

WARE RIVER NEWS

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WREATHS — across — AMERICA

Town honors veterans with ceremony and wreath placement

Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette
The family of Herbert Moulton prepared to place a wreath to honor all prisoners of war and those missing in action.

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – For the second year, the town celebrated Wreaths Across America Day with a moving ceremony at Veterans Park before volunteers took to the cemeteries to honor veterans buried there.

The ceremony opened with a moment of silence, followed by

the presenting of the colors by the Quabbin Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps, led by Cadet Aiden Fuller. Scouts led the Pledge of Allegiance and Jane Sterndale sang the National Anthem.

This effort is organized by resident and veteran Frank Bateman, along with his wife Kristin.

Wreaths Across America became a nonprofit organization in 2007, continuing the

wreath-laying tradition started by Morrill Worcester, owner of the Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine over 30 years ago.

This year, the town joined the almost 5,000 communities across the nation that participate in this annual event, in placing Balsam wreaths adorned with red ribbons at the gravestones and markers of veterans.

Bateman reminded the volun-

teers about the significance of the day, and to uphold Wreaths Across America's mission to remember, to honor and to teach.

"We are here to remember not their deaths," Bateman said. "But their lives."

Freedom, Bateman said, does not come without a price, and for many servicemembers, it comes at

Please see **WREATHS**, page 7

Select Board hears comments regarding Zekos Auctions

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Select Board began their Dec. 9 meeting with visitor's comments regarding Zekos Group and the public auction of three municipal-owned properties.

Zekos Group is a professional team of real estate auction experts that focus solely on providing consultation, strategic analysis and exemplary auction services to municipalities and government agencies.

A multi property auction has been ordered for the three properties, which could have a historical value to the town. The auction will be held on a date to be determined, according to the Zekos Group website.

The buildings consist of a school house on 58 Ruggles Hill Road, the former Calvin Paige Building on Barre Road, both located off the common, and the former school building at 179 Main St. in Gilbertville.

During the visitor's comments of the Select Board meeting, several residents and members of various town departments shared some concern. According to members of the Historical Commission these three buildings are deemed historic and are part of the character of the town's historic district.

One of the residents asked if there is a procurement policy for the auction group to go through prior to selling these properties.

Town Administrator Justine Caggiano said, "we don't have to go through the process of procurement".

The residents who spoke before the Select Board are aware that Zekos Group has sold a lot of prop-

Please see **HARDWICK**, page 11

New Braintree resident celebrated 100th birthday

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

NEW BRAINTREE – This past Sunday, the town's oldest resident and Boston Post Cane holder Stephanie Benoit celebrated her 100th birthday at home, surrounded by family and friends.

Born on Dec. 15, 1924, in Florence, New Jersey, Benoit served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II, from the age of 20 until the war ended.

During her time in the military, Benoit wrote letters to many young men serving overseas, including Norman Benoit, who went on to become her husband on April 12, 1947.

The couple started their lives in New Braintree moving from the Benoit Farm to the Gleason House, then to Daley's Blacksmith Shop then to the "Old Cold House" before



Submitted Photo
Stephanie Benoit of New Braintree celebrated her 100th birthday with family and friends on Dec. 15.

building their forever home on Hardwick Road, where Benoit still lives today.

The couple had 10 children, Christine, Norman Jr.,

Please see **BIRTHDAY**, page 12

HOLIDAY FLAIR DRIVE-THRU *lit the night*



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago
It's truly a happy holiday when residents get to experience happiness and bright lights at Greenville Park.

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – It's time to spread some holiday cheer as the Ware Holiday Flair Drive-Thru returned to Greenville Park this past Saturday evening.

This annual holiday event is made possible by the Holiday Flair Committee.

Every corner of the road was covered with glowing inflatable displays and holiday decorations for all the drivers to see. The drive thru began with a nice greeting from Town Manager Stuart Beckley who was guiding cars into the entrance of

Greenville Park.

The guests would be greeted by Santa's helpers as they slowly drove into Greenville Park for the Holiday Flair. The lights grew brighter as the cars made their way to the center of Greenville Park with lights and characters playing holiday music and greeting everyone who drove through.

Mickey and Minnie Mouse stood happily below a Christmas ornament greeting the guests of the holiday flair drive thru. Yukon Cornelius and the Abominable Snowman were at Greenville Park this year hanging out

Please see **DRIVE-THRU**, page 3

Recognitions awarded at School Committee meeting

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARE – Students and staff were recognized and celebrated for their achievements at the School Committee meeting earlier this month.

Superintendent Dr. Michael Lovato began this quarterly recognition when he started working for the school district over a year ago, hoping to boost school spirit and spread pride throughout all areas of the campus.

At the Dec. 4 meeting, Lovato recognized Coach Morgan Toelken for his dedication to his student-athletes and the school community.

"He never says no," Lovato said. "His attitude is amazing...his willingness to help."

Stanley M. Koziol Principal

Pamela Iwasinski said staff at her school recognize students who "really embody" the six pillars of character, including caring, citizenship, trustworthiness, responsibility, respect and fairness.

With the help of her staff, Iwasinski identified six students who display these pillars of character.

Students were Serenity Dookhran, Abigail Hazzard, Molly Shea, Zoey McRobbie, Leona Goddu and Avery Pasquale.

Iwasinski also recognized two staff members who she called "true team players," both of whom always support students; Karen Hill and Elizabeth Smith Zajchowski.

Ware Middle School Principal Kimberly Thompson said they selected five students to be recog-

Please see **AWARD**, page 13



Submitted Photo
Ware Jr./Sr. High School students recognized were Gabrielle Kaczuwka, Lana Bennington, Liam Wedhoff, Matthew Gambino and Shelby Hogan. Staff recognized were Daniel Bressette, Donna Warburton and Becky Hebert (not shown in photo).





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SPORTS
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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.



File Photo
 Last week's photo from 1977 showed new Rainbow officers installed in Warren. From left are Rebecca Leao, Mrs. Olive Fountain, Christie Frykenberg, Susan Laisure, Denise Fountain, Mary White and Joanne White.
 If you recognize the folks in this week's photo, please send their names and your full name to pouimette@turley.com.



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

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. 23
 • 9 a.m. Tai Chi
 • 10 a.m. Scat
 • 11:30 a.m. Lunch

Tuesday, Dec. 24
 Closed for Christmas Eve

Wednesday, Dec. 25
 Closed for Christmas Day

Thursday, Dec. 26
 • 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Mobile Dental Hygiene Clinic. Call 413-967-9645 for an appointment.
 • 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
 • 10-11:30 a.m. Kirsten Krieger, Quabbin Region DPH Nurse Office Hour

Friday, Dec. 27
 • 11:30 a.m. Lunch
 • 1 p.m. Cornhole
 • 2:30 p.m. Art Class

Monday, Dec. 23
 American Chop Suey, Green and Gold Salad, Dessert of the Day

Tuesday, Dec. 24
 Closed for Christmas Eve

Wednesday, Dec. 25
 Closed for Christmas Day

Thursday, Dec. 26
 Blueberry Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Orange Juice, Dessert of the Day

Friday, Dec. 27
 Shepherd's Pie, Fruit Salad, Dessert of the Day

St. Mary's Church offers Advent series on Sundays

WARE – The Power of Mary's Love is the theme of an Advent series to take place Sunday mornings in December prior to Christmas at St. Mary's Parish Hall in Ware. The Blessed Virgin's power over evil, her path to Jesus, her motherly protection and her relationships with the three persons of the Blessed Trinity are key focal points. Free coffee and baked goods will start at 10:15 a.m. The program will run from 10:30 a.m. to noon and include a video, scripture references, sharing and singing seasonal hymns. St. Mary's is located at 57 South St. All are welcome regardless of religious affiliation.

Annual free Christmas Dinner offered Dec. 25

WARE – The United Church of Ware, 49 Church St., will provide a free community meal on Christmas Day, Wednesday, Dec. 25, for home delivery or take-out. This meal features a 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. 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. Volunteers are always welcome to help with the meal.

Cold weather clothing drive ongoing through spring

WARE – The Recovery Center of HOPE and the Quaboo Hills Substance Use Alliance will be hosting a Community Cold Weather Drive to benefit local individuals and families facing hardships. They will be accepting new and gently used gloves, mittens, scarves, sweaters, blankets, base-layers, jackets and coats and new beanies and socks. Items will be collected through the spring and can be dropped off at the following locations: Town Hall, 126 Main St., Mondays and Tuesdays from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Recovery on Main, 78 Main St., Wednesdays from 1-3 p.m.; Ware Library, 37 Main St., Thursdays from 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Recovery Center of HOPE, Fridays from 2-4 p.m.

Library hosts Children's Christmas Reading Night

HARDWICK – Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, is having a party on Thursday, Dec. 19 from 4-6 p.m. Angelina Feliciano, the library's Quabbin Regional High School student volunteer, planned this event for the community's enjoyment. There will be music, crafts, sweet treats, and stories. This is for children of all ages. Please register so that there will be sufficient materials for all.

Ongoing activities
 Ongoing activities at the library include a weekly Children's Hour on Wednesdays at 11 a.m., which features art and science activities. Toys, puzzles, and LEGOS are also available. The Paige Book Club meets monthly on the third Wednesday at 2 p.m. The Paige Writers group meets on alternating Tuesdays at 3 p.m. The Cookbook Club meets monthly on the last Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. The FUNdamentals of ART a studio workshop for creating art and improving skills is open for all levels of expertise and a variety of art media and materials or bring your own project. Register for Tuesday at 6 p.m. or Family Game Night or "Away for a Day" Travel Club. For more information and to register call 413-477-6704, or email director.paigelibrary@gmail.com.

Ware River News
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

Christmas for Kids begins, donations requested

WARE – The Ware Police Department and the Ware Fire Department have started their 21st annual Ware Christmas For Kids program for the 2024 holiday season. They are requesting financial assistance to help them fulfill the needs of the children of Ware, and all assistance is greatly appreciated. The program is for infants through children aged 12. The program recognizes all holiday observances. Monetary donations may be dropped off at the Ware Police Department at 22 North St., or may be sent to Ware Christmas For Kids, c/o Ware Police Department, 22 North St., Ware, MA 01082. Darlene Gildert is the program coordinator, and she can be reached at 413-967-3571, extension 327.

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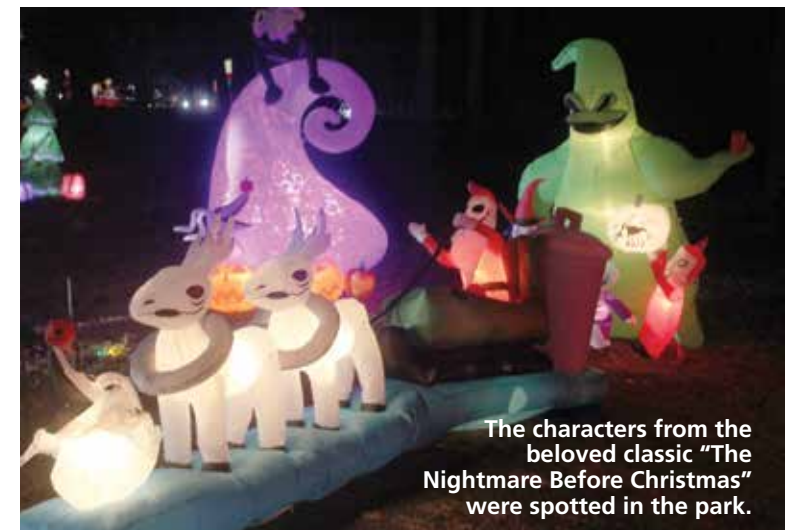
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Mickey and Minnie Mouse greeted guests during the 2024 Ware Flair Holiday Drive Thru.



