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MEMORIAL DAY

Remember and Honor

Ware Remembers

16th annual event held before Memorial Day

By Ryan Drago
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WARE – The 16th annual Ware Remembers ceremony took place this past weekend as part of honoring Memorial Day.

This annual event is made possible by the Ware Historical Society, the Ware Veterans' Council and the Ware Boy Scouts.

Due to weather conditions, the event was held inside the Ware Town Hall. Although the event couldn't be held outside in front of the Ware Center Meeting House and Museum, a field of flags were still displayed outside the center point of the community.

The event began with the color guard marching through the grand hall of

Please see **WARE REMEMBERS**, page 7



Veterans marched into St. Aloysius Cemetery to lay a wreath for Memorial Day. *Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette*



Joe Szczepanek placed a wreath at St. Aloysius Cemetery

Remembering those who gave all

Hardwick honors the fallen

HARDWICK – On the Sunday before Memorial Day, residents of town gathered to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Despite the weather, an assembly of veterans, police, fire and town officials laid wreaths at the town's memorials to honor those who gave their all for freedom. A dedicated

Please see **HARDWICK**, page 8

Ware held annual parade and ceremony



The parade marched down Maple Street to recognize the sacrifice of the fallen on Memorial Day. *Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette*

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARE – This year's Memorial Day ceremony was held inside the Town Hall, led by Master of Ceremonies Brandy Brusio.

American Legion Post 123 was the leading post for this year's ceremony, and the service opened with a performance of the National Anthem by Carol Zins, Jane Sterndale and the Weir River Concert Band. Phil Hamel was this year's parade marshal.

Doug Maxfield from the American Legion, gave the opening prayer and Craig Simmons read a poem

Please see **PARADE AND CEREMONY**, page 7

Remembering why on Memorial Day

Town honored the fallen with annual parade

By Ryan Drago
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WARREN – The town came together this past weekend with the annual Memorial Day parade.

The march began at St. Paul's Cemetery and featured town departments, the school band, youth clubs, state and town officials. The first stop of the parade was at the Common, a place where dozens of families came together

to witness the parade.

Veteran's Agent Michelle Durkee welcomed everyone who could attend this year's Memorial Day Parade. Joining the festivities was Town Administrator James Ferrera, members of the Board of Selectmen, state Sen. Jake Oliveira and state Rep. Todd Smola.

This annual parade is a beautiful display of honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice so people can embrace the freedoms they have today.

Smola was one of the speakers of the ceremony and

Please see **WARREN HONORS**, page 5



Shown from left are Selectman Richard Eichacker, Veteran's Agent Michelle Durkee, Selectman Derick Veliz (back), Selectman Raymond Kopacko and Town Administrator James Ferrera at the Veterans Memorial in West Warren. *Turley Photo by Ryan Drago*



A student prepared to place an American flag on the green in front of Hardwick Elementary School. *Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette*

Field of Flags

Students recognize sacrifice on Memorial Day

By Paula Ouimette
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HARDWICK – Just prior to Memorial Day, students at Hardwick Elementary School participated in a tradition that is now in its third year, under the direction of retired

Principal Sue Musnicki.

Musnicki brought this tradition to the Quabbin Regional School District a few years ago when she was Co-Principal of Ruggles Lane Elementary School in Barre. Like the one in Barre, Musnicki hopes that Hardwick's field of flags will continue to serve as a reminder of the

Please see **FLAGS**, page 8





Runners took off from the starting line for the 2nd annual Memorial Day 5K hosted by Sculpt Well Co. at Grenville Park.

Runners support Home Base Organization

By Paula Ouimette
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WARE – The 2nd annual Memorial Day 5K was held at Grenville Park this past Saturday morning, hosted by Sculpt Well Co.

Race organizer and Sculpt Well Co. owner Karyn Petracone thanked everyone for supporting the event, which raises funds for the Home Base Organization, to provide clinical care and support services to veterans at not cost.

“Coming from a military family myself, this mission has always been very close to my heart,” Petracone said.

This year’s race was dedicated to Technical Sergeant Colby Morin, who is currently serving overseas. His wife Courtney and son Jonathan, accepted the honor from Petracone on his behalf.

“This year’s race is especially meaningful,” Petracone said. “We would like to recognize Colby’s sacrifice.”



Sculpt Well Co. owner Karyn Petracone shared a hug with Courtney Morin before the Memorial Day 5K. This year’s race was dedicated to Technical Sergeant Colby Morin, Courtney’s husband, who is serving overseas.

Petracone said it is important to remember the true meaning of Memorial Day, so that the courage and sacrifice of those who gave all will never be forgotten.

After a moment of silence, Petracone invited Rolly Gratton of the One Call Away Foundation to speak about his organization.

Gratton, a Ware native, is the co-founder of the One Call Away Foundation, which is headquartered in Agawam. “Everything we do focuses on our veterans in western Mass,” Gratton said.

Gratton thanked the Parks Department and Parks

Manager John Piechota for making sure the race course was ready for the event. He thanked Petracone and her team for supporting the Home Base Organization, which he has worked closely with.

