

WARE RIVER NEWS

SERVING THE WARE REGION FOR 129 YEARS

Vol. 138 No. 45 16 Pages (Plus Supplements) USPS 666100 \$31 PER YEAR - \$1.00 A COPY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

www.warerivernews.turley.com

Santa rings in the holidays with 'Flair'



Turley Photos by Single Shot Photo
Santa Claus arrived in downtown Ware the Friday after Thanksgiving to welcome in the Christmas season during the Holiday Flair event.

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 6.



Santa Claus drove in on a firetruck to greet people at Veterans Park for the tree lighting ceremony.

WARE – The Friday after Thanksgiving, Santa Claus arrived downtown to light the Christmas tree at Veterans Park, and visit with area children in Town Hall.

The celebration continues this weekend thanks to the efforts of the Ware Holiday Flair Committee, that will be hosting the Ware Holiday Flair Festive Drive-Thru at Grenville Park on Saturday Dec. 14 from 5-7 p.m., (or until the last car goes through). Vehicles will enter through the Upper Church Street exit, travel around the first baseball diamond, and exit through the entrance.

Cars must enter Upper Church Street coming from the direction of Route 32. No cars will be allowed to enter the park coming from the direction of downtown.

The Quaboag Connector will provide free rides for those without vehicles, staging in front of the old Church Street school, across from the park entrance.

Donations will be accepted at the drive-thru, but are not necessary for this free, community event.

Volunteers are needed to help set up the morning of the drive-thru event, starting at 9 a.m. If anyone would like to volunteer, they can contact Kathy Deschamps 413-519-9815.

If anyone would like to donate to help support the event, checks made to "Ware Holiday Flair" can be mailed to the Town Hall, c/o Stuart Beckley, 126 Main St., Ware, MA 01082.



Dancers of all ages from Dance Unlimited performed for the audience.

Teachers' union casts 'no confidence' vote

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
ouimette@turley.com

WARE – At a contentious School Committee meeting held last week, Ware Teachers' Association President Amber Boucher said 95.1% of the union's voting membership has "no confidence" in Superintendent Dr. Michael Lovato.

"Since accepting the position 17 months ago, Superintendent Lovato has fostered a hostile work environment," she said at the Dec. 4 meeting. "He allows and enables Clark Consulting to intimidate and attempt to discipline teachers. He bullies and targets staff."

School Committee Vice-Chair Aaron Sawabi called point of order and Chair Brian Winslow used his gavel to try to stop Boucher from continuing, as the committee had not received this complaint in writing. Both Sawabi and Winslow said this is a legal issue and should not be discussed in this manner and that the union is required to supply written documentation of charges and complaints.

"By law, we need to have everything in writing," Winslow said.

Winslow called for a recess, as Boucher continued to read her statement which outlined the WTA's concerns.

"Mr. Winslow, respectfully, you are wrong," Boucher said, after she finished reading the union's statements, despite numerous attempts by Winslow and Sawabi to stop her.

Following the reading of Boucher's statement, members of the union chanted "for the students" and left the meeting.

In a document provided by Boucher after the meeting, she outlined the union's areas of concern related to work environment, safety, equity, leadership, wellbeing of students, spending of funds and staff retention.

The union's complaints allege that Lovato's leadership has result-

Please see **LOVATO**, page 15

Tax classification hearing held during joint meeting

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Board of Selectman held a public hearing on tax classification.

The Board of Selectman met

with the Board of Assessors to consider tax allocation options available to the town under property tax classification. The board determined whether to have a single or split tax rate and whether to adopt an open space discount, a resident exemption and a small

commercial exemption.

The presentation was given by Debra Hardy from the Board of Assessors to explain the tax allocation options. The purpose of this presentation was to have the Selectmen receive information to decide a factor to establish the allo-

cation of the tax levy.

According to Hardy, the meeting will not determine what the actual tax rate will be for the Town.

Currently there isn't an actual tax rate yet for Fiscal Year 2025. Hardy would go over the tax rate calculation review with

the Selectmen and residents who attended the hearing. According to the calculations, the town's tax levy limit in 2024 totaled \$9,729,953 with a tax rate of \$15.07.

Please see **HEARING**, page 5

Annual Tree Lighting brightens common

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – Warren celebrated the holiday season with the Parks and Recreation Department's annual Tree Lighting on the common held last Friday.

This event continues to grow as hundreds of residents gather together for an evening of music, hot beverages, warm fires, deco-

Please see **TREES**, page 7



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago
Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus at the Warren Post Office are shown alongside postmaster Jennifer Drago.

Tree and Wreath Stroll held at Town Hall

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The Town Hall became a winter wonderland this past weekend for the annual Christmas Tree & Wreath Stroll.

Residents got to explore and stroll through the Town Hall and witness the creativity behind the decorative trees, wreaths and other surprise crafts done by the people of Ware.

This collection of wreathes, trees, evergreen gnomes and much more were created by local residents, businesses, and high school students in a festive holiday display, including antique reindeer

Please see **STROLL**, page 6



Santa Claus is shown in a center seat where all the trees and wreaths surround him.

(Submitted Photo by Julie Bullock)

Inside this edition:

Viewpoints.....	4	Classifieds.....	14
Sports.....	9	Public Notices.....	14
Warren.....	11		
Police/Fire.....	12		
Obituaries.....	13		



COMMUNITY

Nativities From Around the World

Page 3



SCHOOL

Ware High School hosted craft fair

Page 5



SPORTS

Indians face Hopkins

Page 9

Connect with us



WareRiverNews

Ware River News
**OBITUARY
POLICY**

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

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



PHONE
413.967.3505
Fax: 413.967.6009
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL
Advertising Sales
Dan Flynn
dflynn@turley.com

Editor
Paula Quimette
pouimette@turley.com

Subscriptions
www.turley.com

\$31 per year pre-paid (\$36 out of state)
Newsstand: \$1.00 per copy


WEB
www.warivernews.turley.com

[f @ Ware River News](https://www.facebook.com/WareRiverNews)

The Ware River News is published by Turley Publications, Inc. • www.turley.com


Are You Old News?

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.



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

File Photo
Last week's photo from 1977 showed Quabbin Regional High School's field hockey team that was leading its league with a record of 8-0-2. Front row from left: K. Kataisto, C. Kowal and S. Aalto. Second row from left: J. Crawford, E. Melanson, C. LaPorte, J. Charles, S. Ruddy and T. Griffin. Back row from left: J. McDonald, A. Kenda, L. Valardi, D. Trudeau and M. Reidy.




Submitted Photo

VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE HUNDREDS OF MEALS FOR THANKSGIVING

Volunteers helped the United Church of Ware prepare homecooked Thanksgiving dinners for residents of town to enjoy on Thanksgiving Day. Through their efforts, 265 meals were cooked, packaged and delivered to homes hot and ready to eat.

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.

Wings of Song presents 'Peace and Joy' Dec. 14-15

STURBRIDGE – Wings of Song, a 45-voice community chorus, will perform "Peace and Joy" on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Anne's Church, 16 Church St., Fiskdale and Sunday, Dec. 15 at 3 p.m. at Evangelical Covenant Church, 24 Child Hill Road, Woodstock, Connecticut.


"Peace and Joy" features pieces from the familiar Handel's Hallelujah Chorus to the original 1818 version of Silent Night that few will know. Composers as modern as Arvo Pärt, 1990 and Marc-Antoine Charpentier, about 1690.

As Director Nym Cooke said, "This

music plunges deep and soars high! This will be a very special concert. I think – on the one hand, meditative, centering, and relaxing; on the other hand, uplifting, inspiring, and energizing. Just the right medicine for these times."

There is no admission charged for the concerts. A freewill offering will be collected at intermission. Both venues are handicapped accessible and complimentary refreshments will be provided by the chorus members after the concerts.

Concertgoers are encouraged to arrive early to be sure of seating.



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.



Submitted Photo

MARJORIE STREET HOUSE NEAR HOSPITAL DEMOLISHED

A house owned by Baystate Health located at 25 Marjorie St. was demolished Tuesday morning. This property was not deemed historically significant by the Historical Commission and was not included under the recently expired demolition delay. Baystate Health had pulled a demolition permit with the town to remove this building.

If you or someone you know could benefit from methadone treatment... Help is here.

MOBILE METHADONE PROGRAM



15 BANK STREET, WARE | (413) 272-1333
Located in parking area behind building

NESCO SALES INC.

COMPLETE AUTOBODY CENTER

Your Safety is Our Top Priority

- All vehicles are sanitized before and after repairs
- Pick-Up & Delivery Services Available
- Collision Specialists

Call Us to Arrange a Free Estimate following Social Distancing Guidelines


We Handle ALL Insurance Claims

91 State St., Bondsville, MA **283-6403** www.nescoautobody.com

Support the local businesses that support your local newspaper.


Let them know you saw their ad in the

Ware River News



bhn
Behavioral Health Network | bhninc.org

Intake Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 7am - 10am
Dosing Hours: Monday - Friday, 7am - 10am
Confidential Services and Counseling Available



CANTERBURY TAILS VETERINARY CLINIC

40 E. Main Street, Ware, MA
(413) 967-4545

Proudly serving Ware and its surrounding communities

DOGS 🐾 CATS 🐾 RABBITS 🐾 FERRETS
AND NOW REPTILES!

★ Now offering same day urgent care appointments ★
Monday - Thursday

NATIVITIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD



The nativity is seen lit inside an ornament shape.



A Precious Moments nativity was displayed.



This crown is embossed with the nativity scene.



A rubber ducky nativity scene brought smiles to many faces.



Figures wore traditional clothing in this Hungarian nativity.



This wooden nativity was made in Israel.



The Foyle family displayed their 100 year old plus nativity scene which was made in Germany in 1913.



ABOVE: Felt and wooden beads were used to create this colorful nativity scene.



LEFT: An angel embraced Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus.



Gail Ann Anderson of Hardwick displayed a photo of her grandchildren depicting the birth of Jesus Christ. Anderson displayed approximately 100 nativity scenes from her collection in "Nativities From Around the World," an annual community event held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in North Brookfield for the past 15 years.

them having at least one nativity scene. Her daughter had three nativities displayed alongside Anderson's including one that was embossed on a crown, paying homage to Jesus' title as the king of kings.

Anderson shared that two of the nativities were nearest to her heart, including ceramic figures of Joseph leading a pregnant Mary on a donkey, and another that featured her beloved grandchildren dressed as members of the holy family.

"I love them all," Anderson said of her nativities. "But these two are the ones."

The photo of her grandchildren was part of their Christmas card that year, and Anderson proudly displayed it on a table amidst the glow of white lights during the event. Her grandchildren are now adults, with the youngest one a student in college.

Anderson said she has added to her nativity collection by shopping at various stores, utilizing her

Recycling Center's swap shed and ordering from mail catalogs. She has even received them from people that know of her special interest.

As you walked through the various display rooms of the church, you could see nativities that hailed from the U.S. as well as other countries.

One nativity scene that has returned to "Nativities From Around the World" year after year, is owned by Jim and Helen Foyle of North Brookfield.

Originating from Germany, this nativity is over 100 years old and has been restored through the efforts of Linda Novac, Annette Perkins and Laura Dusty. This 20-piece set was made in 1913 for the Bernardini Statuary Co. in New York and once was displayed at the Haston Free Public Library before the Foyle family purchased it through a town-wide asset auction.

One nativity was crafted close to home by a young child who painted Mary holding baby Jesus on a rock.



This ceramic nativity scene came from Thailand. *Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette*



An art teacher painted Mary and baby Jesus on this rock when she was a child.

That child (now grown) has gone on to become an art teacher.

As people viewed the nativities, they expressed their appreciation for the display and noted its significance to the holiday season.

"This is what Christmas is all about," one visitor said.

Many of the nativities made use of natural materials, including tree bark.



The Wise Men arrived with their gifts.



Gail Ann Anderson displayed a scene featuring a pregnant Mary being led on a donkey by Joseph.



The Foyle family's nativity has been restored by the talents of Linda Novac, Annette Perkins and Laura Dusty.



This nativity from Ghana used a mix of natural materials mixed with gold fabric.

2025 QUABBIN HISTORY CALENDAR
by J.R. Greene
Great Gifts!
ON SALE AT:
BARRE:
The Country Gourmet
HUBBARDSTON:
Country Trail Store
NO. BROOKFIELD:
Brookfield Orchards
OLD FURNACE:
Old Furnace General Store
PETERSHAM:
Quabbin Woods Restaurant
or email:
jrg01331@webtv.net

ROADHOUSE CAFE
UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT
Enjoy your old favorites with some new touches
Open extended hours Tues.-Sun. 7am-1pm
Check our Facebook & Instagram pages for updates
Bay Road & Rt. 9, Belchertown
413.323.6175
www.roadhouse.cafe.net

"Join the team that does more by 9am than some do all day!"
Train now to a new career in 6 weeks. High hourly wages and generous bonus program. Van work available too!
Call or text 774-200-6762 or email jobs@mccarthybus.com to apply
J.P. McCarthy & Sons
WWW.MCCARTHYBUS.COM

ROBINSON TREE SERVICE LLC
Professional - Reliable - Fully Insured
Tree Trimming and Removal
Emergency Tree Work • Stump Grinding
Crane Service • Firewood Delivery
All Major Credit Cards Accepted
100% Financing Available
162 Sturbridge Road, Brimfield, MA 01010
508-641-5249 • office@robinsontreeservice.net
www.robinsontreeservice.net

viewpoints

GUEST COLUMN

Holidays shine with free community dinners

By Dave Blessinger and Dave Gravel
Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator

Christmas Day can be brightened a little more for the people of Ware with a freshly prepared delicious ham dinner, complete with gourmet pineapple-raisin sauce, candied baby carrots, smashed red skin potatoes, fresh rolls and a homemade dessert or, in some cases, a slice of pie from the store provided by the United Church of Ware.

We expect to also include a slice of homemade sweet bread to wake up their taste buds. All of this is free to you, thanks to the generosity of Country Bank, the American Legion Women's Auxiliary, the generous people of USW Union Local 708 at Kanzaki Specialty Papers, Noonan Energy and the many individuals who have donated of money, baked goods, take-out containers and other dinner items to our efforts.

The generosity of our community, and even those from neighboring communities, continues to amaze us each year.