Santa Claus brought gifts in a boat with a shark appearing up front.



The characters from the beloved classic "The Nightmare Before Christmas" were spotted in the park.

HOLIDAY FLAIR DRIVE-THRU



Dancing elves tangled in Christmas lights.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago



Anna and Elsa greeted everyone during a snow flurry.



The RV and characters were from National Lampoon's "Christmas Vacation"



Santa's helpers greeted guests at the start of the drive thru into Grenville Park.

DRIVE-THRU from page 1

with the misfit toys.

There wouldn't be a holiday flair without the Grinch making an appearance in the town. Nearby were the beloved characters from "The Nightmare Before Christmas", Jack and Sally.

Another unique surprise was an RV decorated in Christmas lights. Standing in front of the RV were characters from the familiar comedy, National Lampoon's "Christmas Vacation".

The drivers would soon come across some snowfall as they were greeted by Anna and Elsa from "Frozen". Across from them were Christmas elves covered in Christmas lights.

One holiday classic was a dancing family dressed as characters from "The Nutcracker". Music from the classical ballet was playing as all the characters were dancing, including the villain of the story the Mouse King.

As the drivers reach the exit of Grenville Park the guests got to wave and see Santa Claus. He was waving to all the guests and wishing everyone a merry Christmas as he sat on his sleigh.

The annual Holiday Flair Drive Thru is a joyful occasion the residents of Ware look forward to every year. Many community members and local businesses do a phenomenal job putting the holiday flair drive thru together and it brings a lot of cheer.

The Quaboag Connector was available for those who don't have transportation to go see the Holiday Flair Drive Thru.



Yukon Cornelius with the Abominable Snowman said hello to all the visitors during the Ware Flair Holiday Drive Thru.



All aboard The Charlie Brown express as the Ware Flair Holiday drive thru lit the night at Grenville Park.

A tall elf waved to all the drivers.



Characters from "The Nutcracker" danced along to their music.



Swans a swimming at the Ware Flair Holiday Drive Thru.



Santa Claus prepared to take off on his sleigh after the Holiday Drive Thru.



Many holidays are celebrated around the world and those traditions were highlighted during the drive thru.



A household of gingerbread hung out in the park.



A family of dogs were spotted during the drive thru event.



A nativity scene could be viewed during the drive thru.

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GUEST COLUMN

Hampshire Sheriff explains role in immigration detainment

By Patrick J. Cahillane
Sheriff, Hampshire County

I realize that many residents may have questions regarding the U.S. Immigration and Customs agency and how it interacts with local and state law enforcement.

I have a legal responsibility to the residents of Hampshire County to ensure that the Hampshire Sheriff's Office follows the law. I hope the following statement will help educate people on the HSO's responsibilities under existing state law.

As the Sheriff of Hampshire County, I make every effort to be transparent in how the Hampshire Sheriff's Office operates. I am writing this to clarify the HSO's responsibility to public safety and meeting our legal obligations under the state Constitution, existing Massachusetts law, and the laws written by the Legislature and interpreted by judges in our court system.

This is how I understand the current responsibilities as dictated by those entities in regard to ICE:

In 2017, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled in *Lunn v. Commonwealth* that it is unlawful for state and local officials to arrest immigrants based on civil immigration detainers issued by ICE. As a result, I, as the Sheriff of Hampshire County and a state public safety official, will not detain or hold a person in custody based solely on the existence of an ICE detainer.

If, however, an immigrant is arrested on a criminal charge unrelated to his or her immigration status – burglary or assault, for example – then my office will provide care and custody for that individual based on orders issued from the court of jurisdiction, as we do with all individuals facing criminal charges. In such a circumstance, ICE would be legally entitled to certain information about a criminally charged immigrant, such as last known address, dates for court appearances, sentencing parameters and date of release.

That is the law as it currently stands, and I will follow it.

The HSO operates within the scope and parameters of federal, state and local laws and regulations. In relation to ICE detainers, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court determined in *Lunn v. Commonwealth*, 477 Mass. 517 (2017) that it is unlawful for state and local law enforcement to arrest or detain people solely on the basis of an ICE detainer, beyond the time that the individual would otherwise be entitled to be released from state custody.

The Hampshire Sheriff's Office is bound to follow the law of the Commonwealth, and therefore cannot hold an individual based on an ICE detention request alone, if that incarcerated individual is not subject to separate judicially issued detention orders.

For reference, an ICE detainer is not an arrest warrant. Warrants represent a command issued by a judge or magistrate directing law enforcement agencies to arrest or hold an individual. In contrast, an ICE detainer – by its own terms – constitutes a request from an employee of the Department of Homeland Security that law enforcement detain a person.

The Lunn decision clearly articulates the scope of enforcement authority granted to law enforcement agencies within the

Please see **DETAINMENT**, page 5



Coriander makes a great cookie

Today was the designated day to begin to bake like crazy. Personally, I wish we could cull the number, and honestly the sheer volume of Christmas cookies we make, but if the kids or my husband hear of that I will be banished to Grinch status.

It's a tradition to go through the recipes ahead of time and decide what cookies we'll bake.

One of my all-time favorites, and one I would never consider culling, is the coriander cookie. My family tried a sample at Old Sturbridge Village's Christmas by Candlelight some years back and enjoyed it so much we added the recipe to our repertoire. Yummy indeed!

You may be surprised to learn that Coriander sativum is the Latin name for two herbs. Confused? Most folks are when they learn that the seeds of this plant are called coriander, while the leaves are known as cilantro.

Both have been used for culinary purposes since the beginning of time! All portions of the plant are edible but some argue that the

green portion is barely that.

Read on. I liken cilantro to be the "marigold" of the herb world. Either you love it or you hate it. I, for one, immensely dislike it and if given the chance to pick it out of my salsa I will certainly do it! Even in a restaurant.

I found it interesting to learn that some people possess a genetically predisposed aversion to it, according to studies by Charles J. Wysocki of the Monell Chemical Senses Center in Philadelphia.

To me it has a bitter taste that I have a hard time describing beyond that. Dirty? Soil-like? Most people that do dislike it have a similar lack of descriptive ability; they just can't put their finger on it, but they don't like the taste...or the smell of it.

As I mentioned, cilantro is often used in salsa and other Mexican, Asian and Italian dishes including curries, sauces, salads and soups. If you prefer to grow the plant more for its greens and less for its seeds, manage it as you would spinach.

Sow seeds in the ground in the cool of the season and in succession every two weeks. It dislikes being transplanted but doesn't mind pot culture. Harvest greens rather aggressively – about one-third of the plant at a time.

Just like spinach, there are slow-to-bolt varieties to choose from such as aptly named "Slow Bolt" and "Longstanding."

Coriander seeds, on the other hand, have a pleasant (at least to me!) fragrance once dried. The scent is easier to pin-point too; nutty and spicy (ever so slightly) come to mind.

Coriander seed is also well known in various ethnic cuisines and is a favorite in spice blends, curry being the most popular. It is also

used in the making of a number of distilled spirits and herbal liqueurs, and cookies.

It's funny that I can like one part of the plant and not the other. Coriander seed can be eaten whole, crushed or powdered.

The Herb Society noted that during World War II the seeds were coated in white or pink sugar and thrown from carnival wagons, earning the name "confections" or "confetti!" When the seeds were replaced by balls of colored paper the name confetti stuck. Take this one to your next game of Cruise Ship Trivia!

It is easy to harvest the seeds. Simply let the heads dry to brown right on the plant. Clip them and place inside a paper bag; as they dry further they will open and the seeds will pop out.

Even if you are only interested in harvesting the seeds, multiple plantings (or a big garden patch) are necessary to get a decent-sized harvest.

No matter how you like your Coriander sativum, sow the seeds in a sunny, well-drained spot in place for the best success. If you let a few drop their seed each year, chances are you will be blessed with volunteers.

Enough writing, I have four batches of cookies to get in the freezer!

Merry Christmas to all of my gardening friends out there!

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.

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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.



By Ellenor Downer



Snowy owl

Snowy owls have already been spotted in Massachusetts this year.

They come from the tundra area of Canada into the United States during the winter. Usually, the snowy owls that head to this area are immature. This irruptive behavior may or may not be coordinated with the lemming cycle, one of their primary foods especially during their breeding cycle.

The snowy owl is about 24 inches long and primarily white, yellow eyes and variable amounts of black spots and barring. Immatures are darker than adults and females darker than males.

Snowy owls frequently hunt during the day. Their diet is mainly rodents, Arctic and snow-shoe hares, fish, birds including waterfowl and carrion.

They nest on the tundra in a shallow depression on a mound on top or on a gravel mound. They line the nest with feathers and bits of moss. The female lays three to ten white eggs. When prey is abundant the clutch size is larger. They make barking noises during breeding, but are quiet in winter.



They inhabit the open tundra and when they move south, they inhabit airports, beaches, marshes and open fields.

Many years ago, a snowy owl appeared in Oakham during the winter. I was lucky to see it perched on a fence post near an open field in the daytime. People came from all over to see this rare visitor. Logan Airport is a popular winter stop over.

Bald eagle sighting

On Dec. 2 I received an email from a Brimfield resident. He said, "I've been checking the local ponds but not a lot happening. However, I have seen a bald eagle or two at the pond on New Reed Street four times in the last two weeks and another birder I met there reported seeing eagles there that I missed. On one visit two adult bald eagles were sitting in

the same dead tree about fifteen feet apart."

Christmas Bird Count

He plans to participate in the Allen's Bird Count Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, Dec. 14. National Audubon Society 125th Christmas Bird Counts take place Saturday, Dec. 14 through Sunday, Jan. 5, 2025. This is one of the most popular birding events of the year. It is rarely held on the actual designated holiday itself, counts are scheduled to take place on various days surrounding Dec. 25 within the official count period noted above. Counting takes place anytime during the 24 hours, midnight-to-midnight.

The goal is to find, identify and count all birds within a 15-mile diameter "count

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 5

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Wreath and Tree Festival had successful year

If you missed this year's Wreath and Tree Festival, you really missed something.

We had over 60 items on display for the raffle, including a Taylor Swift tree, gift certificates from Workshop13 and Bond Sand and Gravel, a gorgeous tree from Jeffrey and Jeffrey, and the beautiful shotgun shell wreath.

It was a fundraiser for the Ware Center Meeting House and Museum, the biggest one of the year.

It begins with the decorating of the Great Hall on Friday morning, with an extremely helpful crew from Ware High School under the supervision of Officer Jeannine Bonnayer. Then, a talented crew of creative people make everything look gorgeous.