“They save lives. That’s what they do,” he said.

This year’s Memorial Day 5K raised almost \$5,000 to support the Home Base Organization.

“Your support will help make a meaningful impact for veterans and their families,” Petracone said in Facebook post following the race.



The AMVETS presented the colors, led by John Pajak.

Turley Photos by Camren Robertson

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 2023 showed Eagle Scout and U.S. Army service member Grant Pelletier marching with Aaron Bateman of Ware Scouts BSA Troop 281.

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

SB hears update on Convenient Care

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
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WARE – The Selectboard met last Tuesday, where they heard an update on the convenient care site to be installed in the former Smithland Pet and Garden Center at 144 West Main St.

Michael Knapik, a representative from Baystate Health was present to discuss the facility, and talk about the Rural Health Transformation Act.

Knapik said the decision to open a Convenient Care in Ware came from stakeholder meetings led by the new leader of Baystate Health, Peter Banko. Knapik said Baystate Health already has five operating Convenient Care sites across the service area, and this one would have the same operations.

He said it will be licensed as an urgent care, and have laboratory and imaging services. Knapik said the estimated opening date is in nine-12 months,

and when it opens, it will operate seven days a week, with multiple days with evening hours.

Knapik said some other services provided would include treatments for upper-respiratory illnesses, nausea, cuts, strains and sprains, rashes and animal bites. He said there could be primary care physicians on site, and services could always be expanded if the Convenient Care is utilized enough.

Knapik said Baystate Health is partnered with UMass Medical School, and they run an academic program at the Convenient Care in Greenfield, and he said that could be a part of the Convenient Care in Ware in phase two.

Selectboard Chair Josh Kusnierz said the level of care his family has received at Convenient Care in the past have been “second to none,” and said he hopes the same service will be available in Ware.

Selectboard member Valerie Granger said there is some weariness in the

public surrounding Baystate Health, and people want to make sure that Baystate Health is giving the town what they say they will.

Selectboard Vice-Chair Ken Willette had a similar point, saying the board will have to hold Baystate Health accountable, but work together with Baystate Health. Willette said the Convenient Care could add to the economy and vibrancy of Ware.

Baystate Health recently took over operations at Mercy Medical Center in Springfield, according to Willette, and he asked how they will be able to focus on both Mercy and the Convenient Care in Ware.

Knapik said the projects are “separate and distinct,” and that Baystate Health “can juggle multiple balls.”

Knapik ended by saying if anybody has a proposal for use at the old Mary Lane site, they can send it to Baystate Health and it will be considered. Kusnierz said the board would invite Knapik back in September for another update.

Voter registration deadline for ATM is May 29

WARE – Residents of Ware not registered to vote must register on or before Friday, May 29 in order to vote in the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for June 8.

If you are registered but have moved within

Ware you must also register at your new address on or before this date.

You may check your voter registration status at any time online at www.mass.gov under Elections & Voting.

Volunteers needed for water quality sampling

C4R is seeking volunteers to conduct water quality sampling at sites in Wilbraham and Palmer twice a month on Thursday mornings in June, July and August and once in September.

Spring SALE

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10-5

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PUZZLES

TICKET

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to Win!

SALE

REFRESHMENTS!

School Committee signs bus contract

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

WARE – The School Committee heard a finance update from Andy Paquette of TMS Inc., that included a bid for bus services for the next three years.

The contract is a group contract between the Ware, Belchertown and Granby school districts, and was won by First Student, according to School Committee Chair Brian Winslow.

Paquette said there is some variation with bus capacity, with certain buses getting close to full capacity, and other buses not. He said there aren't any overcrowded buses.

He said this variation is due to a requirement to have enough buses to serve all eligible students who could use the bus, even if they choose not to ride. He said special education transportation is not bid at the same time, but there is only one company that often

wins the bid.

School Committee member Mel Whitham asked about absorbing transportation costs.

Paquette said there is a fuel adjustment clause measured monthly that decides how much the district will pay for buses. If they go over a certain limit, they will pay more, if they stay under it will be less, Paquette said.

Student representative report

A student representative gave a report on the Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School, Ware Middle School and Ware Junior/Senior High School.

For the elementary school, the representative said they held a spring music and art showcase, with a musical concert, art-work and a bounce house.

He said there was a kindergarten orientation where students and parents could

Please see **CONTRACT**, page 6

Selectboard, FinCom review ATM warrant

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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WARE – The Selectboard held a joint meeting with the Finance Committee and Moderator Kathleen Coulombe to review each article on the annual town meeting warrant, and make recommendations on action.

There are 34 articles on the warrant, including an article to fund design for a splash pad at Reed Memorial Pool, funding to demolish the pool and bath houses and to fund a new bucket truck for the Department of Public Works.

Article 28 is the splash pad design, which would require \$50,000. Town Manager Stuart Beckley said the Parks Department has committed \$75,000 toward the project.

Finance Committee member Richard Fly said there are differing opinions in town on the priority of a splash pad. The Selectboard did not vote to support this article, but the Finance Committee and Beckley did.