This dinner could not occur if it wasn't for the hard work of many wonderful people who have helped to prepare the meals, package it, and deliver it hot to your home. Much like Thanksgiving Dinner, when we sent out over 265 dinners.

Many of our volunteers have been helping us for years, and yet, for others, it may be their first time. But all work very hard, with a smile on their faces, a kind heart and helpful hand.

Thank you all!

For Christmas Dinner we will follow the same protocol as last year. We have decided to again provide Christmas Dinner on a home delivery or take-out basis only.

Please call Dave Blessinger at 401-465-9686, or the United Church of Ware at 413-967-9981, to reserve a dinner for Christmas Day. Your request must be received no later than Dec. 21, so we can be assured that all requests are met.

If you would like to donate to this meal, the following is a list of our needs. We hope to receive donations of:

- 80 pounds of baby carrots, for those amazing, candied baby carrots
- 100 pounds of red skin potatoes, to be smashed with butter and milk
- 4 pounds of butter
- 1/2 gallon of milk
- a pound of brown sugar and a variety of homemade desserts.

Before buying anything, please call Dave at 401-465-9686 to make sure that our need has not already been met.

Cash donations are accepted payable to The United Church of Ware with the notation Ware Christmas Dinners. Any surplus funds will be donated to the Ware Fuel Bank.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wreaths Across America honors veterans on Dec. 14

To our Ware community:

We are reaching out to ask your help in spreading the word about a volunteer opportunity that is near and dear to our hearts.

There are around 2,523 veterans that are in the cemeteries across Ware.

Last year we had enough wreaths to cover 532 graves at the four Ware municipal cemeteries (Aspen Grove, Church Street, two at the Meetinghouse) with the donations received. We got bonus wreaths and also covered Holy Cross Polish National Cemetery and part of the Quabbin cemetery last year.

This year we are a little over 800.

The mission of Wreaths Across America is "remember, honor, and teach" and it's really focused on teaching young people about citizenship and the sacrifice of veterans. Please spread the word and get this message out.

We would love to have youth and their families support at this event.

The ceremony will take place at Veterans Park in Ware on Saturday, Dec. 14 at 10 a.m. We will hold our opening ceremony, laying branch specific wreaths at the park, then moving on to Aspen Grove Cemetery and continuing on from there to the others. More instructions will be given the day of the event.

Thank you so much for your support and leadership.

Sincerely,
Frank and Kristin Bateman
Ware



Kissing balls for a new porch

It's really funny that sometimes I have to consult my own columns to remember how to do something.

You see, now that the front porch is done, there is a new area to decorate, an area well-suited for kissing balls! My daughter and I were at the local garden center and there were so many beauties for sale.

Of course it would break my budget to buy one to go in the middle of each pair of columns, so it looks like I'll be making them myself.

The first thing you will need is a styrofoam ball. One that is six inches in diameter would make a good size kissing ball.

Then gather a coat hanger and some wire cutters. Snip away the hook and straighten out the rest. Insert it through the middle of the ball and bend one end as a hanger.

About 18 inches will be showing; it will look better if you choose a gold colored hanger. If not, you can always cover it later.

Getting the piece of wire into the dead cen-

ter can be difficult, so use a long wooden pick to pre-make the hole. After that insertion will be easy.

Having a selection of greens on hand will make a pretty kissing ball. Scavenge the landscape for holly, yew, white pine, juniper and the like. Now it is time to insert clumps of greenery into the ball.

Styrofoam is very durable - great for holding all of these stems, but much more difficult to work with than floral foam. For that reason, all but the most rigid stems need to be put on wooden picks before they can be stuck into the ball.

Make small bunches of greenery about four inches long, holding their stems next to the pick and wrapping the attached wire to it. One by one insert these bunches into the styrofoam.

It is best to work randomly around the ball - setting the dimensions if you will, rather than starting in one place and working out. Being that it is round, it will be hard to put it down while working on it.

After a while you'll get into the swing of things by wiring a few bunches of greens, putting them in, wiring a few more and so forth. Finally, give it a good look. Is it a nice, round shape? Is there any foam showing? Where could it use a few berries?

Rose hips or winterberry, or even artifi-

cial berries will surely brighten it up, as will strands of ribbon wired to a wooden pick and inserted into the bottom. Wired ribbon is a good choice since it has a little shape; less droopy so to speak.

It will be surprising just how much greenery it takes to make a kissing ball. When I am making wreaths or decorations of any sort I always continue harvesting even after I think I have enough, just as a bit of insurance. It's always better to have extra than have to stop everything and go picking again.

One little factoid for cruise ship trivia: "Kissing bunches" in Old England were comprised of two intersecting circles of greens that were often decorated with fruit as well as figures of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The "kissing"

aspect came from the sprig of mistletoe that hung on the very bottom of the sphere - evoking the same response it does when hung by itself today.

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.



Was your IRMAA article incorrect?

Dear Rusty:

In a recent article about Medicare's "Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount" and how IRMAA affects Social Security taxes, you described which income gets included in the IRMAA calculation. You said it is "your combined income from all sources, including 50% of the SS benefits you receive." That 50% number might be true in some cases, but I think a more accurate, general answer is that "your taxable SS benefit is what gets added to IRMAA." For example, we have enough income every year that we are always taxed at 85% of our SS benefit, so 85% of our SS values get added to our IRMAA. The way your answer reads, a reader of the article might think everyone has 50% of their SS benefit added to IRMAA.

Signed: IRMAA Victim

Dear IRMAA Victim:

I think you may have confused two terms I used when describing Medicare's "Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount" or "IRMAA." I also used the term "MAGI" (Modified Adjusted Gross Income), and it's important to distinguish between those two terms.

MAGI is what determines if the IRMAA provision applies, and IRMAA will affect how much your Medicare premium is. But MAGI is also used for another purpose - to see if your SS benefits are taxable. Your MAGI consists of your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) from your income tax return, plus any non-taxable interest you may have had, plus 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year

IRMAA is a factor which will increase your monthly Medicare premium if your MAGI is over certain thresholds for your tax filing status. MAGI is used to determine if a higher Medicare premium applies, and it is also used to see if your SS benefits are subject to income tax.

Your MAGI does, indeed, always use only 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year (not 85% in some cases). That's



because the SS contributions included in MAGI relate to SS contributions your employer paid on your behalf. Only half of your received SS benefits are used to determine MAGI because that's the amount of your SS benefits attributable to your employer's contributions. Said another way, the SS payroll tax you personally paid while working was from your taxable income, so it is not included in MAGI. But the amount your employer contributed was not taxable by the IRS and, thus, is included in MAGI. So, it's the portion of your SS benefits attributable to your employer which is included in MAGI. Thus, the terminology that MAGI is "your combined income from all sources, including 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year" is correct. MAGI is what determines how much of your SS benefits are taxable, but your MAGI also determines if IRMAA applies to your Medicare premiums.

Your benefits are taxable if, as a married couple filing jointly, your total MAGI exceeds \$32,000. If your MAGI is over the first threshold but less than the 2nd threshold (\$44,000 for married filers) then 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year are included as part of your income taxable by the IRS. But if your MAGI goes over the 2nd threshold (\$44,000 for married filers) then up to 85% of the SS benefits you received during the tax

year will be included as part of your income taxable by the IRS.

In short, MAGI determines how much of your income is subject to taxation. But MAGI is also used to determine if IRMAA applies. And how much your MAGI exceeds the separate IRMAA thresholds determines what your Medicare premium will be.

So, the article correctly states that IRMAA only counts 50% of the SS benefits received because that is what is included in MAGI (which is what determines if IRMAA applies). But the amount of SS which may be taxable income by the IRS could be up to 85% of benefits received during the tax year if your MAGI is high enough.

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 ssadviser@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

GUEST COLUMN

Letters to Senator Elizabeth Warren

By Cindy Allen Bourcier
Chair, Friends of Mary Lane Hospital

Residents of Hardwick and Ware have united to defend their rights as third party beneficiaries to endowment funds which were donated to the Mary Lane Hospital over the past 100 years.

In 2016 the hospital merged with Baystate Wing Hospital, where records show that "there will be no exchange of funds between the parties." However, according to tax returns, all endowment funds were transferred to Baystate Wing Hospital and disbursements were sent to Baystate Health Foundation in Springfield.

At that time the restricted Lewis Gilbert Trust fund was close to \$7 million dollars and there was approximately \$10 million in other perpetual funds. These funds were specifically donated to Mary Lane Hospital to support



Volunteers help write letters to mail to Sen. Elizabeth Warren.

Submitted Photos

healthcare in the town of Ware.

Now that Baystate has closed Mary Lane Hospital, residents want that money back so that they can entice other healthcare providers to expand into their community.

Complaints have been submitted to the Charities Division of the Attorney General's Office and communications have been going

Please see **LETTER**, page 11

WARE RIVER NEWS TEAM



EDITOR
Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Dan Flynn
dfflynn@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

STAFF WRITER
Ryan Drago
rdrag0@turley.com

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

Facebook icon

@Ware River News

WEB

www.warerrivernews.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

DEANNA SLOAT
Graphics Manager



www.turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

OPINION POLICY

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

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

The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

Turley Election Policy

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

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

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.

Grenville Park food bank distribution is Dec. 17

WARE – Food distribution by the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 17 from 1-2 p.m. in Grenville Park, 73 Church St.

Regular monthly distributions occur at the park on the third Tuesday of each month at that time.

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. 16

9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Scat
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Lunch
Christmas Party. \$5 tickets on sale through Dec. 13. Music by Stephen George.

Tuesday, Dec. 17

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. Cornhole
1-2 p.m. Food Bank of Western MA at Grenville Park
5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking (\$3 per class)
6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

Wednesday, Dec. 18

9 a.m. Tai-Chi
10 a.m. Scat
11:30 a.m. Lunch
1 p.m. Chair Yoga
2:30 p.m. Knit-Crochet-Laugh

Thursday, Dec. 19

9 a.m. Walking Club. Meet at Senior Center.
9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
9:30 a.m. Line Dancing for Beginners
10 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Scat

11:30 a.m. Lunch
1 p.m. Cornhole
2:30 p.m. Art Class

Friday, Dec. 20

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

LUNCHE DINE IN 11:30 a.m.

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

Monday, Dec. 16 Christmas Party

Baked Ham with Pineapple Raisin Sauce, Mashed Potatoes, Veggies of the Day, \$5 tickets on sale through Dec. 13. Music and dessert courtesy of the Friends of the Ware Senior Center Inc.

Tuesday, Dec. 17

Chicken Cacciatore with Pasta, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day

Wednesday, Dec. 18

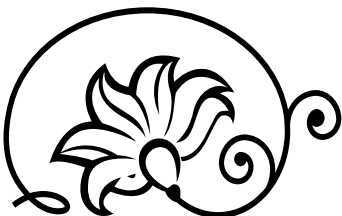
Meatloaf with Gravy, Scalloped Potatoes, Veggie of the Day, Dessert of the Day

Thursday, Dec. 19

Teriyaki Wings, Vegetable Stir Fry, Fried Rice, Dessert of the Day

Friday, Dec. 20

Spaghetti with Meatballs, Mandarin Salad, Dessert of the Day



Water main break prompts discussion about hospital

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Selectboard member Terrance Smith suggested that the town keep track of resources and public services that go into the Mary Lane Hospital property, following a water main break that was discovered in the sprinkler system the day before.

At the board's Dec. 3 meeting, he said a plan to secure the building for the winter and protect it from freezing weather, still has not been presented to the town by Baystate Health.

"I would suggest or recommend that the board...start to track and that Baystate be sent a water bill for the water that the town of Ware residents have to pay for, for treating, that goes into their system," he said.

Smith said this, in addition to legal expenses used to address citizens' concerns, site visits by the Building Department and more should not be a burden on the town.

"It's private property it's within their fence," Smith said. "They're liable for everything that happens in there. If someone gets hurt in there and they haven't complied with the state building code, they're responsible for that."

Smith said there needs to be more pressure applied on Baystate Health by the town's legal counsel to either secure or demolish the building.

"In the meantime, any liability that's associated with that, could pose a risk to our public safety officials including our fire and police if they respond and our

building commissioner and neighbors that go on there," he said.

Update from Friends of MLH

Cindy Allen Bourcier, chair of the Friends of Mary Lane Hospital, said she is still waiting for legal documents from the town to present to the Attorney General's Office. She said she had made a records request several times, and the Selectboard agreed to send documents from KP Law to board member Jack Cascio to review for her to send to the Attorney General.

"That is still pending," she said, after this request was approved by the board on Sept. 3.

Bourcier has also requested a list of permits issued to Baystate Health in relation to the property, and determinations for the complaints she sent regarding violations of the demolition delay.

Bourcier said the Friends of Mary Lane Hospital and residents are running a letter writing campaign to Sen. Elizabeth Warren, urging her to inventory the various trust funds associated with Mary Lane Hospital.

"By the end of the week, we'll have at least 200 letters out to her," she said.

Town Manager's report

Town Manager Stuart Beckley said there are two events on Saturday, Dec. 14 including Wreaths Across America and the Holiday Flair drive-thru event.

Wreaths Across America will start at Veterans Park with a ceremony at 10 a.m. before moving to the town's cemeteries to place wreaths on veterans' gravesites. The Holiday Flair drive-thru will

be held in Grenville Park from 5-7 p.m.

Beckley said the town was recently awarded two grants, one in the amount of \$250,000 to rebuild bathrooms at Grenville Park and renovate the upstairs Town Hall bathroom into two bathrooms. He said the Planning Department applied for a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant, and received \$50,000 to continue community outreach, particularly in the environmental justice area of town.

He said the town is moving forward with grants after receiving town meeting approval to purchase land for open space adjacent to Grenville Park, and to make repairs to the fieldhouse at Memorial Field.

Beckley said he has not heard back from the Environmental Protection Agency regarding the resubmittal of the grant application to fund the replacement of the town pool. He said if the application doesn't go through, it is likely the departments and Finance Committee will work on a warrant article to fund at least a splash pad at the annual town meeting.

Beckley said improvements to the Town Hall, including ventilation to address the mold issue behind the Assessors' office as well as counter improvements for the Assessors and Treasurer/Collector should be occurring soon.

