garden" column for Turley

In this workshop participants will

discuss some gardening tools to help improve garden success, including the scuffle hoe, circular weeder, black plastic, mulch, and insect netting. Bring your favorite tool, plant or other garden item to talk about with

COLLEGE from page 6

ing critical shortages in pre-K-12 education, while also making nursing programs at community colleges free for students to pursue.

Most recently, the Senate included universal tuition-free community college access in its budget proposals.

However, these efforts should be just the beginning.

Enrollment at community colleges has surged for the first time in over a decade, underscoring the impact of addressing college affordability. Which is why the proposal to make community college universally costfree for Massachusetts residents is the next and most vital step in ensuring equitable access to higher education and a future of entirely debt-free public higher education.

When doing so, we also must consider the true cost of college, which extends beyond tuition and encompasses essential living expenses like housing, food, childcare and transportation. For many working-class and minority students, the harsh reality is that the dream of higher education remains out of reach, regardless of their qualifications.

Working-class students and students of color are forced to make the realistic calculation that they simply cannot afford college, despite possessing outstanding qualifications.

This struggle to balance full-time employment with academic pursuits was the harsh reality for the over 700,000 Massachusetts residents who have started college but never finished. Economic pressures beyond tuition and fees often prove insurmountable barriers to success.

In addition to making community college universally accessible, it is imperative that we prioritize the establishment of comprehensive student support services. While eliminating tuition fees is a critical step toward increasing accessibility, it is equally important to address the many challenges that students face outside the classroom.

For many aspiring students, particularly those from underserved communities, the journey to achieving a higher education is impeded by obstacles beyond financial constraints. From navigating the complex application processes to balancing academic responsibilities with familial and professional commitments, the path to a degree is riddled with potential pitfalls.

Without adequate support systems in place, even the most determined students may find themselves overwhelmed and at risk of dropping out.

Student support services play a pivotal role in addressing these challenges and ensuring student success.

By providing comprehensive guidance and assistance, we can ensure students have the resources they need to navigate the complexities of college life and overcome barriers to achievement. Whether through academic advising, career counseling, mental health resources or financial aid assistance, these services are indispensable in fostering a supportive and inclusive learning environment.

Investing in student support services and addressing basic living expenses is not just a moral imperative but an economic necessity. Massachusetts can only cultivate a highly educated, highly skilled workforce essential for economic prosperity by ensuring students can complete their degrees without the burden of financial strain.

The economic returns on investment in public higher education are undeniable. Over 80% of community college graduates choose to stay and work in Massachusetts, contributing to a vibrant economy and thriving com-

However, critical areas demand immediate attention beyond supporting students to sustain this momentum.

Visit us on Facebook or at waregrange.org for more information.

Faculty and staff salaries must be competitive to attract and retain a diverse and exceptional workforce. To accomplish this, salary levels need to reflect the high cost of living in Massachusetts.

Our public universities, especially our community colleges, have filled many teaching jobs with adjunct faculty. That is not a sustainable system and does not prioritize student success.

Adjunct faculty are highly qualified to teach but can only teach, meaning they cannot fulfill other roles, particularly advisory ones, that are critical for student success.

Many adjunct faculty members work at multiple campuses and sometimes have no established offices or meeting places. This can be a challenge for students looking for help outside of regular class time when most of their instructors are adjuncts.

When full-time faculty have overwhelming advisory caseloads, students are deprived of sufficient time with their advisors.

The quality of academic infrastructure must also be addressed.

In some cases, years of neglect have left buildings and facilities crumbling, hindering the ability of institutions to meet the needs of a growing student population. Faculty, staff and students deserve modern learning envi-

Years - if not decades - of deferred maintenance projects must be addressed to meet the needs of more community college students.

A 2022 study estimated that the community college system has accrued more than \$1 billion in deferred maintenance projects. The study noted that most community college buildings were constructed between 1950 and 1990 and described the backlog of deferred maintenance as proportionally greater than that of peer institutions nationally.