Article 29 is the demolition of the pool and bath houses, which would require \$175,000. Selectboard Vice-Chair Ken Willette said he originally put this article on the warrant, but recommends dismissal to not further the spending of free cash. Willette said the area of the pool has been maintained well, and people cannot legally access it.

Beckley recommended this article, because he said if the splash pad design did not go through, the demolition had to. Selectboard Chair Josh Kusnierz agreed, saying the property is still a liability even if people cannot legally get in there, and said he would rather it be gone for now, and improved when the town is in a better financial situation.

The Selectboard and Finance Committee recommended dismissal of this article by majority.

Article 26 on the warrant is seeking \$235,000 for a new bucket truck for the DPW, so they can perform tree work and maintenance.

Willette said he was "troubled by this going forward," because there was no documentation provided from the DPW on the need for this purchase. Willette said he heard the truck is old, but in good shape, and only the boom that carries the operator failed inspection.

Members of the board asked if it would be possible to just replace the boom instead of the whole truck, and Beckley said it is the difference between the \$235,000 for the whole truck and \$50,000 for just the boom. Kusnierz said that is a significant saving of money, but Beckley said at some point, the whole truck along with a dump truck will need replacing.

Kusnierz said he would like a copy of logs from the DPW about the truck, including hours used and maintenance updates, because he does not see it out as much as commercial tree companies. Willette said he would not be comfortable paying the price for replacement without documentation, but said the same about only paying for the boom repairs.

Willette asked if it would be possible to push this off to a fall town meeting, but Beckley said tree work would not be done over the summer if that was the case. Willette said there are trucks for rent that can be used if needed.

The boards voted to change the wording in the article to spend no more than \$50,000 for repairs.

Other articles

There were a few articles that were recommended for dismissal by Beckley, including article 22 which would have asked for a sum of money from road stabilization for the design, repair and rehab of the Muddy Brook bridge. Beckley recommended dismissal because there is not an engineer's estimate yet.

There is also incomplete engineering for article 24 for the Hardwick Pond Road dam, so Beckley recommended dismissal.

Beckley also recommended dismissal on article 27, which is to purchase a vehicle for the DPW and water department to share, but Willette said it is only \$35,000 and can be funded by legal awards, so the boards voted to change the wording to reflect that. He also recommended dismissal on article 30, which was seeking \$400,000 from sewer retained earnings for a wastewater management plan because there is not enough money in that fund.

Some other articles on the warrant include article 20, which is a petition to the general court for one more off-premises alcohol license for a retail store in town to expand their selection to spir-

its. Article 21 is asking for \$12,500 to go towards an agricultural preservation restriction at Letendre Farm. Beckley said that \$12,500 is 5% of the cost, and the state picks up the other 95%.

Article 24 is seeking \$40,000 for the design and engineering of a garage at Aspen Grove Cemetery. Article 25 is seeking \$90,000 total between a couple accounts for two restroom designs, one at Grenville Park, and the other at the water treatment plant.

Article 31 is seeking \$330,000 from water retained earnings for wells on Barnes Street, and article 32 is seeking another \$330,000 from water retained earnings for updating lead service lines and mapping. Article 33 is a resolution seeking more funding for the Quabbin resources and article 34 is the discontinuation of a road not used since 1938, which now goes through residential properties.

Sewer abatements

The board received sewer abatement requests from 5-7 Bellevue Avenue, 35 Morse Avenue and 30 Pleasant St.

Ken Calder, the interim DPW director, summarized the abatements. He said the leak at the property of Bellevue Avenue was estimated to have filled four Olympic-size swimming pools, and the bill would be around \$25,000.

He said the owner has not allowed the DPW access to the meter. Calder said this is not grounds for an abatement.

Calder said the abatement for the property on Morse Avenue is from an August of 2024 bill, and is outside of the 60 day limit to file an abatement. He said the owner was approached many times, and the property has several outstanding balances, with the only payment being about \$13 in May 2024.

He said the abatement is too old to investigate, and not valid.

Calder said the property on Pleasant Street is seeking

an abatement for a leak in July of last year, but the issue was raised after the bill came in with no documentation.

The board denied all three abatement requests.

Open meeting law complaints

The board acknowledged the receipt of three open meeting law complaints filed by Cynthia Allen Bourcier, and voted to send them to legal counsel for review. Beckley said some of her complaints have to do with information not sent over after public records requests, but not everything that is requested is legal to send over.

Beckley also said one of the complaints has to do with a KP Law response with incorrect information, and some of her complaints had to do with things that were already approved by the Selectboard, or things they have taken action on multiple times.

Willette said some of the claims she makes in her complaints are outside of the parameters of the open meeting law, and it is a waste of town resources to repeatedly file complaints.

Allen Bourcier said she hopes transparency improves.

Selectboard announcements

Willette recognized Police Chief Shawn Crevier for the drug bust at Otis Avenue, and said it was a net benefit for the town. The board decided to invite the chief to a future meeting to talk about disincentivizing this behavior in town.

Selectboard member Valerie Granger recognized the girls' junior varsity softball team for finishing the season undefeated. Selectboard member Steven Hawk recognized the Fire Department for their quick response to an emergency.

