

WARE RIVER NEWS

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FY 25 tax rate estimated to be less than prior year

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARREN – As the Board of Selectmen and Board of Assessors prepare for a tax classification hear-

ing on Thursday, Dec. 5 at 6 p.m., Town Administrator James Ferrera said they will also have some “significantly good news” to share about the next fiscal year’s tax rate. At the hearing, the Assessors will give a formal presentation to

the Selectmen and make a recommendation for or against retaining a single tax rate or shifting to a split tax rate. It will also be announced that the tax rate is not expected to increase. “We have some good news to

report to the residents that taxes will be stabilized,” Ferrera said, according to internal numbers and calculations.

Ferrera said not only does he expect the tax rate to stabilize, but for some taxpayers, it may even

come down.

“In today’s environment and climate with inflation at an all-time high...this is unprecedented,” Ferrera said.

Please see **TAX RATE**, page 6

Planning Board hears updates

By Abby McCoy
Correspondent

WARE – At the Nov. 21 Planning Board meeting, several key issues related to ongoing development projects and zoning changes were discussed.

Members of the Planning Board confirmed that, despite a recent peer review, no significant changes to the current development plans were anticipated.

The discussion focused on the ongoing negotiation with National Heritage regarding a priority habitat area, with the hope that a resolution would allow the project to proceed smoothly. After a short deliberation, the board voted unanimously to continue the hearings until Dec. 19.

Under new business, a presentation was given by Rodney Galton from EOS Energy. He provided an update on the decommissioning plans for the company’s energy project, stressing the need to finalize a decommissioning surety before the plant could begin operations.

Galton explained that EOS Energy would complete construction by the end of the year and was seeking an agreement on the decommissioning formula. The board acknowledged that while the town has a standard formula for decommissioning, it would need to review it before any decisions could be made.

This issue was tabled until the next meeting to allow the full board to review the proposed formula. In the meantime, Galton committed to reviewing the standard decommissioning models used by other towns.

The meeting also addressed zoning issues concerning a proposed development on Mechanic Street. The zoning proposal, which sought to

Please see **UPDATES**, page 5

Mill project needs new HCA

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

HARDWICK – Attorney Phil Silverman, representing Hardwick Mill Greenery, 94 Main St., Gilbertville, came before the Select Board and said his client is requesting a new Host Community Agreement.

At the Nov. 25 meeting, he said recent changes from the Cannabis Control Commission have caused a lot of confusion for communities across the state. He said his client is renewing his license with the state and the CCC is requiring them to update it due to these changes.

“My client is kind of stuck right now,” Silverman said. “We’ve put about \$2 million into this project...into that building. There’s probably another \$2 million to spend there.”

Silverman said his client will be using the mill to cultivate marijuana to supply his retail operations.

“He is committed to this community, he wants to make this project happen,” Silverman said. “We’re just trying to find a way forward here and the way forward hopefully is to get a new Host Community Agreement,” he said.

Silverman said the CCC will not review and approve the mill’s architectural plans without an updated HCA.

George Lang, owner of Hardwick Mill Greenery, said the progress to develop the mill has been slow due to water and sewer repairs, the construction of a new roof, demolition and more.

Developers are still unable to work on the parking lot due to the presence of protected clam shrimp. The clam shrimp will need to be relocated to an approved location.

The Select Board approved a motion to begin negotiations for a new HCA with Hardwick Mill Greenery.

Vacant properties

Town Administrator Justine Caggiano said the town has been working with municipal auction company Zekos Group to look at options for three vacant town-owned properties. Two of the buildings, the Paige building and the Ruggles Hill Road school, are in historic zones and the third, the former senior center, is located on Main Street in Gilbertville.

Please see **PROJECT**, page 13

CHRISTMAS TIME

has come to Hardwick

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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HARDWICK – The annual Christmas on the Common event took place this past Sunday in the center of Hardwick.

There was much to celebrate on the first day of December, which was chilly and beginning to feel like winter. Many residents gathered to watch the parade where Santa Claus and his friends would arrive on a hayride through the Town Common.

Santa was joined by Mrs. Claus, The Grinch, a snowman and many adorable children who were part of the hayride. The parade would stop at Santa Claus stopped at the Hardwick Town House. There many kids could go and visit Santa and get a picture with him.

While the kids got to go see Santa, there was a gingerbread house contest taking place. A total of 19 houses were entered and judges picked the three winners. Guests got to participate in a fan favorite vote to determine their favorite gingerbread house. The three winners were awarded for being the most colorful, the most creative and the funniest.

Guests also got to participate in raffles as prizes were displayed all over the bench seats upstairs in the Town House.

A traditional element that is part of Christmas on the Common in Hardwick is the annual Cookie Walk. The Town House turned into a huge cookie store as the Cookie Walk took place and guests certain-

Please see **CHRISTMAS**, page 7



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago
Santa Claus and friends arrived to the center of Hardwick for the town’s Christmas on the Common event.



This gingerbread train won for being the most creative.



Greetings from this happy snowman who wandered the Town Common during Hardwick’s Christmas on the Common.

Committee votes down amended regional agreement

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARREN – School Committee Chair Andrew Schwenker said the Regional Agreement Amendment Committee distributed a draft of the updated agreement to both the Quaboag Regional School Committee and the North Brookfield School Committee for review and discussion.

If both school committees vote to accept the draft, it would then go before each town at town meeting.

A motion was made at the Nov. 18 meeting to not move forward with the draft agreement. The motion passed with six in favor, three opposed and two abstained.

Committee members cited con-

cerns about the financial risk of adding another town to the school district and being responsible for more buildings. Schwenker said the financial feasibility study conducted several years ago to determine any costs benefits for both districts was “inconclusive.”

Ecology School trip

Several sixth grade students from the district’s two elementary schools gave a presentation about their recent trip to the Ecology School in Maine.

The students spent Oct. 15-18 at the Ecology School, which is an annual trip the school district holds to help integrate the students from both schools before they attend middle school together. Time at the Ecology School is spent enjoying

“OUR STUDENTS HAVE A VERY WELL ROUNDED EDUCATION HERE AT QUABOAG.”

STEPHEN DUFF
SUPERINTENDENT

lessons, games and activities.

“We learned a lot about erosion, plate tectonics and the ABCs of ecology,” one of the students said. “It was very fun.”

Students also enjoyed the food at the Ecology School, which was

described as “very good,” especially the chicken tacos. Students competed for “The Golden Spoon,” a prize awarded to the cleanest meal table.

Sixth graders took a bus from the Ecology School to explore tide pools, getting a close up view of crabs and snails.

“It was fun because you could kind of just go explore with your group in different areas,” another student said.

Changes in athletic league

Athletic Director David Bouchard said the school district is currently part of the 12-school district known as the Southern Worcester County League.

He said the league is diverse, with larger regional schools like

Tantasqua, matched with smaller districts like Quaboag.

“That discrepancy in size often leads to competitions between schools that really don’t make a whole lot of sense,” Bouchard said. “It’s typically not a very competitive situation. Those situations aren’t good for either school, and they’re situations that are very challenging to manage.”

Bouchard said there have been conversations amongst the 35 school districts in District 2 about creating more equitable competition. He said it was decided that these school districts would all merge into one league.

“The metrics for determining who we’re going to play...will be

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submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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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, Dec. 9

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

Tuesday, Dec. 10

- 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
- 9 a.m. Movin & Grooving to the Oldies with Lisa. \$3 per class.
- 9:30 a.m. Quilting Club
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. Chair Yoga
- 5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking (\$3 per class)
- 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

Wednesday, Dec. 11

- 9 a.m. Tai-Chi
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 10-11:30 a.m. Kirsten Krieger, Quabbin Region DPH Nurse office hours
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. Chair Yoga
- 2:30 p.m. Knit-Crochet-Laugh

Thursday, Dec. 12

- 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Mobile Dental Hygiene Clinic. Call 413-967-9645 for an appointment.

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

Friday, Dec. 13

- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Food Bank of Western MA Brown Bag Program
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. Chair Yoga
- 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

LUNCHES DINE IN 11:30 a.m.

All meals \$3.50 unless otherwise noted
Required: call 413-967-4595 by noon on the business day before, to put your name on the lunch list.

Monday, Dec. 9

Hot Dogs with Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Dessert of the Day

Tuesday, Dec. 10

Pork Chops, Rice Pilaf, Veggie of the Day, Dessert of the Day

Wednesday, Dec. 11

Chicken Parmigiana with Spaghetti, Caesar Salad, Dessert of the Day

Thursday, Dec. 12

Soft Taco Bar with Spanish Rice, Black Beans, Dessert of the Day

Friday, Dec. 13

Baked Fish, Au Gratin Potatoes, Veggie of the Day, Dessert of the Day

Ware Tree & Wreath Festival is Dec. 7-8

WARE – Ware Tree & Wreath Festival will be held on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 8 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Ware Town Hall, 126 Main St.

There will also be a door prize table, holiday music, an incredible bake sale, 50/50 raffle and a table with Ware books, T-shirts, and memorabilia, all to support the Ware Center Meeting House and Museum. There will be free children's activities including decorate a cookie and make a craft.

This year, the event will feature dancers from Limelight Dance Center

on Sunday in the early afternoon.

It's not too late to donate. Businesses and citizens interested in contributing decorated trees and wreaths should call Lynn Lak, co-chair of the Festival committee at 413-967-7223 or email her at llak310@comcast.net.

In-person drop off is Friday, Dec. 6 between 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. at the Great Hall in the Ware Town Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

Visit warecentermeetinghouse.org for more information or to make a donation online.

Holiday Craft Fair to be held Dec. 7

WARE – A Holiday Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Ware Junior Senior High School gym.

Admission is free and food is available to purchase. There will be over 50

vendors, fundraising and raffles.

This is a very exciting one-day shopping event of handcrafted, homemade, home baked, and one of a kind treasures made by local talent.

Are You Old News?



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

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



File Photo Last week's photo from 1977 showed Mildred Wnek (center) after being installed as regent of Ware Circle 106, Daughters of Isabella. Among those installed were from left, Catherine G. Lee, past international inner guard; Teresa Boylan, state chancellor; Marie Hart, Mass. State regent and installing officer; and Josephine Dowd, past international director.

Country Bank partners with Wonderfund of Massachusetts

Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving central and western Massachusetts, partnered with the Wonderfund of Massachusetts, with a \$10,000 donation.

This collaboration will make a difference in the lives of kids and teens served by the Department of Children and Families, allowing them to experience the magic of childhood during the holiday season. The Wonderfund, an extraordinary group of people on a mission, is dedicated to bringing the joy and meaning of childhood to children who have been impacted by trauma, abuse, and neglect.

You, too, can be a part of this magical initiative. Join the Wonderfund and Country Bank in making this holiday season special for kids in foster care by donating a new, unwrapped gift at any of its banking centers until Dec. 14. Your contribution, no matter how small, will make a difference. Country Bank's team will shop for gifts to join in the efforts, and donations will be delivered to DCF Offices in Springfield and Worcester to be distributed throughout western and central Massachusetts.

"We are excited to partner with the Wonderfund again this year and the opportunity for our team and the communities we serve help us make a difference for children by putting a smile on so many faces this holiday season," said Shelley Regin, Chief Marketing and Community Relations Officer at Country Bank. "Last year, we had such overwhelming support and collectively, we donated over a thousand toys to local DCF offices who shared with us, without your donations most children would have only received one toy."

If you're ready to help make some magic this holiday season, please visit https://wonderfundma.org. Your support is invaluable and will bring joy to



Submitted Photo

Country Bank is accepting new, unwrapped gifts at its banking centers until Dec. 14 to benefit the Wonderfund of Massachusetts.

children in foster care.

About Country Bank

Established in 1850, Country Bank has a rich history of supporting personal and business banking customers through financial solutions with FDIC and DIF insurance for added security. Country Bank is a full-service \$1.8B mutual community bank serving central and western Massachusetts with 16 offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton, Springfield, (Opening soon) Uxbridge, and Worcester.

With a commitment to personalized service and community involvement, Country Bank offers individuals, businesses, and municipalities a comprehensive range of banking products and services. Country Bank is a member of FDIC, DIF, and the SUM network. Country Bank can be reached at 800-322-8233 or online at countrybank.com.

Country Bank hosts 'Stuff the Cruiser' event Dec. 7

WARE – Country Bank, 155 West St., will host a Stuff the Cruiser event with the Ware Police Department on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 9 a.m.-noon.

This annual event collects new, unwrapped toys from the community that benefit local children in need this Christmas.

Veterans eat lunch free at Ware Senior Center

WARE – Now through May 31, 2025, veterans of the U.S. armed services can enjoy a homemade lunch for free at the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road.

This meals are provided by the generosity of former Ware Selectboard member John Morrin, the Ware Veteran Fund and the Ware Veterans Carnival.

For veterans to take advantage of this offer they must call the Ware Senior Center 413-967-9645 by noon the business day before they wish to come for lunch and place their name on the list. Meals are served daily, Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m.-noon.

Menus and more information are available on the Council on Aging page of townofware.com or by stopping by the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Baystate Wing Auxiliary selling 2025 Lotto Calendars

PALMER – The Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary is currently selling their January 2025 Lotto Calendars.

The one-month calendar, which costs \$5 each or three for \$10, has a daily winning amount of \$100 with special drawings on Jan. 1-31.

For over 65 years the Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary has been actively supporting local healthcare through its sponsorship of special events and sales from the Baystate Wing Hospital Gift Shop located on the first floor of the hospital.

The calendars are on sale at the Baystate Wing Hospital gift shop. Funds raised by the annual Lotto Calendars support the Auxiliary's scholarship program and their philanthropic efforts that benefit Baystate Wing Hospital.

Whether you are looking for something special for a patient, a gift for a special occasion, or an item for the home, the Baystate Wing Hospital Gift Shop offers many unique, hand-selected items. For more information about the Lotto Calendar visit the gift shop located on the first floor of the hospital or call 413-370-8169.

Read the Ware River News online at
www.warerrivernews.turley.com



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

Christmas on the Common

Sunday, Dec. 8th 2-6pm

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Jana Hayden showed remarkable courage by leaving her cooking job to start her own bakery, Cupcakes & Confections. Her determination and passion have paid off, as her business flourishes with devoted customers. Jana makes an assortment of cakes, cupcakes, and other baked goods that have become community favorites. Her success reflects not just her culinary talent but also her commitment to pursuing her dreams in Ware the colorblind capital of the world!

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Baystate Wing Audiologist recognized with the Service and Innovation Award

PALMER – Kirsten Petrarca, AuD, CCC-A, an audiologist at Baystate Rehabilitation Care, located at Baystate Wing Hospital, originally chose audiology as a profession when she was in high school after learning American Sign Language to work with the Deaf Community.

As she learned more about the field and became more involved in community service projects in college, Petrarca decided that it was the right fit for her, because she loved being in a position to work with patients to improve their access to communication.

“My favorite part of audiology is working with patients to find solutions for their communication difficulties, be it helping with good communication strategies and self-advocacy skills or providing hearing technology,” said Petrarca.

Recently Petrarca and her co-chairs from Rush University received the “Service and Innovation Award” from Rush Global Health, a department within Rush University in Chicago, Illinois, and Community Empowerment, a service organization based in Chicago and Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; <https://community-empowerment.org/>. The award’s purpose is to recognize and thank the team for their efforts over the past two years in developing hearing screening and hearing aid programs based out of Santo Domingo.

“In addition to the audiology care I provide at Baystate Wing, I work with a group of two other audiologists to coordinate and provide no-cost audiology services to patients in the communities of Peralta, Azua, Villa Verde, and Santo Domingo. We are all graduates of the Rush University Doctor of Audiology program. We inherited this program from our professor at Rush University, who first began providing audiology services through Community Empowerment by working closely with an otolaryngology (ENT) team. My team sends small groups of volunteers (audiologists and Rush AuD students) to the Dominican Republic twice a year for a week at a time. Each trip is comprised of five and a half clinic days where we see patients of all ages for hearing screenings, hearing tests, hearing aid fittings, and appropriate fol-



Submitted Photos

Kirsten Petrarca conducts hearing tests in the Dominican Republic.

low-up services.”