On Saturday, shoppers were delighted to meet Santa and take a chance on many of the unique items on display. We had trees and wreaths, yes, but also stained-glass ornaments, a beautiful watercolor scene, a sea glass Christmas tree, wall hangings and decorations for inside and outside.

The bake sale had something for everyone, from home-baked breads to cherry squares, choco-

late brownies to coconut confections. On Sunday, we were all delighted by The Limelight Dance Center dance team, who performed a holiday-themed show in the afternoon. Owner and director Arielle Lask gathered her students, directed by Jason Desjardins, to put on a lively rendition of "The Night Before Christmas" with 75 dancers.

It was incredible!

One of the reasons I love this fundraiser is because it brings attention to two historic buildings in our town, each with its own small group of volunteers who work hard to ensure these buildings are maintained for future generations and enjoyed now. I'm talking, of course, about the Ware Center Meeting House and the Town Hall.

Thank you to every business and private citizens who donated to make this year's Wreath and Tree Festival the most successful one yet! If you'd like to be part of the fun, please email me at llak310@comcast.net. We've got big plans for next year, and we could use your help.

Lynn Lak Ware



Police Officer Jeannine Bonnayer is shown with her band of merry helpers from Ware High School.



The dancers from Limelight Dance Center prepared to enter the stage.



Carlin Trietsch tells Santa, played superbly by Ken Stacy, what she wants for Christmas.



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



Logan Distler
September 22, 2024
Parents: Daniel & Lisa Distler, Brimfield
Grandparents: Christopher & Michele Mues, Warren
Carole & (the late) Bruce Distler, Rocky Point, NY



Thomas Kelly
April 13, 2024
Parents: Liza & Russ Kelly, Ludlow
Grandparents: Susan Raymond, Ludlow



Elliot Peter Trainor
September 11, 2024
Parents: Ben & Jess Trainor, Spencer
Grandparents: Paul & Joanne Wyman, Ware
Peter & Christine Trainor, Spencer



Walker Stanley Dusza
April 6, 2024
Parents: Michelle & Joshua Dusza, Ware
Grandparents: Mark & Midge D'Entremont, Reading
Michael & Zoraya Dusza, Ludlow



Grant Ligawiec
April 1, 2024
Parents: Brian & Natalie Ligawiec, Ware
Grandparents: Vinnie & Kim Lombardo, Warren
Peter & Beth Ligawiec



Elise Josephine Lefevre
January 30, 2024
Parents: Nick & Kaitlyn Lefevre, West Hartford, CT
Sister: Olivia Lefevre
Grandparents: Alan & Darlene Lefevre, Bluffton, SC
Don & Kim Swarts, Ware
Great Grandparents: Dorothy Szczepanik, Ware



DETAINMENT from page 4

Commonwealth.
I am an immigrant. I arrived in Northampton from Ireland when I was 10 years old, so I have some understanding of the immigrant experience and adapting to a new way of life. It is traumatic enough moving to a new country and then having to worry about arrest and deportation when you are only seeking a better life.

I do not speak for all immigrants, but we must have some understanding and kindness toward each other.
Like many of my fellow Hampshire County residents I have trepidations about the actions the new administration is proposing to take. Please know that as long as I am Sheriff, the Hampshire Sheriff's Office will follow the law as it was clarified by the courts in the Lunn decision.

BACKYARD from page 4

circle." All are welcome. Compilers do their best to make sure that beginners join a group with at least one experienced birder. Locations in late December include: Quabbin on Saturday, Dec. 28 compiler Scott Turner at sturner@aol.com and Westminster on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025 compiler Charles Caron at 978-874-5649 or caronev@aol.com.

People may visit <https://www.audubon.org/community-science/christmas-bird-count> to read about CBC history, science and data.

Juncos and snow

The Brimfield resident noted a large flock of juncos about 40 the day before the Dec. 5 snow storm. He said, "Storms a comin'" I looked out near where the feeding stations are located and

where I spread mixed seed on the ground and a quick count resulted in 40 junco. And chickadees and titmice were constantly back and forth to the black oil sunflower seed feeder." I also saw a large flock of juncos on my daughter's lawn in Barre on that Wednesday.

Pond visits

The Brimfield resident makes frequent trips to ponds in his area. He found most of them frozen

over on Dec. 4. He did count 12 hooded mergansers at Holland Pond, a large group of mallards over 200 and three black ducks at Sherman Pond.
People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

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by J.R. Greene
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Sewer Commission met with plant operator candidate

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Sewer Commission met on Dec. 11 to possibly hire an operator/mechanic at the wastewater treatment plant.

The applicant was in attendance alongside Sewer Chief Operator Ralph Zebrowski and Town Administrator James Ferrera when meeting with the commission. Ferrera read the application to the Sewer Commission and said the applicant brings a lot of experience in maintenance and wastewater treatment.

The applicant was a holder of a grade 6c operator license, but the license is currently inactive. The applicant was brought forward to the commissioners for consideration as Ferrera talked about the requirements of licensing.

The town administrator reminded the Sewer Commissioners that a grade four license is required, and it is a state requirement the town must follow when hiring operators at

the wastewater treatment plant. “We should continue to require this,” Ferrera said to the Sewer Commissioners.

Zebrowski agreed with Ferrera that there top applicant is well qualified for the position. The chief operator mentioned the applicant has not had a tour of the wastewater treatment plant yet, but will be soon.

Ferrera mentioned the applicant will be brought forward to the Board of Selectmen for the authorization at its next meeting.

Proposal from Tighe & Bond

The Sewer Commission had authorized Tighe & Bond to conduct the CCTV camera inspection. This project was approved at the Special Town Meeting back on Nov. 21. The commission approved of the authorization and signed the proposal.

Chief Operator’s report

Zebrowski shared with the Sewer Commission about the scum pump replacements. Zebrowski will meet with Ferrera to go over quotes for some of the

Please see **CANDIDATE**, page 12



Submitted Photo

Civil Air Patrol Cadet Chayton Lundin of West Warren earned the Fifth Achievement and was promoted to Cadet Master Sergeant.

Local Civil Air Patrol cadets receive promotions

AMHERST – Hadley resident Kyle Wooddell, 14, a cadet member of the Civil Air Patrol, U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, earned the Curry Achievement and was promoted to Cadet Airman on Dec. 9 at the Brig. Gen. Arthur J. Pierce Squadron weekly meeting.

“Cadet Wooddell has shown impressive initiative as one of the newest cadets in the squadron,” said Lieutenant Laurie Stewart, the Unit’s Commanding Officer.

Wooddell attends Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter School in South Hadley.

The Curry Achievement is named after Maj. Gen. John F. Curry, who served as Civil Air Patrol’s first National Commander. His tenure coincided with the early days of World War II, a time when ordinary citizens were searching for ways to help the war effort. Curry quickly built a force of 100,000 “flying minutemen” from across the nation.

Because of Curry’s leadership, CAP aircrews were tasked with missions that were of national importance.

Two other cadets received honors, West Warren resident Chayton Lundin, 16, earned the Fifth Achievement and was promot-

ed to Cadet Master Sergeant and Belchertown resident Charles Fisher, 15, earned the Rickenbacker Achievement and was promoted to Cadet Technical Sergeant.

About the Civil Air Patrol

The Brigadier General Arthur J. Pierce Cadet Squadron meets on Monday evenings from 6-8:30 p.m. in Amherst. Civil Air Patrol is the auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force and as such is a valued member of its Total Force.

In its auxiliary role, CAP operates a fleet of 560 single-engine aircraft and more than 2,100 small Unmanned Aircraft Systems. It performs about 90% of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and is credited by the AFRC with saving an average of 82 lives annually.

CAP’s 56,000 members also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. Operating as a non-profit organization, CAP also plays a leading role in STEM/aerospace education, and its members serve as mentors to more than 23,000 young people participating in CAP’s Cadet Programs

ConComm reviews forest cutting project

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Conservation Commission reviewed the possible project of forest cutting near Mark’s Mountain.

The members of the commission reviewed a map of the area near Mark’s Mountain and wanted to identify the wetlands in the area that may be impacted by the forest cutting. The company would have to come before the commission if the work is being done near a wetland.

Conservation Commission Chair Joyce Eichacker believes as of now the commission “does not have much say in this decision.”

An area off Reed Street has a wetland that does enhance during bad weather conditions and that was a main concern for the Conservation Commission.

This project will be reviewed and discussed during the Board of Selectman meeting on Dec. 19 regarding JD McKinney Logging for the town.

Enforcement order

The Conservation Commission briefly discussed the enforcement order for 276 Reed St. The residents have a structure on the property that should be moved with consideration to having ani-

mals such as goats and pigs on their property.

The commission and the residents will close the enforcement order until the structure is moved. As of the meeting on Dec. 11, the commission had not been notified by the residents.

Pond near Quaboag

The Conservation Commission reviewed a dredging project recently done by the pond area of Quaboag Regional Middle High School. The commission believes there is a possible site of erosion done in the area.

The commission wants to see more restoration or vegetation work being done. The commission will contact the school for more clarification on what work has been done in the pond area.

There is a lot of extra vegetation on the property in front of the school and the wetland is pretty grown in.

Public hearing continuance

The commission had plan to hold a public hearing for NOI on 0 Cronin Road and 452 Cronin Road. The applicant ASD Solar requested a continuance until January.

The Conservation Commission had not received any updates from the company and approved the continuance.

Free yoga, meditation class offered Jan. 9

WARREN – Welcome the New Year and experience an inner depth filled with peace and joy with Yoga & Meditation: For Vibrant Health & Peace of Mind on Thursday, Jan. 9 from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Centered Place, 286 Bridge St. and via Zoom.

Yoga and meditation are clinically tested for reducing stress and improving health. Enjoy a slower-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 by calling 413-436-7690 or emailing warrenpubliclibrary@hotmail.com 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.

Cable Advisory discusses studio setup, logo designs

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Cable Advisory Committee met in December for a discussion of redesigning their studio set.

Chair Travis Baker said some of the old desks are currently sitting in the hallways and some departments have expressed interest in getting the desks. Baker

also mentioned that a representative from Ockers came by to ask what the committee needs as they work on a new studio set.

One item Baker believes the advisory will benefit from having is wireless headsets. The headsets could be more useful for members of the committee as they cover events around town.

Please see **CABLE**, page 12



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The Bateman family placed a wreath to honor the Merchant Marines during the Wreaths Across America Day ceremony held on Dec. 14.



Vietnam veteran John Sacco saluted the wreath he placed to honor those who served in the U.S. Air Force.



Francis Rucki and his grandson, Owen, placed a wreath to honor the U.S. Marine Corps.

WREATHS — across — AMERICA

WREATHS from page 1

the ultimate price. "We thank those who gave their lives to keep us free," he said.

Joining Bateman at the ceremony was Kate Marceau, who shared the late Herbert Moulton's experience as a prisoner of war in Germany during World War II. He was one of almost 20,000 U.S. soldiers held captive.

Moulton, who grew up on North Street in Ware, enlisted in the U.S. Army on Dec. 22, 1943, prior to his 18th birthday, and had served overseas before going missing in action on Dec. 16, 1944, in Luxemburg.