Selectboard member John Desmond talked about getting building inspector updates on refurbishing buildings in town.

Please see **WARE ATM**, page 8

Ware Senior Center NEWS

WARE – The Ware Senior Center, 413-967-9645, 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, June 1

- 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Foot Nurse Allison Williams. Call 413-967-9645 for appointment.
- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch

Tuesday, June 2

- 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Foot Nurse Allison Williams. Call 413-967-9645 for appointment.
- 9 a.m. Exercise Class at Valley View Housing
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. Knit-Crochet-Laugh
- 5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking. \$3 per class.
- 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

Wednesday, June 3

- 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Foot Nurse Allison Williams. Call 413-967-9645 for appointment.
- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 9:30 a.m. Quilting Club
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. Chair Yoga with Lori

Thursday, June 4

- 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
- 9 a.m. Walking Club (weather permitting)
- 9:30 a.m. Line Dancing for Beginners
- 10 a.m. Line Dancing
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 12:15 p.m. Art Class

Friday, June 5

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

LUNCHES DINE IN 11:30 a.m.

All meals \$3.50 unless otherwise noted

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

Monday, June 1

American Chop Suey, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day

Tuesday, June 2

BBQ Pork Loin, Scalloped Potatoes, Veggie of the Day, Dessert of the Day

Wednesday, June 3

Baked Ziti, Chef Salad, Dessert of the Day

Thursday, June 4

Shepherd's Pie, Caesar Salad, Dessert of the Day

Friday, June 5

Baked Fish, French Fries, Pickled Beets, Dessert of the Day



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viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

Help, Social Security Administration says I'm not eligible for benefit

Dear Rusty:

Help, the Social Security Administration says I didn't pay enough into my Social Security account, despite being a business owner and paying taxes.

What can I do?

Signed: Self-employed American

Dear Self-employed:

For all potential SS beneficiaries, it is very important to know how Social Security determines if you are eligible for retirement benefits: Everyone including the self-employed must have earned at least 40 "quarter credits" contributing to the SS program, which is usually about 10 years' worth of earnings.

You can earn up to four "quarter credits" per year, depending on your earnings including your net earnings from self-employment. For example, this year (2026) you will get one "quarter credit" for each \$1,890 of earnings, up to four credits maximum for the year.

As a self-employed business owner, only your net earnings are counted, e.g., after all your reported business deductions are taken. The SSA gets your earnings information from the IRS, so SSA goes by whatever information you submitted in the self-employment income tax returns you submitted to the IRS over the years.

If you don't have at least 40 "quarter credits" over your lifetime, you won't be eligible for Social Security retirement benefits.

The best way to further investigate this is to create your personal "my Social Security" online account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. When you have done that, you will be able to see how many quarter credits you currently have (apparently less than 40) and deter-

mine how much more you must earn to be eligible for SS retirement benefits.

For example, if you have 36 or more credits now, you could likely work just another year or part of a year, to be eligible for SS benefits next year. Knowing how many "credits" you now have will tell you how much more in annual net earnings from self-employment you must have to become eligible for SS benefits.

When you create you online SS account, you will also be able to see your entire lifetime record of your earnings reported to Social Security and you should review that record to make sure that your lifetime earnings have been correctly reported to Social Security.

If there are any discrepancies in your lifetime earnings record, they can be corrected by using form SSA-7008. You can find additional guidance on this at the following SSA web link: www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10081.pdf.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for informational purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadviser@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

The fragrant five

I have fond memories of the patterned herb garden I created at my old house. Gone are the days of having an entire garden devoted to "useful plants."

Now I tuck them in here and there among the veggies in my raised beds. While I harvest some herbs for culinary purposes, most are grown for the olfactory experience.

Here are my favorite fragrant five.

Lemon Balm is a member of the mint family (Labiatae). Look closely at the plant and you will see the characteristic four-sided stems.

Although many mints possess the bad reputation of running rampant in the garden, lemon balm does not; it increases in girth but manages to stay where planted. It is easy to grow, and like most herbs, it will thrive in a well-drained sunny spot.

Many gardeners think lemon balm looks weedy and unkempt by midseason. I tend to agree, but this negative feature can easily be remedied with a hair cut, nearly to the ground, after flowering. Not long afterwards it will rebound and once again look respectable in the border.

Speaking of flowering, bees love the white, tubular flowers that appear in early summer. Botanists of old must have recognized this centuries ago, since its genus name "Melissa" actually means bee!

Lemon balm's claim to

fame is not its appearance, or its flowers, but its scent- best described as lemony with a hint of mint. Crush a leaf between your fingertips to get full effect.



Another favorite fragrant herb is Anise Hyssop, again a well-behaved member of the mint family. This plant can grow quite tall, upwards of three-four feet, and has lilac-purple flowers from midsummer on.

The individual flowers are borne in whorls that can grow as long as six inches if left to mature on the plant. Bees, butterflies and hummingbirds all love them!

For years I carefully picked the young flower heads and dried them for use in everlasting wreaths and arrangements, now I simply enjoy rubbing the foliage between my fingers for an amazing rush of licorice scent.