“Over the past two years, we have screened more than 500 patients and provided hearing aids, all donated, to more than 50,” said Petrarca. “The Community Empowerment team that we work with is so welcoming, they have become like family to us and our volunteers.”

Hearing loss is one of the most common conditions affecting older adults. The National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders states that approximately 28.8 million Americans could benefit from using hearing aids. While age is often cited as a factor, there are growing numbers of younger people reporting hearing difficulties.

“Hearing is one of the most important aspects of our health, when left untreated it is often associated with other health issues,” said Petrarca. “I feel very fortunate to work with the Baystate Audiology team. “They work tire-



Kirsten Petrarca, AuD, CCC-A, is an audiologist at Baystate Rehabilitation Care at Baystate Wing Hospital.

lessly to create a positive, supportive work environment that benefits both myself, as an employee, and my patients.”

Providing care for patients of all ages, Baystate Wing Hospital’s Audiology and Hearing Services and team is located in the Griswold Center, 42 Wright St. in Palmer, and offers routine hearing tests, specialized audiological testing, and a comprehensive hearing-aid program providing hearing-aid evaluations, purchases, fittings, adjustments, and cleanings.

To bring awareness to the importance of hearing and address the needs of the community, the Baystate Wing Hospital Audiology team will offer free hearing screenings to community members throughout 2025.

For more information or to book an appointment call Baystate Rehabilitation Care at Baystate Wing Hospital at 413-370-5254.

Hardwick Co-Op hosts food and sock drives

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Farmers Co-Op, 444 Lower Road, will be collection food donations for the Tri-Parish Food Pantry and new socks to benefit veterans through HomeFront Strong, now through Dec. 15.

People who bring in five non-perishable food items during this time will receive 5% off their purchase that day.

For every two pairs of socks that you buy from Hardwick Farmers Co-Op, the Co-Op will donate a

pair to HomeFront Strong. People may also bring in new men’s, women’s and children’s sized socks to be donated to HomeFront Strong.

Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce announces 2025 officers and directors

PALMER – The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce, the non-profit organization that promotes business, development and tourism within surrounding communities of Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester counties, has announced the election of its Officers & Directors following the Chamber’s Annual Meeting conducted earlier this month.

“The Chamber is blessed to have a diverse group of business leaders who bring their wealth of experience, knowledge and dedication to our region,” said James Przypek, Chief Executive Officer of the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce. “Each of them has demonstrated their commitment in assisting our member businesses with the tools and resources they need to grow, and to promote the Quaboag Hills region to visitors and residents alike.”

The Chamber has elected Palmer resident and the co-owner of J. Stolar Insurance Agency, Renee Niedziela, as President of the Chamber. Niedziela first joined the Chamber’s Board of Directors in 2016, and since 2018, has served on several Committees, and as both Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer during her tenure with the Chamber.

David Loos of Brimfield has

been elected as the Chamber’s 1st President, while Edward Fisher Jr. of Wales has been tapped as 2nd Vice President.

Loos, joined the Chamber’s Board in 2023 following a successful law enforcement career and has since be named an Associate Partner with Keller Williams Realty Pioneer Valley. Fisher is the owner of Fisher Tech Solutions, a digital marketing agency that specializes in custom web development, search engine and pay-per-click optimization.

New appointments to the Chamber’s Board of Directors include: Kaitlin Young of the Hardwick Vineyard & Winery, Michael Moore, owner of Silver Bell Farm in Monson, Rebecca Maurer, owner of Quabbin Valley Eye Care in Palmer, and Michael Harris, owner of multiple businesses and development properties in both Ware and Palmer.

Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce Officers and Directors are: President, Renee Niedziela, J. Stolar Insurance Agency; 1st Vice President, David Loos, Keller Williams Realty Pioneer Valley; 2nd Vice President, Edward Fisher Jr., Fisher Tech Solutions; Treasurer, Julie Quink, Burkhart, Pizzanelli, P.C.; Assistant Treasurer, Lena Buteau, Monson

Savings Bank; and Clerk: Amy Scribner, River East School to Career.

Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors are: Susan Barbiasz, Westfield Bank; Eric Duda, Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical School District; Tracey Giard, Country Bank; Teresa Grove, Baystate Health Foundation; Michael Harris, Canna Retreat & Dioguardi Jewelers; Rebecca Maurer, Quabbin Valley Eye Care; Michael Moore, Silver Bell Farm; Lorna Stone, Christopher Heights of Belchertown; and Kaitlin Young, Hardwick Vineyard & Winery.

About the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce

Established in 1978 and headquartered in Palmer, the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce’s purpose is to advance economic growth, interests and tourism for our members through policies, programs and development in the Quaboag Hills region, including the 15 towns of Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren and West Brookfield.

Paige Memorial Library list events

HARDWICK – During this season of giving, the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, has a Holiday Hostess Basket to give away.

The basket is on display at the library. Stop by and make a monetary donation and receive a ticket for every dollar for chances to take home the basket with lots of fun items for entertaining.

All donations will be given to the Hardwick Food Pantry. The drawing will be Saturday, Dec. 7.

On Saturday, Dec. 14 at 11 a.m. Jayne Foley returns to guide participants in making a Christmas tree. This is a fun activity appropriate for children. People should register in person at the library or by calling 413-477-670\$ so that there will be sufficient materials for all. They should bring buttons if they have some.

Ongoing activities include a weekly children’s hour on Wednesdays at 11 a.m., which

features art and science activities. Toys, puzzles and LEGOS are also available. The Paige Book Club meets monthly on the third Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 2 p.m.

The Paige Writers group meets on alternating Tuesdays at 3 p.m. The Cookbook Club meets monthly on the last Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. They will not meet on Dec. 25 due to the holiday.

The FUNDamentals of ART a studio workshop for creating art and improving skills is open for all levels of expertise and a variety of art media and materials or people may bring their own project. Register for Tuesday or Thursday evenings at 6 p.m. once a month. They may also register for Family Game Night or “Away for a Day” Travel Club.

The Paige Memorial Library is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2-7 p.m., Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Christmas for Kids begins, donations requested

WARE – The Ware Police Department and the Ware Fire Department have started their 21st annual Ware Christmas For Kids program for the 2024 holiday season.

They are requesting financial assistance to help them fulfill the needs of the children of Ware, and all assistance is greatly appreciated. The program is for infants through children aged 12.

The program recognizes all holiday observances.

Monetary donations may be dropped off at the Ware Police Department at 22 North St., or may be sent to Ware Christmas For Kids, c/o Ware Police Department, 22 North St., Ware, MA 01082.

Darlene Gildert is the program coordinator, and she can be reached at 413-967-3571, extension 327.

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viewpoints



Pied-bill grebe

Arimfield resident, who frequently emails about bird sighting saw a pied bill grebe in Warren on Nov. 6. The pied-bill grebe is about 12 inches long. It is stocky and brown with a short stout bill. During the summer months, the grebe has a black ring around a white bill with a black chin. In winter the bill either shows a faint ring or no ring at all and the chin is light.

This grebe feeds by diving underwater and catching fish, aquatic insects, frogs and crayfish. The pied-bill grebe is one of the earliest migrant grebes to return and often arrives on ponds before the ice is all melted. They summer on lakes and ponds and winter in sheltered saltwater bays.

The female lays six to seven bluish green eggs in a platform nest of decaying vegetation, attached to growing vegetation in shallow water. In territorial skirmishes, males come together and tilt their heads up while calling. Parents may do a distraction display of flapping their wings between dives when their young are in danger. Their white rear feathers may be flashed when alarmed.

During breeding, calls are a "cow cow cow cow cow," a loud "kek kek" in alarm and a softer "cuk cuk cuk." The grebe generally remains quiet in winter.

Wild turkeys

I continue to see either one to three Tom turkeys or larger flocks of hens in my travels around Central Massachusetts. Although wild turkeys are now a common site, I never tire of spotting them.

Low flying geese

A few days a low flying flock of geese flew over my yard just above tree top level. They honked as they went. I assume they landed in one of the beaver ponds near my home.

Birds at feeders

I put out shelled peanuts and sunflower mix seeds in the morning in my tray feeders. I have black-capped chickadees, tufted titmice, white breasted nuthatches, an occasional downy woodpecker, mourning doves and squawking blue jays.

I have not put out suet cakes yet as I want to be sure the black bears are hibernating. Last year, I bought a new suet holder for this winter. I don't want to put it out too early in case a bear shows up and walks off with it. Somewhere in the woods around my home, there must be a large pile of suet feeders taken by bears. If I was lucky enough to find them, I think most would be smashed and unusable.

Common raven

I continue to hear the common raven and sometimes see them flying overhead. They are much larger than the crow and make a low gronking sound.

Mass Audubon bird sightings

Cape Cod weekly wildlife sightings are sponsored by the Bird Watchers General Store in Orleans and Mass Audubon's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. The following sightings were reported between Nov. 13 and Nov. 19. Cape Cod's second-ever record of a spotted towhee was found at the Provincetown Airport on Nov. 16. A very rare pine grosbeak, two white-winged crossbills and a late prairie warbler were also seen there. A snowy owl was seen in Provincetown. Along Race Point Road a western tanager and two evening grosbeaks were seen.

Birds from Race Point in Provincetown this week included a pacific loon, 400 long-tailed ducks, 1,300 white-winged scoters, 1,500 red-breasted mergansers, 500 sanderlings, 400 dunlin, five Pomarine jaegers, 1,080 razorbills, a common murre, two dovekies, 85 black-legged kittiwakes, 70 Cory's shearwater, 215 great shearwaters, four sooty shearwaters, two Manx shearwaters, 3,200 northern gannets, two Lapland longspurs and 24 snow buntings.

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.



Live tabletop Christmas trees become year-round houseplants

Norfolk Island pines are nearly as popular as poinsettias this time of year, gracing chain store and supermarket shelves just after the Thanksgiving holiday, or perhaps soon after Halloween, these days!

Not sure exactly what they look like? Think mini Christmas tree.

These cute conifers come table top ready, predecorated with tiny little ornaments and a festive foil sleeve. Most stand less than a foot tall, yet the amount of holiday cheer they bring to someone who otherwise wouldn't have a Christmas tree is immeasurable.

Unlike cut Christmas trees, potted Norfolk Island Pines need not be discarded once the holidays have passed. Simply take their decorations off and they become an easy to maintain houseplant.

Although they look as if they would be hardy to our area, they are not, so don't plan on giving them a spot outdoors come spring-time, or you'll lose them with the first hard frost of fall. Norfolk Island, from which the plant hails, is situated in the southern Pacific Ocean, northeast of Sydney, Australia – a much warmer climate indeed!

The only locations within the United States that the Norfolk Island pine is hardy are Hawaii, and parts of Florida and California. Southern Florida is home to many commercial

growers of the plant.

It is interesting to note that the Norfolk Island pine isn't a true pine at all. Rather it is an evergreen plant with needle-like leaves.

Side branches rise from the main stem at wide angles, giving it a symmetrical, triangular outline, especially when young. In the wild, heights can top off around 200 feet, with diameters between 9 and 10 feet. As a houseplant, it is very slow growing.

To keep your Norfolk Island pine looking its best for seasons to come, provide it with good quality light- a few feet from a south or west facing window is ideal. Give it a quarter turn at each watering and you will be rewarded with a nice straight stem.

If window space is out of the question, it will do okay in a well-lit room as well, providing the lights are on for most of the day. Temperatures should range between 60-70 degrees during the day; slightly cooler at night.

It is important that the Norfolk Island pine be kept from temps below 50 degrees for any length of time or injury may occur. Therefore, be sure it is in a bag or protective sleeve when you bring it home from the store in chilly winter weather.

Keep its soil moist but not soaking wet. Sometimes lower limbs may brown and then drop. Age, as well as erratic watering can cause this problem. Repot and check watering practices.

Fertilize in the spring, once active growth resumes.

Perhaps the most cherished of all tender herbs is Rosemary (Rosemarinus officinalis), the herb of remembrance. Its needle like leaves and fragrant foliage make it a wonderful candidate for use as a table top Christmas tree!

One of the more common questions when people toured Old Sturbridge Village's green-

house in the off-season, was "How do you manage to overwinter your rosemaries? They are some of the biggest I've ever seen!"

In a controlled setting such as a greenhouse, it's really not that difficult. Tender plants can be given as much sun as Mother Nature provides, but with the use of thermostats and vents, temperatures can be kept to a minimum.

We set the thermostat at 55 degree night temperatures, and vents opened when daytime heat reaches seventy. Low temperatures like these won't push the plants into growth when winter day length and daylight can't support it. Because of this the plants are stocky, not lanky.

We watered when the soil is dry to the touch – sometimes this might be as infrequently as twice a week during an overcast stretch, or as often as every day if the sun is out. For home culture, a sunny but cool locale is best.

For me, it's my "mudroom!" One treat that many gardeners don't get to appreciate is the beautiful blue flowers that are borne on the plant in the short days of winter. Legend ties the plant to the Virgin Mary, saying that flowers that were originally white were turned to blue when she spread her cloak on its branches.

Yet another reason that makes it a great choice for a mini Christmas tree!

With any luck, a Norfolk Island pine and Rosemary can go from being great Christmas decorations to wonderful year round houseplants.

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



Am I entitled to more Social Security from my ex-husbands?

Dear Rusty:
I am 76 years old and a retired high school counselor/teacher. I was married to my first husband from 1968 until 1981. He is still living and he remarried two more times and, I believe, he is currently divorced. He is 77 years old. His income was always much higher than mine. I was married to my second husband from May 1989 until we divorced in April 2017. My second husband died in June 2023. What I wonder is if I am entitled to receive Social Security benefits based upon the income of either of my ex-husbands?

Signed: Twice Divorced Spouse

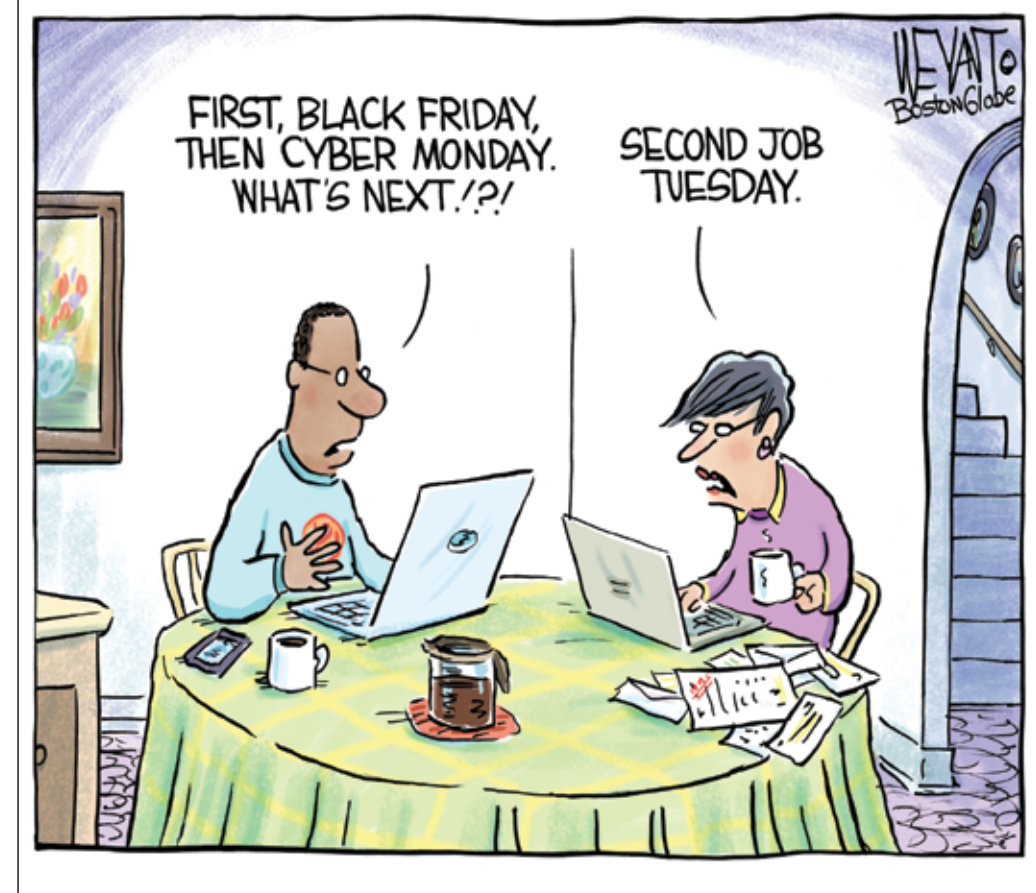
Dear Twice Divorced:
Divorced spouses are entitled to the same benefits as a current spouse if their marriage lasted at least 10 years which, in both cases, yours did.