"I was captured on December 16, 1944, at 8 p.m. After they asked us where we came from, in our civilian clothes, which some Belgian people gave us to try to get back to our lines, we told them that we stole the clothes because 'we had fallen into the water' so they wouldn't prosecute the Belgian people," Moulton recalled in a letter shared with Marceau by his family.

After being captured by German soldiers, Moulton and others were kept in the attic of a house without heat that was missing windows, where they stayed for three days. He said they were fed from a pail "like pigs" and he remembered how bitter the cold was.

"I removed my shoes and rubbed my feet because I could do nothing else to try to bring back the circulation," he said.

One the fourth day of his captivity, Moulton was marched for two days before coming to a town, where they stayed in another attic, surviving off of frozen onions, half a hoghead and some rice and barley.

"Private Moulton looked for ways to find food that he could," Marceau said.

Moulton recalled going for days without eating at times and surviving on a ration of a slice of bread and a cup of flour and water. They had no water to drink as the brook was polluted and the only water they had was the snow that melted.

He said there was no medical treatment whatsoever for the prisoners. He saw other soldiers with trench feet as black as coal with gangrene poisoning and he



The Lanier family placed a wreath to honor the U.S. Navy.

saw many of his fellow soldiers die from weakness, lack of food, and medical care.

Moulton had many jobs during his time as a prisoner of war, digging out the German dead and chopping wood in the forest for fires. They also moved German ammunition and on the railroad detail they dug up ties and relayed the rails.

These details often lasted from six in the evening until six in the morning because the bombing would take place around noon.

They were forced to bury their own soldiers, not one at a time but dozens in one hole.

While working the railroad detail, Moulton was struck across his back with a shovel.

"The ground was so frozen it was impossible to dig any longer, and when I dropped my pick was when a guard hit me," he said.

Later when he was chopping wood, a German officer kicked him in the back for unknown reasons.

"We hardly ever slept...we were kept working so much of the time. Everybody had dysentery with no

toilet facilities other than the spot they were in. No one was permitted to go outside. I remember in one town where we stopped where the Germans made us line up and some of the civilians took away our clothes and our overshoes for their own use. At this time many, many more of our fellows died," Moulton said.

After a full month of work detail and a seven day march to the next town, Moulton was not able to stand up.

"I went to get up, but I couldn't, my legs were paralyzed from the hips down, which a doctor told me was due to the blow from the shovel. That same morning two G.I.'s brought me down to stalls where I was massaged. With no other medical treatment. I was unable to walk and remained here for two weeks," he said.

Moulton was liberated on April 1, which was both April Fool's Day and Easter Sunday.

"When I was liberated, I weighed 85 pounds and before I was captured, I weighed 140 pounds," he said.

After being treated at hospitals in France and England, Moulton spent a month hospitalized in Scotland before being transferred to a hospital near Baltimore, Maryland for a week and then flown to Camp Devens at Lowell General Hospital where he was treated for over six months.

In a letter dated April 5, 1945, to his parents he writes in part: "Mom when I come home which won't be very long I want a Christmas dinner and a big apple pie. Give my love to Gram and to Pop, sis and the rest. I was liberated on Easter Sunday and that is one day I will



Jane Sterndale performed the National Anthem.

SEE MORE
WREATH PHOTOS
ON PAGE 15.

never forget."

The local paper described him at the time as "one of those high school boys who volunteered even before he was 18. He has always been a real woodsman, knows birds and plants and fish and fowl game. Is a number one hunter and just naturally took to army life. A fine young fellow."

Moulton bravely served his country until Dec. 14, 1945 and passed away in 2008 at the age of 83.

"We offer our thanks for his sacrifice to our nation," Marceau said. A wreath was placed to honor each branch of the military, along with POWs and MIAs.

Bateman thanked all of those who volunteered or sponsored wreaths. He gave special thanks

to the Patriot Guard riders, who served as flag bearers and escorts, along with local businesses Country Bank, B'leaf Wellness Centre, Cluett's Furniture and Appliance, Club 12, Nat Falk, Pig Park BBQ and local organizations Ware Knights of Columbus Council 183, Ware Lions Club, Ware VFW and the Ware Veterans Council.

He also thanked the fundraising groups: Ware Veterans Council, Boy Scout Troop 281 and Ware Middle School PTO. Now through Jan. 16, 2025, all wreaths sponsored through these groups will be matched for placement during next year's ceremony.

Fundraising links can be found on the "Wreaths Across America, Ware, Ma" Facebook page.

Hope Your Holiday Season Is **Extra-Extra Happy!**



Thanks to all of our readers and advertisers for supporting our publication and the future of local community journalism. We value our role in this community, and we're committed to keeping you current in 2025 and beyond with a focus on the local news and events that matter most to you.

We wish you an informed and fabulous new year!

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Reese McKeever reaches up with a short-range shot.



Kyla Campbell works from the free-throw line.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Amelia Orszulak gets the three-point attempt off.



Molly McGrail gets the one-hand shot.



Madisyn Slattery drives to the hoop.



Shelby Hogan carefully enters the paint.



Tory Finocchio looks to get around an opponent.

Ware takes win in Franklin Tech tourney

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

TURNERS FALLS—The Ware varsity boys' basketball team has been invited to play in the Eagle Holiday Classic at Franklin County Tech a total of nine times. The Indians didn't have very much trouble winning the championship game for the sixth time this year.

After defeating the Mount Everett Eagles, 52-29, in the opening round game, last Thursday afternoon, the Indians coasted to a 70-33 victory over the Franklin Tech Eagles in the finals, the following night.

"We've been able to win this tournament six of the nine years that we've been playing it," said Ware head coach Gene Rich. "We won the championship title four straight years from 2016 to 2019. We also won it again in 2021. Being able to play in this tournament at the beginning of the regular season is a good thing for us."

A year ago, the Indians lost to St. Mary's of Westfield, 49-45, in the championship game.

Ware junior Jack Gaudreau was selected as the MVP of this year's tournament.

He scored all ten of his points against Mount Everett during the first half. He then scored a game-high 24 points in the championship game by making eleven field goals and three free throws.

Please see **WARE**, page 10

Indians need OT to get first win

WARE – Even with an overtime involved, neither Ware or Hopkins Academy was able to break 30 points in the season opener for both teams. Ware was three points better in the overtime period and won

29-26. The Indians improved to 1-0 on the young season and had its home opener on Tuesday against Athol. The Indians will host Granby on Dec. 27 at 7 p.m.



Quaboag girls basketball continued its preparation for the regular season last week.



The Cougars opened up their season later in the week.



Quaboag is on the road for their first three games.



Cayden Bousquet keeps the ball away from his opponent.

Dustyn Cook goes low to avoid a defender.

Pioneers don't have answer for Duggan

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER— First-year Pathfinder Tech boys' varsity basketball coach Ethan Ortyl is hoping to win a lot of games during his coaching career. He had to wait a little bit longer before celebrating his first career victory.

The Pioneers suffered an 80-18 non-league home loss to powerhouse Duggan Academy in the season opening game, last Thursday night.

"This game was a good test for us against one of the best teams that we're going to play all season," said Ortyl, who replaced Zac Button as the Pioneers varsity coach. "The players continued to play hard in tonight's game, and they care about each other. We're going to bounce back and keep battling in every game that we play this season. I just love this group of players."



Dayne Shanley takes a mid-range shot.

Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande

It was also the first varsity start for all five of the Pioneers starters. Those five players are junior Dustyn Cook, junior Dayne

Shanley, junior Aiden Girard, sophomore Cayden Bousquet, and

Please see **PIONEERS**, page 10



Cougars back on the prowl

WARREN – Last Thursday night, Quaboag girls basketball got their regular season going with a 46-21 win at Marlborough. The Cougars did not make tournament last season, but are hoping to get back in this year after missing out by just one win. Quaboag also had a Saturday matchup against the Advance Math & Science Academy. They were edged in that contest 41-38. Quaboag had its home opener on Dec. 18 against Southbridge, then has an extended break until Dec. 30 against Bay Path at 6:30 p.m.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Their home opener is on Dec. 18 against Southbridge.



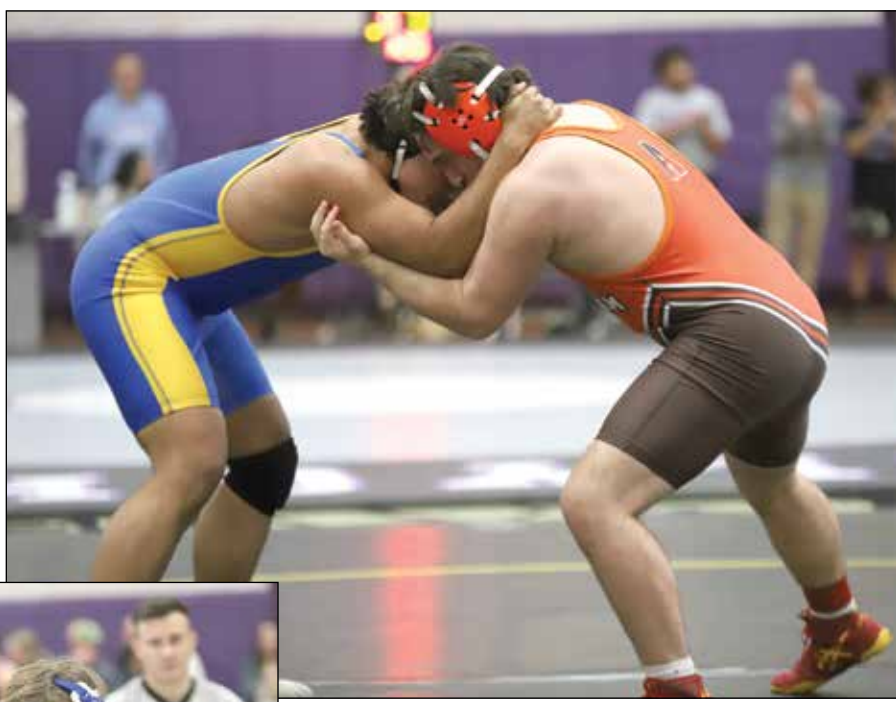
The Cougars had a tri-scrimmage last week with Granby and host Belchertown.

sports

Pioneers wrestle at Knight-Hawk

HOLYOKE - Last Saturday, the Pathfinder wrestling team opened the season by participating in the Knight-Hawk Classic hosted by Holyoke High School. The Pioneers scored 49 points and placed 17th out of 19 teams that were at the event. Dominic Jarry was Pathfinder's top finisher, placing third in the 175-pound bracket.

Gustavo Vega locks up in an early round match.



Jake Parker-Gregory looks for a takedown in a 215-pound match.



Dominic Jarry looks to avoid a takedown.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



It was Quabbin's final scrimmage before starting the season.



The Quabbin High School girls basketball team continued its work to prepare for the season.



The Panthers faced Palmer in a scrimmage last week.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Panthers open 2024-2025 season

BARRE - Last week, Quabbin Regional High School basketball transitioned from the end of their preseason quickly to their first regular season game. The Panthers started out by taking on Palmer High School in a preseason scrimmage last Tuesday evening. After two more days of practice, the Panthers would open their regular season on Friday, Dec. 13 and defeated Narragansett 44-31. Quabbin, now 1-0, had three games this week before the Christmas break. Next weekend, the Panthers will take part in the Gardner Holiday tournament.