If you have ever grown Anise Hyssop you will likely agree that this herb is showy enough for the flower garden. It self-sows a bit, but never becomes a pest. Simply pull up unwanted seedlings.

What would an article on fragrant herbs be without mentioning Lavender? Its early summer flowers are a claim to fame, but honestly, the foliage smells great too.

Probably the biggest drawback to this plant is how it looks (dead!) after the winter has run its course. Don't expect the gray foliage to show signs of new growth until mid-May or even later, and you may have to cut deep within the plant to find it.

An application of fertilizer and lime as well as some extra water for a time will result in spry plants once more. And in the event you are wondering, Lavender is also technically a mint, but it differs from the others in that it is more shrub-like and generally does not die completely to the ground over the winter.

The last two herbs I will mention are annuals. The first is Sweet Marjoram.

I have a hard time explaining what this low growing, small leaved plant smells like. A fine cologne? A pizza topping? A nice smelling bug spray?

Please see **GARDEN**, page 12



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Resident shares concerns about pool article

Hold onto your hats, the merry-go-round ride is about to start again.

The proponents of the pool design cost are bringing it up again for funding at yet another meeting, this time the Annual Meeting in June.

The funding is for the final design of the new pool/splash pad complex proposed to be built at the site of the old pool; the cost request has been reduced from \$200,000 to \$50,000. This is a tremendous reduction in funding; how was this accomplished? By trimming costs and "new found money."

First, \$80,000 was cut from the original \$200,000 request by eliminating the funding for a project manager. Common sense would indicate that an item that is nearly half the cost of the entire proposal must be important; yet, it was simply erased.

Why would we need a project manager? The project

manager is supposed to oversee the entire project from pre-construction to close-out.

The PM oversees the construction process and aligns it with the client's goals. The PM manages human resources, budget, time frame and quality and is on-site throughout the project. And the PM guides all consultants according to the client's goals. (This info is from Google.)

So, the PM ensures that the project is done correctly and doesn't just look the part: concrete is supposed to be 3,000 psi? 2,000 psi looks the same, so what if it won't perform the same.

Lumber and/or wiring is undersized? So what, it looks the same.

Materials not showing on time? Are inferior? Who needs a PM on a multi-million-dollar project?

Ware will just rebuild it, since money is no object. The \$70,000 "new found

money"? The Reed Pool Trust is the source.

These funds were being used to cover pool operating expenses. Did the trust fully cover the costs to run the pool? Never.

The Town always had to subsidized the operation. The seasonal cost is now estimated at \$30,000; the trust will never come close, so yes, lets liquidate the trust to fund a design of a new pool that will never be built and will not be affordable to run.

So the warrant article will be looking for "only" \$50,000; this at a time when the current budget shows a shortfall of more than \$600,000.

To run the pool at a break-even would require a daily admission price of \$15. This price is dirt cheap when considering the cost of a baby-sitter of \$15 minimum wage per hour for four hours is \$60.

Realistically, no one is

going to pay that price, so the pool would be closed since not enough patrons would be at the pool to warrant the cost of lifeguards.

The cost of a new pool and splash pad is in the millions; there are no loans, grants nor genies in a bottle that are going to pay for it except the property owners of Ware for a minimum of 30 years at hundreds of dollars per year in increased taxes for the duration of that time.

The proponents of the pool have their hearts in the right place and are very generous in their commitment, but the bottom line is that for a seasonal item in a town of 10,000, a pool/splash pad complex is a luxury item that 2,000 households simply cannot afford.

Hold to your hats, because a merry-go-round is fast and always ends in the same place it begins.

Denis Ouimette
Ware

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Sewer Commissioners hold hearing on rates

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Sewer Commission began their May 19 meeting with a public hearing for the fiscal year 2027 proposed sewer rates.

This rate is for both residential and commercial users in town.

The Sewer Commissioners discussed some numbers that were factored in, including their proposed budget being \$959,870.06.

Sewer Commission Chair Travis Baker talked about retained earnings and some essential projects the Sewer Commission would like to get done sooner than later. These projects include a replacement of a truck, RBCs, the chlorine system and the bar rack.

He said there is a lot of money going into these projects.

Baker said he looked at the Sewer budget increases over the last four years and the budget appears to go up about 7% every year.

Baker said he looked at sewer systems from other towns and what they charge. After some calculations, the new rate comes out to \$770.50, which would be divided into two bills of \$385 each.

He said this new rate would be about \$8 more per month for users.

An increase to the sewer rates will help increase the department's retained earnings. As far as projects go the Sewer Commission feels the bar rack project should get done first or is a priority project.

The Sewer Commission voted and accepted the new sewer rate of \$770.

Chief Operator's report

Chief Operator at the Wastewater Treatment Plant Scott Urban shared his report.

The installation of a submersible pump for sampling was done for compliance.

Urban said the plant is doing their best to preserve what they have currently. Department of Labor Services came for a walk-through of the plant and see what updating is being accomplished and what is being done for safety.

Copper studies are going on and will go all summer as Urban tries to meet the copper compliance. Urban is looking at quotes for lab equipment and is looking at the department's supply funds.