The other caveat is whether your own SS retirement benefit is less than you are entitled to from either of your ex-husbands. If your own SS retirement benefit is less, then you will get an incremental amount on top of your own SS retirement to bring your total monthly benefit up to your spousal (or surviving spouse) entitlement.

Since your first husband is still living, it is likely that your best financial option is to claim a surviving ex-spouse benefit from your deceased second husband. The reason is that survivor benefits from husband #2 are based on his actual benefit at his death, whereas benefits from a living ex-spouse, husband #1, are based upon his full retirement amount.

In other words, it is likely that 100% of deceased husband #2's benefit at his death is more than 50% of living husband #1's current benefit at his Full Retirement Age.

It is, of course, possible that 50% of your



first husband's FRA entitlement is more than 100% of your second husband's benefit at death, in which case your ex-spouse benefit from your first husband could be more.

The only way to sort this out is to contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to make an appointment to apply for surviving ex-spouse benefits from your deceased second husband. Explain that your first ex-husband is still living and that you are unsure of what your benefits are as your first husband's ex-spouse.

Social Security will be able to determine from their records, which one provides you with a higher benefit amount, provide each husband's Social Security number when you call. As I said, your best financial option will likely be to take your survivor benefit from your deceased second ex-husband note, however, if your first ex-husband also dies before

you, you can subsequently file for a survivor benefit from him, if that is more than you are getting from your second husband's record.

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.



Hamilton on Foreign Policy

Most Americans aren't obsessed with politics

The 2024 election is over, but the arguments about what it means are continuing.

Did Donald Trump and the Republican Party win a mandate to govern as they wish? Did Democrats try too hard to appeal to their political base? Or not hard enough?

But drawing conclusions about the meaning of an election, especially about what it says about the American people, is difficult. Most voters simply aren't that focused on politics. They aren't obsessed with the latest news from Washington or what the candidates are saying.

As Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear writes in a recent New York Times column, "When

most Americans wake up in the morning, they are not thinking about politics." They are thinking about their jobs, their finances, their next doctor's appointment. They are thinking about feeding their families and getting their children off to school. They want to know their communities are safe.

"If you are staring at the cost of your child's prescription and wondering how you are going to pay for both it and your family's dinner," Beshear writes, "the offense of the day in Washington, D.C. or the latest crazy thing a politician said just isn't as important."

I couldn't agree more. Those of us who write about government and public affairs often forget that we're in the minority. For most people, they may follow the news, and most of them will vote; but politics, especially national politics, isn't at the top of their daily concerns.

One of the first lessons I learned when I was in Congress was that people care deeply about local matters. They pay a lot less attention to national issues. They are even less worried about international affairs.

Their concerns are much closer to home. In my district, the experience was the same whether I was visiting with constituents in cafes, speaking to service clubs or meeting with reporters and editors at local newspapers. People, whether they were Democrats or

Republicans, were focused on their communities. They wanted to talk about a new factory, a planned road project or the local school system.

People do pay attention to the national economy, because it affects their lives. They may not know the latest inflation or unemployment numbers, but they know when costs go up for gas, groceries and housing. They care about crime, but their focus is on community safety.

It's true, of course, that Donald Trump has upended our politics, putting himself at the center of every issue.

The decline of local newspapers, coupled with the rise of talk radio, cable TV news and social media, has nationalized our politics. Tune in CNN or Fox News, and you might think every national issue is a matter of life and death.

Politicians often amplify this thinking as they compete to turn highly motivated voters in a tight election. But that's not most Americans. Most care deeply about their families, their neighbors and their communities. They want the government to share those concerns.

Beshear is a Democrat who has twice been elected governor of a state that just voted

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

The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

Turley Election Policy

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

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

Ware School Committee hears updates about schools

By Abby McCoy
Correspondent

WARE – On Nov. 20, the Ware School Committee convened remotely for its regular business meeting, addressing important updates, reports, and approval requests led by Chair Brian Winslow.

One of the key items on the agenda was the approval of a Use of Facilities Waiver request for the Hoisington Basketball Tournament, hosted by Holly Hoisington. The tournament, held on November 16, 2024, served as a fundraiser for scholarships and marked the official dedication of the Bobby Hoisington Scoreboard and shot clocks, generously donated by Jeff Kularki. The approval was granted after the committee acknowledged the event's positive impact, despite the late request for approval, due to scheduling changes. Holly Hoisington expressed her gratitude for the committee's support. The meeting then shifted to

updates from local schools.

Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School welcomed a new English Language Learner teacher, Lyn Bradley. Students at the school have been embracing the character trait of the month, caring, culminating in an assembly to discuss its importance.

The school also celebrated a successful Fall into Literacy Night, where over 75 students and families gathered to read "Scarecrow Magic" and engage in a creative activity. The school's reading challenge for November has seen enthusiastic participation, with students collecting "acorns" as a part of their reading goals.

Ware Middle School reported on a productive collaboration with the Hitchcock Center of Amherst, where fifth-grade students participated in lessons on climate change. Sixth-grade students took part in a Project Safe Childhood internet safety presentation and also engaged in their annual Pumpkin Project, linking math and science

as they explored the number of seeds in pumpkins.

The school has implemented an attendance challenge, rewarding the homeroom with the highest attendance in November with a special movie event.

Ware Junior Senior High School celebrated a major milestone with the Massachusetts College Application Celebration. More than 50 students have already been accepted to college, and seniors have collectively earned over \$500,000 in scholarships. The event provides students with the unique opportunity to apply to colleges, receive admissions decisions, and secure scholarships on the spot.

The meeting also included a discussion on the New York City Trip Fundraiser for the Class of 2027. Fundraising for this trip will take place on Dec. 14, with tickets still available for purchase. The trip is expected to be a great success, just as it was for last year's students.

During the public comments portion of the meeting, Grace

Mitchell, a concerned parent, raised an issue regarding teacher attendance and the lack of supervision when teachers are absent. She highlighted instances where students were left with minimal supervision in the library or auditorium.

Superintendent Dr. Michael Lovato addressed the concern, explaining that efforts are underway to hire more substitute teachers, although the district faces challenges in attracting substitutes due to lower pay compared to neighboring areas. He invited parents and citizens to join a committee aimed at improving substitute coverage.

In his budget update, Andy Paquette reassured the committee that finances were trending as expected, despite some delays in finalizing certain reports. The town accountant is still working to close out the fiscal year, and while the special education and school choice grants came in higher than anticipated, they will help balance the budget.

Lovato, gave an update on NEASC accreditation, clarifying some misconceptions surrounding the process and emphasizing that while accreditation is valuable, it does not directly affect the value of students' diplomas. He also discussed the success of Clark Consulting's partnership with the district, noting improvements in student-to-student discourse and academic language.

Lovato is committed to transparency and offers parents and community members the opportunity to tour the schools and engage in discussions about the consulting process.

Finally, the Director of Student Services shared positive news from the state, highlighting the district's progress on various special education indicators. The school has been working hard to improve its special education programs and ensure that students are receiving high-quality, grade-level content in line with state guidelines.

Hardwick Community Church's quarterly meeting is Dec. 8

HARDWICK – The quarterly meeting of the Hardwick Community Church will be held on Sunday, Dec. 8, at noon at the Hardwick Universalist Church on the knoll.

Acting officers will update church members on the financial status, repairs to the Calvinist Church building and any other items which may arise.

It is thought the federation of the two churches on Hardwick's Common may have occurred in 1721 before the U.S. was a nation. History will become a major focus as revival of community continues as the Hardwick Community Church.

All interested parties in this historic collaboration are welcome to attend.

UPDATES from page 1

change the area's designation from highway commercial to industrial, drew concerns about its potential impacts on surrounding areas.

The board discussed the importance of aligning the zoning change with local needs while balancing the concerns of residents. There was particular apprehension about industrial zoning's broader range of uses, including those that could be seen as less desirable, like adult entertainment businesses.

The board debated whether a commercial or industrial designation would be more appropriate, ultimately leaning toward a decision in January to allow sufficient time for further discussion.

One of the key points raised was the need to address the concerns of nearby residents who were already worried about changes to their environment, especially given the increased traffic and noise that industrial uses might bring. It was suggested that a more specific proposal for warehousing might be a less intrusive option that could satisfy both developers and the public. However, it was noted that getting public approval for any zoning change would likely require a two-thirds vote at the town meeting.

In other discussions, the challenges of development were highlighted, particularly regarding the timing of the zoning approvals. Developers expressed frustration with the slow-moving nature of zoning and permit approvals, acknowledging that such delays often complicate their ability to meet deadlines and secure funding.

As part of the ongoing Mechanic Street development, the board also advised developers to seek further consultations with environmental and state agencies, particularly the Conservation Commission and the State Rail

Commission, to ensure that the development adhered to all necessary requirements, including setbacks and resource management.

The planning discussions for the proposed warehouse project continued, with a focus on infrastructure and regulatory concerns that could affect the development's timeline and feasibility. The project's inclusion of a rail siding for easier transportation access was a key aspect, but it became clear that several additional factors needed to be addressed before proceeding.

A major point raised during the meeting was the need for adequate fire protection for the warehouse. As part of the planning process, it was suggested to consult with the local fire department to ensure that the existing water mains would be sufficient for firefighting purposes.

If not, upgrades might be necessary, which could add to the overall cost. A careful review of potential traffic impacts was also recommended, especially considering the scale of the project and its possible effects on local roads. This would include a traffic study, which could be a requirement depending on the development's scope.

There were additional conversations about the permitting process. While formal permitting and approvals would be necessary later, the group discussed the possibility of taking some informal steps ahead of time to identify potential roadblocks.

Checking with the appropriate departments on any requirements, like fire protection upgrades and traffic studies, would help avoid delays down the line. The key, they agreed, was understanding all the potential challenges early in the process.

A significant update in the meeting was about the Infrastructure and Rail Access Program grant, which the project

had successfully received from the state. This grant was critical for the development of the rail siding, providing vital funding for the necessary infrastructure.

The grant, however, came with a two-year deadline, prompting some urgency in the planning process. A state representative was scheduled for a site visit soon to ensure progress, highlighting the importance of moving quickly to avoid jeopardizing the grant.

As the discussion turned to the specifics of the project's zoning, questions arose about how best to categorize the proposed warehouse. Initially, the project had been proposed as a warehouse, but the zoning for the area didn't seem to support this type of development.

It was noted that while "light industry" was a potential fit, it might be more restrictive than what was needed for the warehouse. The group considered the possibility of requesting a zoning change to allow warehousing in the "highway commercial" district, where it might make more sense, given the location's proximity to major roads.

This alternative was seen as less impactful on local residents, which would likely help in gaining community support.

Two potential zoning changes were discussed to address the issue.

One option was to propose a zoning amendment that would allow warehousing in highway commercial districts. The second, broader option, would involve changing the zoning to permit "commercial-industrial" use in the area.

The group felt that having two separate articles for the upcoming town meeting would provide two chances for approval, which seemed like a safer bet than putting all their hopes into one.

The idea of pursuing both

options – either allowing warehousing in the highway commercial district or changing the district to commercial-industrial – would give the planning board flexibility. However, the final decision on the wording and presentation of these changes would need to go through the select board before they could be included in the town meeting agenda.

This process, while necessary, would require careful preparation to ensure that all potential impacts, both positive and negative, were clearly communicated to the public.

During the meeting, another issue was raised regarding the storage of propane, which the developers wanted to incorporate into the facility. The question was whether propane storage could fall under the warehouse zoning, as the warehouse would be used for the storage and distribution of goods. It was clarified that large-scale propane storage would not be classified as warehousing but would instead be categorized under "tank farms." This type of storage was specifically addressed in the zoning bylaws and was allowed in commercial-industrial zones, but only

by special permit.

The discussion underscored the importance of reviewing zoning codes carefully to ensure that all uses of the property would be compliant with existing regulations. It was also noted that special permits were not automatically granted; they would require a thorough review process, including consideration of traffic, environmental impacts, and effects on neighboring properties.

The planning department provided an update on other ongoing projects. The new zoning bylaw, which included the introduction of Accessory Dwelling Units, the Rural Residential Business District, and updates to solar energy regulations, had passed at the last town meeting. These changes had already been approved by the attorney general, and the department was preparing to distribute new copies of the zoning bylaw to ensure that everyone had the most up-to-date information.

In addition, a public engagement meeting for the town's Hazard Mitigation Plan was scheduled for Dec. 4 at the Senior Center. The plan would address how to prepare for and mitigate the

impacts of natural disasters such as wildfires, snowstorms, and tornadoes.

A particular concern was ensuring that facilities like the Senior Center, which could serve as an emergency shelter during extreme weather events, would be properly equipped to handle such crises. There was a question raised about whether the Senior Center's generator would be sufficient to power the newly installed electric heating and cooling systems (mini-splits), as these systems ran entirely on electricity, unlike the previous oil-fired furnace.

As the meeting drew to a close, members agreed that the next steps would involve finalizing the two zoning change articles for the town meeting and submitting the request to the Selectboard.

They would also need to prepare for the upcoming public hearing, ensuring that all property owners in the affected areas were informed and able to participate in the decision-making process. The group recognized that their approach would need to be clear, well-organized, and flexible, with a focus on gaining both town and community support for the project.

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CHRISTMAS TIME has come to Hardwick



Friends of the Paige Memorial Library hosted their annual Cookie Walk with proceeds supporting the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department for their Christmas for Kids.



Santa Claus greeted all the children inside the Town House.



The special guests took a hayride and parked in front of the Hardwick Town House.

CHRISTMAS from page 1

ly got to go on a delicious walk.

The Cookie Walk is presented by the Friends of the Paige Memorial Library. The Town House hosts the Cookie Walk every year and is always a beloved tradition in Hardwick. Next door there was a craft room where kids got to write their Christmas letters to Santa. The proceeds from the Cookie Walk go to the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department for their Christmas for Kids fundraiser.

Courtney Letendre along with volunteers Angelique Broussard and Emily Cartier helped put on a beautiful Christmas on the Common, which has now been celebrated for three straight years. The common featured 22 vendors and games. The proceeds from Hardwick Christmas on the Common go back to the Town. Letendre said, "whoever is struggling in town, that is where these donations go to."

On one side of the Common the Hardwick Community Church, which is part of the Tri-Parish Community Church, had several activities going on. While raising money for the food pantry, the church was also housing hundreds of donated lacrosse gear for the people of Uganda.

Church member Dave Libby looks at this fundraiser as "a fun project" as they collect gear to help support a country that has found a significant interest in lacrosse. Approximately 300 boxes of equipment from helmets, sticks, jerseys and pads were stocked inside the upstairs chapel of the community church.