At our public universities and UMass campuses, institutions have amassed billions of dollars in debt to construct, repair and maintain buildings. This debt contributes to rising college costs and ultimately pushes more students into deeper debt.

For our public colleges and universities to be catalysts for the economy and transformative for students - and their families - Massachusetts must think broadly and comprehensively about its overall investment in public higher education. The state must address the pressing need for modern learning environments and tackle the staggering backlog of deferred maintenance projects plaguing our 29 public colleges and universities.

The fate of the Massachusetts public higher education system hangs in the balance.

To uphold the promise of the American dream and ensure a brighter future for all residents, the Commonwealth must prioritize comprehensive investments in higher education like never before. By doing so, Massachusetts can cement its status as a leader in educational excellence and economic prosperity and continue to see our state and its residents thrive.

Massachusetts must continue its robust support for public higher education and to look broadly as well as deeply in improving the quality of residents' lives with access to higher education and ensuring the Commonwealth is equitable for all.

Betty Francisco is the CEO of Boston Impact Initiative, a nonprofit impact investing fund focused on economic and racial justice. She is the co-founder of Amplify Latinx and the former General Counsel at Compass Working Capital. She serves on the Board of Trustees of Roxbury Community College.

State Sen. Jake Oliveira represents the Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester District

Notice of Public Hearing Planning Board LEGAL NOTICE SP-2024-08

NOTICE is here-

by given that the Ware Planning Board, acting as the Special Permit Granting Authority, will hold a Public Hearing on THURSDAY, June 6, 2024 at 7:05 PM on the application of Johnny Medeiros for a Special Permit (SP-2024-08) for the use of Residence for a Customary Home Occupation for the online sale of automobiles under section 4.4.F.2, of the Zoning Bylaw, and pursuant to MGL Chapter 40A. Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this hearing will be conducted in person and via remote means, in accordance with 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 the Selectmen's Meeting Room, 126 Main Street, Town Hall, Ware, MA. It is possible that any or all members of the public body may attend remotely, with in-person attendance consisting of members of the public. The meeting may be accessed remotely via zoom. Go to https:// zoom.us/join or join by phone. Phone Number: 929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 784 604 1861;

Password: 01082 SITE LOCATION: 146 West Main St, Ware MA. Said premises being further described in deeds recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 14776, Page 112. Property is also identified as Assessor's Parcel # 55-0-29. Zoned: Suburban Residential (SR).

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

BOARD Kenneth Crosby, Chairman 05/16, 05/23/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts **The Trial Court** Hampshire Probate and Family Court 15 Atwood Drive Northampton MA, $01\overline{0}60$ Docket No. HS20P0360PM In the matter of: **Patricia Lois Ouimette** of Ware, MA Protected Person/ Disabled Person/ Respondent CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF **CONSERVATOR'S**

ACCOUNT To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Kule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the **Second**, Third and Final account(s) of Susan A. McCoy of Springfield, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of 05/30/2024. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objec-**HEARING** tions stating the specif-In accordance with ic facts and grounds upon which each objec-

the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified

tion is based and a copy

shall be served upon

mail, a written request to receive a copy of the account(s) at no cost to IMPORTANT NOTICE The outcome of this

proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the abovenamed person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense. Witness, Hon. **Diana**

S. Velez Harris, First Justice of this Court. Date: May 02, 2024

Mark S. Ames Register of Probate 05/16/2024

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts General Law 105A, in order to satisfy past due rents and other expenses, the contents of the following storage units will be auctioned.

The contents of Denise Ellithorpe and Carrie Lavallie will be auctioned off at Secure Storage 167 West St., Ware, MA at 9:00 a.m. June 1, 2024.