He said the Charter Review Committee is meeting on the second Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. He said a survey will be available to residents to collect

Please see **WATER**, page 11

HEARING from page 1

"The Town is fiscally responsible," Hardy stated.

The proposed tax levy for this coming year is \$14.81, which is less than the limit. Hardy discussed the history of the tax rate with a chart and believes Warren is moving in a positive direction.

Hardy would then talk about a residential exemption that the Board of Selectmen will consider. This type of exemption does not change the total taxable value for residential properties. This exemption shifts burden between owner occupied and rental properties.

There are currently 18 municipalities in Massachusetts that have adopted this exemption due to having a high percentage of rental properties. The exemption percentage is as low as 5% and as high as 35%.

For a small commercial exemption, this can happen for owners of

commercial property valued at less than \$1,000,000 and occupied by a business with less than 10 employees. Adoption of this exemption would result in high tax rate for all commercial and industrial properties but would not affect the residential, open space or personal property classes of property.

Hardy said this exemption is not a benefit to small business owners but the owner of real estate. Only 14 municipalities have adopted the small commercial exemption.

After the presentation, the Board of Selectmen expressed satisfaction that the tax rate is going down and feels the residents of Warren deserve it.

Chair Derick Veliz said, "the importance is to see how we're doing as a town and we're financially responsible."

The Board of Selectmen approved of the recommended motions by the Board of Assessors. The board decided to move to take

no action relative to the adoption of an open space discount for FY 25, take no action relative to the adoption of a residential exemption for FY 25, move to take no action relative to the adoption of a small commercial exemption for FY 25 and to move to adopt a residential factor of 1.

The Board of Selectman stated that the Board of Assessors have done an excellent job helping them with the tax classification. The mission of the Board of Assessors is to assess and estimate the value of property for the purpose of taxation for the Town of Warren.

Police Chief report

Police Chief Gerald Millette shared his monthly report to the Selectmen. One of the events he wanted to share was partaking in a walkthrough of Warren Community Elementary School with the superintendent, school principal and dean of students. During

the walkthrough the chief wished every teacher and student a happy Thanksgiving.

Grant acceptance

Town Administrator James Ferrera addressed the board about the possible acceptance of a state grant in the amount of \$96,000 from the FY 2025 Community One Stop for Growth, Rural Development Fund, and to authorize him to sign on behalf of the town. A \$10,000 match is required to receive this grant.

Ferrera said this grant was discussed at the Special Town Meeting and the board always appreciates the grants that come in. The board accepted this grant that will be a benefit to projects the town wants to complete.

Senior Center update

There were a couple anticipated votes the Board of Selectmen took in regards to projects for the Senior Center. The first is the acceptance of a risk management grant from the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association in the amount of \$2,500 to cover the cost of duct and vent cleaning services at the Senior Center. The board accepted the risk management grant.

In addition, Ferrera discussed the anticipated vote for Warren to enter into a contract with Duct & Vent Cleaning of America. Ferrera believes this company is reputable and capable of completing the much-needed improvements to the Senior Center.

The company is looking to complete the project on Dec. 20. The

board accepted the contract and the risk management grant.

Budget calendar and procurement Policy

Ferrera would discuss the budget calendar along with a guideline for the FY 26 budget for all town departments. Ferrera wanted to ask the board to think about what next year's guidelines should be set for all departments.

The board will discuss more at their next meeting on Dec. 12.

The proposed procurement policy was another subject brought up by Ferrera, who recommends the town would adopt for all departments to follow. At some point between this meeting and the Dec. 12 meeting the board will decide to adopt a procurement policy.

McNeely Tree Service
Insured • References

- Hazardous Tree Removal
- Stump Grinding
- Bobcat Work
- Lot Clearing • Storm work
- Furnace Wood
- Firewood \$275/cord
- 101 ft Aerial Lift Rental POR
- Credit Cards, Cash & Venmo Accepted

H: 508-867-6119 • C: 978-888-1693

LOCAL KETONE PROMOTER

Call For Information
413-813-2391

Leave Message

Check Out Facebook at
Denise Dubowski

Save Up To 25% OFF
Retail Prices

Junk & Bulk Trash Removal

Clean Out Solutions
Basement, Attic, Shed & Whole House Cleanouts

Shed, Pool & Hot Tub Removals Arthur "Skip" Gervais (774)397-6500

STIHL

PARK SAW SHOP
LOGGING • ARBORIST • SAFETY

1292 PARK ST. PALMER, MA 01069
1-800-232-6132
(413) 544-9027

Mon-Fri 6:30am-4pm • Sat 7am-Noon
Shipping Can Be Arranged
RENTALS AVAILABLE

NOTICE

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

EARLY DEADLINE For All Advertising & CLASSIFIEDS

<p>All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 19 at Noon for Publication Dec. 23 - 27</p>	<p>All Papers Will Deadline Friday, Dec. 27 at Noon for Publication Dec. 30 - Jan. 3</p>
---	---

Turley Publications, Inc. www.turley.com 24 Water Street Palmer, MA 01069 413-283-8393

Local Police Depts collecting unwrapped toys & K9 dogs demonstrations

HARDWICK CROSSING EST. 2022

Join us for a weekend of **Christmas Joy** Saturday & Sunday, December 14th & 15th • 12-5pm

RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED FOR SEATING IN RESTAURANT. Vendor applications - cletendre@hardwickcrossing.com

OPEN 7 DAYS FOR LUNCH, DINNER & GOLF
Specials Posted on Facebook & Instagram

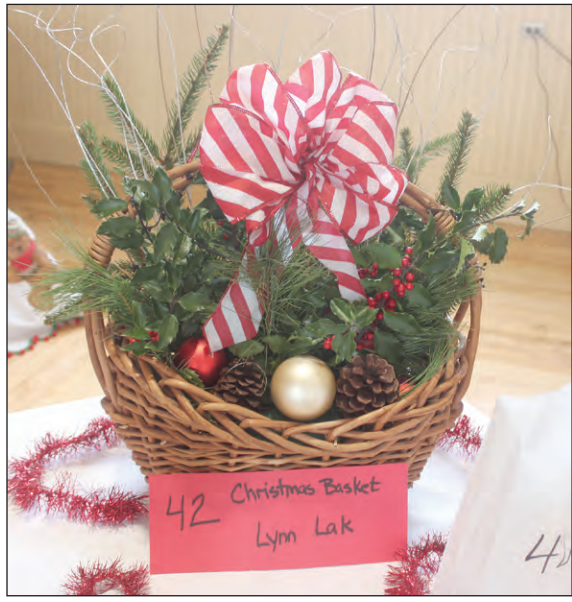
<p>Monday - 6:30 p.m. TRIVIA NIGHT</p>	<p>Large Wedding & Event Hall Available</p>	<p>Golf Membership Specials</p>
Visit Our Website For More Details		

Prime Rib
Every Thursday, Friday & Saturday
Online Ordering & Curbside Pick-up Available

COUNTRY CLUB
262 Lower Road, Gilbertville
774-757-8907 • Pro Shop 774-261-2634
hardwickcrossing.com



A Christmas tree with a hat and mittens guarding the circle of wreaths was created by Lynn Lak.



A Christmas basket made by Lynn Lak.

STROLL from page 1

surrounding the trees in the center of the great hall of Town Hall.

It was in the center of the hall where Santa Claus arrived in Ware and got to say hello to all the children who went on the stroll. Over the weekend, guests could buy raffles and vote for their favorite Christmas tree and wreath.

Many of the donated trees and wreaths were given away during one of the raffles. Proceeds were used to support the Ware Center Meeting House and Museum. The event also had a bake sale, 50/50 raffle and a table with Ware books, T-shirts, and memorabilia.

Some of the memorabilia includes T-shirts commemorating Mary Lane Hospital. Other shirts highlight the Ware Library and the Ware-Gilbertville Covered Bridge. The Ware Historical Society also had a table with many books highlighting the history of Ware and



A unique Christmas ornament highlighted the Ware Center Meetinghouse & Museum.

books written by multiple authors. If guests didn't get a chance to purchase a shirt, they can always contact the Ware Historical Society. The Ware Center Meetinghouse and Museum will be opening back up in May for tours and events.

To highlight the Ware Center

Meetinghouse, Julie Bullock showed everyone a decorative Christmas ornament with a photo of the meetinghouse and museum. Bullock described it as "a great work of craftsmanship" as it highlights a centerpiece of the Town.

The stroll also featured fun activities for kids. There was cookie decorating, crafts and kids' karaoke.

Favorite holiday songs were played during the whole weekend as residents got to enjoy the annual Ware Tree and Wreath Stroll.

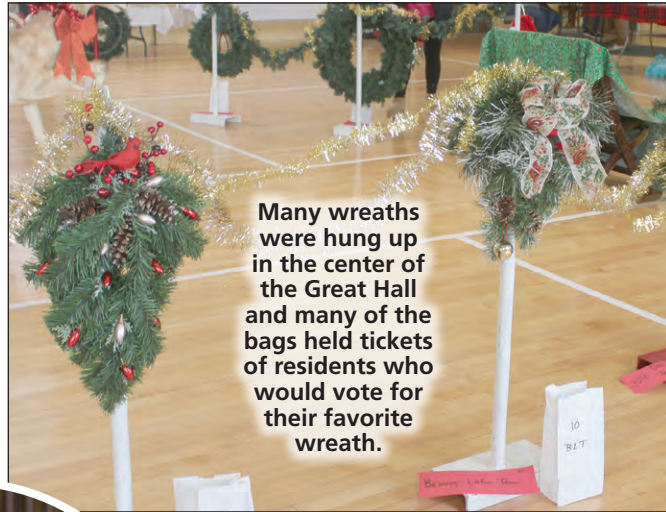
Many trees and wreaths were decorated by dozens of residents and organizations. Many trees that stood out beautifully in the great hall were the trees decorated by students of Ware High School.

Creativity and holiday joy was highlighted in this year's stroll and many residents enjoyed a walk through the winter wonderland that the great hall in Town Hall had to offer.



A Christmas tree from the Beaver Lake Team.

A bake sale was going on during the stroll and many baked goods including Christmas cookies were available.



Many wreaths were hung up in the center of the Great Hall and many of the bags held tickets of residents who would vote for their favorite wreath.



This wooden poinsettia was at the Ware Tree & Wreath Stroll, created by Bernie Wilson.

Holiday 'Flair'



Dance Unlimited put on a spectacular show, dancing to holiday favorites in front of Town Hall.



Dancers had fun while they performed at the Holiday Flair.



Shown from left are Isabella Quink, Andy Zajac, Nicole Zajac and Ashlyn Zajac.



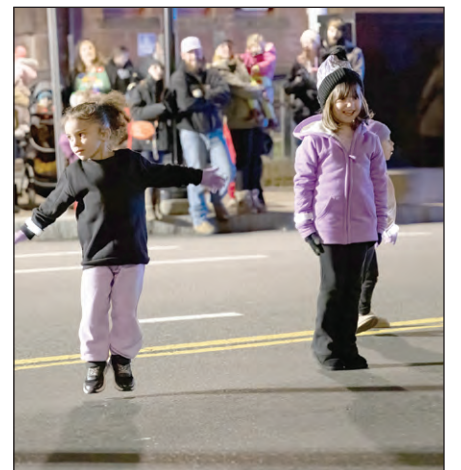
From left are Alex Barron, Kayleigh Loehr and Ryleigh Loehr.



Mahlani Lyon, age 3, is shown with mom Mariah Saez and Everleigh Lyon, age 2, is shown with aunt Stephanie Lyon.



The Dance Unlimited studio wowed audiences with a number of dance routines.



Dancers strike a pose as they perform downtown.

The Whistle Stop Express

Our very own Winter Wonderland Train Car Experience

\$25 Adult • \$10 Child • Under 1 Free

Ticket Includes:
One Hour On The Parked Train Car, Hot Cocoa, Cookie Decorating, Coloring & Crafts, Popcorn, Stories and a Gift from Santa

Sat., Dec. 21 & Sun., Dec. 22
248 Main St., Gilbertville

For Reservations Call 413-477-8888
Walk Ins Welcome
First Come, First Served

WE CARRY A WIDE VARIETY OF FROZEN TURKEYS, TURKEY BREAST, DUCKS, GEESE, CORNISH HENS AS WELL AS FRESH HAMS & RED MEAT ROAST FOR YOUR HOLIDAY NEEDS!

USDA INSP. FRESH PORK "CROWN" ROAST... \$3⁹⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN RIB EYE for STANDING ROAST CUT FREE \$9⁸⁸ lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN TURKEY BREAST \$1⁶⁹ lb CAPONS..... \$5⁹⁹ lb CORNISH GAME HEN \$2⁷⁹ lb
USDA INSP. FRESH HOLIDAY ROAST BONELESS PORK LOIN WITH HAM, CHEESE, PEPPERS, OLIVES, SPICES..... \$4⁴⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TENDERLOIN CUT FREE \$10⁸⁹ lb	HOLIDAY APPETIZERS
USDA INSP. FROZEN PORK SHOULDER PICNIC. \$1³⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF SIRLOIN SPOON ROAST \$5⁹⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICOPEE PROVISIONS BLUE SEAL KIELBASA \$4⁹⁹ lb
USDA INSP. STORE MADE ITALIAN SAUSAGE ALL VARIETIES \$2⁷⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FRESH AMERICAN LEG LAMB \$5⁹⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CODINO'S MANICOTTI w/ RICOTTA 40 OZ \$4⁹⁹ ea
USDA INSP. KAYEM BUDDABALL SMOKED PIT HAM BONELESS WHOLE..... \$3⁶⁶ lb	FROZEN IMPORTED LEG RACKS \$14⁹⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN BACON WRAPPED SHRIMP 15 COUNT \$8⁹⁹ ea
USDA INSP. HATFIELD OLD TIME SKINLESS SHANKLESS HARDWOOD SMOKED WHOLE HAM \$2⁸⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN COOK'S HAM PORTIONS BUTT & SHANK \$1⁴⁹ lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN BOS'N CALAMARI 2 1/2 LB BAG \$9⁹⁹ ea
USDA INSP. FROZEN BONELESS HAM DINNER AVERAGE 5 LB \$1⁹⁹ lb	90 Meat Outlet HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4 Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3 12/22 SUNDAY 8AM-1PM	

ALSO A COMPLETE LINE OF GOURMET CAKES & DESSERTS

90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288 www.90meat.com We reserve the right to limit quantities.