Throughout the room, the church windows have photos of dozens of lacrosse players from Uganda greeting Hardwick. One of the players, Ogik George, had donated beads and necklaces he made and are currently placed inside the church.

"We empower with some donations," Libby said.

The church was accepting donations for the food pantry while handing out candy and hot chocolate during Christmas on the Common.



Mrs. Claus showed guests all the gingerbread houses that were made for the gingerbread house contest.



Kids got busy writing their letters to Santa Claus.



This gingerbread house won a prize for being the most colorful.



Many families got to review hundreds of delicious cookies during the Cookie Walk.



This gingerbread house won for being the funniest.



Boy Scout Troop 116 had a booth selling wreaths and it looks like the snowman might want to buy one.



It was snack time as this booth which had tasty popcorn available during Hardwick Christmas on the Common



The Town House had a raffle taking place with multiple prizes available.



The Grinch arrived during the Hardwick Christmas on the Common.



Photos of lacrosse players greeted Hardwick for their generous donation of lacrosse equipment. These photos are displayed inside the Hardwick Community Church.

Local Police Depts collecting unwrapped toys & K9 dogs demonstrations

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More artifacts return to Lakota tribe

By Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

BARRE – The Barre Library Association returned two 19th century headdresses to the library by Frank Root on Nov. 11.

Several years ago, the BLA returned a large number of artifacts in the Frank Root collection to Pine Ridge Lakota tribe as part of their reparation decision. A large ceremony involving many members of the Lakota tribe and the public participated in or attended that reparation ceremony held at Ruggles Lane School in Barre.

This ceremony was much smaller with Justin Pourier and only a handful of people and members of the press.

Both headdresses were from the 19th century. One was 60 inches long with a felt head piece and eagle feathers. The second headdress was 50 inches long and made of felted wool, eagle talons, porcupine quills, deer hair and horse hair.



Justin Pourier, head of the tribal historic preservation office and the Fifth Member of the Tribal Executive Council from the Pine Ridge Lakota tribe, speaks to the group during a brief ceremony at the Woods Memorial Library on Nov. 11 to return two headdresses to the Lakota people.



Another view of the headdresses returned to the Lakota tribe on Nov. 11.



Turley photos by Ellenor Downer
Elizabeth Martin, a Woods Memorial Library Trustee and member of the BLA, finishes uncovering one of the Lakota headdresses.

Pourier, head of the tribal historic preservation office and the Fifth Member of the Tribal Executive Council from the Pine Ridge Lakota tribe, said when his tribe started talked with members of the Barre Library Association about the artifacts in Barre, he hoped it “would open doors.”

He said this would “impact our youth as they don’t have access to stuff like this back home.” He said they will preserve these headdresses or war bonnets as he called them in a building of their own where school children can come and view them.

Pourier sang a litany in his native tongue while standing over the boxed headdresses. He also talked about his ancestors history as well. Following the ceremony, Pourier returned with the two headdresses to Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.



Shown from left are Ryleigh LaRocque, Mya Welch, Kayla Bingle, Trish Murdock, Mason Cardin, Evelyn Shilosky, Jameson Sterner and Darlene Henshaw, Art Teacher. Not pictured was Blair Shown.

Emergency Department recognizes Pathfinder Tech students for mural

PALMER – There is a new mural greeting pediatric patients and their families in the Emergency Department at Baystate Wing Hospital.

It is a creation and gift from eight art students from Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School. The mural, which took the students three days to complete in the ED, was developed in phases over the past few months while working under the creative leadership of Darlene Henshaw, the studio art teacher at Pathfinder Tech.

“The request from the pediatric care team in the ED first came to us in 2023 when our Pathfinder Tech Art Department was asked to create and paint murals on the walls of the treatment room dedicated to the care of pediatric patients,” said Henshaw in a press release. “The planning and painting of the mural was finally completed this October, following a lengthy pandemic-related delay.”

“Our students heard directly from the people working in the Emergency Department, which was very valuable for this learning experience,” said Henshaw. “Following my meeting with the ED team, our students came together after school every Tuesday and Thursday to develop the concept, ‘Landscape with Hidden Creatures,’ sketch the images, then paint canvas panel prototypes to ensure that their visions would work on a much larger scale on the four walls of the room. I wanted their vision to come through, and I had faith in all of them. These eight students



Submitted Photos by Olivia Falcone
Students spend three days painting the mural in the Baystate Wing Hospital Emergency Department.

took the ball and ran with it.”

“Visiting the Emergency Department can be scary for children and parents alike,” said Dr. James Munger, associate chief of emergency medicine and pediatric emergency care coordinator. “Families bringing a child to the Emergency Department often face a mix of emotions including anxiety, and uncertainty, coupled with the stress of navigating an unfamiliar environment. The bright colors and friendly animal

characters help to lift the mood of children and parents in a tough situation. We are grateful to the Pathfinder Tech students and teachers for sharing their talents with us.”

In addition to helping with supplies to paint the mural, a generous gift from the Baystate Health Foundation has also allowed the ED team to purchase items for a treasure box for chil-

Please see **MURAL**, page 12



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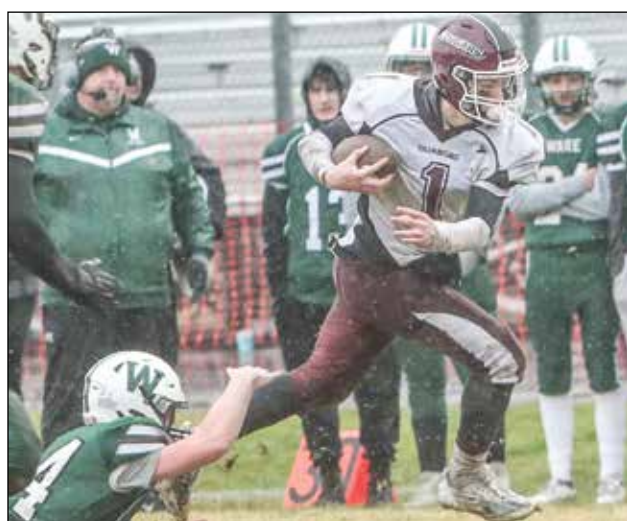
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Jacob Cacace drags an Indian player down the sideline on this yardage run.



Ware's defense combines to take down a Quaboag ball carrier.



Gavin Sawabi takes down a Quaboag runner.

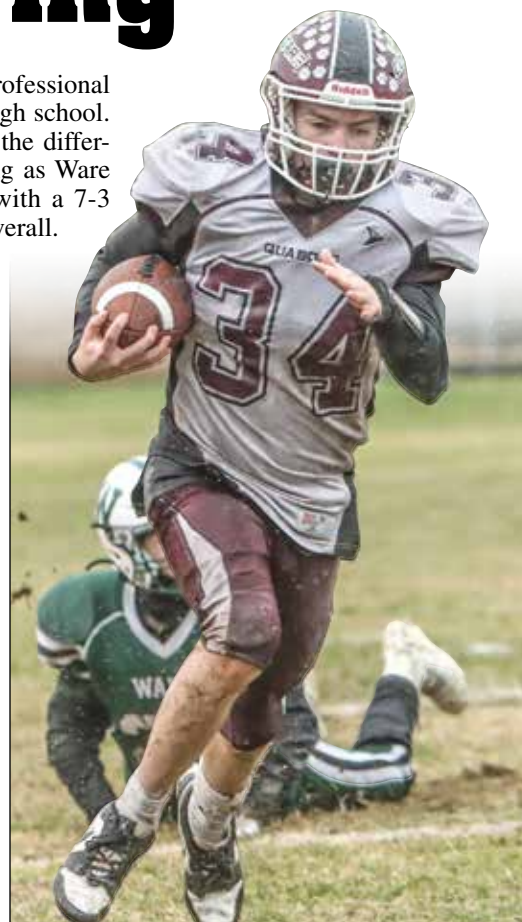


Cougars defensive pursuits continued throughout the battle.

Extra point makes difference on Thanksgiving

Turley photos by Jack Cascio
NEAP:smugmug.com

WARE – While the extra point in college and professional football is almost automatic, it definitely is not in high school. The second extra point kicked by Brady Dyer was the difference maker on a soaked, raw Thanksgiving morning as Ware defeated Quaboag 14-13. Ware's season finishes with a 7-3 record overall while Quaboag's season ends at 4-7 overall.



Brasen Sauriol displayed an impressive arsenal of his running talents.



Cameron Evans plows through this Indian defensive duo.



Dalton Marquis is all concentration as he pulls in this pass on the dead run.



Gavin Williams follows his blockers through the fray.



Jaden Berthiaume breaks through the Cougar defense.



Brady Dyer hits a good run down the sideline.



Justin Davis and Evan Costa represented Pathfinder in this year's boys all-star game.

All-Star soccer action

SPRINGFIELD – Last Monday night on the turf of Pope Francis High School, high school soccer held all-star games. Class C and D played in one match while A and B clashed in another. Lucas Alvan and Thomas Wadas were among the all-stars, representing Ludlow High School in the match.



Evan Costa represents Pathfinder in the Class C and D game.

Turley photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com

Justin Davis moves up the field.



Quarterback Anthony Arventos sends a throw up the middle.

Late touchdown lifts Pioneers

PALMER – Last Thursday morning, Pathfinder and Belchertown were knotted 14-14. But a touchdown in the second half sealed the win for Pathfinder, giving the Pioneers its 10th win in the all-time series against the Orioles. The two teams were able to play the game on Palmer High's Legion field with the Panthers on the road at Ludlow. Pathfinder's win on Thanksgiving was its third for 2024.



Anthony Arventos sends a kick away.



Nicholas Pfister looks to avoid tacklers as he makes a run for the sideline.



Jake Mastej looks to make a tackle.



The Pioneers huddle up before a play.

Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande

sports

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Bogey Doubles

EAST BROOKFIELD – The Bogey Doubles league on Monday nights had a night out of bowling prior to Thanksgiving.

The standings as of Nov. 25 have the doubles team of Tom Clauson and Gary Santora in first place with a total of 46 victories. In second place with 42 victories is the team of Erik Pellett and Jim Nester. Finishing in third place with 40 victories.

The league bowled the Monday night before Thanksgiving and will return to league play on the first Monday in December. One of the matches was between the team of Pellett & Nester bowled against Gauthier & Clough.

In game one, Gauthier & Clough defeated Pellett & Nester 265-245. The highest game in game one was bowled by Dan "Shoe" Gauthier with a 110. In game two, Pellett & Nester rebounded with a win of their own, 283-264. Jim Nester bowled a 121 and Pellett bowled a 111.

In game three, Gauthier & Clough won the last game 284-244. Gauthier ended the match with a 126 and a series of 347.

Total pinfall was won by Gauthier & Clough 813-772.

The team of Travis Sandman and Luke Marvin bowled against Jack Talamini and Bill Gravel. In game one, Sandman & Marvin defeated Talamini & Gravel 274-253. Sandman began the match by bowling a 122.

In game two, Talamini & Gravel won with a 303 combined score to Sandman & Marvin's 255. Jack Talamini bowled a great game, 141.

In game three, Sandman & Marvin bowled a 311 to win the last game. Sandman finished with a 120 and a series of 333. Luke Marvin finished with a 139 and a series of 351. Sandman & Marvin won total pinfall with a final score of 840-815.

Mondor & Brayton bowled against Renaud & Ward. In game one, Mondor & Brayton won 267-260. Steve Renaud Sr. started off with a 120. In game two, Renaud & Ward won 282-246. Tina Ward bowled a 131 to get her team the victory.

In game three, Mondor & Brayton won the last game 276-265. Ward bowled a 117 and a series of 344.

The total pinfall was won by

Renaud & Ward 807-789.

The top seed Clauson & Santora bowled against Rando and MacDougall. In game one, Rando & MacDougall 283-267. Duncan MacDougall started off the match with a 113.

In game two, Rando & MacDougall won again 292-260. Dave Rando carried the team with a 116 in game two.

In game three, Rando & MacDougall won the last game to sweep the #1 seed, 269-253. The final score was 844-780 in favor of Rando & MacDougall.

The Aaron team, Halbedel & Fontaine, bowled against Murphy & Kenneson. In game one, The Aarons won the first game 277-244. Aaron Fontaine began the match by bowling a 139.

In game two, the Aarons won again 260-247. Fontaine bowled a 123 on his team's way to another win.

In game three, Halbedel & Fontaine won for a three game sweep over Murphy & Kenneson, 259-236. Fontaine bowled another 123 for a series of 385. Total pinfall was won by the Aarons, 796-727.

Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes Tournament

PALMER – Saturday, Dec. 14, Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes in Palmer is hosting its first ever King of the Hill bowling tournament.

This tournament will be an in-house tournament, meaning those who can compete are league candlepin bowlers at Diamond Junction. Fellow league bowlers will battle it out over the course of three games to qualify in a stepladder final to determine the first king of the hill.

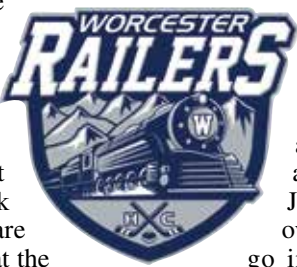
The tournament will be 100% handicapped based off the bowlers' highest league average. Entry fee is \$35 and prize money will be awarded to the top five qualifiers in the stepladder.

Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes offers leagues during the week, Monday through Friday and many bowlers will experience a tournament format for the first time. The tournament is available for league bowlers at Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes only. The tournament will take place Saturday, Dec. 14 at 11am.

To sign up call the lanes at 413-289-0013. Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes is located at 1446 North Main St.

Railers takes two of three on the road

WICHITA, KS – The Worcester Railers HC (8-10-0) fell to the Wichita Thunder (10-9-1-0, 21pts), on Saturday night by the final score of 6-2 in front of a crowd of 4,009 at the INTRUST Bank Arena. The Railers are back on the ice next at the Cool Insuring Arena taking on the Adirondack Thunder on Wednesday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m. EST.



It was Wichita who tallied the first goal on the board as they took an early 1-0 lead 1:08 into the first period, with a goal from Jeremie Bucheler (1-1-2). Joe Carroll (1-0-1) extended the lead to 2-0 6:01 into the first. Colin Jacobs (1-0-1) then netted one for Worcester making it a 2-1 game. Wichita then scored two unanswered to finish the first period coming from Nolan Kneen (1-0-1) and Nolan Burke (1-0-1) making it a 4-1 Wichita lead headed into the second period. Anthony Repaci (1-0-1) scored the only second period goal with his power play goal with under a second remaining in the period. Wichita closed the game out with two third period goals, the first coming from Michal Stinil (1-1-2) on the power play while Braden Hache (1-1-2) was able to score on the empty net to close out the scoring, leaving the game with a 6-2 final score.

The scoring came early from Wichita through the first 20 minutes of play. Wichita got start-

ed with a goal from Jeremie Bucheler (4th) just 1:08 into the game. Joe Carroll (7th) extended the Wichita lead to 2-0 6:01 into the first. The Railers answered back with a goal from Colin Jacobs (2nd) with just over eight minutes to go in the first. Wichita finished the period by pushing their lead to 4-1 with goals from Nolan Kneen (1st) and Nolan Burke (3rd). Shots favored Worcester in the first 22-12.

Despite the five total goals in the first both teams scoring slowed down in the second period. It looked as if the second period would go without a score until Anthony Repaci (14th) scored a power play goal with under a second to go in the period making it a 4-2 game heading into the third period. Shots Favored Worcester 12-8 in the second.

The third period was another low scoring period on both ends. The stalemate was broken when the Thunder got on the power play and cashed in with a goal from Michal Stinil (10th) 16:15 into the third period. The Railers went with an empty net late in the third trying to make the comeback, but the Braden Hache (1st) of the Thunder was able to get the puck all the way down the ice and score on the empty net making the final score 6-2. Shots favored Worcester 16-12 in the third and 50-32 in the game.