Any questions or inquiries call 413-800-

05/09, 05/16/2024

Town of Warren Public Hearing Notice FY25 Sewer Rate Hearing

The Warren Board of Sewer Commissioners will be having a public hearing on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. on the matter of setting Fiscal Year 2025 Sewer Rates for both residential and commercial users. The purpose of this hearing is to allow residents the opportunity to discuss the proposed FY25 Sewer Rates. The location of the hearing will be the Selectmen's Meeting Room, first floor, in the Charles E. Shepard Municipal Building at 48 High Street in Warren. If there are any questions about the hearing, please contact the Sewer Department at 413-436-7438.

Warren Board of Sewer Commissioners 05/09, 05/16/2024

Ware River News Obituary POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. 14. Obstruction

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.

Town of Warren Tree Warden NOTICE OF PUBLIC

Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 87, Public Shade Tree Law, Section 4 (Cutting of public shade trees; public hearing; damages to fee owner), the Town of Warren Tree Warden will hold a public hearing regarding an application from the Town of Warren to remove fifteen (15) public shade trees located on Cronin Road. The hearing will be held Thursday May 30, 2024 at 4:00 pm in the Selectmen's meeting room 48 High Street, Warren, MA. Any person interested or wishing to be heard on this matter should appear at the time and place designated, or may submit a letter to the Tree Warden before the hearing so that it may be read into the hearing record. Correspondence should be sent to Tree Warden at PO Box 628, Warren, MA, 01083. Or join the meeting via zoom at

https://us02web.zoom. us/j/81180785980?pwd=NjNLaUZEYkd SbEZhWXBUMF

Axb0g0UT09 Meeting ID: 811 8078

Passcode: 273231 Phone: +1(646)558-8656,81180785980#,,,, *273231#

The list of town trees designated for removal are as follows: located on Cronin Road located between National Grid utility poles numbered 7 & 8, a 14 inch oak and a 32 inch oak; located between National Grid utility poles numbered 10 & 10-5, a 17 inch oak and a 12 inch birch; located across from National Grid utility pole 17, a 20" locust; located between National Grid utility poles numbered 18 & 19, a 14 inch maple; located between National Grid utility poles numbered 19 & 20, two 8 inch cherry and a 30 inch maple; located between National Grid utility poles numbered 20 & 21, a 12 inch oak and an 8 inch maple; located between National Grid utility poles num-

bered 21 & 22, two 36

inch maple; located al are as follows: located between National Grid utility poles numbered 22-5 & 23, a 40+ inch oak and a 14 inch pine.

Jeremy Olson, Tree Warden 05/09, 05/16/2024

Town of Warren Board of Selectmen NOTICE OF

PUBLIC HEARING In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 87, Sections 3 and 4, a public hearing will be held on Thursday, June 6, 2024, at 6:00 pm regarding an application from National Grid to remove fifteen (15) public shade trees located on Cronin Road.

The hearing will be held Thursday, June 6, 2024, at 6:00 pm in the Selectmen's meeting room 48 High Street, Warren, MA. Any person interested or wishing to be heard on this matter should appear at the time and place designated or may submit a letter to the Board of Selectmen before the hearing so that it may be read into the hearing record. Correspondence should be sent to the Board of Selectmen at PO Box 609, Warren, MA, 01083.

Or join the meeting via Zoom at:

https://us02web.zoom .us/j/81180785980?p wd=NjNLaUZEYkdS b E Z h W X B U M F A xb0g0UT09