The Panthers opened their regular season with a win last Friday.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WNECA Doubles at Bogey Lanes

EAST BROOKFIELD - Bogey Lanes in East Brookfield was the host of the most recent Western New England Candlepin Association doubles tournament this past weekend.

WNECA is dedicated to promoting the game of candlepin bowling throughout western Massachusetts. For years, Bogey Lanes has been a gracious host for tournaments and continues to support tournaments through the WNECA.

The doubles tournament this past weekend was a great success with over 30 teams showing up over the course of four shifts. The results are in, and the winning team was Brandon Martins and Rob Poirier.

Both bowlers regularly bowl out of Agawam Bowl in Agawam, and bowled excellently during day one of the tournament. Along with their handicap and scratch totals the team of Martins and Poirier combined for a score of 893 to win the doubles at Bogey Lanes.

It was a good day on the lanes for Martins as he bowled a series of 409. This was the second time Brandon Martins bowled a 400 series during the WNECA tournament series.

The team who finished in second place were Jason Gauthier Sr. and Tiffany Gauthier with a combined score of 850. In third place, the team of Erica and Craig Beaudry scored an 839.

A total of nine teams placed in the doubles tournament at Bogey Lanes. The teams who finished fourth through ninth were within fifteen points of each other. Chris

and Laurie Lafreniere finished in fourth with an 830, Robby Wood and Nick Brown with a 826, Stacy Bloomberg and Steve Champagne with a 823, Tharen Ring and Chris Cincotta with 820 and the team of Cody Brunelle and Kyle Wilder tied at 815 with Trever Kenneson and Sophia Hearnlaye.

The point standings for the tournament series have been posted on the WNECA Facebook page. After the doubles event at Bogey, Brandon Martins is leading in points as the #1 seed. His teammate from the doubles Rob Poirier is currently in third place.

The WNECA will host a championship bracket tournament featuring the top 24 bowlers after the conclusion of the tournament series. After a successful doubles tournament, Martins and Poirier are in good shape to compete in the championship tournament at the end of the year.

The next WNECA tournament will be in January at the Turn Hall in Adams and the event will be singles.

Commercial Elks League

PALMER - Compression bowled against Last in Line this past Tuesday night in the Commercial Elks League.

In game one, Last in Line defeated Compression by a score of 362-318. In game two, Compression bounced back with a win of their own, 409-342. In game three, Last in Line took the final game 396-350. Vinny Navarro of Last in Line finished with a 117 and his teammate Jeremy Laduke finished with a 114.

The final score was 1100-1077 in favor of Last in Line and the team received three points.

Worcester Railers get point, fall in shootout

WORCESTER - It has been one of those weekends that seem like a month for the Railers. They have battled one of the ECHL's best teams in the Trois-Rivieres Lions and changed a coach all at the same time.

Worcester lost its final game under Bob Deraney, 5-3, Friday night. They lost their first game under Nick Tuzzolino, 3-2, Saturday night but it was one of

those half-a-loaf deals. The Railers earned a point with a shootout loss.

It says something about the Lions that Worcester played one of its best games in recent weeks and still could not get two points. Trois-Rivieres is loaded with offensive opportunists and flawless goaltending.

The Railers out shot the visitors, 41-26, but still could not outscore them.

It was, however, an encouraging start to Tuzzolino's head coaching career and in general he liked what he saw.

"I don't want to say that I was excited about how we played," he said, "because the result wasn't there, but we made a few minor adjustments in clogging up the neutral zone and our forecheck, and I thought they were really good."

The goal scorers were Justin Kaplan and Matthew Kopperud for Worcester while the Lions got two goals from Cormier. The first was from Xavier Cormier, the second from Tommy Cormier. Alex Beaucage had the only shootout goal.

It was a good goaltending night both ways. Zachary Emond made

Please see **RAILERS**, page 11

PIONEERS from page 9

freshman Cassian Kowalik "We've only had four practices, which doesn't include tryouts, before tonight's game. The players are still learning a new system and I'm still learning what they're capable of doing," Ortyl added. "We're going to work hard at practice before our next game against Pioneer Valley Christian Academy on Monday night. There are a lot of things that we need to work on. Everyone just needs to keep improving, including myself."

Girard (3 points) and senior Matthew Vanasse (2 points) are the Pioneers co-captains.

Duggan, who posted an 18-2 regular season record a year ago, also didn't have very much trouble dispatching the Pioneers in their previous two meetings on the hardwood.

With the help of several turnovers, the Jayhawks were able to build a 27-0 lead at the end of the opening quarter in last Thursday's game, and they never looked back.

Junior Isaiah Rodriguez scored 19 of his game-high 23 points for the visitors from Springfield during the first eight minutes of the contest.

Duggan's other two double digit scorers were junior Allen Miranda, who scored 11 of his 21 points in the third quarter, and senior Kyle



Grayson Griswold sends up a three-point attempt



Aiden Girard heads down the court.

Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande

Combs (12 points).

The Pioneers, who beat Duggan by 14 points during the 2022 regular season, finally broke the ice with six minutes left in the first half when a steal by freshman Grayson Griswold led to a Bousquet lay-up basket.

Bousquet, who was the Pioneers leading scorer with four points, also made another lay-up a minute later following another steal from Griswold.

In the middle of the second

quarter, Griswold scored his first career varsity points on a lay-up.

The home team was trailing, 40-6 at halftime.

Pathfinder Tech's only made baskets of the third quarter were from Vanasse and Girard.

The Jayhawks only outscored the Pioneers, 10-7, during the final eight minutes of the contest.

Pathfinder freshman Jordan Mbi made an old fashion three point play with 5:47 remaining in regulation, which gave the home fans



Cassian Kowalik tries to avoid having his shot blocked.

something to cheer about. Kowalik also hit a runner in the lane. Girard and Shanley each made a free throw.

The Pioneers players and supporters were looking to celebrate a win at home against PVCA on Monday night.

WARE from page 9

Gaudreau and junior Brady Guimond, who scored 15 and 14 points in the two tournament games were named to the all-tournament team.

"Jack and Brady are very good basketball players," Rich said. "They're just going to keep improving during the course of the season."

The Indians are a veteran squad this season with five seniors, five juniors, and a sophomore listed on their varsity roster.

"We do have some experienced varsity players," Rich said. "I'm

hoping that we can have a very successful season."

Rich, who's beginning his ninth season as Indians varsity coach, wasn't 100 percent sure he would be returning a month before the season started.

"It was a very difficult decision for me to make," Rich said. "I decided to come back this year because I really enjoy coaching basketball and being around this group of guys."

The other five seniors are Noah Perry, Justin Grout, Owen McKeever, Ben Torres, and Jason Mumper.

The three other juniors are Brodie Koczur, Alex Orsulak, and Kaleb Kanozek.

Koczur is following in the footsteps of his older brother, Drew, who was an outstanding athlete at Ware High School ten years ago.

Rounding out the varsity squad is sophomore Troy Jurczyk.

The Indians were trailing 6-2 against Mount Everett before battling back by scoring eight unanswered points. Guimond scored the first six points of the run with an inside hoop and two lay-ups. Gaudreau then made a pair of free throws giving his team a 10-6 lead

with a minute left in the first quarter.

Gaudreau scored eight of the Indians 15 points in the second quarter, as they held a 25-19 half-time lead.

Rich felt like the halftime lead should've been a little bit bigger.

"We didn't play badly in the first half, but we did have some missed opportunities," he said. "It was a little bit frustrating. We played much better during the second half."

In the middle of the third quarter, Grout, who's a second-year varsity player, scored seven points during an impressive 13-0 run, as

the Indians built a twenty point lead (41-21).

"I thought Justin did a nice job in the third quarter," Rich said. "He struggled making the adjustment to the varsity level last year, but I'm hoping that he can build off this performance."

Grout is one of the varsity basketball players who's very glad that coach Rich decided to return to the sidelines this winter.

"It's very nice to have coach Rich back again this year," said Grout, who also played soccer. "He has a lot of knowledge about the game of basketball and he's a very

good coach. If we did have a new varsity coach this year, we would've had to learn a brand new system."

Ware continued to pull away from Mount Everett during the fourth quarter.

Twenty four hours later, Gaudreau scored 11 of his points during the first quarter, as the Indians sprinted out to 20-3 lead over the hosts.

The score was 33-11 at halftime.

The Indians didn't allow Franklin Tech to make a second half comeback, as they maintained their large lead.

sports

T-Birds grab point in Wilkes-Barre

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (12-9-2-0) dispatched a 4-1 second intermission deficit to earn a standings point before ultimately falling in overtime, 5-4, to the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins (14-7-1-0) on Saturday night at Mohegan Arena at Casey Plaza.



Upstart rookie Rutger McGroarty quickly got the Penguins on the board on their Teddy Bear Toss night as he took a delicate saucer pass from Joona Koppanen and deked to the forehead to tuck it behind Vadim Zherenko just 1:53 into the opening period.

The T-Birds were able to draw two power play opportunities while trailing 1-0, but the Penguins' penalty kill dispatched both of the Springfield man-up situations. Special teams continued to trend in the home team's direction as the Penguins cashed in on their first power play on a goal by Emil Bemstrom at 16:06 of the frame to give Wilkes-Barre/Scranton a 2-0 lead into the intermission.

Filip Larsson was not heavily taxed in Penguins' increase in the first, but he came up with the nine saves asked of him to start the

night. Thanks to their top offensive unit, the T-Birds quelled some of the Penguins' momentum at 5:17 of the second. Aleksanteri Kaskimaki took a drop feed from Leo Loof and whipped it in the low slot to Dalibor Dvorsky. While Larsson slid across to deny the T-Birds' star rookie, the rebound

trickled behind the netminder, allowing Marcus Sylvegard to backhand it into the yawning net to cut the deficit to 2-1. Special teams, though, proved to be Springfield's undoing once again just 3:16 later as Valteri Puustinen slipped behind the defense on a power play and chipped a backhander past Zherenko to make it a 3-1 Penguins lead.

Late in the period, the Thunderbirds thought they had solved Larsson on a power play scramble in the crease, but after a review, the goal was washed out, and Bemstrom took advantage with just 18 seconds left in the frame, snapping a wrist shot under the crossbar, extending the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton lead to 4-1 after 40 minutes.

The T-Birds' leaders rapidly

turned the game around as the final period began. Captain Matthew Peca flung a wrist over Larsson's glove just 17 seconds into the period to make it a 4-2 contest. Less than four minutes later, crashing in for a rebound in the slot area, former Penguin Scott Harrington notched his first as a Thunderbird at 4:08 to cut the margin to 4-3.

Larsson and the Penguins tightened to hold the fort into the game's final two minutes, but a penalty with 2:09 on the clock handed Springfield another power play and a chance to get an equalizer. With Zherenko at the bench for an extra skater, the T-Birds seized the moment as Matt Luff found Kaskimaki in the slot, and the rookie's snapper eluded Larsson to tie the game with 1:56 left.