Touchdown makes difference in Panthers Turkey Day loss

BARRE – Quabbin High School football was looking to score its eighth win of the season last Thursday morning on Thanksgiving morning. Unfortunately, for the second time this season, Gardner prevailed and the Panthers suffered a 12-6 loss on a rain-soaked matchup on Gardner's turf field. The Panthers season ends at 7-4 overall.



Bryce Venne pounces on a fumble.



Luke Salvatore tries to take off on a run.



Bryce Venne kicks off for the Panthers during action in 2024.



Jamyeson Pina attempts to make a tackle.

Thunderbirds climb back above .500 with win over Bruins

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – The Springfield Thunderbirds (10-9-1-0) got off to a quick start en route to a 3-2 win over the Providence Bruins (8-10-2-0) on Sunday afternoon at Amica Mutual Pavilion on a day when the two teams sported throwback jerseys. Springfield donned the Indians jerseys circa 1979, while the Bruins wore their late 1990s gold "Pooh Bear" logo jerseys.

The T-Birds jumped ahead on the scoreboard for a sixth consecutive game, this time just 3:51 into the contest. Scott Harrington settled a puck at the right point and fired it toward the net mouth with two teammates setting up screens. Aleksanteri Kaskimaki showed terrific hand-eye coordination, successfully spiking it down to the ice between the legs of Bruins goalie Michael DiPietro, giving the T-Birds a 1-0 lead. Harrington picked up his first point as a T-Bird, and Dalibor Dvorsky earned the secondary assist to extend his point streak to five games.

Colten Ellis drew the net for a second consecutive start, looking to extend a five-game streak

without a regulation loss, making nine stops in the opening period. The Bruins' first and only power play of the period, though, got the game evened when Patrick Brown cleaned up his own rebound following a splendid Ellis save at 13:49, evening the slate, 1-1.

Springfield failed to connect on its first power play, but the T-Birds took advantage with 1:56 of man-up time to begin the second. Samuel Johansson got the play started from the right point, whipping a pass in the left circle to Marcus Sylvegard. The winger uncorked a shot that DiPietro deflected but could not cover. The rebound sat in the blue paint, where Matt Luff swooped in to backhand the puck across the goal line to give the T-Birds the 2-1 lead just 38 seconds into the middle period.

The Bruins attack could not get anything going in the T-Birds end, registering just four shots on Ellis for the duration of the second.

Springfield's offense remained opportunistic and extended the lead at 13:04 when Dylan Peterson flipped a puck toward the net, allowing Reece Newkirk to slip it into the blue paint and Drew Callin to bury the loose change to make it a 3-1 score. Providence did not go down easily as defenseman Mason Millman connected for his first goal as a Bruin with a slap shot just 1:36 into the final period to make it a 3-2 game. The Bruins had the bulk of the offensive chances in the final period, but Ellis and the Springfield defense did enough to prevent the home side from finding an equalizer. Ellis, who is now 5-0-1 in his last six starts, had 25 saves in the victory.

The T-Birds, who now sit above the .500 plateau for the first time since they won their season opener, rest up before welcoming the Bridgeport Islanders on Friday night at the MassMutual Center, with puck drop set for 7:05 p.m.



Hall of Fame hosting pair of college matchups

SPRINGFIELD – The MGM Springfield Basketball Hall of Fame Classic, presented by the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism, takes place on "World Basketball Day," Saturday, Dec. 21, at the MassMutual Center and will be televised nationally on CBS Sports Network.

"We are proud to work with local stakeholders to bring local businesses in as sponsors of the Basketball Hall of Fame Classic," said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. "Thank you to MGM Springfield and the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism for supporting the Hall of Fame Classic and helping us fulfill our mission of celebrating and promoting basketball's history and bringing four great teams to the 'Birthplace of Basketball.'"

"This iconic event in the birthplace of basketball is a hoop dream realized for many of the sports' up and coming stars," said Louis Theros, MGM Springfield President and COO. "MGM Springfield is incredibly proud to support and celebrate the Classic, honoring basketball's rich legacy, inspiring future generations, bringing visitors to downtown, and shining a light on the City of Stars."

"The Basketball Hall of Fame Classic is a slam dunk for Massachusetts tourism," said Kate Fox, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism. "By celebrating World Basketball Day in the sport's birthplace, we're inviting visitors from across the country to experience the excitement of the game and explore our state's diverse offerings."

Tickets for the 2024 Basketball Hall of Fame Classic are on sale now via massmutualcenter.com and the MassMutual Center Box Office. For more information, please visit hoopball.com. Group ticket pricing and hospitality opportunities are also available.

Volleyball Hall mourns loss

HOLYOKE – The International Volleyball Hall of Fame announced the passing of Board of Directors member Charlie Diener on Oct. 29. He was a dedicated and long-time member of the IVHF Board of Directors. Charlie's passion for volleyball and his unwavering commitment to the Hall of Fame were exemplified through his leadership as past Chair of the Events Committee and his many years of service to our mission. "Charlie's legacy will live on in every event that we host, in every inductee that we honor, and in the many lives that he influenced while on the IVHF Board," said IVHF President Steve Bishop. "Back in 2017 we honored Charlie (and Rick Barry) with the inaugural IVHF President's Award for their longtime service. They set the standard for future recipients of this award." "Charlie's contributions went far beyond the planning and execution of events," said George Mulry, IVHF Executive Director. "He brought energy, creativity, and a collaborative spirit that inspired those around him. His tireless work and genuine love for the sport have left an indelible mark on our organization, and his efforts have played a significant role in shaping the IVHF's legacy."

Girl Scouts kick off Girl Scout 2025 cookie selling season

HOLYOKE – Four hundred plus Girl Scouts and their families will gather at the Mass Mutual Center on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 4-6 p.m. to kick off "Embrace Possibility," which reflects the Girl Scout Cookie Program theme for the 2024/2025 season.

Activity stations set up around the concourse reflect the cookie season theme and are designed to build business savvy skills to help girls run and manage their Girl Scout

Cookie businesses online and in person. The "cookie rally" begins at 4 p.m. and then at 6 p.m. Girl Scouts and their families join Boomer and the Springfield Thunderbirds for an action-packed hockey game.

During Girl Scout Cookie season, each girl sets out to sell delicious cookies while also building entrepreneurial and business skills that are imperative for leadership and future success. Girl Scout Cookie order taking begins

Wednesday, Dec. 11. Community cookie booth sales begin Friday, Jan. 17 and continue through Sunday, March 16.

Girl Scouts and cookies share a rich history. While recipes and box designs have changed, selling cookies remains an important part of today's Girl Scout leadership program. The annual Girl Scout Cookie Program takes places January-March each year. With nine varieties of tasty treats, these iconic favorites

help to fund Girl Scout troop programs for the entire year.

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts serves over 5,000 girls in grades K through 12 with the strong support of over 3,000 adult volunteers in 186 towns and cities in central and western Massachusetts. The Girl Scout program allows girls to discover the fun, friendship, and power of girls together while building their personal leadership qualities.

WNECA doubles returns to Bogey Lanes

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

EAST BROOKFIELD – The Western New England Candlepin Association returns to Bogey Lanes for their upcoming doubles tournament.

The WNECA is an organization that represents and promotes the game of candlepin bowling in the western region of New England. Bogey Lanes in East Brookfield has been one of the most common bowling centers to host tournaments and leagues in western and central Massachusetts.

Last year Bogey Lanes hosted one of the doubles tournaments during the WNECA tournament series. The doubles tournament returns to Bogey once again for the month of December and has had an outstanding reception so far.

The tournament will consist of a total of four shifts, two on Saturday and two on Sunday. Shift times on both days are noon and 2 p.m. Each doubles team will bowl a total of three games with their handicap added afterwards. Prizes will be based on the number of entries the tournament will draw.

As of Dec. 1 the entries have grown and now have 40 teams signed up, which totals up to 80 bowlers. The tournament will take place on the weekend of Dec. 7 and 8. Many of the bowlers who compete in these tournaments come from all over western and even central Massachusetts.

During the tournament series bowlers will earn points to help determine the top 24 bowlers who compete in the season championship playoff. Last year's winner was Paul Green out of Agawam Bowl. Green is competing again in this year's WNECA tournament series and is seeking to defend the championship.

For any bowlers new to this tournament series, you must provide proof of your highest league average from last year. The average will help WNECA tournament directors determine the handicap for each bowler.

More information regarding the Western New England Candlepin Association can be found on their Facebook page. Point standings for this year's tournament series are listed on the WNECA Facebook page as well.

Cheer the bowlers on during the Doubles Tournament at Bogey Lanes, 199 North Brookfield Road.

CABLE from page 6

Chiasson believes the discussion of recording games should be tabled until the Cable Advisory is properly staffed or has their high school program operating. This program is an intern program where high school students can learn the ropes of operating cameras for local access television.

In addition to having low staff the other main issue is exclusive programming rights. Meaning the school already uses a stream to record games and the source used might have a contract with the school to have the liberty to record sporting events.

Baker wants to speak with the Athletics Director for more information regarding the programming rights. If they do, they might not be allowed to record the games.

Chiasson wants to have the intern program pushed more before even considering taking up additional tasks for recording. Advisory member Dimitra Stefanou reminded the Cable Advisory that even though they have extra help from the high school interns, the students still need an adult present with them while they work the cameras and equipment.

"Someone has to be with the kids," Stefanou said. Baker will research more on the possible exclusive agreement as the high school athletics discussion is on hold.

New business

The Cable Advisory began to discuss the possibility of finding better quality cameras for members of the advisory to handle during recorded events and meetings. Baker was looking at either a shoulder mount camera or a vest that is adjustable.

Baker wants an item that is adjustable and comfortable for anyone operating the cameras. Baker will look to see what Ockers Technologies has for vests and what they currently cost.

Another idea brought to the discussion was based off some feedback from the recording of the recent Quaboag Regional High School graduation ceremony. Many viewers would like to see the ceremony from different angles as well as an extra camera for the entry spots where the students enter the gymnasium. Baker had the idea of improving the staging area for the recording of graduations in the future.

Baker would then talk about a discussion forum/podcast idea that was brought up by members of several town departments. Baker recalls a unique discussion with the Community Development Advisory Committee about putting together a discussion forum with highlights of meetings.

The challenge is finding someone to be the host of the forum. Baker would also want to have a backdrop or greenscreen for the forum. The person would have to review the meetings to highlight what was mainly discussed. The setup could take place in the cable studio.

HAMILTON from page 4

65-35 for Trump. He recommends a focus on kitchen-table issues as a way forward for his party.

"The focus of the Democratic Party must return to creating better jobs, more affordable and accessible health care, safer roads and bridges, the best education for our children and communities where people aren't just safer but also feel safer," he writes.

In fact, that should be a good agenda for any politician, Democrat or Republican. Meeting the people where they live and trying to improve their day-to-day lives isn't just good politics. It's good governing. We'll all be better off if our elected officials remember that.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

Be our guest for student production

From the desk of Colleen Mucha,
Superintendent of Quabbin Regional School District

(On Nov. 15-17, 2024 the Quabbin Regional Middle High School Performing Arts put on an incredible performance of the beloved Disney classic Beauty and the Beast.

Every show ended up being a "sold out" event, which the team handled beautifully as they worked hard to settle audience members into seats and begin the show. One unusual aspect of the event was the unprecedented level of student involvement and participation.

As with many productions, there are always only so many roles to fill onstage. However, this year the performing arts group worked closely with the students from our Innovation Pathway program to involve them in authentic and necessary tasks that made the production even more spectacular. Ms. Lisa Payne, Artistic Director and Innovation Pathway teacher, worked with Madeline Oliver, design intern and Summer Young, Jasmine Young and Evelyn Giese on "set design," which was truly spectacular.

The artistic elements were absolutely stunning and enjoyed by all. The costumes, designed by community member Linda Tomasi, assisted by student Rosilyn Lyden, brought this performance of "Beauty and the Beast" to the next level of artistry and perfectly complemented the spectacular set and the work of the student actors on stage.

Audience members could even have their picture taken in a Beauty and The Beast themed photo stand-in board that was created by students: Vanecia Tarquinio, Adelynn Prochnow, Madison Mertzic and Lauren Orne. Additionally, they designed and produced all of the posters, programs, and merchandise. They are all students of our Innovation Pathway Capstone Class under the direction of Ms. Pam Chisholm.

Students, staff and beloved volunteers Cameron Christie, David Tuttle, Summer Young, Jasmine Young, Hunter Young, Owen O'Donnell, Andrew Erickson, Kailynn Schuster and Benjamin Metcalf constructed superbly well functioning sets. The sets allowed for an amazing flow and brought the audience deeply into the setting of the story.

To further immerse the audience, our sound and lighting team, made up of students Benjamin Darcy, Quinlan Fauteux and Sawyer Harmon under the direction of Ms. Toni Brown and Brian Silver, worked diligently to adjust lights and sound throughout the production. A real musical always has a fabulous pit band to accompany the performers and ours was filled with students, alumni, staff and more beloved volunteers. Thank you to Lisa Utzig, Music Director and her team: Eric Blumenthal, Abe Brown, Jason Brown, Toni Brown, Tess Dunphy, Margaret Reidy, Annabelle Silver, Brian Silver and Evalynn Vasseur. Their music made the audience feel every heartbeat.

Choreographer, Hannah Hall, from Next Step Studio of the Performing Arts ensured that our cast moved beautifully and seamlessly across the stage and around the theater itself. Triumphant kick lines and full production numbers left the audience awestruck. Dancers and performers Audrey Laursen, Anna Metcalf, Sophia Pascale, and Catherine Tucker exhibited emotion and joy through their movement.

Jahzara Tweedell, as the narrator, helped to set the context as the talented and articulate actors and



The pit band provided the musical accompaniment for "Beauty and the Beast" put on by the Quabbin Regional Middle High School Performing Arts.



This is a scene from the production of "Beauty and the Beast" at Quabbin Regional Middle High School.



Quabbin Regional Middle High School Performing Arts presented "Beauty and the Beast" Nov. 15 to Nov. 17.

actresses brought the tale to life. Ms. Julia Tuttle, Director and Drama teacher, could not have cast the characters any more perfectly as each student had the ability to showcase their strengths. Jordan Blanchard shined as Mrs. Potts where her melodic voice truly created a sense of welcome and well being. Luke Salvadore as Gaston entertained the crowd with his confident swagger and self assuredness. Lumiere and Cogsworth, played by Eliza Brown and Irene Stolgitis, brought personality and spunk to their inanimate characters making them appear human and completely lovable.

Sebastian Palomera-Espinoza, Adeelya Andrade, Aidan Mahoney, Sophia Pascale, Kayleigh Fuller, Bug Packard and Elizabeth Lambert brought wit, humor, grace and voice to each of their roles. Winter Boyea, Kalypso DeCologero, Emily DeMalia, Janelle Hutchinson, Ava Kinney, Grace Lantigne, Rosilyn Lyden, Ryann Oliver, Arianna Riendeau, Bella Spring and JuJuTweedell, were also integral

cast members as they worked to fulfill multiple roles. The backstage crew, headed by alum Amanda Schuster and made up of students Andrew Erickson, Ben Metcalf, Owen O'Donnell, Kailynn Schuster, Jasmine Young and Summer Young worked hard to make all of the transitions seamless from one scene to the next.

Perhaps some of the most magical moments of the night were from the performances of Isabel Coviello as "Belle" and Auguste Bellerose as "The Beast." Isabel's lilting voice drew the audience into her pain and her joy while Auguste's portrayal of The Beast resulted in transforming the audience's emotions from strong dislike and revulsion to empathy and endorsement.

Ms. Julia Tuttle began the show by stating that "it takes a village" to be able to put on a production of the magnitude of "Beauty and The Beast" and I have to echo that statement. So many members of

Please see **PRODUCTION**, page 12

Consider tax-smart charitable gifts

As we enter the annual season of giving, you might be thinking of charities you wish to support. But you also might be wondering how to gain some tax benefits from your gifts.