Meeting ID: 811 8078

Passcode: 273231 By Phone: +16465588656,,81180 785980#,,,,*273231# The list of town trees

designated for remov-

between National Grid utility poles numbered 7 & 8, a 14 inch oak and a 32 inch oak; located between National Grid utility poles numbered 10 & 10-5, a 17 inch oak and a 12 inch birch; located across from National Grid utility pole 17, a 20" locust; located between National Grid utility poles numbered 18 & 19, a 14 inch maple; located between National Grid utility poles numbered 19 & 20, two 8 inch cherry and a 30 inch maple; located between National Grid utility poles numbered 20 & 21, a 12 inch oak and an 8 inch maple; located between National Grid utility poles numbered 21 & 22, two 36 inch maple; located between National Grid utility poles numbered 22-5 & 23, a 40+ inch oak and a 14 inch pine. 05/16, 05/23/2024

on Cronin Road located

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure

the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

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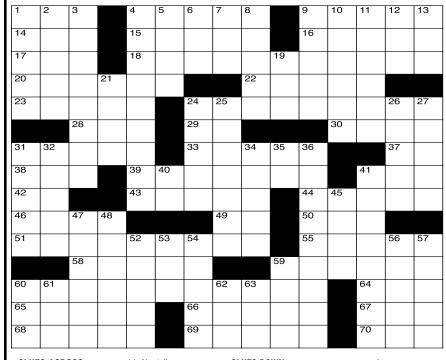
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Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

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CLUES ACROSS 44. Nostrils 1. Geological time 46. Type of chef 4. 0oze 9. A set of eight

15. Swiss mathematician 16. Philosophy 17. The night before 18. A timid person

20. Unifies

22. Gangs 23. Alternative name 24. Acumen 28. Cathode-ray tube 29. Tantalum

30. Soluble ribonucleic acid 31. Humiliate 33. Earthy pigment

38. Adult males leather 41. Before 42. Atomic #18

37. Air Force 39. Stiff untanned

43. Beer mug

49. Midway between north and east 50. They __

51. Splits 55. Walk in a timid manner 58. Preserved animal skin with hair 59. Popular donut shop

60. You smear it on 64. Don't know when 65. Equal to 10

amperes 66. Synthetic acrylic fiber 67. One point south of due east

68. Of mixed ancestry 69. Home of the Pyramids 70. A way to change

CLUES DOWN Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues

2. Untangle 3. One from the U.S. 4. Academic terms 5. San Obispo, in California 6. Not healthy

Self-assessment questionnaire (abbr.) 8. Arugula genus 9. VIII 10. Makes a monarch

11. Tormentor 12. Commercials 13. Sprinkle 19. Make a mistake

21. Freshwater fishes 24. Vermont town 25. Man-made device 26. Entrap 27. Places to store important things

31. Accumulate

32. Greek mythological

57. Remove from record 59. Employee stock ownership plan 60. Former NFLer Newton 61. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)

34. Gregory ___, American

dancer

again

35. Denotes past

41. Came before

covering

47. Cheerful

45. An extra seed-

36. Becoming popular

40. Indicates position

48. Deli sandwich staple

52. Skateboarders love

53. Mandela's party

54. Sierra lake

56. Nickname for

Elizabeth

62. Work unit 63. Town in

Cambridgeshire

fter the fourth driest summer in 2022, and the fourth wettest summer in 2021, the summer of 2023 was the second-wettest on record in Boston, with 20 inches of rain in three months – and heavy rains seem to be coming more often.

When it rains too much in a matter of hours, Massachusetts towns and cities are struggling to handle all of the water.

This past summer, many communities reported several inches of rain within just a few hours. On Aug. 8, more than six inches of rain fell on parts of Massachusetts.

Drivers were stranded in their cars. There were hundreds of no swimming days at our beaches this summer.

Heavy rains sent bacteria-laden stormwater into the ocean.

By Oct. 2, there had been only five rain-free weekends since Memorial Day.

Northeast storms have brought at least 1.5 inches of heavy rain in a day and are expected to surge in the coming decades.

How to help

Educating and encouraging local residents to use a rain barrel is one of the many ways homeowners can be part of the solution. A rain barrel can collect the runoff from roofs and gutters preventing the rain from making its way to impervious surfaces, which often end up in local streams, rivers, ponds, lakes and marine

Keeping and using rain the ability to save the average water on your property helps reduce pollution, erosion and improves local watershed

A 500-square foot roof can fill a properly installed 50-gallon rain barrel in about one

A modest amount of rainfall can supply much or all of the outdoor watering needs - a full rain barrel will water a 200-square-foot garden.