The Thunderbirds had another power play chance to close out regulation, but the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton penalty kill shut it down to get the game into the extra period.

Unfortunately, the T-Birds' magic ran out in the extra session as a penalty gave the Penguins a 4-on-3 power play, and Bemstrom completed his hat trick with a spinning jam shot at 4:27 of the overtime to snap the T-Birds winning streak. Despite coming short of victory, Springfield earned standings points for the 11th time in its last 13 games.

BBB lists the top 12 scams of the holidays

With the year quickly winding down, the Better Business Bureau has compiled its "naughty list" of the top 12 holiday scams.

When shopping or donating this holiday season, watch out for schemes trying to swipe your cash or steal your personal information.

You can avoid most of the scams on this list by taking a few simple precautions. Always exercise caution with social media ads promoting discounted items, holiday events, job opportunities, and donation requests, as well as direct messages from strangers.

If you are asked to make a payment or donation by wire transfer, through a third party, or by pre-paid debit or gift card, treat it as a red flag.

Be mindful of these scams that could cut into your holiday cheer:

Misleading social media ads

As you scroll through your social media feed, you often see products advertised. Always research before you buy.

BBB Scam Tracker receives daily reports of people paying for items that they never receive, getting charged monthly for a free trial they never signed up for, or receiving an item that is counterfeit or much different from the one advertised. Before ordering, check out the business profile on BBB.org and read the reviews.



Social media gift exchanges

Each holiday season this scheme pops back up. The older version was called "Secret Sister." Newer versions of this scam revolve around exchanging bottles of wine or bourbon; another suggests purchasing \$10 gifts online.

Another twist asks you to submit your email to a list where participants get to pick a name and send money to strangers to "pay it forward." There is even a twist about "Secret Santa Dog" where you buy a \$10 gift for your "secret dog."

In all these versions, participants unwittingly share their personal information, along with those of their family members and friends, and are further tricked into buying and shipping gifts or money to unknown individuals.

It's also an illegal pyramid scheme. Stick to buying your friends gifts from trustworthy businesses, and check BBB.org before you buy.

Holiday apps

Apple's App Store and Google Play list dozens of holiday-themed apps where children can video chat live with Santa, light the menorah, watch Santa feed live reindeer, track his sleigh on Christmas Eve, or relay their holiday wish lists.

Review privacy policies to see what information will be collected. Be wary of free apps, as they can sometimes contain more advertising than apps that require a nominal fee. Free apps can also contain malware. Be sure to read reviews as well.

Coaching classes available

Coaches hired after Aug. 1, 1998 are required to take a coaching course to be eligible to coach high school sports in Massachusetts.

According to the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association, all coaches hired prior to Aug. 1, 1998 are exempt from taking the Fundamentals of Coaching Course. Coaches hired after that and before July 1, 2005 must have completed the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course with the exception of Certified MA teachers.

All coaches (stipend or volunteer) first serving as an interscholastic coach after July 1, 2005 must complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course, and an approved Sports First Aid course.

The NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course requirement must be met through attending an MIAA sponsored Fundamentals of Coaching Class with MIAA Certified Instructors. Must be completed and passed prior to coaching a second year.

The NFHS Sports First Aid may be met by completing on-line courses with the NFHS www.nfhslearn.com. Must be passed prior to coaching a third year.

Additional requirements for all coaches:

Massachusetts requires coaches to be certified in CPR per Section 1. Section 47A of chapter 71 of the General Laws. Additionally, AED training is required and will most likely be done in conjunction with the existing mandated CPR training.

All MIAA member school coaches (stipend or volunteer) are required to take annually the on-line National Federation Concussion Course, or other MA Department of Public Health recognized education program, prior to the start of their season. Rugby Coaches must see Rule 76.2 for additional coaches' education information.

Any questions, please call Donna Harrington at 508-541-9804 or email dharrington@miaa.net.

Fundamentals of coaching classes are being offered on Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025 from 4 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Classes are open until capacity is reached and then a waiting list is established. There are online components to the course once the classroom portion is completed

RAILERS from page 10

39 saves for the Lions. Michael Bullion, who had been in a slump, stopped 23 and made the save of the night early in the third period.

He stopped Logan Nijhoff on a penalty shot at 2:31. The period was Bullion's best as he also made some big saves late to keep the score at 2-2.

Xavier Cormier put Trois-Rivieres ahead at 4:29 of the first period. It was a tap-in goal with the Lions on a power play. Kaplan tied it at 8:45, also on a power play. He beat Emond with a rebound backhander.

Kopperud scored from the right circle at 14:26 to give Worcester a 2-1 lead, then Tommy Cormier converted a long breakaway at 18:01.

"If we can carbon-copy what we did tonight," Tuzzolino said, "I don't see us losing more than a couple games here and there. It's one of those things where that type of system can plug in play some players and drive some teams wild up front."

"I guess my overall goal is to work on the consistency of that this week because we'll have a good stretch and really have all things firing for Maine. It's a very big weekend for us."

HARDWICK from page 1

erties, but not buildings with historical value.

Caggiano mentioned that the board has reviewed a zoning analysis, and the buildings do have restrictions on them as to what they could be zoned as after being purchased by an interested buyer. For example, one of the buildings cannot be turned into a CVS Pharmacy.

The zoning analysis that Caggiano spoke of is very specific as to what the buildings could become after being purchased. The Select Board would then discuss possibly tabling this discussion until they review the contract from Zekos Group and see if they could do a request for proposal.

The board agreed to table the discussion for now and take time to go to other departments for

input. The approximate time period of having the auction is sometime around April.

The Select Board will plan to decide an auction date sometime in the new year.

Town Administrator's report

Caggiano shared some highlights in her report regarding some acknowledgements. Caggiano attended the Police Department's toy drive and sponsored a family. Caggiano also wanted to express her appreciation for the support from her assistant.

The town hall is looking for quotes for replacing their postage machine. The clerk uses the machine the most and the postage machine may need to be replaced.

Caggiano is also seeking an increase in her con-

tract as Town Administrator. The Selectboard will further discuss her contract and do an evaluation on her performance at their meeting on Jan. 13. Caggiano expressed interest in wanting to continue her career in the town.

There is also an earmark for town hall improvements. The letter will be sent out to Sen. Peter Durant's Office soon.

The Select Board had a discussion on communications between board, committees and departments. The board has brainstormed ideas on how to keep good organization of communication between town departments.

According to Caggiano, there has been a lot of positive feedback from multiple town departments.

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public safety

Warren Police Log

During the weeks of Nov. 24-Dec. 7, the Warren Police Department responded to 421 building/property checks, 51 community policings, 36 emergency 911 calls, three motor vehicle accidents, three complaints, two safety concerns, two threats, one fire, one property damage, one harassment, one fraud, two animal calls and 90 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Sunday, Nov. 24
6:22 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Old West Warren Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Monday, Nov. 25
6:28 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Brimfield Road, Transported to Hospital
8:27 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
9:28 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
11:12 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Old West Warren Road, Transported to Hospital
2:37 p.m. Complaint, Coy Hill Road, Officer/Chief Advised
3:16 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
6:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old West Warren Road, Criminal Complaint

Tuesday, Nov. 26
3:42 a.m. Abdominal/Back Pain, Bacon Street, Transported to Hospital
7:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
10:38 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
10:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Reynolds Road, Canceled

Wednesday, Nov. 27
11:22 a.m. Threats, Old West Brookfield Road, Report Filed
12:53 p.m. Safety Concern, North Street, Officer Spoke to Party
3:05 p.m. Falls, Winthrop Terrace, Ambulance Signed Refusal
7:38 p.m. Property Damage, Crouch Road, Report Filed

Thursday, Nov. 28
4:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brimfield Road, Citation Issued
6:02 p.m. Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Main Street, Transported to Hospital

Friday, Nov. 29
1:04 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
6:51 a.m. Falls, Hines Avenue, Ambulance Signed Refusal
9:47 a.m. Falls, Hine Avenue, Transported to Hospital
10:56 a.m. Fraud/Forgery, Devils Lane, Report Filed
11:01 a.m. Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Bemis Road, Transported to Hospital
1:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint

1:51 p.m. Complaint, Coy Hill Road, Gone on Arrival

Saturday, Nov. 30
12:54 a.m. Withdrawals, North Street, Transported to Hospital
4:32 a.m. Bleeding, East Road, Transported to Hospital
1:16 p.m. Falls, Brimfield Road, Transported to Hospital

Sunday, Dec. 1
1:45 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Mechanic Street, Transported to Hospital
9:56 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
11:25 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
12:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
3:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
3:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Street, Written Warning
3:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
3:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Route 67, Citation Issued
4:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
4:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
4:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ware Road, Written Warning
4:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
5:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
6:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
6:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
6:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
8:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Monday, Dec. 2
1:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Written Warning

Tuesday, Dec. 3
11:05 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
11:49 a.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
2:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
7:29 p.m. Falls, Cronin Road, Transported to Hospital
8:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Bragg Road, Vehicle Towed
10:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Wednesday, Dec. 4
12:10 a.m. Parking Issued, North Street, Citation Issued
12:16 a.m. Parking Issues, Spring Street, Citation Issued
12:52 a.m. Parking Issues, Moore Avenue, Citation Issued
1:16 a.m. Parking Issues, Comins Pond Road, Citation Issued
1:23 a.m. Parking Issues, Bacon Street, Citation Issued
1:33 a.m. Parking Issues, Curtis Avenue, Citation Issued
7:28 a.m. Dumpster/Trash Fire,

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.