Sewer connection permit application

The Sewer Commissioners revisited their sewer connection permit application. A couple changes have

Please see **SEWER**, page 13

Selectmen close warrant for ATM

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Board of Selectmen continued to review the fiscal year 2027 budget and 25 annual town meeting warrant articles during their meeting on May 21.

Town Administrator James Ferrera said he has received a proposed budget from the Quaboag Regional School District and reflected some final numbers. The School Committee met earlier in the week on Monday, May 18, and addressed budget challenges they were having.

The committee took a vote and decided to close West Brookfield Elementary School. After this decision, the committee adjusted its budget for the school district.

Ferrera said the above

minimum ask amount came out to \$460,473. The transportation amount was reduced to \$966,589. This brings the total operating budget to \$4,820,269.

These numbers are reflected in the omnibus budget. The omnibus hasn't changed since the last time the Select Board met. The approximate increase to the budget from last year is 2.71%.

Ferrera says it's a good budget number to be at.

"One of the lower budget increases we've seen in sometime," he said.

The board discussed changes to article 3. After review by town counsel, the article cannot be contingent upon getting a grant or loan; a funding source needs to be identified.

This article is for the Fire Department, and the Town Administrator said the Fire

Chief could go up at the meeting and defend and/or explain the article to the voters. Explaining the intentions and what the grand would do.

Fire Chief Adam Lavoie attended the Selectmen's meeting and said he would explain the intent of the article.

Even if the town voted no, Lavoie is still going to apply for the grant, which won't be awarded until sometime from September to November. The Fire Chief is in the process of finalizing the paperwork for the grant and will be submitting it prior to the June 11 meeting.

Contract for engineering services

The Board of Selectmen approved a contract in the amount of \$45,000 with Weston & Sampson for engineering services in relation to the Hillside Avenue

Improvement Project.

This project is part of the Community Development Block Grant initiative.

Step increase

The board approved a two-step increase for Facilities Custodian Michael Carenzo to a Step 6 (\$20.42) starting on July 1.

Town Administrator's report

Ferrera said the town is doing well in maintaining core services.

"We're not cutting any services," Ferrera said.

The Town Administrator had met with Central Massachusetts Regional Dispatch, addressing policies and procedures.

The Pulaski Street infrastructure and improvement project is near completion with a couple bills to be submitted.

Presentations highlight school accomplishments

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
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WARREN – The Quaboag Regional School Committee heard updates from the Student Advisory Council, performing arts department and members of the school store at their last school committee meeting on May 18.

Student council update

Student Evie Iwaniec gave an update from the Student Advisory Council. She said the school held a mock car crash demonstration to illustrate the dangers of drinking and driving.

Iwaniec said the biomedical innovation class attending an Applied 8 showcase

in Boston. Iwaniec said AP exams have been completed.

She said the seniors had a dinner dance at Salem Cross Inn. Iwaniec said graduation is going to be held on June 6, and the seniors will walk the elementary school on June 2, and have a scholarship night on June 3.

She said the Junior Class set up a nacho bar for teacher's appreciation week, and are planning for the senior barbecue on June 5. She said the prom would be May 23 at the University of Massachusetts.

Iwaniec said the tenth grade is finishing MCAS testing.

Iwaniec said the ninth graders are going to be hosting a fireworks show in June,

and working at a snack shack for donations.

She said there was going to be a pop-up Italian restaurant on May 20 operated by the 21st Century Cooking Club.

Performing arts update

Music and Theater Director James Joinville gave an update on accomplishments in their department this year. He said the theater put on a production for "Legally Blonde", with 48 actors and 27 crew members in February. Joinville said the theater department also put on a production of the "Lion King Jr." in April with 26 actors, 11 producers and 10 crew members.

Joinville said the wind

ensemble and Quaboag Singers participated in the Music in the Parks competition, and received "excellent" ratings. He said they also received the outstanding conduct award.

He said the event was held at Holyoke High School and they went to Six Flags following the competition.

He said students participated in the Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors Association solo and ensemble festival. He said Natalia Veliz-Baldizon won a silver medal, Emily Lalashius won a silver medal and Amarie Martino won a silver medal.

Please see **QUABOAG**, page 13

Voter registration deadline for Annual Town Meeting is June 1

WARREN – The last day to register to vote in the Annual Town Meeting is Monday, June 1 from 9

a.m.-5 p.m.

The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 11 at 7 p.m.

WARREN HONORS

from page 1

he talked about the incredible milestone the entire nation has come across with celebrating its 250th anniversary this year.

In those 250 years, many served in the armed forces and are remembered for their sacrifice on Memorial Day. Smola read the proclamation, which recognized May 25 as Memorial Day this year.

"We represent the very best of the Commonwealth," Smola said. "Remember this Memorial Day weekend."

Oliveira spoke about General Joseph Warren, the man who gave Warren its name, who fought and died during the Revolutionary War.

Oliveira said that Warren "had an ideal," that the people were capable of governing themselves and he was a person who was advocating for self-determination. Warren wanted to defend the



Members representing the Fire Department and Police Department stood in front of the flagpole at the Warren Fire Station.

Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

Commonwealth and gave that ultimate sacrifice for the birth of the U.S.

In 1834, after nearly a century of being called Western, the town of Warren was given a new name and was named after the patriot.

Oliveira also talked about a friend he lost who served in the military and how Memorial Day is a day of remembrance and thinking about those closest to us who

have fought and died in service to our country.

Durkee, who has served 25 years in the military, three years active in the Navy, 22 years in the Army National Guard, would speak on how Memorial Day means something to everyone.

"Memorial Day means something to you all," Durkee said.

It is a day of remembering all of the veterans and those

who passed on. As part of recognizing Memorial Day, Durkee wanted to acknowledge the police officers and the firefighters for their service.

Memorial Day is a day to recognize people, especially those who are no longer with us.

Durkee encouraged everyone in attendance to "be kind to one another" in this world.

The flags were raised

on the Common and at the Warren Fire Station. The National Anthem was played by the Quaboag Regional Middle High School band.

The parade continued to West Warren, down Main Street, stopping at Veterans Memorial Park. Durkee said to "honor all the people," in their community and throughout the nation.

For all the youth in the community, Durkee said to

them, "do not be afraid to follow your dream."

To conclude the ceremony, the Fraternal Order of Eagles in West Warren hosted a cookout for the community. A special thanks went to George's Pizza in Warren who helped cater.

The flag at Veterans Memorial Park was raised with the Quaboag band playing on site.



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Board holds public hearing on bylaws

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
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HARDWICK – The Planning Board held a public hearing last Tuesday at the Town House to present five new bylaws that are being proposed to be voted on at a special town meeting in the summer.

The bylaws include accessory dwelling units, associate planning board member, gender-neutral terminology, earth removal and importation and farm animals.

Accessory dwelling units

According to Planning Board Chair Bill Cole, and the bylaw packet which can be found at the town's website (www.hardwick-ma.gov), an ADU is a separate building on a property that has its own utilities like water and septic. They are required to be allowed by state law, so long as they are 900 square feet or less.

These are called protected use ADU's, according to the packet.

This proposed bylaw is a local option that allows the construction of an ADU on a property, and it can be between 400 square feet and 1,200 square feet. They cannot exceed the higher number.

According to Cole, the gross area excludes garages, porches and unfinished basements.

There are several additional differences between a protected use ADU and the proposed local use ADU, according to the packet, including protected use ADUs require no special permit, but the local use ADUs do.

For protected use ADUs, the setback rules are no more restrictive than another structure like a shed, but for the proposed local use, the setback is the same as any dwelling in the zoning district, according to the packet.

Additionally, for a local use ADU, there can be up to two local use ADUs along with the protected use ADU. There is also an option to build a protected ADU size building on a lot, and then build the regular home later, according to the packet.

The packet cites four

purposes for the proposed bylaw: "To increase housing production to address local and regional housing needs," "develop small-scale infill housing...while providing gentle/hidden density," "provide a more moderately priced housing option," and to "enable property owners to age in place, downsize, or earn supplemental income from investing in their properties."

Earth removal and importation

According to Cole, this bylaw is being proposed to reflect the authority the town has over earth removal and importation. According to the packet, earth is defined as things including "soil, loam, sand, rock, sod, peat, humus, clay or coal."

To fill, according to the packet, is to move material on or within any land or water. Material, according to the packet, is anything containing earth, along with things like plastic, paper, glass, concrete or animal matter.

According to the packet, the purpose of this bylaw is to regulate earth removal, importation and filling to protect human health, biodiversity and water. The bylaw would require a special permit to move 100 cubic yards or more of material to or from Hardwick per calendar year.

There is wording in the bylaw that allows an extension of up to two years on the special permit.

There are also exemptions, according to the packet, including excavations and importations required for construction of structures that have already been permitted, along with "the installation of walks, driveways, septic systems, swimming pools, or other accessory uses." There are also exemptions for agriculture, horticulture and floriculture, along with exemptions for cemeteries, ecological restoration conducted by the state, municipal uses, and existing projects.

Farm animals

According to the packet, this bylaw is meant to "specify and expand allowable farm animals kept for personal use on parcels greater than 1.5 acres," and

to "allow for the keeping of waterfowl and poultry on parcels between .5 and 1.5 acres."

According to the bylaw's specifications, the use of land and construction of structures for agricultural activities are allowed in all zoning districts as long as the property is five or more acres, or two or more acres if the activities generate \$1,000/year per acre.

The use of land for that same purpose, but on parcels that do not meet the requirements in the first criterion are still allowed in agricultural/residential and residential districts, and would require a special permit in all other districts, according to the packet.

One criterion states "the stabling and boarding of horses, horse riding trails, and riding academies on parcels of 5 acres or more" are allowed in agricultural/residential and residential districts.

They would require a special permit in Gilbertville Village, village residential and commercial residential districts, and are not allowed in industrial districts.

For the boarding of horses on less than five acres, it is only allowed in agricultural/residential and residential districts.