Warren Fire Department sold wreaths during the annual Tree Lighting in Warren.



Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus were in front of the Town Common's Christmas Tree after it was lit to brighten the evening.



The Quaboag High School Cheerleaders performed in front of the Christmas Tree prior to its lighting.

WARREN from page 1

rative crafts and much more. Lizak Bus Service provided a shuttle service between the Shepard Building and Warren Public Library parking lot.

For a nice warm meal Mason's Grille had beef stew and clam chowder available. In addition, the restaurant also had cookies and warm beverages such as hot chocolate available. Mason's Grille was a good spot for residents to warm up before going out to the common on a cold Friday evening.

Making a special appearance prior to the lighting of the common's Christmas tree were the Quaboag Cheerleaders. The cold didn't stop the high school cheerleaders from giving a great performance as the music played on thanks to Quaboag Chorus Teacher James Joinville.

"We will be playing music all night for you," Joinville announced to the crowd.

The common also provided warm fires for residents to gather and keep warm while connecting with friends and family. Guests could enjoy s'mores while warming up by the fires.

There were several vendors, including the Parks Department offering an elf scavenger hunt.

Kids would pick up the scavenger hunt paper from the department's booth and return with the word solved to retrieve a prize.

Warren/West Brookfield Youth Football and Cheerleading group had popcorn and hats for sale and were taking sign ups for the 2025 season. Quaboag Youth Baseball & Softball were taking sign ups and hosted raffle during the Tree Lighting.

The Dance Factory had a crew of helpers making and selling hot chocolate. Members of the Warren Dunkin had appeared at the common with their Donut Man mascot taking pictures with guests and handing out coupons.

The Fire Department was in the holiday spirit and had many wreaths for sale as guests strolled through the common. Close by was a line of residents waiting to enjoy the horse drawn carriage ride through the town. A fun experience to feel like living the song that goes "one horse open sleigh."

Boy Scout Troop 142 had a booth selling hot dog kits and wooden trees. The Lost Arts in Warren had the Grinch and Cindy Lou helping kids work on a Christmas craft inside their craft room.

The Warren Public Library had an open house and invited guests to enjoy some tasty cookies and desserts along with some hot apple cider. Glenda's Pub had an activity for kids to enjoy. Many kids gathered at the craft table at Glenda's and made their own Christmas ornaments.



Members of the Dance Factory had hot chocolate for sale for guests who attended the Warren Tree Lighting.



Residents got to enjoy a horse drawn carriage ride through the town.

Making a special appearance prior to the tree lighting was Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus. Prior to the tree lighting both Santa and Mrs. Claus were hanging out at the Warren Post Office. Kids could visit Santa at the post office and enjoy other activities as well.

Inside the post office was Santa's Mailbox. Kids can write a letter to Santa and drop it off inside his mailbox at the Post Office. The mailbox will be out until Dec. 20 to collect letters.

The Post Office also provided

ed candy and coloring pages for kids to enjoy while seeing Santa. Soon St. Nick and Mrs. Claus would make their way to common for the Tree Lighting. The countdown was loud as the tree would light and brighten the center of Warren.

The annual Warren Tree Lighting is an exciting event for the town every year and brings the whole community together to celebrate the holidays. After the countdown Santa stuck around and took pictures with kids in front of the newly lit Christmas tree.



Popcorn, candy and Cougar merchandise was being sold by the Warren/West Brookfield Youth Football and Cheerleading.



Keaghan and Elliott crafted their own Christmas ornaments inside Glenda's Pub.



Boy Scout Troop 142 kept busy selling hot dog kits and wooden Christmas trees at the tree lighting.



Quaboag Youth Baseball & Softball took signups during the Warren Tree Lighting.



An energy-efficient home is within sight.

Improve the comfort and efficiency of your home with a **no-cost Home Energy Assessment**. It's just one of the many ways we're here for your home.

Here's how it works:

- An Energy Specialist will find areas where your home may be losing energy, especially during hotter and colder months.
- The Energy Specialist can install energy-saving products at no cost and provide weatherization offers, such as 75-100% off approved insulation and no-cost air sealing.
- You can also receive information on rebates and incentives toward qualifying energy-efficient equipment and appliances.

99% of customers who have completed a Home Energy Assessment would recommend it to a friend or family member.

nationalgrid

Proud Sponsor of



Schedule your Home Energy Assessment today. visit ngrid.com/assessment or call 1-866-527-SAVE (7283)



The raffle featured prizes donated by the vendors who participated in the craft fair and gift baskets made by some of the WHS classes.



Nature's Circles crafted by Laurie Gagne of Creations by Laurie.



A line of snowmen are a decorative gift.



A painted slate with Snoopy and Woodstock



Painted slates and stones were all featuring a holiday theme.



Plenty of desserts to go around and purchase at the Holiday Craft Fair.



Ornaments coming in all forms of animals from dogs, cats, birds and horses.

Ware High School hosts holiday craft fair

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – It's time to begin your holiday shopping and it always feels nice shopping local at the holiday craft fair.

The annual holiday craft fair at Ware High School is a fun event that fills the entire high school gymnasium where shoppers look for various gifts and support over 50 local vendors and participate in supporting raffles.

What makes this annual holiday craft fair so much fun is the countless efforts by many of Ware High School's students. Every class helped with setting up and operating this amazing one day shopping event.

Student Council was busy operating the snack shack for guests who made their way into the busy gymnasium which had many unique gifts for sale. In charge of the raffle that was going on during the craft fair was run by students

of Ware high school's junior class. Many of the raffle prizes were donated by some of the vendors who were part of this year's craft fair. There were also gift baskets made by some of the classes as well.

The seniors had the responsibility of operating the lottery tree and the 50/50 raffle. The setup in the gymnasium was made possible by help from students of the sophomore class. All the vendors, 56 in total, were all organized by the sophomores who helped them move in early in the morning prior to the craft fair. Many of the students helped with the set up the night before the craft fair.

Heather Orszulak was at the holiday craft fair and saw a lot of happy shoppers and many hardworking students keeping busy. Another big part of organizing the craft fair is Becky Hebert. Orszulak describes Hebert as the "mastermind of organizing the craft fair."

For years, Hebert has witnessed a lot of great success in



The students at Ware High School played a big part in helping with the annual Holiday Craft Fair. The students kept busy running raffles, fundraisers and spreading a lot of joy at their school.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

the annual Christmas Craft Fair at Ware High School. The support from the students plays a significant role in that success.

There were several fundraisers going on outside the gymnasium as well. One class was raising money for their field trip to New York City. There was also a raffle sale being run by the Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School PTO.

Many shoppers got to explore unique handmade crafts and baked goods from local talent. One unique item that stood out was welcome mats and rugs with funny sayings on it. Another unique item available at one vendor was Nature's Circle, a unique



A table full of Scentsy bars.

design made out of Jenga blocks.

These cool nature decorations were crafted by Creations by Laurie. Many of these cir-

cles featured owls in the center of the circle. Laurie Gagne is an artist known for making these unique masterpieces.



GREEN GOLD
GROUP

Take a right off the ramp and we are "420" feet from you!

➤ Operations:
Open 7 days a week 8AM - 9PM

➤ Address:
1140 Thorndike Street
Palmer, Ma. 01069
next to Mass Pike exit 63

➤ Contact: 413-289-9503
Website: www.greengold.group

➤ Social:
Instagram: @greengoldgroup,
@muncheascannabis,
@liquidgoldcannabis
Facebook: @green gold group
X: @greengoldgroup

➤ Menu:



Green Gold Group Cannabis Dispensary OPEN NOW FOR REC ~ Medical Coming Soon



WE OFFER:

Pre-Packaged Flower
Pre-Rolls
Edibles
Vapes
Concentrates

Tinctures
Topicals
Infused Pre-Rolls
Syrups
RSO

Please Consume Responsibly

Marijuana can impair concentration, coordination, and judgment. Do not operate a vehicle or machinery under the influence of this drug. For use only by adults 21 years of age or older. Keep out of the reach of children.

This product has not been analyzed or approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). There is limited information on the side effects of using this product, and there may be associated health risks. Marijuana use during pregnancy and breast-feeding may pose potential harms. It is against the law to drive or operate machinery when under the influence of this product. KEEP THIS PRODUCT AWAY FROM CHILDREN. There may be health risks associated with consumption of this product. Marijuana can impair concentration, coordination, and judgment. The impairment effects of edible marijuana may be delayed by two hours or more. In case of accidental ingestion, contact poison control hotline 1-800-222-1222 or 9-1-1. This product may be illegal outside of MA.



SPORTS

A TURLEY NEWS ARTICLE www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com



Ware girls open with Hopkins

WARE – The Ware High School girls basketball team had an overall 9-13 record. The Indians would make it into the state tournament despite being under .500, but placed in the Top 32 in Division 5. The Indians were able to beat Pathfinder in the opening round of the tournament, then traveled to nearby Palmer where it lost in the Round of 32. Ware hopes with several players a year more experienced, it will be able to compete for a league title as well as another berth in the state tournament. This Friday, then Indians are scheduled to face off at Hopkins Academy at 7:30 p.m. On Tuesday, Dec. 17, the Indians will face Athol in its home opener at 7 p.m.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

The Indians face Hopkins in their season opener.



Ware will face Athol in its home opener this season.



Pioneers set for new season

PALMER – Last week, Pathfinder girls basketball started its preparation for the winter season. This week, the Pioneers face off with North Brookfield in scrimmage action. Pathfinder then opens up the regular season on Tuesday evening, Dec. 17 at 6 p.m. at home against the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School.

Morgan Clark follows a shot toward the hoop.



Last week, Ware girls basketball traveled to Quabbin Regional for a preseason scrimmage.



The Indians squeezed into last year's state tournament.



The Indians won eight games during last year's regular season.



Greenly Lagimoniere maneuvers the perimeter.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Addison Doktor goes for a layup.



Desiree Croteau fakes before passing inside.

Lawsuits lead to more compliance of scheduling rule

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

PALMER – If you go on the Arbitrator Live website to look at your favorite team's schedule, you will notice the end of every season has anywhere from one to three "filler dates."

These filler dates were the subject of lawsuits filed by Minnechaug and Monson High Schools after their failure to comply with the rule resulted in forfeits being assigned to Monson, Minnechaug, and Pathfinder for either Western Mass. or nonplayoff games played following the end of the regular seasons.

The forfeits were meaningful in terms of determining the schools'

power ranking for the state tournament. Minnechaug and Monson were successful in securing a court injunction and did not take the forfeits. Pathfinder did not attempt to use legal means to reverse the forfeits, and the boys soccer team made the Western Mass. finals, which means they won two games after the regular season that were changed to losses for their MIAA ranking.

More than a dozen other schools including Northampton also were affected by the issue. Many other schools that did not have playoff teams, found themselves unaffected by the issue. But now, nearly every school as of this week had placed filler games at the end of their regular season.

Agawam High School Athletic Director Karen Gomez said filler dates were also placed on many wrestling schedules to comply with the MIAA's rules on determining how many playable dates a team is having.

Though it is not strictly enforced as of yet, more enforcement of posting varsity rosters on the Arbitrator site could be down the line.

"Rosters are supposed to be posted and updated," Gomez said. "They are used to determine rosters when it comes to the playoffs as well."

Gomez says she has to back on the site and make sure rosters are updated for the playoffs to ensure JV players added to rosters for

tournament are included.

When looking at an individual team's schedules, most teams play 16 to 18 regular season contests. The filler dates are then replaced by Western Mass. playoff games or "nonplayoff" games. Some of those nonplayoff games are needed, however. A team that finishes the regular season with a 7-9 record can get into the state tournament with a .500 record. The nonplayoff games played by that team then mean something as they can use them to finish season 9-9 and qualify.

The Arbitrator website is exclusively used now for schedules, rosters, and score postings. The results are used by the MIAA to quantify Power Rankings for tournament seeds.

Ortyl to take helm of Pathfinder boys basketball

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—Ethan Ortyl was hired as a history teacher at Pathfinder Tech prior to the start of the 2024-25 school year. He's also the first-year head coach of the Pioneers boys' varsity basketball team.

"I really wanted a teaching position where I could contribute to the culture of the school outside of the classroom," said Ortyl during a recent interview. "I really enjoy history, and basketball has always been one of my passions."

Ortyl graduated from South Hadley High School in 2019 and from UMass-Amherst in 2022. He replaced Zac Button as a history teacher and the boys' varsity basketball coach at Pathfinder Tech.

Ortyl did his student teaching last year at Putnam Vocational Technical Academy in Springfield.

"It was part of the Teach 180 days in Springfield program, which was an awesome experience for me," he said. "There was another teacher in the classroom with me for the first few months

of the school year. I taught my own class during the second half of the school year. I was nervous at first, but the kids at Putnam were great. I also had a very good mentor. After teaching at Putnam, I knew that I wanted to work at a vocational school. I'm very thankful that the teaching and coaching position was open here at Pathfinder Tech. Everyone has been very helpful to me during the first few months of the school year."

Laura Asson is the head of the History Department at Pathfinder Tech.

"Laura has really helped me a lot so far this year," Ortyl added. "I teach a World History class to the freshmen and U.S. History to the sophomores. I also teach a History of War class to the juniors and seniors. I've really enjoyed teaching the three different history classes."

Another person who Ortyl is hoping to get some coaching advice from is Kevin Aldrich, who's the Pathfinder girls' varsity hoop coach.

Please see **COACH**, page 10



Quabbin won the Central Mass. title last year.



Quabbin made it into the opening round of last year's state tournament.

The Panthers are preparing for their regular season opener against Narragansett.

Panthers preparing for season opener

BARRE – Last Friday evening, the Quabbin Regional High School girls basketball team continued its preparation for the 2024-2025 season. The Panthers hosted Ware High School for a scrimmage. The Panthers also faced off with Palmer, another Western Mass. team earlier this week. Quabbin, which won the Central Mass. title game last year against Notre Dame Academy, open up the season at Narragansett on Friday, Dec. 13. Quabbin's home opener is Friday, Dec. 20 against Maynard.



The Quabbin Regional High School girls basketball team scrimmaged last Friday against Ware.