Keys Road, Fire Extinguished
3:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
4:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

Thursday, Dec. 5
9:13 a.m. Safety Concern, Old West Warren Road, Information Given
9:50 a.m. Threats, Old West Warren Road, Report Filed
11:42 a.m. Power Lines Down, Old West Warren Road, Referred to Other Agency
3:44 p.m. Harassment, Winthrop Terrace, Information Taken
7:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Boston Post Road, Citation Issued
7:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
7:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
8:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
8:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
9:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
9:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
9:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
10:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
10:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
10:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

Friday, Dec. 6
1:49 a.m. Parking Issues, Bacon Street, Citation Issued
7:52 a.m. Complaint, Brimfield Road, Referred to Other Agency
7:59 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Criminal Complaint
9:10 a.m. Unwanted Party, Brimfield Road, Report Filed
11:28 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Quaboag Street, Transported to Hospital
3:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
4:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Written Warning
4:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
8:53 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Spring Street, Transported to Hospital
10:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Dec. 2-9, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 53 building/property checks, 27 directed/area patrols, three radar assignments, eight traffic controls, 16 emergency 911 calls, six citizen assists, one assist other agency, one trespass, six safety hazards, three complaints, four motor vehicle accidents, three investigations, three motor vehicle investigations, one burglary, one property damage, one fraud, five animal calls and 13 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, Dec. 2
2:19 p.m. Assist Citizen, Simpson Road, Spoken To
6:06 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, School Street, Services Rendered

Tuesday, Dec. 3
3:52 a.m. Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital
10:05 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Sullivan Avenue, Services Rendered
11:25 a.m. Complaint, Upper Church Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Wednesday, Dec. 4
8:03 a.m. 911 Elevator Call/Alarms, Old Petersham Road, Dispatch Handled
9:02 a.m. 911 Elevator Call/Alarms, Old Petersham Road, Dispatch Handled
9:14 a.m. Assist Citizen, Lower Road, Services Rendered
3:44 p.m. Assist Citizen, Barre Road, Officer Handled
4:30 p.m. Investigation, Main Street, Officer Handled
6:39 p.m. Investigation, Church Street, Investigated
6:39 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Petersham Road, Spoken To
11:32 p.m. Safety Hazard,

Barre Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Thursday, Dec. 5
6:36 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Main Street, Vehicle Towed
7:36 a.m. 911 Property Damage, Railroad Lane, Merge
8:06 a.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
8:07 a.m. Medical Emergency, Petersham Road, Transported to Hospital
8:14 a.m. Safety Hazard, Greenwich Road, No Action Required
8:56 a.m. 911 Misdial, Main Street, Officer Handled
9:06 a.m. Winter Parking Complaint, Barre Road, Citation Issued
9:20 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Sessions Road, Report Taken
11:27 a.m. Safety Hazard, Greenwich Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
3:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Mellon Road, Vehicle Towed
5:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Mellon Road, Officer Handled
8:27 p.m. Fraud, Ruggles Street, Spoken To
11:52 p.m. Medical Emergency, Parker Court, Transported to Hospital

Friday, Dec. 6
10:32 a.m. Trespass, Upper Church Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
11:56 a.m. Assist Citizen, Railroad Lane, Spoken To
2:31 p.m. Assist Citizen, Unknown Location, No Action Required
11:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Barre Road, Vehicle Towed

Saturday, Dec. 7
4:35 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital
7:35 a.m. Medical Emergency, Greenwich Road, Services Rendered
10:04 a.m. Assist Citizen, Greenwich Road, Officer Handled
7:02 p.m. Burglary (Breaking and Entering), Lower Road, Services Rendered

Sunday, Dec. 8
2:59 a.m. Safety Hazard, Townwide, Dispatch Handled
4:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
4:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
4:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
5:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Written Warning
5:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Written Warning
5:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Written Warning
5:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Written Warning
6 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Written Warning
6:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Written Warning
6:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Written Warning
7:10 p.m. Investigation, Lower Road, Spoken To
9 p.m. 911 Animal Call, Hardwick Pond Road, Services Rendered
10:06 p.m. Safety Hazard, Greenwich Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
10:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Turkey Street, Officer Handled

Monday, Dec. 9
7:25 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Main Street, Investigated
7:27 a.m. Complaint, Main Street, Dispatch Handled

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.

Free Christmas concert to be held Dec. 22

WARE – "A Star in the Sky: An Afternoon of Christmas Music and Song" will be held at the United Church of Ware, 49 Church St., on Sunday, Dec. 22 at 3 p.m.
The public is invited to this holiday event. Free donations will support the Ware Fuel Bank and refreshments will follow the concert in Fellowship Hall.
Come hear organist and Music Director, Cailan McClure bring beautiful music from the magnificent pipe organ at the United Church of Ware. Several uplifting organ solos will be interspersed with favorite carols sung by the choir and all in the audience.

CABLE from page 6

Logo designs
Baker would then discuss logo design ideas with the Cable Advisory Committee. According to Baker, it's a good time to "start essentially going to channel branding". For years, the popular logo for the town channel and WCAT was a cat.
Baker would share examples of logos on his computer and several members of the committee shared their input on how they can expand on logo design. The committee narrowed their decision down to maybe create a new design or recreate the original logo.
Committee member Brandon Chaisson talked about the high school mascot for Quaboag, a cougar, might be a good idea for the logo. Baker believes the cougar logo would be great for the school's channel.
In addition to the schools, Baker thought of the idea of kids picking the logo or crafting a logo. Additional ideas such as T-shirts and hats could be made

after the new logo design is chosen. The Cable Advisory Committee will send several design ideas out and will decide on an official new logo at their next meeting.

Gimbal arms for cameras
The Cable Advisory had a discussion over the possibility of purchasing gimbal arms for their cameras. These mobile recordings could benefit the users of the film cameras for better stabilization and mobility.
The downside of these gimbal arms is they cost approximately \$8,000 per camera. The frugal route Baker was recommending was an investment in smaller cameras and these vests would be less expensive.
Baker also talked about getting these bipods and extended recording sticks. Before purchasing or deciding to purchase any equipment Baker wants to have the cable advisory try out the shoulder mounts. The committee will also hold off on the bipods as well.

Old business
The Cable Advisory Committee

reviewed some old business regarding the school set up. One of the teachers at high school is planning on getting several teachers together to discuss building a learning program for students by working with the committee. Baker will hear back from the school soon.
Baker would then talk about a talk show idea that was brought up by Ray Kopacko, who also serves on the Finance Committee. The main responsibility for the Cable Advisory Committee is to help supply the studio set up for Kopacko, who according to Baker is the producer of this talk show idea.
A series of hosts will jump in and discuss further about what is discussed at the town meetings. In other words, expand on what was discussed and some of the main highlights of the meetings themselves.
The Cable Advisory Committee seemed interested in this talk show idea and would like to know more moving forward.

CANDIDATE from page 6

costs for the pumps themselves and for the labor to install them.
The Sewer Commissioners thought quotes were done already, but Ferrera explained that the potential cost was not clear to him as to what is needed for the project. Ferrera mentioned there is a correct procurement method to solicit quotes.
With estimates now complete Ferrera can go over quotes to find out the cost of the scum pump replacement.
"Send out a solicitation for firm quotes for the materials and the labor," Ferrera said.
Ferrera mentioned this process must be done in accordance with Chapter 30b. When asked how long the chapter has been in effect, Ferrera said for the last 30 to 40 years. It is not an easy process as Ferrera explained but it's the best process to find out what the costs are.
"Two entities would be doing two different things," Ferrera mentioned regarding the cost of materials and the labor. "Still have to comply as a small town."
Zebrowski also mentioned a potential contract with Tighe & Bond to do copper removal. The chief operator for the sewer department will present this on a later date.

BIRTHDAY from page 1

Christopher, David, Paul, Justin, Gregory, Timothy, Jason and Christian.
Benoit's four surviving children, Paul Benoit of Hardwick, Jason Benoit of New Braintree, Justin and Gregory all celebrated their mother's centennial birthday along with extended family members, who took time to reflect

on some of her many remarkable achievements.
In 1970, Benoit was the first woman to serve on the Board of Selectmen in town, and the second to hold that position in the commonwealth. A proud Republican, Benoit was eager to see who won the Presidential Election this year. "She was heavily involved in local politics," Paul said.
This included successfully fighting against the placement of a

prison in town, on property that is now the State Police Academy. She also rallied against illegal dumping and groundwater pollution.
Last year, she received an award from the town's Board of Selectmen, recognizing her "outstanding contributions and selflessness in the face of political adversity."
"She also designed the town flag," Jason said.
Benoit is known for her poet-

ry and artistic talent, with many of her bucolic oil paintings displayed in her home and throughout the town, including at the New Braintree Historical Society Museum.
"She tried to preserve local buildings around town," Paul said of her paintings.
Benoit was also a film star, having lent her voice to Geraldine the Cow in the educational children's movie "Hey, That's My Hay".

At the age of 98, Benoit was awarded the town's Boston Post Cane, at a ceremony that was well attended and enjoyed by all. Along with the cane, Benoit received official citations from the Senate and House of Representatives.
Benoit continues to hold the cane and the title of oldest resident as she has now rounded out a full century of birthdays.

'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.

EQLT holds New Year's Day walk

NEW BRAINTREE – East Quabbin Land Trust will start off 2025 with a New Year's Day walk, Wednesday, Jan. 1 at noon at the New Braintree Trail Station Site, 1700 Hardwick Road.
This will be a casual walk on the Mass Central Rail Trail in New Braintree and Hardwick. EQLT will also dedicate the Terry Briggs Memorial Bench in Wheelwright.



Ware Middle School students recognized at the School Committee meeting on Dec. 4 were Magdalene Cole, Joshua Berlus, Julyana Longtin, Zoey Crutchfield and Rowan Hillebrand (not shown in photo). Staff member Debra Kusek-Boser (not shown in photo) was also recognized.



Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School students recognized were Serenity Dookhran, Abigail Hazzard, Molly Shea, Zoey McRobbie, Leona Goddu and Avery Pasquale. Staff recognized were Karen Hill and Elizabeth Smith Zajchowski.

AWARDED from page 1

nized for their "stick-to-it-ness" and for making a difference.

She recognized Magdalene Cole for her enthusiasm for learning.

"Her hand is up, she is sharing, she is teaching other kids in the classroom," Thompson said.

She also recognized Joshua Berlus for his positive attitude. She said Berlus is always smiling and making the best out of every situation.

Julyana Longtin was recognized for her resilience and determination.

"This is a young lady who doesn't give up," she said.

Zoey Crutchfield was recognized for being a stellar student who works really hard and shares her knowledge with other students.

Rowan Hillebrand was recognized as being a positive influence and her role on the Student Leadership Council, and for her efforts to organize a can drive for the Jubilee Cupboard.

"This is a sixth grader, who contacted the Jubilee Cupboard on her own, made the phone call, got all the information presented to me, made posters, got her leadership team on board," Thompson said.

For staff, Thompson recognized Debra Kusek-Boser who is always willing to help out wherever she is needed in the middle school.

"She is everything we need in support staff in the building," Thompson said.

High School Principal Scott Slattery said the best part of being an administrator is recognizing staff and students. With the help of Lovato, Vice-Principal Michael Fazio and staff, they selected five students.

"We have a ton of great students, it's very tough to make decisions like this," Slattery said.

Students recognized include Gabrielle Kaczuwka, Lana Bennington, Liam Wedhoff, Matthew Gambino and Shelby Hogan.

Gambino, who has deep roots in the town's Fire Department, was instrumental in aiding a peer through an anxiety attack and riding with them in the ambulance.

Slattery recognized several staff members, including Becky Hebert who runs the VHS program.

"She's a great asset to our building," Slattery said.

He also recognized one of the school's newer maintenance staff, Daniel Bressette, who is always willing to help out and does anything asked of him and receptionist Donna Warburton, who has been



Custodians Rosemary Weller and Devon Koczur were recognized for their service.

helping fill in for a coworker who has been out while recovering from cancer.

"She does not want us to acknowledge her, but she certainly deserves it, she's worked very hard...she's been nothing but positive," Slattery said of Warburton.

Director of Buildings and Grounds Bill Alderman recognized two of his staff members, Rosemary Weller and Devon Koczur, saying they both do "an incredible job."

"Both of them are an asset to the school...couldn't have asked for better people to work for us," he said.

Café 171 presentation

Director of Student Services Dr. Ginger Coleman was joined by students Savannah Brown, Chenille Brown and Liam Corder and Occupational Therapist Andrea Adams, Room 171 teacher Sue Plescia, and paraprofessional Kim Roach.

Coleman said Café 171 was started this school year by the ESY students who wanted to change the programming.