It used to be pretty straightforward: You wrote a check to a charity and then deducted the amount of the gift, within limits, from your taxes. But a few years ago, as part of tax law changes, the standard deduction was raised significantly, so fewer people were able to itemize deductions. Consequently, there was less financial incentive to make charitable gifts.

Of course, this didn't entirely stop people from making them. And it's still possible to gain some tax advantages, too.

Here are a few tax-smart charitable giving strategies:

- Bunch your charitable gifts into one year. If you combine a few years' worth of charitable gifts in a single year, you could surpass the standard deduction amount and then itemize deductions for that year. In the years following, you could revert to taking the standard deduction.

- Make qualified charitable distributions. Once you turn 73 (or 75 if you were born in 1960 or later), you must start taking withdrawals from your traditional or inherited IRA. These withdrawals — technically called required minimum distributions, or RMDs — are taxable at your personal income tax rate, so, if the amounts are large enough, they could push you into a higher tax bracket or cause you to pay larger Medicare premiums.

But if you donate these RMDs directly to a qualified charity, you can avoid the taxes. And because these donations, known as qualified charitable distributions (QCDs), will reduce the balance on your IRA, you may have lower RMDs in the future.

Of course, if you need some or all your RMDs to help sustain yourself in retirement, the use of QCDs may not be of interest to you. Keep in mind, though, that you can start making QCDs at 70½, even before you must start taking RMDs. QCDs up to \$105,000 can be taken in 2024.

- Consider a donor-advised fund. If you're interested in a long-term charitable giving arrangement, you might want to consider establishing a donor-advised fund. You can put many types of assets into this fund, and then direct it to make grants periodically to the charities you've chosen. You get an immediate tax deduction for your contribution, and, if you donate appreciated assets, such as stocks, you'll avoid the capital gains taxes you would have incurred if you simply sold the stocks and then gave the money to the charities. One note of caution, though — your contributions to a donor-advised fund are irrevocable, and once the assets are in the fund, you can't use them for anything except charitable giving.

These strategies — QCDs and donor-advised funds in particular — can be complex and involve several issues of which you should be aware. So, you should consult your tax advisor before taking action. But if any of these techniques are appropriate for your situation, give them some thought — because helping a charitable group and getting tax benefits for doing so is a "win" for everyone.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC



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public safety

Ware Police Log

During the week of Nov. 24-Dec. 3, the Ware Police Department responded to 27 miscellaneous calls, 30 administrative calls, 10 traffic violations, nine emergency 911 calls, five harassments, three motor vehicle accidents, two thefts/larcenies, one trespass, six damage/vandalisms, three safety hazards, one fraud, six animal calls and 20 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

- Sunday, Nov. 24**
 5:48 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Arrest Made
 Arrest: John V. Lannoy Jr., 25, South Hadley
 OUI-Liquor or .08%, 2nd Offense; Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle; Speeding Rate of Speed Exceeding Posted Limit
 9:34 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Palmer Road, Report Made
 12:24 p.m. Damage/Vandalism, River Road, Services Rendered
 4:32 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Pleasant Street, Could Not Locate
- Monday, Nov. 25**
 9 a.m. Drugs, West Street, Investigated
 9:29 a.m. Trespass, North Street, Services Rendered
 10:31 a.m. Damage/Vandalism, North Street, Services Rendered
 12 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Spring Street, Services Rendered
 8:31 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Fisherick Road, Investigated
- Tuesday, Nov. 26**
 2:47 p.m. Fraud/Deception,

- North Street, Services Rendered
 6:56 p.m. Outside Fire, Ross Avenue, Unfounded
 9:31 p.m. Harassment/Stalk, North Street, Services Rendered
 9:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 11:17 p.m. Safety Hazard, Osborne Road, Dispatch Handled
- Wednesday, Nov. 27**
 11:07 a.m. Harassment/Stalk, Malboeuf Road, Advised
- Thursday, Nov. 28**
 12:23 p.m. Damage/Vandalism, North Street, Services Rendered
 8:42 p.m. Damage/Vandalism, Church Street, Report Made
 8:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Main Street, Criminal Complaint Required
 8:44 p.m. Harassment/Stalk, Pulaski Street, Services Rendered
 9:08 p.m. Harassment/Stalk, North Street, Services Rendered
- Friday, Nov. 29**
 3:12 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Robbins Road, Appears Secure After Check
 6:33 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Robbins Road, Could Not Locate
 6:57 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Bellevue Avenue, Could Not Locate
- Saturday, Nov. 30**
 4:53 a.m. Safety Hazard, North Street, Advised
 11:11 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, East Street, Services Rendered
 11:48 a.m. Harassment/Stalk,

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.

- Cherry Street, Services Rendered
 1:27 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Eddy Street, Services Rendered
 10:11 p.m. Damage/Vandalism, West Street, Investigated
- Sunday, Dec. 1**
 12:36 p.m. Assist Other Agency, North Street, Assist Given
- Monday, Dec. 2**
 12:38 p.m. Safety Hazard, Main Street, Services Rendered
 5:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasant Street, Criminal Complaint
- Tuesday, Dec. 3**
 8:32 a.m. Damage/Vandalism, North Street, Advised

Warren Police Log

During the week of Nov. 10-17, the Warren Police Department responded to 169 building/property checks, eight community policings, 22 emergency 911 calls, two motor vehicle accidents, one complaint, one assist other agency, one gas odor complaint, one animal call and 17 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

- Monday, Nov. 18**
 3:35 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle, Boston Post Road, Investigated
 11:32 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 8:08 p.m. Choking, High Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
- Tuesday, Nov. 19**
 1:27 a.m. Noise Complaint, Spring Street, Report Filed
 7:38 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brimfield Road, Written Warning
 9:40 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Constitution Avenue, Transported to Hospital
 10:30 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brimfield Road, Written Warning
 11:03 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Boston Post Road, Criminal

- Complaint
 2:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Hit and Run, Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed
 3:08 p.m. Assist Other Agency, East Road, Report Filed
 4:54 p.m. Gas Odor, Crescent Street, Investigated
- Wednesday, Nov. 20**
 12:36 a.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Chapel Street, Transported to Hospital
 1:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
 4:07 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Southbridge Road, Transported to Hospital
- Thursday, Nov. 21**
 12:35 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Old West Warren Road, Transported to Hospital
 8:29 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Main Street, Referred to Other Agency
- Friday, Nov. 22**
 2:03 a.m. Power Lines Down, Quaboag Street, Referred to Other Agency
 11:59 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop,

- South Street, Citation Issued
 6:14 p.m. Bleeding, East Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 7:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 9:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Southbridge Road, Investigated
 10:20 p.m. Suspicious Person, Yankee Drummer Drive, Report Filed
- Saturday, Nov. 23**
 12:16 a.m. Seizures, North Street, Transported to Hospital
 3:47 a.m. Trauma, Winthrop Terrace, Transported to Hospital
 4:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brook Road, Written Warning
 11:21 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Chapel Street, Transported to Hospital
- Sunday, Nov. 24**
 3 p.m. Welfare Check, Crescent Street, Transported to Hospital
 6:22 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Old West Warren Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

MURAL from page 8
 dren, so as they leave the ED, they can take home a prize from the BWH care team. The funds have also helped to purchase toys and games for children to use if they must wait for a procedure or test result.
 "Life experiences are the best teachers – those three days paint-

ing the mural in the Emergency Department and the creative work, collaboration, and student friendships developed that led up to completing this community project will be a memory cemented in the minds and hearts of these students forever," said Henshaw.
 "We are so incredibly honored and thankful to these special

Pathfinder Tech student artists for sharing their talents, imagination, and most importantly for bringing comfort to our smallest patients and their families," said Karli Barrett, president, and chief operating officer for Baystate Wing Hospital. "This healing environment will greatly enhance the care our ED team provides."

December is leading month for U.S. home fires

Christmas trees, holiday decorations, and festive meals – hallmarks of the holiday season – present potential fire hazards that collectively contribute to an increase in U.S. home fires each December.

According to the National Fire Protection Association®, Christmas Day and Christmas Eve were the second- and third-leading days of the year for home cooking fires, respectively, in 2022.

"When people are busy and trying to do many things at once, they're more likely to get distracted from what's on the stove or in the oven. Knowing that unattended cooking is the leading cause of home cooking fires year-round, it's easy to see why the number of cooking fires spikes on these days," said Lorraine Carli, NFPA vice president of Outreach and Advocacy in a press release.



Candles and lighting
 Decorating homes with electrical lighting and candles also contributes to a higher fire risk during the holiday season. Between 2018 and 2022, U.S. fire departments responded to an annual average of 835 home structure fires that began with decorations (excluding Christmas trees).

Year-round, approximately one-third (32%) of home decoration fires were started by candles; in December, that number jumped to almost half (46%).

Christmas trees
 Christmas tree fires don't happen very often, but when they do, they tend to be more serious. An annual average of 155 home Christmas tree fires resulted in four civilian deaths, seven civilian injuries, and \$15 million in direct property damage, with electrical distribution or lighting equipment involved in more than two in five home Christmas tree fires.

Lithium-ion batteries
 Many people will be buying and gifting electronic devices that contain lithium-ion batteries. As the

use of these devices has increased in recent years, so too has the number of related fires. It's important to understand the risks associated with these batteries and ways to prevent them:

Only purchase and use devices, batteries, and charging equipment that are listed by a nationally recognized testing lab and labeled accordingly.

Use charging equipment that is only compatible with your device. To be safe, use only the charging equipment that is supplied with your device.

Do not keep charging the device or device battery after it is fully charged.

Do not put lithium-ion batteries in the trash. Recycling is always the best option. Take the batteries to a battery recycling location or contact your local waste department for disposal instructions.

Stop using your device if the battery shows signs of damage, such as an unusual odor, excessive heat, popping sounds, swelling, or change in color.

Only have device repairs performed by a qualified professional. "The commonality between the vast majority of all these fires is

that they're largely preventable," said Carli. "By understanding when and where potential risks exist, people can take simple steps to reduce their likelihood, which can go a long way toward ensuring a festive, fire-free holiday season."

NFPA offers a wealth of information and resources to help minimize the likelihood of cooking, candle, Christmas tree, and decoration fires. Learn more at nfpa.org/winterholidaysafety

About the NFPA
 Founded in 1896, NFPA is a global, nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards. The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission.

For more information, visit www.nfpa.org. All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed online for free at www.nfpa.org/freeaccess.

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Nov. 25-Dec. 2, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 66 building/property checks, 47 directed/area patrols, two radar assignments, eight traffic controls, eight emergency 911 calls, six citizen assists, one assist other agency, one trespass, four safety hazards, two complaints, one motor vehicle accident, three animal calls and four motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

- Tuesday, Nov. 26**
 5:16 a.m. Safety Hazard, Turkey Street, Unfounded
 5:42 p.m. Assist Citizen, Petersham Road, Spoken To
 8:45 p.m. Assist Citizen, Petersham Road, Investigated
 9:56 p.m. Safety Hazard, Lower Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 10:04 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Main Street, Investigated
 10:11 p.m. Safety Hazard, Lower Road, Taken/Referred to Other

- Wednesday, Nov. 27**
 6:48 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Citation Issued
 6:55 a.m. Safety Hazard, Petersham Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 7 a.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Petersham Road, Transported to Hospital
 10:26 a.m. Welfare Check, Upper Church Street, Investigated
 5:23 p.m. Trespass, Pine Street, Investigated
 6 p.m. Complaint, Main Street, Officer Handled
 10:58 p.m. Disturbance, Prospect Street, Arrest(s) Made

- Thursday, Nov. 28**
 8:45 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital
 12:39 p.m. Assist Other Agency, High Street, Officer Handled
 12:52 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Fiske Road, Transported to Hospital

- Friday, Nov. 29**
 9:06 a.m. Assist Citizen, Petersham Road, Officer Handled
 10:20 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital
 11:13 a.m. Assist Citizen, Unknown Location, Officer Handled
 4:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Vehicle Towed
 9:24 p.m. 911 Assist Citizen, Church Lane, Officer Handled

- Saturday, Nov. 30**
 10:39 a.m. 911 Lockout, Thresher Road, Services Rendered
 10:24 p.m. Assist Citizen, Hillside View, Officer Handled

- Sunday, Dec. 1**
 1:01 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 4:46 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital

EARLY DEADLINE For All Advertising & CLASSIFIEDS

All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 19 at Noon for Publication Dec. 23 - 27

All Papers Will Deadline Friday, Dec. 27 at Noon for Publication Dec. 30 - Jan. 3

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PRODUCTION from page 11
 our Quabbin staff and community worked diligently for many months alongside our students to make this performance happen.
 If you had the pleasure to take part in this magical experience, I know you'll agree with me that Quabbin is a very special learning community and this production illustrates our belief in our students, their dreams and their abilities. Thank you to everyone involved-including our Pro Musica Booster Club, volunteers and staff. Kudos to our students, seeing each of you shine and share your joy is simply inspiring.

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.**

Circle of Song to sing 'Requiem for the Living' Dec. 14

BARRE – On Saturday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m., the Circle of Song will be performing Dan Forrest's "Requiem for the Living" in Barre Town Hall, 2 Exchange St., at 7 p.m.

"Requiem for the Living", a choral composition in five movements, was completed in 2013. The Latin text that Forrest set combines sections from the Requiem with biblical texts from Ecclesiastes - (Vanity of Vanities, All is Meaningless) and the Book of Job (the problem of evil).

"Requiem for the Living" is an extended setting of the Requiem, a mass for the dead in the Catholic Church. Forrest took some parts from the Requiem mass, however arranged in different order, and added a movement, Vanitas Vanitatum, as the second movement. The five movements are Introit- Kyrie, Vanitas Vanitatum,

Agnus Dei, Sanctus, and Lux Aeterna. The first movement uses the traditional text Introit and Kyrie from the Requiem. The second movement deals with the transience of everything living. The third movement is Agnus Dei, normally found towards the end of a Requiem, and requesting the Lamb of God to grant mercy and eternal rest. The fourth movement is Sanctus. The text "Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua" (Heaven and Earth are full of your glory) is set to music inspired by images taken from the Hubble Space Telescope, and the imagination of a city full of life. The final movement, Lux Aeterna (Eternal light) also includes text from the Gospel of Matthew. "Come unto me, all ye that labour"

Please see **CIRCLE**, page 14

Robert C. Grossman, 62

HARDWICK – God called home his faithful servant Robert Cooper Grossman on Nov. 2, 2024, at age 62 after a long battle with mental illness.

Born in Manhattan, Kansas to parents Rodney Charles Grossman and Judith Marie Berg, Robert grew up in Lafayette, Louisiana, an excellent student, who played trombone, starred in the city football league and was a proud Boy Scout. He worked as a busboy in Lafayette, Louisiana and in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Robert moved to Hardwick in 1978 to attend Quabbin Regional High School where he played trombone in award-winning Symphonic Winds.

Robert's first break of mental illness occurred in 1979 before he could graduate; but he received a GED in 1981. For the next 45 years until his passing Robert struggled with mental illness and spent his adult life striving to attain his goals in a blur of health care settings and residences.

For a long period, he was able to live a contented life on his own in Gardner, attending Mount

Wachusett Community College to fulfill his dream of earning an advanced degree.

Robert was a gifted designer and writer. He read intently, created models of geodesic domes, and wrote short stories based on characters imagined from his days working as a busboy.

Besides reading and writing Robert maintained a strong relationship with God and Church. He was fluent with both the King James and Good News Bibles. Through the church, his counselors and peers, and programs like AA and NicA, he found structure and inspiration to stay well and helped others in return.

Robert became known in the mental health community as a powerful advocate for his peers and as a volunteer in recovery and support services like Genesis Club, Kiva Center, and Crystal House. A disabled American, Robert chose to "donate myself to science even if it only helps one person."