The Panthers also had a scrimmage scheduled against Palmer this week.

T-Birds stay on track with big OT win

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (12-9-1-0) clawed back from 1-0 down after 40 minutes and emerged with a 2-1 overtime victory over the Rockford IceHogs (8-10-3-0) before a sold-out crowd of 6,793 on Saturday night at the MassMutual Center.

After the two clubs exchanged chances in the opening five minutes, the opening period brought very little in the way of offense against Springfield netminder Vadim Zherenko or Rockford goalie Mitchell Weeks.

The T-Birds were uncharacteristically sloppy in the defensive zone, and a pivotal turnover at 2:59 of the second period resulted in Rockford's opening goal as Cole Guttman picked off a loose puck in the middle of the zone and slipped a five-hole shot through Zherenko to make it 1-0 IceHogs. It marked the first time in eight games that the T-Birds allowed the first goal of a game.

Please see **T-BIRDS**, page 10

sports

Lawsuits lead to more compliance of scheduling rule

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

PALMER – If you go on the Arbitrator Live website to look at your favorite team's schedule, you will notice the end of every season has anywhere from one to three "filler dates."

These filler dates were the subject of lawsuits filed by Minnechaug and Monson High Schools after their failure to comply with the rule resulted in forfeits being assigned to Monson, Minnechaug, and Pathfinder for either Western Mass. or nonplayoff games played following the end of the regular seasons.

The forfeits were meaningful in terms of determining the schools' power ranking for the state tournament. Minnechaug and Monson were successful in securing a court injunction and did not take the forfeits. Pathfinder did not attempt to use legal means to reverse the forfeits, and the boys soccer team made the Western Mass. finals, which means they won two games after the regular season that were changed to losses for their MIAA ranking.

More than a dozen other schools including Northampton also were affected by the issue. Many other schools that did not have playoff teams, found themselves unaffected by the issue. But now, nearly every school as of this week had placed filler games at the end of their regular

season.

Agawam High School Athletic Director Karen Gomez said filler dates were also placed on many wrestling schedules to comply with the MIAA's rules on determining how many playable dates a team is having.

Though it is not strictly enforced as of yet, more enforcement of posting varsity rosters on the Arbitrator site could be down the line.

"Rosters are supposed to be posted and updated," Gomez said. "They are used to determine rosters when it comes to the playoffs as well."

Gomez says she has to back on the site and make sure rosters are updated for the playoffs to ensure JV players added to rosters for tournament are included.

When looking at an individual team's schedules, most teams play 16 to 18 regular season contests. The filler dates are then replaced by Western Mass. playoff games or "nonplayoff" games. Some of those nonplayoff games are needed, however. A team that finishes the regular season with a 7-9 record can get into the state tournament with a .500 record. The nonplayoff games played by that team then mean something as they can use them to finish season 9-9 and qualify.

The Arbitrator website is exclusively used now for schedules, rosters, and score postings. The results are used by the MIAA to quantify Power Rankings for tournament seeds.

Railers fall to Maine Mariners

WORCESTER – The Railers 4-3 loss to Maine Saturday night dropped their record at the DCU Center to 3-6-1 in 2024-25. That compares with a .500 mark on the road at 6-6-0.

There is no logic to it, nor is there any specific area or areas that Worcester needs to be better at.

"I don't think there is any one thing you can put on that," coach Bob Deraney said. "There is nothing that significant that says why we've been better on the road than at home."

Some of the Railers' home losses have been lopsided and interesting. This one was headed that way but turned out to have a thrilling, if disappointing, finish.

Worcester fell behind early, 2-0 and the Mariners eventually stretched that lead to 4-1. Then the Railers came alive late in the third period, scoring goals at 11:07 and 18:29, but could overcome the early deficit.

Griffin Loughran, Anthony Repaci and Anthony Callin had the Worcester goals. Owen Pederson, Justin Bean, Jimmy Lambert and Matthew Philip scored for the Mariners, who snapped a four-game losing streak.

Callin was one of the Railers best players last season. His goal late in the third period was a beauty, a high hard snap shot from the right circle with Worcester having an extra skater, and his first of the year.

"I think it's huge," Deraney said of that goal. "I know it's been weighing on him. He's been second-guessing himself, gripping the stick too tight, all those things that happen to a guy who cares so much and wants to contribute to the team."

Repaci scored shorthanded at 11:07 to make it 4-2. He converted a pass from Matt DeMelis. Repaci continues to have a memorable, and perhaps in the long run, unprecedented season. He was 1-1-2 Saturday night and is 16-8-24 in 22 games.

Repaci is up to 160 points in a Worcester uniform. He is tied with IceCats forward Marc Brown for third most in city history.

The Railers could not find any offensive traction until the game was almost over. Maine had the best of things by far, both in terms of time of possession and quality of scoring chances.

The first period was an omen of things to come. About three minutes after the puck drop the Railers incurred three consecutive icing calls in a span of 30 seconds. Then Pederson scored from 15 feet out at 7:37 into the period and Bean put one over Michael Bullion's glove at 9:23 to make it 2-0.

Loughran's goal was a thrilling one.

Early in the first period he caused a turnover that turned into a breakaway, but he got in too deep and Maine goalie Ryan Bischel stopped him. This time he was set up by a great pass from Connor Welch and zoomed in at top speed. His wrist shot from between the circles was essentially unstoppable.

Lambert made it a 3-1 game at 6:39 of the third period, beating Bullion from the side of the net. Philip scored on a breakaway at 17:54.



community

Planning Board hears from Friends of MLH

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The Planning Board had a long discussion with the Friends of Mary Lane Hospital regarding the process of changing the zoning on the hospital property.

The Friends of Mary Lane Hospital is dedicated to supporting the Lewis Gilbert will, which gifted the land and hospital to the community after his passing. The property totals to 21 acres of land and over time had had many extensions beyond one of the original buildings of the hospital, the Wetherby building.

The groups wants to assure that there is a medical care or service in the region and save what can be saved on the property to make it a functional medical facility. The group and some residents of the believe Baystate Health has not been completely honest with them in regard to what they're going to do with the property.

Many residents believe that Baystate Health will sell to Westmass Development to redevelop the property. For a better understanding of why the Friends of Mary Lane Hospital are discussing this with the Planning Board, Chairman Kenneth Crosby wanted to know what the drawback is if Baystate was willing to give the property to the town.

Stephen Granlund explained their process is to determine what

can be saved and go forward with a special town meeting article and zone the property to where it is limited to what the property can operate as. In this case, the desired zoning is for medical facilities.

Granlund stated that the structure of the buildings is fine and are worth keeping.

Planning Board member Rich Starodaj suggested the group run an article through the Selectboard and then the Planning Board will address it in a public hearing. Having the discussion in the public hearing would allow residents to share input and the Planning Board can have a better understanding of whether they agree with the article or not.

"Come up with the wording for what you want for zoning," Starodaj said.

Chris Dimarzio stated its important that the Planning Board wants to craft a bylaw that makes sense and Crosby reminded the Friends of MLH that this process takes months.

The Planning Board did agree that housing may not be the best fit for the area where Mary Lane Hospital sits. According to Granlund, housing was one of the ideas Westmass had for the development of that property if they take up ownership.

With Cedarbrook Village being the next door neighbor of Mary Lane Hospital, the friends wanted to know if an overlay district was possible. Overlay districts can be

used to address areas of community interest that need special consideration. Cedarbrook provides a senior living and assisted living community.

Decommissioning security review

The Planning Board spoke with Senior Project Manager Rodney Galton of Ecos Energy for a decommissioning security review and discussion. The Planning Board and Galton had a difference in opinion about the technical report.

"We could roll the construction over when it came time," Galton said.

Galton believes there was an agreement made during a Dec. 7 meeting back in 2023 that they would allow the \$500,000 bond. Galton said its been several months since he reviewed the video and the Planning Board should check for themselves if they're not sure on the agreement.

"You'll have to review the video," Galton stated.

Based off the link Galton received, the cost is \$10,000 per acre. Dimarzio said the Planning Board should review what was discussed in the meeting last year and review the link Galton received. According to the Planning Board they received something else with different numbers and costs.

The Planning Board will meet with Ecos Energy in a couple weeks and to resolve the decommissioning review.

warren

Yoga and meditation program offered this evening

WARREN – Yoga & Meditation for Vibrant Health & Peace of Mind will be held on Thursday, Dec. 12 from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Centered Place, 286 Bridge St. and live on Zoom.

Holiday lights are everywhere. Yoga and meditation help you find the light that shines from within you. Experience an inner depth filled with peace and joy.

Yoga and meditation are clinically tested for reducing stress and improving health. Enjoy a slow-

er-paced yoga practice with simple poses that are easy and work like magic. Relieve back, neck and shoulder tension. Improve mobility, vitality and stamina.

Learn how to relax-stay calm and breathe easy even amidst the challenges that come with the holidays and the times we live in.

The event is free and for all ages, 14 and up. No previous yoga experience necessary. Attend in person or online.

Registration is required. Please

call 413-436-7690 or email warrenpubliclibrary@hotmail.com to register. Zoom link will be provided upon request when registering. If attending via Zoom, have a chair handy (folding chair is best).

This workshop will be presented by Phil Milgrom of the Centered Place in Warren and is sponsored by the Warren Public Library with a grant from the Warren Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the MA Cultural council, a state agency.

WATER from page 5

feedback on how the town's charter can be improved.

Beckley said over 70 old or unreadable water meters have been replaced by the Water Department, which will give water users more accurate billing.

Beckley said the state approved the town's tax rate for \$15.06. He said across the commonwealth, property values have gone "significantly up," and that even with a lower tax rate, tax bills are likely to increase.

Tax bills will be mailed out to residents at the end of the month.

Firefighters' contract

The Selectboard tabled the signing of the contract with the firefighters for the next business meeting. Beckley said the

contract has been completed but didn't arrive in time for board members to review it.

Dangerous dog hearing

The board scheduled a dangerous dog hearing to be held on Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 6:40 p.m. in the Selectboard meeting room for a dog residing at 8 Desantis Drive.

Boston Post Cane update

Selectboard Clerk John Desmond said there are replicas of the town's original Boston Post Cane available to distribute to the town's oldest citizen. He said resurrecting this tradition would be a nice gesture for the town to honor its residents with.

Desmond suggested looking at town records to determine the oldest citizen in order to present a cane at a Selectboard meeting in January.

surrounding communities of Ware are encouraged to write to Warren.

Dear Senator, all I want for Christmas is our \$17 million dollars returned.

Send to: Senator Elizabeth Warren, 2400 JFK Federal Building, 15 New Sudbury St., Boston, MA 02203.

Mary Lane Hospital served many communities, with a combined population of no less than 31,000. It is now a healthcare desert.

Only two primary care doctors remain. No pediatricians, OB-GYN, oncologists, cardiologists, etc. Please support this campaign. Return the funds to Ware. Hard working money donated for healthcare, by residents for residents.

Packets have been created to help move this message forward. They can be picked up at Nat Falk, 64 Main St. in Ware or at the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road, Ware.

LETTER from page 5

on since May of this year. But not all parties are cooperating as quickly as the residents would like.

The trustee is Bank of America, the second largest bank in the United States. Baystate Health is the third largest hospital in Massachusetts. It's like David and Goliath. Except that residents are taking on two giants in a fight to get their money back.

A new campaign, "Send a Letter to Elizabeth," has taken off. Hundreds of residents are writing letters to Sen. Elizabeth Warren asking her to contact the Attorney General's Office.

Warren is on several Senate committees overseeing banking institutions and healthcare. Her passion for fighting against institutional unfairness is what this community needs.

All residents impacted by the loss of healthcare in the

Tips for a healthy holiday season

SPRINGFIELD— At a time when doctors' offices typically get flooded with patients, Dr. Andrew Koslow, associate medical director of American Family Care for Massachusetts, is offering tips to make sure people are spreading holiday cheer instead of viruses and illnesses. The advice is simple: Wash hands more frequently; Get plenty of rest; Stay hydrated; Eat well-balanced nutritious meals; Get flu, COVID, pneumonia and RSV vaccinations as

recommended; and avoid anyone who is sick.

"People tend to run themselves down in the weeks and days leading up to holidays. It's easy to get caught up in the frenetic pace of parties, shopping and burning the candle at both ends," said Koslow. "Even if you're young and healthy, when visiting relatives who may be at risk, you could make them sick."

Koslow said it's also important for families to be aware of a

recent spike in mycoplasma pneumonia infections across the country, also known as walking pneumonia. Symptoms can vary, ranging from cough to fever, shortness of breath, chest pain and nausea.

"Mycoplasma pneumonia is easily treated with antibiotics," said Koslow. "The important thing is to get lots of rest if you experience these symptoms. See a doctor and stay home."

MassDot public meeting about Palmer station

PALMER— MassDOT invites the public to a public information meeting on the Palmer station planning and design project on Monday, Dec. 16, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Palmer Public Library, Community Room.

The project team will provide an overview of the study's background, the station site alternatives and evaluation, and design considerations for a potential future rail station in Palmer. Attendees

will be asked to provide feedback on the site alternatives and design considerations. All comments will be taken into consideration as MassDOT and the Steering Committee move forward in the site selection process. For individuals who are unable to attend, comments and questions may be submitted electronically to andrew.m.kozio1@dot.state.ma.us. About the project As part of MassDOT's Compass Rail pro-

gram to expand intercity passenger rail in Massachusetts, MassDOT is conducting a study to identify a new passenger rail station along the proposed Compass Rail corridor serving the Town of Palmer and surrounding communities. The proposed new passenger rail station will enhance mobility and connectivity, support local planning goals, and drive economic development.