Conserving water

During severe drought, rain barrels can provide an additional source of water

Environmental Protection Agency, 30% of daily water use is outdoors. The EPA also states that rain barrels have homeowner 1,300 gallons of water annually.

Using the rain barrel's stored water around the landscape saves water resources and reduces the amount of water purchased from municipal sources.

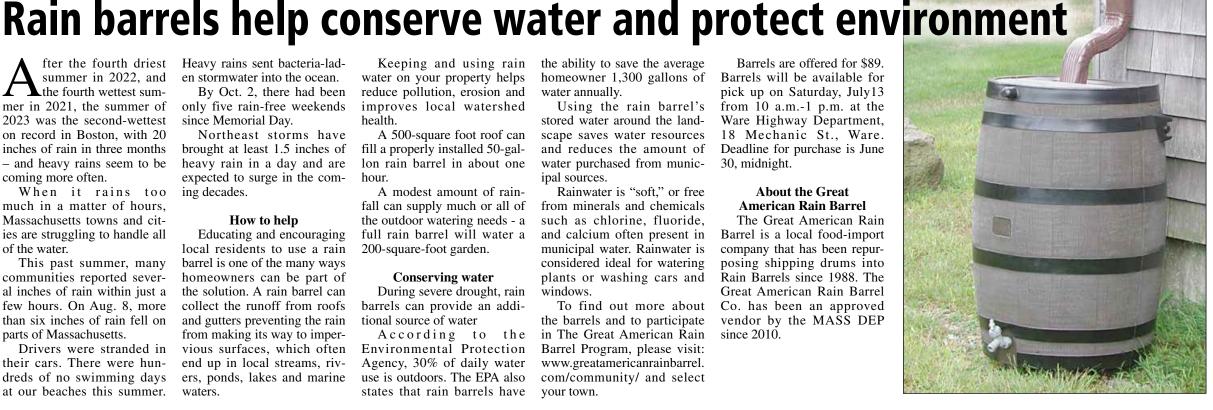
Rainwater is "soft," or free from minerals and chemicals such as chlorine, fluoride, and calcium often present in municipal water. Rainwater is considered ideal for watering plants or washing cars and windows.

To find out more about the barrels and to participate According to the in The Great American Rain Barrel Program, please visit: www.greatamericanrainbarrel. com/community/ and select your town.

Barrels are offered for \$89. Barrels will be available for pick up on Saturday, July13 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Ware Highway Department, 18 Mechanic St., Ware. Deadline for purchase is June 30, midnight.

About the Great American Rain Barrel

The Great American Rain Barrel is a local food-import company that has been repurposing shipping drums into Rain Barrels since 1988. The Great American Rain Barrel Co. has been an approved vendor by the MASS DEP since 2010.



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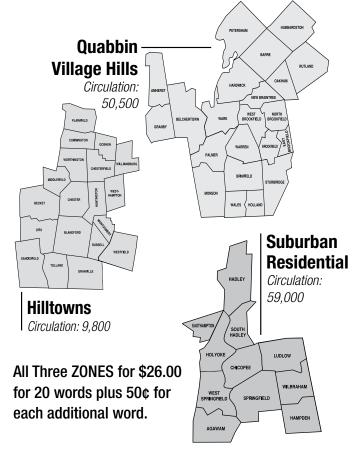
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Tantasqua High School Principal Pete Dufresne and Jodie Gerulaitis of Country Bank welcome students to the Credit for Life fair that took place at the Tantasqua High School gymnasium.