Robert joins his father Rodney Grossman, and leaves behind his mother Judith Kohn, stepfather



Henry Kohn, stepmother Louise Trahan, his brother Geoffrey, sister-in-law Maryrose Grossman, and their children, his nephews, Benjamin and Aiden. Robert also leaves behind his friend and the love of his life, Clara Dupel.

A Celebration of Robert's Life entitled "End of Darkness and Return to Light" will be held at the Gilbertville Stone Church 283 Main St., Gilbertville, Sunday, Dec. 22, 2024, at 3 p.m. Pastor Nathan Pederson of the Tri Parish Community Church of Hardwick New Braintree and Gilbertville will lead the service, and Peter Krasinski will play the church's historic pipe organ.

Optional Soup and Social begins before the service at 1:30 p.m. and dessert will follow the 3 p.m. event. All are welcome.

A prior celebration to include the larger mental health community will take place at the Worcester Recovery Center Hospital Chapel, 309 Belmont St., Worcester, on Dec. 15, 2024, at 1 p.m.

Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St. in Ware assisted with his care.

An online tribute book is available at charbonneaufh.com.

Todd M. Prescott, 52

WARE – Todd M. Prescott, 52, of Ware, passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2024, surrounded by family at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

Todd leaves behind his wife of 25 years, Kelli J. (Arsenault) Prescott; his son, Matthew Prescott and his partner Jeremy Trembley; his daughter, Brooke Dubois and her husband Justin of Monson, his grandson, Noah Dubois; his mother, Donna (Soltys) Prescott, his uncle, Archie Soltys, and his cousins, Shelley Pratt and her partner Brian, and Chad Soltys and his partner Christine Legrand. He also leaves his loyal rescue dogs and driving buddies, Oliver and Koffee.

Todd was born in Ware, the son of the late Malcolm Prescott. Todd grew up in Ware and graduated from Ware High School.

He was a 27-year employee of Quabbin Wire & Cable Company in

Death notices

Grossman, Robert C.
Died Nov. 2, 2024
Services Dec. 22, 2024

Prescott, Todd M.
Died Nov. 27, 2024
Services Dec. 13, 2024

Scheriff, Eric J.
Died Nov. 22, 2024
Services Dec. 6, 2024

Ware, where he currently was working as a Materials Coordinator. He was a life-long Dallas Cowboys fan and would wear his fan hat faithfully.

He enjoyed vacationing in Mystic, Connecticut with his family, and Kennebunkport, Maine with Kelli. His happiest times though were those spent with Noah, who affectionately referred to him as "pop pop."

Calling hours for Todd will be held on Friday, Dec. 13, 2024, from 5-7 p.m. in the Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St., in Ware. Burial will be held privately at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Interstate K9 at: <https://www.interstatek9tx.org/about-us>

An online tribute book is available at charbonneaufh.com.

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

Millennium Magic to perform Winter Wonderland Concert

MONSON – On Sunday, Dec. 8 at 2 p.m. the Millennium Magic Chorus, a Sweet Adelines group, will perform their Winter Wonderland Concert in the sanctuary of First Church Monson, 5 High St.

A cookies and punch reception will follow the concert in Fellowship Hall. The cost is a \$5 donation at the door.

Millennium Magic is a vibrant Sweet Adelines Barbershop and A cappella Chorus, composed of women from seven states and spanning four generations. This dynamic group performs a diverse repertoire and will present festive holiday and seasonal music at the First Church concert.

With an impressive track record, Millennium Magic has qualified for the Sweet Adelines International competition eight times, proudly bringing home silver medals twice and gold medals three times. They are the undefeated champions of Region 1, Division A.

Most recently, they won the divisional international championship in 2019, placed 16th in the world in 2023 and in 2024, they secured their division title and a second place finish regionally, qualifying for the 2025 international contest.

Millennium Magic is not just a chorus; it's a dynamic community of women who thrive on connections and camaraderie. Together, they embrace growth and learning, fostering a supportive environment where everyone feels at home.

Their passion for music shines through in every performance, creating unforgettable experiences that resonate deeply with their audience. It is all about joy, friendship and the magic that happens when they come together to celebrate their love for music.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Monson Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the MA Cultural Council, a state agency.

St. Mary's Church offers Advent series on Sundays

WARE – The Power of Mary's Love is the theme of an Advent series to take place Sunday mornings in December prior to Christmas at St. Mary's Parish Hall in Ware.

The Blessed Virgin's power over evil, her path to Jesus, her motherly protection and her relationships with the three persons of the Blessed Trinity are key focal points.

Free coffee and baked goods will start at 10:15 a.m. The program will run from 10:30 a.m. to noon and include a video, scripture references, sharing and singing seasonal hymns.

St. Mary's is located at 57 South St. All are welcome regardless of religious affiliation.



Eric J. Scheriff, 58

WEST BROOKFIELD – Eric J. Scheriff, 58, of West Brookfield, deceased by his father, Lawrence Scheriff and by his "bio mom," Randi Robinson.

Eric was born in Queens, New York. He worked as an Engineer for the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, and he was an all-around nature-loving guy with many skills and interests.

He shared his talents by helping his family and friends with many home repair projects. He was a master woodworker and especially enjoyed building custom wood furniture. He was a plumber and a hunter, and especially treasured time spent fishing with his nieces, nephews, and friends.

nieces and nephews, and 10 great-nieces-and-nephews. He was pre-deceased by his father, Lawrence Scheriff and by his "bio mom," Randi Robinson.



Eric was born in Queens, New York. He worked as an Engineer for the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, and he was an all-around nature-loving guy with many skills and interests.

He shared his talents by helping his family and friends with many home repair projects. He was a master woodworker and especially enjoyed building custom wood furniture. He was a plumber and a hunter, and especially treasured time spent fishing with his nieces, nephews, and friends.

He loved the outdoors and traveling, as well as hiking, biking, and bird watching. He even lined the perimeter of his house in West Brookfield with bird feeders, and he would watch as the birds spent time visiting each one.

Montauk, New York was a special place he shared with Kathy, where they were engaged, and later married on Oct. 3, 1998.

Calling Hours for Eric will be held on Friday, Dec. 6, 2024, from 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m., and on Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024, from 10 a.m.-noon, at the Charles G. Schmidt Funeral Home, 3863 Merrick Road, Seaford, N.Y. In lieu of flowers, donations in Eric's memory may be made to the Dana Farber Jimmy Fund (www.jimmyfund.org).

Light the Night holiday decorating contest Dec. 13-15

WARREN – Warren Parks & Recreation Department's Light the Night holiday decorating contest will be held in Warren and West Warren on Dec. 13, 14 and 15 from 5-9 p.m.

Maps and voting information will be available for drive-thru

pickup on Dec. 13 from 5-8 p.m. at the Shepard Municipal Building, 48 High St., at the front entrance door. See Santa and Mrs. Claus, enjoy hot chocolate and some goodies provided by the Parks & Recreation Department.

On Dec. 14 and 15, maps and

voting information will be available outside the Shepard Municipal Building (second entrance) and on the Parks Department's Facebook page.

Voting will be open from Dec. 13 at 5 p.m. through Dec. 18 at 11:59 p.m.

PROJECTS from page 1

"They're very familiar with old buildings," she said.

Caggiano said the municipal auction company will be paid out of the proceeds from the auction, and the town would not have to come up with any funds beforehand. She said the auction is planned to take place in April to give people time to participate.

Assessor Jennifer Kolenda said this is the town's best option to dispose of these buildings. She said everything had been done in preparation for the auction, including surveys of the land around the buildings.

Requests for proposals to make use of these buildings were made in the past and had little to no response.

Capital Planning Committee Chair Mark Korzec said they recommended removing an underground oil tank from one of the properties, due to its proximity to the public drinking water supply.

"Regardless of what decision you make, you should remove the tank," he said.

Korzec said the committee also recommended that the town vet the bidders on the properties, by doing an RFP. He said it could be in the best interest of the town to know what prospective buyers intend to do with the properties.

Korzec said the committee also recommended the Select Board start with selling or auctioning off the Ruggles Hill Road school first.

Caggiano said she is willing to speak with any residents about

any concerns or questions they have regarding the auction process.

She will also ask the auction company if RFPs can be required of bidders. The Select Board will continue its discussion about auctioning the three buildings at its Dec. 9 meeting.

Visitor comments

Select Board Chair Kelly Kemp announced that visitor comments would now be heard at the beginning of Select Board meetings, and each visitor would have five minutes to speak.

Erin Wynne, Headmaster at Eagle Hill School, spoke about the proposed Payment In Lieu of Taxes policy being considered by the Select Board. She said she was concerned that the school's representatives were not part of the discussion.

"Eagle Hill itself is already in a signed arrangement with the town and has been for the last 10 years," she said. "That was entered into in good faith by both parties and to be considering something that would be averse to that would be rendering that void."

Wynne said the proposed PILOT agreement was "financially not even possible" for the school.

"It should be a discussion between parties, and not something that's just happening among the board without talking to the entities in town," Wynne said.

Kemp said the board is still discussing this proposed policy, and if it's accepted, it would be voluntary.

Resident Bill Cole also spoke

about both the proposed PILOT policy and granting conservation restrictions.

"We need to fully understand the cost of services to the town for various types of properties," he said. "That is, what does undeveloped land cost the town in services? Farmland, commercial and industrial development, single family housing, multifamily housing, what is the so-called 'lost' tax revenue from land put under conservation restriction? Especially for land that is already or would otherwise be put into chapter 61A or B."

Resident Nate Goddard spoke in support of the East Quabbin Land Trust and conservation restrictions. He said his family enjoys exploring the various properties throughout town.

"They do a wonderful job with the trails," he said.

Cheryl Wolfe said since she has lived in town for the past 50 plus years, there have been at least three economic studies of the town, all of which pointed toward the need for ecotourism.

"We have had growth...every year," she said. "People are coming out here to bike the trails...fish. I think you have to think of what is going to bring more people to the town to spend money. Sometimes the short term revenue is going to be lost over long term gains that we would have made."

Liz Reilly and Erik Fleming questioned the benefit of having visitor's comments before discussing the agenda items. Select Board Vice-Chair Eric Vollheim said he didn't agree with the format, noting the importance of other people's viewpoints.

Kemp said she decided to try this format, which many other towns utilize, due to people talking out of turn at a previous meeting. She said she is willing to allow having visitor input on discussions in the future.

Budget discussion

Caggiano said all departments have budget sheets to work on and she will begin meeting with department heads the week of Dec. 16. This information will be compiled into binders for both the Select Board and Finance Committee.

Finance Committee Chair Christopher Culross said one of the objectives of the coming fiscal year is to fund stabilization to the 5% mark and funding capital "as much as possible."

"We still need to make baby steps," Culross said. "Having a very lean budget is going to be very, very important."

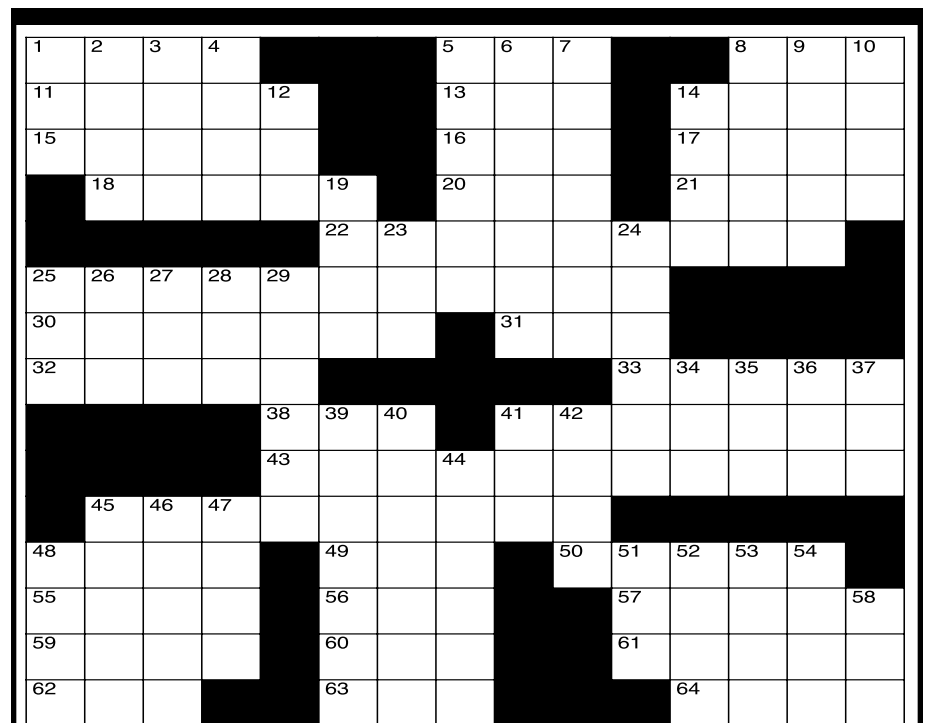
PILOT policy

The Select Board will hold a joint meeting with the Finance Committee on Monday, Dec. 16 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the proposed PILOT policy.

Town Administrator's report

Caggiano said they are close to selecting a company to provide an updated phone system for the town.

She said repairs were made to the municipal office building's boiler and radiators and she is also purchasing panic buttons for the building.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Bar bills
- 5. Recipe measurement (abbr.)
- 8. Swiss river
- 11. Czech Republic capital
- 13. "Officially known as"
- 14. A French abbot
- 15. Having a strong sharp smell or taste
- 16. Local area network
- 17. Data transmission speed measure
- 18. Embarrass
- 20. When you hope to get there
- 21. This (Spanish)
- 22. Gives up
- 25. Churchgoer
- 30. Current
- 31. Slang for gun
- 32. Small drum
- 33. Vanished union bigwig

- 38. Rocker's tool of the trade
- 41. Dearth
- 43. 2024 Olympics host
- 45. Excess blood in the vessels
- 48. Afrikaans
- 49. Agreement between provider and customer
- 50. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 55. Ancient Syrian city
- 56. Witch
- 57. Celebrations
- 59. Long period of time
- 60. A team's best pitcher
- 61. Current unit
- 62. One-time aerospace company
- 63. French/Belgian river
- 64. Swedish rock group

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
- 2. Genus of clams
- 3. Remark
- 4. Actor LaBeouf
- 5. Ohio town
- 6. Olympic sport
- 7. Cure
- 8. Behave in a way that belittles
- 9. Shares a boundary with
- 10. Give advice
- 12. Promotional materials
- 14. Assist or encourage, usually in some wrongdoing
- 19. "Agatha All Along" actress Kathryn
- 23. Small piece
- 24. King of Camelot
- 25. Parts per thousand (abbr.)
- 26. Small Milky Way constellation
- 27. One who challenges authority (abbr.)
- 28. Equal (prefix)

- 29. Shawl
- 34. S. American wood sorrel relative
- 35. The end
- 36. Supervises interstate commerce
- 37. Yes vote
- 39. Officer of high rank
- 40. Church office
- 41. Tire pressure measurement
- 42. From a distance
- 44. Photographs
- 45. Industrial process
- 46. Nobel Prize-winning physicist
- 47. Map out
- 48. Mammary gland part of female mammal
- 51. Honorable title (Turkish)
- 52. Sponge-like cake leavened with yeast
- 53. Speak incessantly
- 54. Poetry term
- 58. Relaxing space

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Baystate Wing Auxiliary offers Tree of Love

PALMER – As the holiday season approaches, the Baystate Wing Auxiliary has set up the annual Tree of Love.

This special tree has been created to honor and remember loved ones and features ornaments that can be purchased and personalized with names in memory of family and friends to be placed on the tree. The ornaments may be purchased for \$5 for a single name and \$10 for a family. The Tree of Love will be displayed in the lobby located on the first floor of the hospital by the gift shop.