Submitted Photo

SHOE COLLECTION BIN AVAILABLE AT TRANSFER STATION

The Rotary Club of the Brookfields has partnered with the Warren Transfer Station and Planet Aid for a new Footwear Collection Box. Donating unwanted sneakers and other footwear to this collection bin for recycling will help support the Rotary Club of the Brookfields' Literacy and Community Service Projects they do for the seven towns they serve.

public safety

Ware Police Log

During the week of Dec. 1-10, the Ware Police Department responded to 18 miscellaneous calls, 46 administrative calls, 15 traffic violations, 13 emergency 911 calls, two harassments, six motor vehicle accidents, three thefts/larcenies, three trespasses, two damage/vandalisms, four safety hazards, five animal calls and 18 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

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
6:03 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Valley View, Dispatch Handled

Wednesday, Dec. 4
3:51 a.m. Breaking and Entering/Burglary, Otis Avenue, Investigated
10:08 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Palmer Road, Report Made
12:45 p.m. Theft/Larceny, North Street, Services Rendered
5:31 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Osborne Road, Services Rendered
9:54 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Upper Church Street, Appears Secure After Check

Thursday, Dec. 5
6:21 a.m. Electrical Hazard, Greenwich Road, Advised

6:44 a.m. Safety Hazard, Webster Road, Services Rendered
7:36 a.m. Safety Hazard, Pleasant Street, Services Rendered
7:56 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Pleasant Street, Report Made

8:59 a.m. Electrical Hazard, Pine Crest Circle, Investigated
9:13 a.m. Damage/Vandalism, Osborne Road, Services Rendered

Friday, Dec. 6
11:35 a.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Pleasant Street, Investigated
2:03 p.m. Safety Hazard, Malboeuf Road, Dispatch Handled
4:58 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Babcock Tavern Road, Advised
5:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Criminal Complaint
5:08 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Pleasant Street, Appears Secure after Check
8:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Criminal Complaint

Saturday, Dec. 7
3 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Vehicle Towed
8:34 a.m. Theft/Larceny, Eagle Street, Assist Given
10:38 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation/Warning Issued
2:12 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Palmer Road, Report Made
4:36 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Palmer Road, Services Rendered

Sunday, Dec. 8
11:03 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Street, Report Made

Editor's Note: People in this country are presumed to be innocent until found guilty in a court of law. Police provide us with the information you read on this page as public record information. If you or any suspect listed here is found not guilty or has charges dropped or reduced, we will gladly print that information as a follow-up upon being presented with documented proof of the court's final disposition.

4:50 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Main Street, Could not Locate
5:18 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Main Street, Patient Refusal

Monday, Dec. 9
8:47 a.m. Harassment/Stalk, Pine Street, No Action Required
9:59 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, South Street, Services Rendered
11:17 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Unknown Location, Dispatch Handled
4:53 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Convent Hill Road, Investigated

Tuesday, Dec. 10
7:44 a.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Pine Street, Services Rendered
8 a.m. Harassment/Stalk, Gilbertville Road, Advised

Bylaw outlines clearing of snow and ice from sidewalks

WARE – With the arrival of winter weather, it's time to review the town's snow and ice removal bylaw as outlined in Chapter 44, Section 1: Tenant or owner of abutting property to remove snow and ice from sidewalk.

The tenant, or in the case there shall be no tenant, the owner of any real estate abutting upon any sidewalk now in use or hereafter constructed within the town, shall, after the ceasing to fall or form of any snow, ice, or sleet, within 24 hours cause the same to be removed from such sidewalk, and if the same cannot be wholly removed, shall sprinkle thereon sand, or other proper substance so that such sidewalk shall be safe

for travel.
Chapter 44, Section 2: Violations and penalties: time for instituting proceedings
Whoever violates the provisions of Chapter 44, Section 1 of this chapter shall be liable to a penalty of not exceeding \$100. No person shall be prosecuted for any offense against any of the provisions of unless complaint for the same shall be instituted and commenced within three months of the time of the commission of such offense.

According to Chapter 44, Section 3, It shall be the duty of the Chief of Police to see that the provisions of Chapter 44, Section 1 of this Chapter be enforced.

'A Big Band Christmas' concert Dec. 22

WARE – Weir River Jazz will present "A Big Band Christmas," a big band concert in the Grand Hall of Workshop13, 13 Church St. on Sunday, Dec. 22, at 2 p.m.

All are welcome to hear the great sounds of a traditional Big Band playing your favorite seasonal melodies. This concert is open to the public and there is no charge for admission.

Donations to Workshop13 are appreciated to help continue the support of the arts.

STUFF A CRUISER

Community comes together for gift collection event



Santa Claus helped Sergeant Diana Gliniecki from the Ware Police Department and Blair Robidoux from Country Bank collect toys during the Stuff a Cruiser event.



The Grinch and Santa Claus visited with a child at the Stuff a Cruiser event held at Country Bank to support the Ware Police Department's Christmas for Kids gift drive.

Friends of MFL hold bake sale on Dec. 17

MONSON – The Friends of the Monson Free Library will hold a Holiday Bake Sale on Tuesday, Dec. 17 from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. in the DeSantis Community Room of the Monson Library, 2 High St. Cookies, pies, cakes, breads, scones, fudge and other Christmas goodies will be for sale. The proceeds will support special events at the library.

Holyoke Community College recognizes fall 2024 graduates

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is proud to recognize the following students who will complete their requirements for graduation at the end of the fall 2024 semester.
Ware graduates include Shelly S. Bowder, Kristen Nicole Farmer, Hannah Rose Jacques, Summer Arlene Prevost, Theresa Marie Sutton and Darren Joseph Wawro.
These members of the Class of 2025 were recognized at HCC's second Fall Graduate Reception on Dec. 2, in the college's Leslie Phillips Theater and will also be invited to participate in HCC's 78th Commencement exercises at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, on May 31, 2025.

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.

Perfect Gift for the hard to buy for!

- Local News, Events & Information
- Local & Regional Headlines
- Local Jobs, Real Estate & Classifieds
- Local Dining & Entertainment Updates & So Much More

Support your local newspaper with the holiday gift that keeps on giving!

Agawam Advertiser News \$35/year (\$40 out-of-state)
 Barre Gazette \$33/year (\$38 out-of-state)
 Journal Register \$35/year (\$40 out-of-state)
 Ware River News \$31/year (\$36 out-of-state)
 Country Journal \$31/year (\$36 out-of-state)

Call 413.283.8393
 Subscribe now at www.turley.com

Classifieds Business Arts Local Weather



obituaries

Kenneth Arthur Davison, 82

WARREN – Kenneth Arthur Davison, 82, of Warren, died on Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2024, in Vantage at Hampden nursing home.



He is survived by his children, Sandra Lamay and her husband Bruce of West Warren, Karen Marcinkiewicz and her husband Mark of Southampton, and Kenneth Davison, Jr. and his wife Angela of West Warren. Kenneth is also remembered by his four grandchildren, Bruce Lamay, Jr., Matthew Lamay, Lani Davison and Alex Davison as

well as many great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his wife of 61 years, Gloria Davison.

Kenneth was a family man who enjoyed sharing family dinners and spending quality times together. He would take trips to the casino. He was a fan of old country music and walking along Misquamicut beach with his metal detector trying to find lost treasured items. Occasionally he would find watches and rings and try to return them to their rightful owners.

Mr. Davison was a United States Army Veteran. He worked at the former Palmer Foundry for 30+ years prior to retiring.

A Funeral Mass for Ken will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. in St. Stanislaus Church, 2270 Main St. in West Warren. Guests are asked to please meet directly at church. Burial will be held in St. Paul Cemetery in Warren following Mass.

Varnum Funeral Home, 43 East Main St., in West Brookfield is honored to serve the Davison family.

An online guest book is available at varnumfuneralhome.com.

Carole Ann Ruggeri, 80

WARE – Carole Ann (Messier) Ruggeri, 80, of Ware, died on Thursday, Dec. 5, 2024, in Baystate Wing Hospital.

She leaves her husband of 47 years, Edward H. Ruggeri; her daughter, Heather A. Ruggeri of Agawam, and her son, William D. Ruggeri of Palmer, as well as two grandchildren, Tabitha Baker and Thomas Ruggeri, her brother, Robert Messier and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her brother, David Messier.

Carole was born in Gilbertville, daughter of the late Lawrence and Anna (Marconi) Messier.

Carole graduated from St. Aloysius School and went on to be a teacher at the former Belchertown State School for several years. She enjoyed traveling with Ed, as well as hiking and bird watching. She also liked flower gardening around her home.

A graveside service for Carole will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2024, at 11 a.m. in New St. William Cemetery, Belchertown Road, in Ware.

Death notices

Davison, Kenneth Arthur
Died Nov. 26, 2024
Services Dec. 18, 2024

Moody, Scott A.
Died Nov. 12, 2024
Services Dec. 14, 2024

Piche, Simone Marie
Died Dec. 4, 2024
Services Dec. 13, 2024

Ruggeri, Carole Ann (Messier)
Died Dec. 5, 2024

Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St. in Ware is assisting her family with her arrangements. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Floor 17, Chicago, IL 60601 or online at alz.org.

An online tribute page 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.

Scott A. Moody, 52

BROOKSVILLE, FL/WARE – Scott A. Moody, 52, of Brooksville, Florida passed away on Nov. 12, 2024.



Scott was born in Ware on April 4, 1972, to Leroy "Butch" Moody and the late Donna Moody of Ware.

Scott grew up and attended school in Ware where he excelled with accolades through youth sports and high school, including basketball, baseball and as quarterback at Ware High School. He led the football team to the 1989 Division II Superbowl Championship game.

After graduation he attended Holy Cross College where he obtained his bachelor's degree in economics and went on to engage in numerous career endeavors before settling in Brooksville.

Scott will be remembered for his kind heart and a truly helping soul with a tough and competitive nature that served him well. He enjoyed cooking breakfast and large family meals during the holidays.

In addition to his father, he is survived by his two brothers, Brett and Dana Moody and his two wonderful children Connor and Chloe Moody, whom he loved dearly. He was happiest when spending time with them. Whether it was watching and playing sports with Connor or sharing bear hugs and kisses with Chloe, they always brought a smile to his face.

A Funeral Service for Scott will be held on Saturday, Dec. 14, 2024, at 11 a.m. in Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St., in Ware with Fr. Piotr Pawlus as the officiant. A calling hour will be held from 10-11 a.m. prior to the service.

An online tribute page is available at charbonneaufh.com.

St. Mary's Church offers Advent series

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.

Simone Marie Piche, 70

WARE – Simone Marie Piche, age 70, passed away on Dec. 4, 2024, at Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care in West Brookfield.



Simone was born in Ware on Aug. 18, 1954, daughter of the late Claude G. Lavallee and Helen T. (Goulet) Lavallee, and was a life-long resident. She was a 1972 graduate of Ware High School.

Simone's greatest joy in life was her role as a loving mother and memere. She enjoyed spending time with and caring for her family and baking, which always made everyone happy.

Simone was a devout Catholic

and a kind hearted soul, who was always thinking of others before herself.

She will be deeply missed by her daughters Jodi Turek, Lee Gauthier and her spouse Derek Gauthier and her grandchildren, Alexander Gauthier, Olivia Turek, Anna Turek, Abigail Gauthier and Anthony Turek, and her siblings, George and

his spouse Jeanne, Louise and her spouse Jim, Robert and his spouse Carol, Denise and her spouse Bill, Rachel, Maurice and his spouse Geri and her many nieces and nephews. Simone was predeceased by her loving parents and loving

nieces; Jessie Devanski and Tara Blodgett.

A Graveside Service with Prayers of Committal will take place on Friday, Dec. 13, 2024, at 11 a.m. in Mount Carmel Cemetery in Ware.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to The Graceful Swan, Inc., at 81 Osborne Road, Ware, MA 01082. This is a non-profit organization that was created in memory of Simone's niece, Tara Blodgett or a donation to a charity of your choice in honor of Simone.

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

19 artists to exhibit at Northampton

NORTHAMPTON— The Quabbin Art Association is hosting its first ever New Artists, New Perspectives exhibit at the Northampton Center for the Arts, featuring nineteen emerging artists from nine Pioneer-Valley Universities, Colleges, and Community Colleges. The exhibit runs Dec. 4, through Jan. 3, 2025, at NOHO Arts, 33 Hawley St.

Northampton Center for the Arts and the Quabbin Art Association will also host a Meet the Artists Reception at the exhibit on Dec. 13, from 5 to 8 p.m. This new initiative is funded by the

Massachusetts Cultural Council Festivals and Projects grant and awards a \$250 cash stipend and 2-year QAA membership to each participating artist. Projects like this one reflect the Quabbin Art Association's mission to support the arts in Pioneer Valley. Congratulations to all of the new student artists that will be featured in the up-coming exhibit: Rhaymi Porter—American International College; Caly Van Leeuwen and Eads Fouche—Amherst College; Elms College—Sarah Paradee and Catalyna Alexopoulos; Valentina Cacaj, Mari Champagne

and Erin Shabunin—Greenfield Community College; Emma Aiken and Malyna Dansereau—Holyoke Community College; Lize Brown, Sophia Jakobson and AJ Treat—Mount Holyoke College; Christopher Sanabria and Nhu Truong—Springfield College; Jenezy Ortiz and Heeju Yoon—The University of Massachusetts; Ariana Masterjohn—Western NewEngland University; and Maddison Deboise Wetherell—Montserrat College

Christmastime is here again!



Sarah and Tim Nydam hand out candy to paradegoers.



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

Dancers from the Get Up and Dance studio from Gilbertville were joined by their families on a float featured in the annual Christmas in Barre parade this past Saturday.

BARRE – Dancers from the Get Up and Dance studio in Gilbertville participated in the annual Christmas in Barre parade last Saturday. Joining them in the parade,

were studio owner Sarah Nydam and her husband, Tim, as well as a number of parents. Each participant wore a festive costume and enjoyed handing out candy to paradegoers.

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 nonperishable 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.

The Grinchmas season continues through Dec.

SPRINGFIELD – Grinchmas festivities are in full swing at the Springfield Museums. Exclusive to the Museums, the Grinch's Grotto is the lovable curmudgeon's home on Mount Crumpit—the perfect spot for holiday photos. This year, the Grotto features an interactive Who-ville Snack Shack and a towering ice sculpture station that are sure to amuse visitors of all ages. Check the Museums' online calendar to see when the Grinch himself will be there.

A visitor favorite for more than a decade, the Museums annual gingerbread exhibition is on view through Dec. 31. Local bakers, schools, organizations, individuals, and families have

contributed sweet creations in support of this year's theme, Gingerbread in Toyland, displayed in a large exhibit hall filled with classic toys, books, and festive decorations.

Grinchmas is Dec. 14, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is free with museum admission.