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago Seniors of Tantasqua, Quaboag and North Brookfield high schools were about to begin their exercise in



Quaboag seniors, left to right, Lexi Cacace, Riley Patchen and Jenna Duff hope to learn proper saving and spending habits along with how credit works in all aspects of personal finances at the Credit for

CREDIT from page 8

als get older.
"There are components to all ages in life insurance," Blanchette said.

Insurance can be for automobiles, houses, life and health.

Joining her students during the Credit for Life Fair was Quaboag Regional School District teacher Jean DiRico. One of the classes that DiRico teaches at her school is personal finance.

DiRico views Credit for Life as a great experience for all seniors to practice handling a budget and prepare for their financial future.

"Attending an event like Credit for Life offers numerous advantages," DiRico said. "Students have the chance to practice budgeting based on their anticipated careers and gain a deeper understanding of the significance of a credit score in shaping their financial prospects. While many seniors cover these topics in their personal finance class, participating in Credit for Life serves as a valuable reinforcement of the curriculum."

Moreover, it extends this essential learning opportunity to seniors who may not have the chance to take DiRico's personal finance class, ensuring that all students benefit from this crucial financial education event.

Tantasqua seniors Ryan Blaine and Jace Hess both view Credit for Life as an opportunity to learn how to manage money better in the future. Blaine is interested in pursuing a career as an electrician and Hess is interested in becoming a welder.

Over at the banking booth students have the opportunity to raise their credit score with activities and answering banking questions. The most common questions asked relate to starting accounts such as checking and savings, and saving for college.

Quaboag seniors Jenna Duff, Riley Patchen and Lexi Cacace had a great experience during the Credit for Life fair and wanted to learn as much as possible when budgeting their finances.

Duff was interested in learning more about how credit works. Patchen wanted to learn how to have better spending and saving habits and Cacace was excited to meet more students during the fair.

The career samples chosen by these Quaboag seniors were high school educator (Duff) and physician's assistant (Patchen and Cacace).

North Brookfield High School senior Jake Standrowicz also chose physician's assistant for the Credit for Life simulation. He is interested in majoring in health science and found the fair helpful when han-

'Manage the money you're spending," Standrowicz said. "Save for the more important things, not just perks."

When visiting the reality check booth with the spinning wheel, Standrowicz lucked out with a bonus.

Quaboag seniors Abigail Long and Rachel McGrath did the Credit for Life simulation together and decided to be roommates. Both McGrath and Long found it important to learn how expensive certain purchases can be including a house and a car.

McGrath selected a nutritionist as a job and Long selected a registered nurse. These are careers both McGrath and Long want to pursue after high school.

Credit for Life features dozens of dedicated volunteers to assist students in areas such as banking, employment, transportation, nutrition, clothing, furniture, housing, savings and retirement, utilities and fun. First time volunteer Kaelin Falke was over at the

employment information booth where students learn how to apply for jobs. "Helping students with their future endeavors,"

Falke said. "It is important for kids to know that jobs aren't claimed super fast". Falke's statement is valid considering some of the

competitive fields that many kids will pursue when they enter in the workforce. Throughout the fair, Gerulaitis was excited to meet many students who experienced a simulation of real-life

experiences that occur as high school students transition into adulthood. "This is an eye-opening experience," Gerulaitis said. "First time exposures to these topics are very empowering. This gives students an idea of what they want their

On the subject of financial literacy, Gerulaitis says that Country Bank will continue offering this beneficial program of Credit for Life. The program plays an

future to look like."

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the Credit for Life fair.

When visiting the Reality Check booth, students get to spin the wheel and receive either a benefit or an unexpected expense.

essential role in the students' transition into adulthood and teaches them to learn to live within their budget.

"Country Bank is fully committed to financial literacy," said Gerulaitis. "We continue to look for new and innovative ways to make a difference."



A group of Quaboag seniors participated in the Credit for Life fair.

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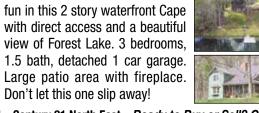
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