All proceeds benefit the Baystate Wing Auxiliary, which in turn donates needed equipment and other items to the hospital for the benefit of patients. For over 70 years, the Auxiliary has supported Baystate Wing Hospital through its sponsorship of special events and gift shop sales.

This diverse group of women and men includes teachers, nurses, business owners, and retirees, who live in many different communities and are united by a shared commitment to support the mission of the hospital.

To purchase an ornament, visit the gift shop located on the first floor, open Monday through Thursday from 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Friday from 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

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CIRCLE from page 12

In the Circle of Song performance of "Requiem for the Living", solos will be performed by Karen Guertin, Marna Mucha, Anne Kneeland, Nancy Afonso, Mark Doyle and Jennifer Williams.

Under the direction of the COS pianist, Cailan McClure, "Aint a That Good News" and Ave Maria will also be sung.

If you are interested in joining Circle of Song, contact Julie Rawson, director, at julie@mhof.net, 978-257-1192, or show up at the Barre Town Hall, 2 Exchange St., Barre, on Thursday, Jan. 16 at 7 p.m. You can learn more about Circle of Song at <https://circleofsong.net/>.

Local nursing home workers receive scholarships

Two area direct care nursing home workers are among the 2024 scholarship recipients awarded by the Massachusetts Senior Care Foundation.

Anna Cruz is a Certified Nursing Assistant at the Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center nursing home in West Brookfield who is taking pre-requisite courses to pursue a Licensed Practical Nursing degree at Holyoke Community College.

Cruz was recognized for having "a gently and loving touch with the residents," and someone who is "incredibly dedicated and hard-working, who greets everyone with a smile." She also goes out of her way to be a mentor to others.

Alicia Decelle is a Staff Development Coordinator/ Infection Preventionist at Palmer

Health Care Center who is pursuing an Associate Degree in Nursing at Quinsigamond Community College. Decelle was recognized for being "a great teacher, and a hard worker," who is well respected by her peers.

"We commend the 2024 Mass Senior Care Foundation Scholars for their commitment to this profession and to the older adults and individuals with disabilities who consider our facilities their home," said Bill Bogdanovich, chair of the Mass Senior Care Foundation Board of Directors and President and CEO of Broad Reach Healthcare. "The Foundation is proud to support these dedicated individuals in achieving their educational and professional goals."

"We believe strongly that a well-supported and educated

workforce is critical to promoting a positive resident experience," said Tara Gregorio, president of the Mass Senior Care Association. "Working with Mass Senior Care Foundation, our affiliate organization, we are focusing our resources on expanding career ladder opportunities, attracting new dynamic talent into the profession, while we also continue to address our frontline workforce shortages by improving recruitment and retention strategies."

About the Massachusetts Senior Care Foundation
The Massachusetts Senior Care Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization founded in 1985 by visionary leaders of the long term care provider community to enhance the quality of care

for older adults and people with disabilities.

Through partnerships with professional, government and academic organizations, the Foundation promotes innovative tools, services, programs and research to benefit workforce and clinical quality across the continuum of care.

In addition, since 1985, the Foundation's highly regarded annual scholarship program, designed to build the skills of our long term care workforce, has awarded nearly \$3 million in scholarships to help more than 1,600 long term care staff to advance their educational and professional development in long term care.

Nativities From Around the World displayed Dec. 5-8

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The 15th annual Nativities From Around the World held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 108 New Braintree Road (Route 67) will be displayed for four days, Dec. 5-8.

Dates and times include Friday, Dec. 6 from 4-8 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 7 from 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 8 from noon-2 p.m.

There will be over 500 nativities displayed this year and all will be in settings of various Christmas themes. Some are old, some are new, some are classic and others modern.

The Church is located 2.2 miles north of the North Brookfield town center.

White Christmas celebration will be held Dec. 8

WEST BROOKFIELD – Please join the White Christmas Committee in the town of West Brookfield as they kick off the 32nd Annual White Christmas celebration on Sunday, Dec. 8 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

There will be fun for folks of all ages going on throughout the day at this event. The committee encourages everyone to come out and enjoy our town's annual kick-off of the holiday season by touring the historic town, strolling the downtown district, exploring local businesses and open houses, decorating gingerbread houses in the Great Hall, meeting Santa for a quick picture, as well dropping off those letters headed directly to the North Pole.

There will be horse drawn carriage rides throughout the day as well as shopping with dozens of

vendors set up throughout town. A puppet show, an elf hunt and ice carvings are sure to keep everyone's spirits high.

There will be plenty for the entire family to come and enjoy.

If you are lucky, you may just see Father Christmas strolling the streets and greeting visitors in town. Stick around to close the day with West Brookfield's annual tradition of gathering around the largest evergreen in town (located on the town common) while it illuminates for the first time this holiday season.

The West Brookfield White Christmas Committee 2024 is excited to be able to share this fun-filled day with both residents and non-residents alike. This is a free event brought to you courtesy of local businesses and town supporters.

First Congregational participates in White Christmas festivities

WEST BROOKFIELD – The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, 36 North Main St., will host an open house on Sunday, Dec. 8 from 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m. during the town's White Christmas celebration.

The kitchen opens at noon and the menu includes: a plentiful and delicious hot turkey sandwich

with stuffing, gravy and cranberry sauce, hot dogs and chili dogs, homemade chicken soup and corn chowder, chicken, egg and ham salad sandwiches, homemade pie - apple, blueberry and pumpkin, a variety of hot and cold drinks.

They will also offer a huge gift card raffle, a concert by a performance by the Hardwick Memorial

Handbell Choir at 3 p.m., a Christmas carol sing along with free cookies and cocoa at 4 p.m., "Find-the-Elf" for the kids, free door prize raffle and a bountiful baked-goods table.

A special treat this year, is a raffle for a gorgeous handmade quilt. The pattern name is Pineapple Blossom and measures

approximately 61 inches by 71 inches.

DJ Mic will be spinning Christmas tunes, and the atmosphere will be festive and cheery. The church is a wonderful place to be to welcome in the holiday season.

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

BHN facilitates International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day on Nov. 23

SPRINGFIELD – Behavioral Health Network, Inc. will facilitate International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day (Survivor Day), an event organized by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention on Saturday, Nov. 23 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at All Inclusive Support Services, 736 State St.

For GPS directions, use 36 Buckingham St.

The Springfield event facilitated by BHN is free and open to the community for anyone who has lost a loved one to suicide. To sign up to attend this event, visit <https://springfield-massachusetts.isosld.afsp.org/>.

The event will feature breakout groups, lunch, engaging activities, and a powerful AFSP-produced documentary that highlights themes of growth, resilience, and connection. This is one of hundreds of events taking place worldwide on Survivor Day.

Held on the Saturday before Thanksgiving each year, International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day is a one-day event in which survivors of suicide loss come together to find connection, understanding, and hope through their shared experience. Attendees learn practical coping strategies, explore grief, and discover resources to help with each unique healing journey.

International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day was created by an Act of Congress in 1999 following the passage of a resolution introduced by Senator Harry Reid, whose father took his own life in 1972. In addition to sponsoring in-person or virtual events across the globe for International

Survivors of Suicide Loss Day, AFSP hosts two virtual events for survivors of suicide loss, Survivor Day Live and Día De Esperanza (in Spanish).

To learn more, visit afsp.org/survivorday.

About BHN

BHN has been providing behavioral health services to children and families in western Massachusetts since 1938. The agency provides community-based services that include innovative, integrated whole-health models as well as traditional clinical and outpatient and therapeutic services, day treatment, addiction services, crisis intervention and residential supports.

About AFSP

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention is dedicated to saving lives and bringing hope to those affected by suicide, including those who have experienced a loss. AFSP creates a culture that's smart about mental health through public education and community programs, develops suicide prevention through research and advocacy, and provides support for those affected by suicide.

Led by CEO Robert Gebbia and headquartered in New York, with a public policy office in Washington, D.C., AFSP has local chapters in all 50 states, D.C. and Puerto Rico, with programs and events nationwide.

Learn more about AFSP in its latest Annual Report and join the conversation on suicide prevention by following AFSP on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn and TikTok.

Annual Stuff a Cruiser toy drive is Dec. 8

HARDWICK – The South Barre Rod and Gun Club, 2626 Barre Road (Route 32), will host the annual Stuff a Cruiser event to benefit the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department's

Christmas for Kids Program on Sunday, Dec. 8 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

This event helps give kids in the Hardwick and New Braintree communities a wonderful Christmas holiday.

public notices

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by ADCC100, LLC to Crowd Lending Fund One, LLC, dated June 14, 2024 and recorded at Hampshire County Registry of Deeds on June 17, 2024, in Book No. 15159, at Page 318, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder Crowd Lending Fund One, LLC, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at public auction at **2:00 PM, on December 17, 2024** on the mortgaged premises being known as 32-34 South Street, Ware, MA, being all and singular the premises described in said mortgage to wit:

A certain tract or parcel of land, with building(s) located thereon, situated on the easterly side of South Street in said Ware, in the County of Hampshire, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at the Northwestern corner of land formerly of Willard Gage;

thence Northerly on said South Street seventy-four (74) feet, more or less, to the Southeasterly corner of land now or formerly of Samuel Walker;

thence East twenty-four (24) degrees South one hundred (100) feet;

thence South eighteen (18) degrees forty (40) minutes West seventy four (74) feet and to the land now or formerly of Gage;

thence West eighteen (18) degrees North to land now or formerly of said Gage one hundred (100) feet to the place of beginning.

Being the same premises as conveyed to the mortgagor by deed of Depina & Saintil investment LLC, dated May 24, 2024, recorded on June 17, 2024 at Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book No. 15159, at Page 313.

The above described premises will be sold **SUBJECT TO** and with the

benefit of all restrictions, easements, covenants, conditions, building and zoning laws, to any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, water and sewer charges, municipal or other public taxes, assessments or liens, rights of tenants and parties in possession, if any.

TERMS OF SALE:
A deposit of \$7,500.00 DOLLARS shall be required to be made to the mortgagee in cash, by certified or by cashier's check at the time and place of the sale as a deposit. The successful bidder will be required to execute an Auction Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, by certified check, by cashier's check, or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney within thirty (30) days thereafter at the offices of BARSH AND COHEN, P.C., Attorneys for the Mortgagee, 500 Turnpike Street Suite 201, Canton, MA 02021, in exchange for which and at such time and place, the deed shall be delivered to the purchaser for recording.

The Mortgagee reserves the right to amend the foregoing terms of sale by written or oral announcement made before the auction sale, during the sale thereof or at the commencement of or during any postponed sale, the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, and to postpone the sale up until the time the property is declared sold by the auctioneer.

The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in the Notice of Mortgagee's Sale or its publication.

OTHER TERMS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE SALE.

Dated: November 17, 2024
(signed:) Crowd Lending Fund One, LLC
Present Holder of said Mortgage
By its Attorneys,
Barsh and Cohen, P.C.
Neil Cohen, Esquire

Attorney for the Mortgagee
500 Turnpike Street
Suite 201,
Canton, MA 02021
(617) 332-4700
11/21, 11/28, 12/05/2024

**TOWN OF WARREN
Public Hearing
Thursday,
December 19, 2024
6:30 PM
Shepard Municipal
Building,
Selectmen's Meeting Room
48 High Street,
Warren, MA**

The Warren Board of Selectmen will conduct a Public Hearing during its scheduled meeting on **Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 6:30 PM** at the Shepard Municipal Building, 48 High Street, Warren, MA and may be attended via Zoom. Online meeting information can be found on the town's website.

The hearing will review the status of projects funded through Warren's FY 2022/23 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), a \$1,197,000 award, including 1) the construction of School Street Improvement Project (Phase II); and 2) the Town Common Improvement Design Project. In addition, a potential grant amendment to transfer approximately \$31,000 in unspent and/or

unallocated FY22/23 construction funds for use of an engineering design study for Hillside Avenue will be discussed.

The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) provides grant administration and project management assistance to the Town of Warren. All persons and organizations with questions or comments will have an opportunity to be heard. Persons unable to attend the hearing may mail written comments to the Warren Board of Selectmen, 48 Main Street, Warren, MA 01083 or comments may be emailed to CMRPC at joleary@cmrpc.org. Written comments must be received before the hearing date. For further information, contact John O'Leary at CMRPC at (508) 459-3331 or at joleary@cmrpc.org. Persons who require special accommodations to participate in the public hearing should contact the Selectmen's office at (413) 436-5701 Ext. 106 at least two business days prior to the hearing.

Warren Board of Selectmen 12/05/2024

Town of Warren Tree Warden NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws (MGL), Chapter 87, Public Shade Tree Law, Section 3 (Cutting of Public Shade Trees; Hearing; Damages), the Town of Warren Tree Warden will hold a public hearing regarding an application for National Grid to remove public shade trees on **December 19, 2024 at 6:00 pm** at Warren Town Hall, 48 High St, Warren MA. Any person interested or wishing to be heard on this matter should appear at the time and place designated.

The program included a tree-by-tree hazard assessment of public and private trees, along three-phase lines which serve the community. The work is recommended to remove hazard trees for additional clearance in order to reduce tree outage problems affecting large numbers of customers served by these main lines. National Grid's arborists have identified Thirty-two (32) town trees for removal along town roads. Town trees located within the public way that are designated for removal have been marked with a small blue ribbon and posted with a notice of public hearing in the field. Trees designated for pruning have been

marked with a small blue ribbon.

The roads with town trees affected by the program are Southbridge Rd and Southbridge Rd Ext. A complete list of town trees designated for removal or pruning including information about the location, size and species of the affected trees and the reason for work proposed, is available weekdays from the Warren Town Hall at 48 High St and the Old Town Hall 1 Milton O. Fountain Way, Warren, MA, during normal business hours.

Jeremy Olson, Tree Warden 12/05, 12/12/2024

Town of Warren Zoning Board of Appeals

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to an Order of Remand from the Worcester Superior Court (Ritter, J.), dated November 18, 2024, in ZPT Energy Solutions LLC et al. vs. Richard Czaporowski et al., Case No. 2185CV01249, that the Town of Warren Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public remand hearing on **Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 5:30 P.M.** at

the Shepard Municipal Building, 48 High Street, Selectmen's Meeting Room, on the remanded Petition for a Zoning Variance by ZPT Energy Solutions, LLC. The meeting may be accessed remotely via Zoom: Zoom meeting ID: 885 9601 606, passcode: 145061; link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88596016061?pwd=rFSXURbWAMyV6BRaFBP1FGbeAWlhZ.1>

Petitioners are seeking a zoning variance of the Solar Energy Setback and Density Requirements, Section 12.3.7 of the Town of Warren Zoning Bylaw, on Coy Hill Road, Parcel 3-0-146, owned by HA Coy Hill Road, LLC.

The Zoning Board of Appeals previously voted to deny the Application in a Decision dated October 25, 2021. Pursuant to a Settlement Agreement between and among ZPT Energy Solutions, LLC, HA Coy Hill Road LLC, the Town of Warren, the Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Town of Warren Planning Board, and in accordance with the requirements of Massachusetts General

Laws, Chapter 40A, Section 17, the Zoning Board of Appeals has agreed to hold a further public hearing on the Application for the purpose of issuing an Amended Decision to allow property abutting the solar installation and leased by ZPT to satisfy setback and buffer requirements.

Said public hearing is being held in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, Section 17, and the requirements of the Town of Warren Zoning Bylaw. Anyone interested in or wishing to be heard should appear at the time and place designated above. All interested parties are invited to attend.

Copies of the petition, the remand order and related documents are available for inspection by appointment in the Office of the Tax Collector by calling 413-436-5701, ext. 104. 12/05, 12/12/2024



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.

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
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- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

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

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

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All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 19 at Noon for Publication Dec. 23-27

Happy Holidays!

Happy New Year!

All Papers Will Deadline Friday, Dec. 27 at Noon for Publication Dec. 30-Jan. 3

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