Bring a Christmas list and meet Kris Kringle, make a gift for a special loved one in Santa's Workshop, and more. On Dec. 14, learn all about the annual celebration of Kwanzaa with our friends from the Kwanzaa Collective. The following day, Sunday Dec. 15, B'Yachad Springfield will introduce visitors to the traditions of the Jewish festival of Hanukkah. School vacation fun and

games are from Dec. 27 to Dec. 30 and are free with museum admission.

It's winter break. Come explore the galleries through activities inspired by classic games. Learn about different winter holidays, play a game of trivia, build a "snowman" indoors, create geometric art, and catch live performances.

Grinchmas is sponsored by the Irene E. and George A. Davis Foundation. Gingerbread in Toyland is sponsored by the Razzmatazz Toys. Lighting of the Quadrangle illuminations made possible by Decorate with Lights Western Massachusetts. MassMutual is the season supporter of the Springfield Museums.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13					14				15			
16				17					18			
19				20				21				
		22					23			24		
25	26	27		28			29			30		
31			32		33		34				35	
36				37		38			39		40	
				41				43		44		
				45				46		47	48	
49	50			51				52			53	
54								56		57	58	59
60								61				62
63								64				65
66								67				68

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Thou ___ do it
- 6. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 9. Brainstem part
- 13. Town in New York state
- 14. Little (Spanish)
- 15. Continent
- 16. Retch
- 17. Short-billed rails
- 18. Small period of time (abbr.)
- 19. Confused
- 21. A team needs one
- 22. Woman in ancient times
- 23. Republican Party
- 24. Spanish be
- 25. "The Godfather" character Johnny
- 28. Not around
- 29. City in Zambia
- 31. A type of beginning
- 33. Numb
- 36. Gurus
- 38. Small, gray-headed

CLUES DOWN

- 1. One-time Aaron
- 39. Vehicle type
- 41. Disorders
- 44. One point east of southeast
- 45. Indian soldier
- 46. Tree type
- 48. Midway between south and southeast
- 49. It cools your home
- 51. Corn comes on it
- 52. Ship's deck
- 54. A way to bake
- 56. Improvised
- 60. Butterfly genus
- 61. Baseball fields have them
- 62. Designated space
- 63. Discharge
- 64. Two of something
- 65. Once more
- 66. Part of your face
- 67. Tax collector
- 68. Cassia tree

Rodgers target

- 2. Wings
- 3. Overly studious person
- 4. They protect your valuables
- 5. The Volunteer State
- 6. Non-hydraulic cement
- 7. Horse mackerel
- 8. Jackson and Diddle are two
- 9. Splendid displays
- 10. Mountain in NE Greece
- 11. A daughter or your brother or sister
- 12. German surname
- 14. Having more than one husband at a time
- 17. Romanian city
- 20. Energy
- 21. Makes less hot
- 23. Gas diffusion electrode
- 25. Former CIA
- 26. Set an example for others
- 27. Support of a particular person
- 29. One from the Big

- Apple
- 30. Mountain range
- 32. Violate the sanctity of something
- 34. Supervises flying
- 35. Talks
- 37. Persian male given name
- 40. Born of
- 42. Forcibly take one's possessions
- 43. Discounts
- 47. Knockouts
- 49. Posh Colorado destination
- 50. Form of therapy
- 52. British rock band
- 53. Type of virus (abbr.)
- 55. The U. of Miami mascot is one
- 56. Volcanic crater
- 57. Middle Eastern nation
- 58. Sinn ____, Irish organization
- 59. Ethiopian lake
- 61. Bits per inch (abbr.)
- 65. Equally

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

BALED HAY FOR SALE. First cut and second cut. Call 413-323-7120.

TIRES: BRIDGESTONE BLIZZARD 225 65R17, 102H four tires, used only two winters. No defects. \$300/cash. Chris 413-539-4866.

MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY. EXTRAORDINARY performance. Central Boiler certified Classic Edge Titanium HDX OUTDOOR WOOD FURNACE. Call today 413-296-4320.

ESTATE SALE

ESTATE SALE hosted by **Yellow Bear Market, December 13, 9am-4pm; December 14 9am-5pm.** Records, DVDs, CDs, kitchen tables and chairs, bureaus, collectibles, Hot Wheels, Star Wars, tools, electronics, household items, mountain bike, smoker, snowblowers and much more. Like us on Facebook for videos, sales and more **Yellow Bear Market, 184 Main Street, Russell.**

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD Fresh cut & split \$200.00 Seasoned cut & split \$300.00 All hardwood. Tree length available. *Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!** New England Forest Products (413)477-0083

MORE HEAT LESS WOOD. Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. 26% Tax Credit. Call (508)882-0178

WANTED

Buy, Sell & Trade Video Games
Retro World
413-301-5020 M-S 11-7
187 Main St.
Indian Orchard, MA

ATTENTION UNPUBLISHED AUTHORS.

I am starting a free library for unpublished authors. Please send your rejected manuscript with a one page summary. Any genre including history, fantasy, mystery, young adult, and poetry. Please mail to **James Zlody, 25 Tinkham Glen, Wilbraham, MA 01095.**

WANTED TO BUY

ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.
BUYING Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more Donald Roy (860) 874-8396

JUNK REMOVAL

ARA JUNK FURNITURE REMOVAL
Full house cleanouts, attics, basements, garages, pools, hot tubs, sheds, decks. Same day service. 8am-9pm. Credit cards accepted. Free estimates on phone. Fully insured. Call Pete 413-433-0356.

JUNK REMOVAL

A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL
Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.
We load it & take it.
413-531-1936
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

SERVICES

A B Hauling and Removal Service
2***A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE*******
Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. (413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868.

DRYWALL AND CEILINGs, plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. (413)563-0487

JACKIE'S BOOKKEEPING SERVICES
Call (413) 455-4020
Email: jmbookkeeping24@gmail.com

ELECTRICIAN

NEED AN ELECTRICIAN?
Look no further!
PJ's Electrical offers fast and reliable electrical services for your home or business. Call now for a FREE estimate! (413) 366-1703 LICENSED & INSURED

HEATING & AIR COND.

KELLUM HEATING & COOLING LLC. Licensed and insured HVAC Technician, 30 years experience, repairs, full and 24 hour emergency service. 413-275-4408.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

HANDYMAN RESIDENTIAL REPAIRS. Powerwashing, home repairs, interior/exterior painting, ceiling/wall repairs and chimney repairs. Fully licensed/insured. Lic. #105950CSL. Call 413-566-5596/413-433-5073.

HOME IMPROVEMENTS. RE-MODELING Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. (413)246-2783 Ron.

MASONRY

REPUBLIC MASONRY SERVICES!
Expert chimney, basement, interior/exterior, repointing. Call Henry at 413-276-8322. Book today! Preserve your timeless estate. Insured.

Classified Advertising DEADLINE MONDAY AT NOON

SERVICES

STOP WET BASEMENTS

ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING
All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call (413)569-1611, (413)374-5377

PAINTING

DUTCH TOUCH PAINTING
Interior only \$199.00 for average 12x16 room. Very neat, references, prompt service call (508)867-2550

PLUMBING

GREG LAFOUNTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg (413)592-1505

SERVICES

ROOFING

JENKINS ROOFING specializing in residential roofs & repairs, chimney repairs. Hampden, MA - 413-566-5596/413-433-5073. Lic. #105950CSL. Fully insured.

RUBBISH REMOVAL

BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 (413)537-5090

SNOWPLOWING

SNOW PLOWING Residential, commercial and business. 413-388-5854

TREE WORK

AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE. Residential removal of trees. Free estimates. Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call 413-283-6374.

SERVICES

DL & G TREE SERVICE-

Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate (413)478-4212

TUTORING

TUTORING: Literacy, all ages. Math K-8, online, your home or library. Call 978-799-9096. petedon151@live.com

STUMP GRINDING

DL & G STUMP GRINDING Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave 413-478-4212.

AUTO

AUTO FOR SALE
2010 HYUNDAI SONATA, well cared for and in good condition. 138,000 miles. Reference Blue Book for fair price. Please call (541) 654-6007.

AUTO

CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS
FREE TOWING FAST SERVICE CASH PAID AS IS CALL OR TEXT 413-219-6839

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF BLANDFORD HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT
The Town of Blandford is seeking a qualified individual for the position of Highway Superintendent. Salary range starting at \$75,000-\$80,000+ negotiable based on experience/skills. Please visit our website TownOfBlandford.com or email Administrator@TownofBlandford.com for more information.

Post your job openings in our classifieds. WE GET RESULTS!

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT

PROFESSIONAL OFFICE SPACE, shared with consultant. Artistically designed and decorated. Includes utilities, conference room, and kitchen. 3333 Boston Road, Wilbraham. 617-209-4882.



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY
ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

Find archives of this local newspaper at www.newspapers.turley.com

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

BUY/SELL GRIN REPEAT WITH THE CLASSIFIEDS!

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 **DEADLINES: MONDAY AT NOON**
or call: 413-283-8393

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

Base Price \$26.00
 Base Price \$27.00
 Base Price \$27.50
 Base Price \$28.00
 Base Price \$29.00
 Base Price \$30.00
 Base Price \$31.00
 Base Price \$31.50
 Base Price \$32.00
 Base Price \$33.00
 Base Price \$33.50
 Base Price \$34.00
 Base Price \$35.00
 Base Price \$35.50
 Base Price \$36.00

Name: _____ Phone: _____
 Address: _____
 Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
 Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash Check# _____
 Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
 Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

Quabbin
Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

GREAT VALUE!

ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

public notices

Early Deadlines

for all LEGAL NOTICES...

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

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 red 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=RFNlXURBWAyYV6BRaFBP1FGbeAWlhZ.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, 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

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.

LOVATO from page 1

ed in a loss of one fifth of the district's faculty, including three high school principals.

Public comment

Several residents and parents of students at Ware Public Schools came before the School Committee to share concerns about safety and staffing in the school district.

First to speak was resident Kristin Bateman who shared concerns about safety. She said she shared these concerns last spring when a lockdown drill had not taken place in the school district.

This year, she said a lockdown drill was held on Sept. 19 for all three buildings, but according to her students, there were discrepancies in protocol.

"With new staff and children in new settings, I'm not sure why only one has taken place this school year," Bateman said.

Bateman said it was reported at the Oct. 24 School Committee meeting that the school district would be updating its safety plan and discussing offsite reunification with police and fire departments. She said no updates have been given about this plan since then.

She said on Nov. 19, there was a fire alarm due to a power outage during the time when students were arriving at school. She said staff and students have not had proper practice to evacuate the buildings.

"Though everyone was safe and eventually accounted for, students were unaware where to go," Bateman said.

Bateman said the point of practicing evacuation was to make sure students and staff are ready in any circumstance, including arrival, dismissal and lunch time.

Next to speak was Douglas Koczur, who has a student in the school district. He said one of his concerns has been the turnover in school administration over the past year.

"The frequent change impacts the leadership and the school operations," Koczur said.

Koczur questioned what steps were being taken to determine the cause of the staff turnover and if exit interviews were held with those leaving.

"What strategies are there to help make our district more competitive in attracting and retaining qualified educators and supporting staff and keeping them?" he asked. "I think one of the big things now too is the absenteeism of teachers, why is that happening? How can we support them better?"

Koczur also brought up the shortage of substitute teachers

available to the school district. He asked what plans were in place to foster a more collaborative and supportive work environment for educators.

Resident Kristina Guimond said she was made aware of a new position in the school district, but she hasn't seen a job posting yet. She said it's confusing as a taxpayer about where her money is going.

"I think it should just have an open communication about why this is happening and why maybe a new position wasn't posted," she said.

Response from School Committee

Sawabi addressed some of the issues raised during public comments, including Bateman's concerns for school safety. He said there is limited information regarding safety protocols that can be discussed in an open session, to protect both students and staff.

He also said the School Committee is on board with supporting educators and said contract negotiations have been successful with the union.

Sawabi said collaboration requires initiative and the committee and Lovato are in favor of that. In terms of absenteeism, Sawabi said his opinion is that the pandemic resulted in a mindset that put the safety of teachers in the forefront, which may have pushed the students aside. He said teacher absenteeism has increased since COVID-19.

"That always has to be balanced with student needs," he said. "The students come first."

Sawabi said the reason the School Committee brought Lovato on board was they wanted to go back to putting the students first. He said the change that needs to happen isn't going to make a lot of people happy.

"There's a status quo, a conventional that needs to be addressed. Absenteeism was here before he came. Retention was always an issue and we're trying to change that," Sawabi said.

He said he wants to know what the students think of their school, and he said a recent Student Council meeting had positive feedback about how the students view the school district.

"They seemed to be pretty happy with the school as it is," Sawabi said, adding that "it's not perfect."

School Committee member Chris Desjardins said in his over 20 years on the committee he's never seen conduct like that which occurred during the meeting. He said there didn't need to be shout-

ing from either the union or the committee.

"The one problem we have is that the School Committee and the teacher's union cannot communicate," he said. "I don't think anybody here can deny that. That's the number one priority. That's what we need to work on...we cannot have this district looking like it did tonight, ever again."

Desjardins said the School Committee and the union need to be able to sit down and talk to each other again.

Response from Superintendent

Lovato said many of the things stated by Boucher were "quite disturbing and unfounded." He said he hasn't received any of these concerns in writing.

He said professional discourse is expected across the board, and he encouraged the School Committee to investigate any of the concerns brought forward by the union.

"What we've done here is without question, I stand behind it," Lovato said. "And will continue to move forward as our focus is for kids."

During the meeting, Lovato addressed concerns about absenteeism and substitute shortages. He said on average, a total of three to five teachers are missing per school.

He said it's not just a substitute shortage; there's the issue of teachers not coming to school on a regular basis. He said it has been a challenge the school district has faced since 2019.

"Even if we had 15 substitutes, here's the reality, it's still not a teacher," Lovato said. "Getting additional substitutes does not fix the problem...that's a stopgap...to call it an education, I would not do that."

Lovato said in terms of paying substitutes, the school district is paying within the median income for long-term substitutes. He said paraprofessional substitute's pay is lower comparatively.

He said substitutes still need training, adjustment and time to learn the routine and build relationships with students.

"Being a substitute's not the easiest job," Lovato said.

Lovato said a committee meeting was held the day prior to discuss substitutes and all cohorts were present, aside from the teachers.

"We need everybody to be part of the solution," Lovato said.