"We really thought we had to listen to them and see what types of opportunities they wanted," Coleman said. "And so much of the work that we're doing has all been through student voice and student choice."

She said the program is still at its foundational level, but they are continuing to build it up.

Adams said they knew they wanted to take the program in a new direction and began the process over this past summer.



Superintendent Dr. Michael Lovato shook hands with Coach Morgan Toelken during the staff recognition ceremony.

"We wanted it to be student driven," Adams said.

One of the changes to the program was the creation of an internship program initiated by Coleman. Adams said the student interns were able to assist younger students in their classrooms during summer programming.

Adams said some of the student interns were interested in event planning and they were given the responsibility to planning the end of summer events.

"They planned all aspects of the events," Adams said. "They had journals, planned a budget, they brainstormed ideas...they emailed, met with and coordinated with staff

engagement and increased confidence in their skill set and overall happiness with their program," Adams said.

Adams said the program has "opened up a host of opportunities" and provided real-life job experiences for the students.

Savannah, who interned with Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School over the summer, has now gone on to be a paraprofessional intern at the school.

Liam is Café 171's "coffee expert" Adams said, and he is known for his pizza-making skills.

Chenille will also be working in Café 171 as a paid intern.

Savannah, Chenille and Liam shared a Power Point presentation detailing Café 171's growth, from preparing food, reconciling the cash drawer for purchases, and even celebrating National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day.

ESY student Gabe has put his business skills to good use with the creation of his own sticker company. Adams said they are 25 cents each and can be purchased with coffee and breakfast during café hours.

Café 171 customers have had nothing but positive feedback about the food offered by the students, with one saying they cooked the "best egg sandwich I have ever had."

grade and will continue for grades two and three the following weeks. Holiday concerts were planned for Dec. 10 and 13.

"The music classes have been practicing hard to get ready," he said.

Orszulak said SMK is also partnering with the Ware Jr./Sr. High School to collect canned goods to donate to the Jubilee Cupboard. Students are having a contest to see which grade level can bring in the most cans.

Ware Middle School students in grade five enjoyed a field trip to the Hitchcock Center in Amherst, after participating in an ongoing collaboration.

"One highlight of the trip was a design challenge where students built model houses using cardboard, paper, plastic and foil," he said. "The goal was to create structures that could keep the occupants dry while efficiently collecting rainwater. The experience combined creativity, teamwork and real world problem solving."

Orszulak said the middle school is focusing on attendance as a way for students to achieve academic success. He said the goal is to reach a 95% daily student attendance rate, a 5% increase over last school year.

Attendance challenges have been issued to the staff and students. The homeroom with the highest daily attendance percentage during the month of December will earn a special lunch period with a movie.

At the Jr./Sr. High School, winter sports have started, and teams include boys and girls basketball, co-ed cheerleading, boys and girls swimming co-op with Palmer High School and boys and girls wrestling co-op with Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School.

The annual New York City bus trip fundraiser was held on Dec. 14.

Parent/teacher conferences were held for kindergarten and first

Student Representative report

Student Representative Philip Orszulak said that 173 student at Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School participated in the November reading challenge, beating a previous record of 141 students.

He said students attended an all-school assembly to celebrate students who have showed the character trait of "caring" during the month of November. December's character trait is "self-control."

Parent/teacher conferences were held for kindergarten and first

Notch Visitor Center open for winter 2024-2025

AMHERST – Winter at the Mount Holyoke Range is a magical experience, and a visit to the Notch Visitor Center, 1500 West St., Route 116, is the perfect way to enjoy it.

shoeing, and cross-country skiing. The Notch Visitor Center enhances your park experience with engaging exhibits that highlight the unique features of the Mount Holyoke Range.

and hiking suggestions. There's something for everyone, from beginners to seasoned adventurers.

parking. The center is open Tuesday through Sunday, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

and upcoming programs, call 413-253-2883 or visit <https://www.mass.gov/locations/mount-holyoke-range-state-park>.

Early Deadlines
for all LEGAL NOTICES...

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

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

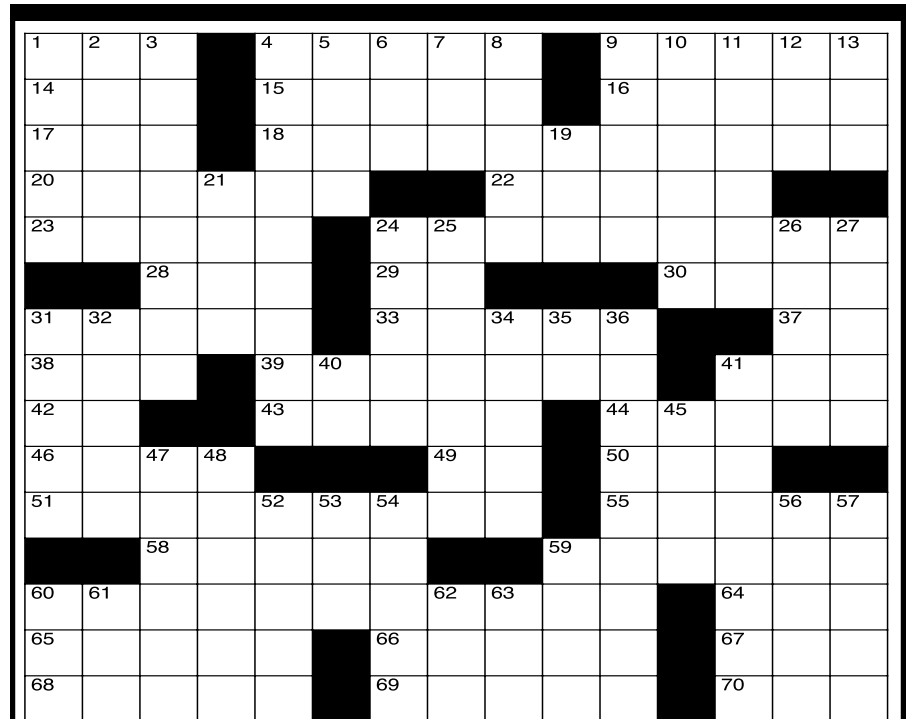
Happy New Year!
Happy Holidays!

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- 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.

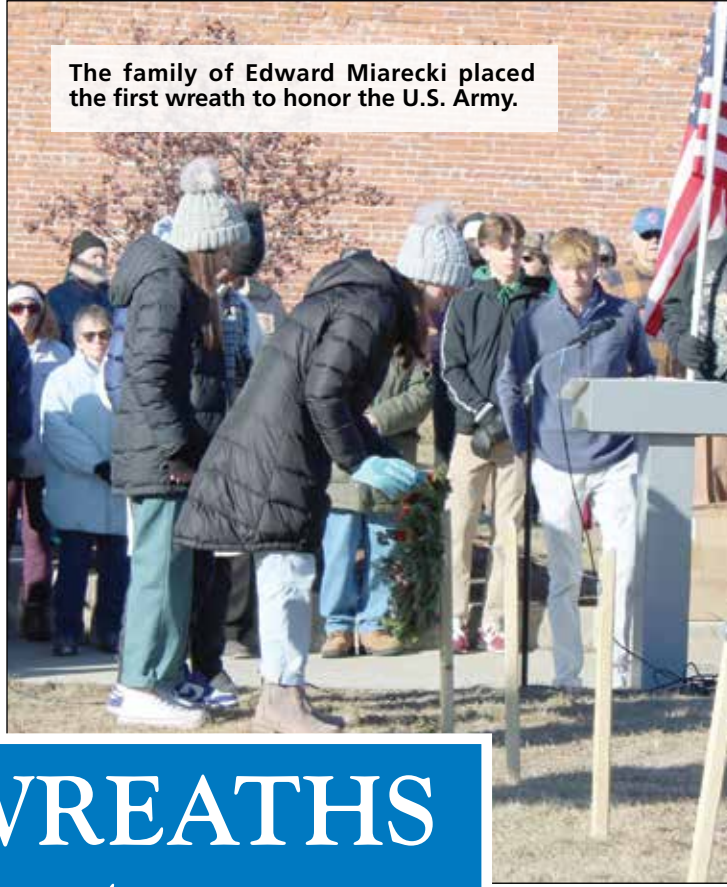
visit www.publicnotices.turley.com



- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Miller beer variety
 4. Member of people inhabiting Bering Sea islands
 9. Stomach
 14. Investment vehicle
 15. Fictional soccer coach Ted
 16. Irregular in botanical parlance
 17. Cease standing
 18. "American Horror Story" actress
 20. Grow milk teeth
 22. Plant parts
 23. Snow house
 24. Most contemptuous
 28. Note to repay
 29. Old English
 30. Wings
 31. Financial institutions
 33. Parks and Lopez are two
 37. Mr. T's "The A-Team" character
 38. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
 39. Give off
 41. Semitic alphabet letter
 42. Farm state
 43. Actress Sarandon
 44. Back parts
 46. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
 49. Touchdown
 50. One point north of due east
 51. Refurbishes
 55. Silver and Dogg are two
 58. Former Tigers catcher Alex
 59. Type of envelope
 60. Seriously considered
 64. Unhappy
 65. Past (archaic)
 66. Asian wild dog
 67. Old English letter
 68. Young domestic sheep
 69. Football players need to gain them
 70. Witness
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Dormant Peruvian volcano
 2. Norwegian composer
 3. Indicates location
 4. Pubs
 5. Unable to walk easily
 6. Electronic warfare-support measures
 7. World leader
 8. Midsection
 9. Jewish calendar month
 10. Urological condition
 11. A small quantity of anything
 12. Mountain Time
 13. Affirmative
 19. Word element meaning ear
 21. Carried away
 24. Short-billed rails
 25. Newborn child
 26. Sword
 27. Groups of people
 31. Prickly, scrambling shrubs
 32. Become less intense
 34. Polishes
 35. Indicates position
 36. Songs sung to one's beloved
 40. The 12th letter of the Greek alphabet
 41. Insects
 45. Israeli politician
 47. Pre-digital
 48. Roaming
 52. Ambience
 53. Brew
 54. Late
 56. Make ecstatically happy
 57. Semitic alphabet letter
 59. Blend
 60. Dash
 61. Self
 62. Exclamation of satisfaction
 63. Hill or rocky peak



Alisyn Bruso prepared to place a wreath for the U.S. Space Force.



The family of Edward Miarecki placed the first wreath to honor the U.S. Army.



The Quabbin Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps presented a 10-member color guard led by Cadet Aiden Fuller

WREATHS — across — AMERICA



Paul Orszulak and his family placed a wreath to honor the U.S. Coast Guard.



Scouts led the Pledge of Allegiance.



David Deslauriers performed "Taps" while his father, Henry Deslauriers, saluted.



Kate Marceau read details from Herbert Moulton's time spent as a prisoner of war in Germany during World War II.



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette
Ware's Wreaths Across America organizer Frank Bateman gave opening remarks.

M	G	D		A	L	E	U	T		T	U	M	M	Y	
I	R	A		L	A	S	S	O		E	R	O	S	E	
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I	G	L	O	O		S	N	O	O	T	I	E	S	T	
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B	A	N	K	S		R	O	S	A	S		B	A		
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