Lovato also welcomed parents to join in the discussion about recruitment and finding substitutes. "If we're missing something and

you have an answer, then come tell us," Lovato said.

Lovato addressed the concerns raised about the posting of open positions and said a vacancy for a high school principal has not been posted yet. He said when the school district is ready to seek candidates, it will be posted.

In terms of safety and evacuation drills, he said the school district has actively been working with the safety committee and the town agencies. He said they have been working to finalize details for evacuations and reunification sites.

Lovato said practicing this with the students during transition or unstructured times has not been done and he acknowledged that it needs to happen.

He addressed Bateman's concern that a Nov. 19 fire alarm was "chaotic" saying that it happened right before school had started and staff didn't have attendance of students before the bell rings.

"What accountability looks like before school versus 9:30 is quite significantly different," Lovato said. "But we were able to make sure that the building was clear, and we had clear accountability of everybody that was on our campus."

Lovato said since he took the superintendent's position, he has required that attendance be taken within the first 10 minutes of each class period.

He said the September lockdown training was held in conjunction with the State Police and they were "very pleased" with how it went.

Lovato said it was true that a homeless person was found in one of the buildings on a Saturday morning, which is why he went to town meeting to request funding to purchase more sensors for the buildings. He said the current budget also included funding for additional cameras.

"There's not an exit or not a hallway that's not on our camera that we can't access at any one of our local computers," Lovato said. "Safety, by no means, is on the back burner, nor will it ever be...it's an ever-evolving challenge, unfortunately, in today's society."

Lovato said he has been trying to boost the morale of both staff and students by holding quarterly recognition ceremonies during School Committee meetings. He said since he's started doing this, he's received complaints from staff about recognizing staff due to it not being fair.

"I disagree with them,

and we're going to continue to recognize staff," he said.

Lovato said one of the things he's not proud of is the school district's graduation rate for special education students. He said data over the past 10 years shows that only one out of three special education students graduate.

He said there are no special education students in Advanced Placement or honors classes.

"We have some things that we need to address on our campus, and I will say that we are addressing them," Lovato said. "I will continue to fight for every single kid."

Lovato said the students in the school district are amazing and all deserve to be valued.

"It can't just be some; it has to be all," he said.

When it comes to improving morale, Lovato said they all need to point their fingers at themselves and contribute to improving it.

"It has to be everybody...We can't point our finger at each other and say it's his fault/her fault for morale...the way to fix that is to all point at ourselves and say that it starts with us," Lovato said. "I can't fix it alone."

Lovato said exit interviews are offered to anyone leaving the school district's employment, but he can't make people participate in them. He said a lot of paraprofessionals, especially, are leaving the field entirely and not just the school district.

He said there have also been challenges at the administrative level in the high school, with two principals leaving due to personal reasons.

"I need somebody who believes in Ware," Lovato said. "Somebody who believes in our community, who believes in our kids, and wants to make it better every single day."

He said the idea that teachers are leaving the school district in large numbers is "fundamentally false."

Lovato said he encouraged anyone to share their concerns with him and engage in respectful discussion.

Public comment policy

Prior to the start of the public comment period Winslow read the

School Committee's policy for public comments and concerns during meetings.

The policy, which was revised and approved on April 4, 2020, is listed on the school district's website at www.wareps.org under "School Committee" followed by "Ware Public Schools Policy Manual" under Section B (Board Governance and Operations), subsection BEDH (Public Comment at School Committee Meetings).

He said the policy states that individuals must sign in to share comments and concerns during the public comment period prior to the start of the meeting. He said they can also email the School Committee that day to do so.

Each speaker must state their name and whether they are a resident or not, and will have three minutes to speak in a respectful manner. The public comment period will last for a total of 15 minutes.

"The name has to be said so that we can make sure that we're compliant with state laws," Winslow said.

Winslow said that topics for discussion need to be limited to the School Committee's scope of authority, which includes review and approval of the budget, performance of the superintendent and educational goals and policies of the district's schools.

"Comments and complaints regarding school personnel, apart from the superintendent, or students are prohibited unless the comments and complaints concern matters within the scope of the School Committee authority...the chair of the meeting after a warning reserves the right to terminate speech which is not constitutionally protected," he read from the policy.

Sawabi said it would be helpful for speakers to state the topic they will be discussing during public comment period.

"There's some topics that cannot be addressed in open forum," Sawabi said.

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

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

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

C	A	N	S	T		S	S	B		P	O	N	S	
O	L	E	A	N		P	O	C	O		A	S	I	A
B	A	R	F		S	O	R	A	S		N	S	E	C
B	E	D	E	V	I	L	E	D		C	O	A	C	H
			S	I	B	Y	L		G	O	P		E	S
O	L	A		M	I	A		N	D	O	L	A		
S	E	E	D		U	N	F	E	E	L	I	N	G	
S	A	G	E	S		D	A	W		S	E	D	A	N
	D	I	S	A	R	R	A	Y	S		S	E	B	E
		S	E	P	O	Y		O	A	K		S	S	E
A	C		C	O	B		O	R	L	O	P			
S	H	I	R	R		M	A	K	E	S	H	I	F	T
P	E	B	A		B	A	S	E	S		A	R	E	A
E	M	I	T		P	A	I	R		A	G	A	I	N
N	O	S	E		I	R	S		S	E	N	N	A	

Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

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

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

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

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

4.75" x 8" **\$300 for three papers**
\$80 for each additional paper

9.681" x 8" **\$600 for three papers**
\$160 for each additional paper

9.681" x 15.75" **\$1,200 for three papers**
\$320 for each additional paper

Choice of any three papers
Buy two weeks, get the third week FREE

12 Weekly Newspapers Serving The Local Communities
Agawam Advertiser News • Barre Gazette • Chicopee Register • Country Journal
The Journal Register • Quaboag Current • The Register • Sentinel
The Holyoke Sun • Town Reminder • Ware River News • The Wilbraham-Hampden Times

Turley Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com

Call Dan today 413.297.5886 or 413.283.8393



Turley Publications, Inc.



Scarlett Legasey
January 25, 2024
Parents: Thomas & Jessica Legasey, Rutland
Grandparents: Donald & MaryAnn Dunbar, Ware
Thomas & Sharon Legasey, Spencer

Turley Publications would like to help you show off the newest member of your family this Christmas, FOR FREE!

Mail to:
Turley Publications
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069
Attn: Jamie Joslyn
Include a self addressed/stamped envelope if you would like the picture returned or email photo to: jamie@turley.com with subject line: **BABY'S FIRST.**
This offer is available to all babies born in 2024. Pictures will be published the week of December 23-27, 2024.

Baby's Name: _____
Birthdate: _____
Parents' Names: _____
Parents' Town of Residence: _____
Grandparents' Names & Town of Residence: _____

Telephone #: (not to be printed - for office use only) _____

Please check the newspaper you would like your announcement to appear.

<input type="checkbox"/> Agawam Advertiser News	<input type="checkbox"/> Quaboag Current
<input type="checkbox"/> Barre Gazette	<input type="checkbox"/> The Register
<input type="checkbox"/> Chicopee Register	<input type="checkbox"/> Sentinel
<input type="checkbox"/> Country Journal	<input type="checkbox"/> Town Reminder
<input type="checkbox"/> The Holyoke Sun	<input type="checkbox"/> Ware River News
<input type="checkbox"/> Journal Register	<input type="checkbox"/> The Wilbraham-Hampden Times

Deadline for photos and forms is Monday, December 16, 2024

This paper publishes birth, engagement, wedding and significant anniversary announcements free of charge.
Simply log on to our web site, choose the paper you want the announcement to appear in, then use our SUBMISSION link to email your information.



birth
announcements



engagement
announcements



wedding
announcements

www.turley.com

Your BUYLINE CONNECTION

GIANT TOY CLEARANCE!
OPEN DEC. 23RD 8AM-9PM
DEC. 24TH 8AM-8PM
HUGE BIKE SALE BLOWOUT!
GIANT TOY CLEARANCE!!!
MATTRESS SALE!!!!
SEE AD INSIDE!!!!

WHITCO TOY & BIKE
 12 MONTHS 0% FINANCING
 140 Main St., Spencer
 www.whitcosales.com 508-885-9343
 Open: Mon.-Fri. 9am-9pm, Sat. 9am-8pm, Sun. 10am-7pm

This PRISTINE, 2019 Colonial is better than new! This thoughtfully designed home features 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths and a warm & inviting atmosphere! Step inside to a stunning family room, perfect for relaxation or entertaining. The modern kitchen is equipped with newer stainless steel appliances, a nice sized breakfast area, gorgeous granite countertops and a new backsplash which blends style and functionality, seamlessly connected to a charming dining room that invites gatherings of all sizes! Upstairs, you'll find three comfortable bedrooms, including a serene primary suite with its own full bathroom and a spacious walk-in closet. The finished basement offers versatile additional living space with lots of natural sunlight & access to the private, fully fenced yard! The paved driveway has a brand new top coat & sealcoat and provides plenty of parking. Detached one-car garage, town water & sewer! This picture perfect home has it all! Great commuter location!! See attached 3D video! **\$439,900**



YOUR LOCAL REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS
 We Do More So You Will Make More!!!
EXIT
 EXIT Real Estate Executives
 130 W. Main Street
 Spencer, MA 01562
GIVE US A CALL TODAY! 508-202-0008



Brookhaven Assisted Care
 19 West Main Street, West Brookfield, MA 01585
MANAGEMENT TEAM:
 Erin, Laura and Nancy
 Over 56 years of service.
 24 hour care, Medical Management, Assistance with activities of daily living, Activity Program, well trained, compassionate and caring staff.
Services Available In-House:
 Physician's / Nurse Practitioner services, Pharmacy services, Podiatry services
VNA services:
 Physical, Speech, Occupational Therapy, Hospice, Mobile X-Ray, Geriatric-Psych services
 Transportation available, Hairdresser / Barber
 Manager: Erin Glazier
 508-867-3325 ~ erin.brookhaven@gmail.com



Looking for that Perfect Home to Buy or Sell?
 Call me – your local real estate expert.
 Serving Hampshire, Hampden, Worcester counties and beyond!

CENTURY 21 Century 21 North East
 180 West St., Ware
 Ready to Buy or Sell? Call Me!
 1-978-434-1990

MS + NN PAINTING AND HOME MAINTENANCE
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR Home Painting & Maintenance
 Residential/Commercial – Deck Specialists
 NO JOB IS TOO SMALL – FREE ESTIMATES
 Fully Insured – HIC License Holders
 81 Jackson Lane, Barre, MA 01005
774-321-4509
 Mmguzman.2011@yahoo.com



We Buy And Sell Precious Metals
 Gold, Silver, Rare Coins, Bullion Coins, Precious Metal Bars, U.S. & Foreign Currency, All Varieties of Coins

Always Buying
 Gold & Silver Jewelry, Class Rings, Wedding Bands, Gold & Silver, Coins, Sterling Silver, Flatware, Proof & Mint Sets, Commemoratives and Estates

Gardner Rare Coins
 18 Parker Street, Gardner
 978-632-7123
 Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm; Saturday 9am-2pm

WHERE EVERYONE GOES FOR THEIR PIECE OF THE EARTH!
WINTER IS COMING!
 BULK ROAD SALT • BULK TREATED SALT
 WASHED WINTER ROAD SAND • SAND/SALT MIX
STOCK UP NOW!

Construction Stone • Landscaping Stone
 Title V Septic Sand • Presby Sand • Concrete Sand
 Stone Dust • Crushed Gravel • Cold Patch

Homeowner Friendly • No Minimums
PICK-UP OR CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR DELIVERY TODAY!

Bond
 Sand, Gravel & Asphalt
 98 North Spencer Road, Route 31N, Spencer, MA
508-885-6100
508-885-2480
 www.bondsandandgravel.com

Support Your Hometown Businesses

❖ **Every Wednesday**
SIP & KNIT
 12pm-2pm
 Free

❖ **Every Friday**
TOO GOOD TO TOSS
 7am-9pm
 Free baked goodies from the week while supplies last! Limits may apply.

❖ **Future Events**
 Contact us to plan your next private event.
508-637-1577

23 Summer Street
 North Brookfield
 MA 01535
508-637-1577
 Tues.-Sat. 7am-3pm
 Sun. 9:30am-3pm

❖ COFFEE
 ❖ BAKED GOODS
 ❖ GLUTEN FREE

❖ COOKIES
 ❖ MUFFINS
 ❖ PASTRIES

Bring in entire ad for one FREE Beverage with purchase of a baked good. Tues.-Thurs. 7am-10am



Adventure tours of Warren
 Share the Adventure with us!



Happy Holidays!

March 15.....**8-Night Bahamas Cruise**..... from \$1499
 May 23.....**7-Night Bermuda Cruise**..... from \$1699
 June 10-12....**Hampton Beach Getaway** \$529
 Sept 12-26....**Portugal & The Azores** \$6549

Share the Adventure with us soon!
 For further information call Randall at (413) 436-5357 or email adventuretours@att.net or go to www.adventuretoursofwarren.com



Pre-order your Premium Holiday Roasts

Make your holiday gatherings truly special. From the luxurious tenderness of **Tenderloin Roast** to the mouthwatering richness of **Prime Rib Roast**, our premium cuts are the centerpiece your table deserves. Whether it's a **Standing Rib Roast** for a grand feast or a **Spoon Roast** for a cozy meal, you'll find the perfect roast to create cherished moments at home this holiday season.

Order online at FarmerMatt.com or call 508-980-7085

Farmer Matt
 FARM-FRESH + LOCAL
 FarmerMatt.com
 860 West Brookfield Rd.
 New Braintree, MA



Farmer Matt
 FARM-FRESH + LOCAL
 860 West Brookfield Rd.
 New Braintree, MA
 FarmerMatt.com | (508) 980-7085



Farmer Matt
 FARM-FRESH + LOCAL

GIFT CARD

Give the gift of farm-fresh food this season

A Farmer Matt gift card is the perfect present for the food lover in your life. Whether they crave premium cuts of beef, poultry, pork, heat-and-eat meals, or freshly prepared dishes from our restaurant, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Available in any amount, it's a thoughtful way to share the taste of local, farm-fresh goodness.

Order at FarmerMatt.com or stop by the farm store.