There is new proposed language in the specification that allows for the keeping of one horse in all districts to add "or one cow, or up to four goats/sheep" on parcels greater than 1.5 acres, and to add poultry and waterfowl to parcels of 1.5 or more acres.

There is new proposed language that would allow the use of land for poultry and waterfowl on parcels between 0.5 and 1.5 acres, including parcels greater than 1.5 where large animals are kept. There is also new proposed language that would allow for housing up to 16 poultry or waterfowl in structures not to exceed 200 square feet.

The proposed language also requires the quartering of poultry and waterfowl between dusk and dawn.

The proposed language states that there are up to four geese and one rooster allowed, and that guinea fowl and peafowl are prohibited. The proposed language states that poultry and

waterfowl must be contained within a fence at all times unless actively supervised, and never to leave the property they are quartered on. All of these specifications would be allowed in all districts.

Other specifications allow farm stands for produce, wine, and dairy products in every district, and outdoor farmers' markets are allowed in all districts, according to the packet.

Associate Planning Board member

Cole said the Planning Board thought they already had an associate Planning Board member built into the bylaws, but it was not officially adopted. He said if this bylaw is passed, they would be able to fill it.

The packet states the member would be appointed by a joint meeting between the Planning Board and Select Board. The associate member would sit for a term of three years, according to the packet.

The packet states that the associate member would sit in the absence or disqualification of a Planning Board member. The packet also states the member could sit on the board to act on a special permit.

The board discussed possibly expanding that role to act on applications as well. Cole said the associate member would be expected to sit in on all meetings.

Gender neutral terminology

Cole said this bylaw was not approved by the Attorney General because there was not a public hearing held before its adoption, and the law states that all zoning bylaws must have a public hearing before they are adopted.

According to the packet, this bylaw was approved at the 2023 annual town meeting for the town's general bylaws, which was approved by the Attorney General in 2024, but it was denied for the zoning bylaw. According to the packet, there will be language change in six areas of the zoning bylaws if it is approved

Select Board, FinCom recommend budgets

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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HARDWICK – The Select Board held a joint meeting with the Finance Committee last Thursday to finalize their budget recommendations before the annual town meeting, which is scheduled for June 6.

The Select Board voted to recommend the budget as presented, but the Finance Committee voted not to support it because they say it needs more cuts.

At the May 21 meeting, Town Administrator Justine Caggiano said the budget being presented contains a revised school number, an IT budget to reflect spending and other changes, which were discussed at previous meetings. She said the town is under proposition 2.5 by about \$24,000.

Caggiano also said she reached out to Kearsarge Energy, and that they have made a payment of over \$700,000 to National Grid for the solar program, which the town is scheduled to receive a one-time payment of \$100,000 in December.

The boards also discussed the gravel sales, which Caggiano said the town is estimating over \$300,000 in revenue, but she only built \$100,000 into the budget. Caggiano said there is no request for proposal for the gravel, rather it will be advertised on Auctions International.

Finance Committee member Mark Korzec asked questions about the gravel sales, including whether the Conservation Commission has signed off on the project and if there is a site plan.

Caggiano said the Conservation Commission has not had an official vote, but conversations show they support it. She also said she does not think they need a site plan, but they are gathering specs and yardage.

Korzec asked how the town is going to receive their share of the gravel, which he said is estimated at 40,000 cubic yards. Korzec said without answers to these questions, it is risky to use the estimated funds to balance the budget.

Please see **FINCOM**, page 12

PB discusses potential uses of Mary Lane site

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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WARE – The Planning Board met on May 21 regarding potential uses for the Mary Lane Hospital site.

Cynthia Allen Bourcier was listed on the agenda to discuss with the Planning Board about some potential uses that could be placed on the site, which used to have Mary Lane Hospital. The only building remaining on the property is the Wetherby building, which is considered historical.

She talked about the Rural Health Transformation program funds where the state had received \$162 million for the first of five years. This money is intended to improve rural health throughout Massachusetts.

According to Bourcier's discussion with the Planning Board the money is not going towards refurbishing, renovating or building a new building.

Another idea was to do some sort of residency program over by the site where only the Wetherby building still stands. The Planning Board asked if this money could be used for transportation, and according to Bourcier and her associates, it can.

Bourcier said representatives of neighboring towns came together to establish some sort of regional health coalition. Healthy Quaboag was brought up as one entity that is applying for grant funding.

The purpose is to get people. Please see **MLH**, page 13

CONTRACT from page 3

meet staff, and learn about the school through a brief presentation. The representative said they were sent home with readiness bags.

The representative said the third grade class is taking a trip to Boston, the second grade class is going to Lupa Zoo, the first grade class is going to the Springfield Museum and the kinder-

garten class is going to the Holyoke museum.

For the middle school, the representative said the fifth grade class took their trip to Nature's Classroom. He said the sixth grade is going to High Meadow Resort.

The representative said there is a spring book fair in the auditorium. He said a new peer observation program is being implemented for teachers to learn about

management practices their colleagues use that they can implement in the classroom.

For the high school, the representative said they are in the final rounds of MCAS, AP, and final exams, and class elections are soon. He said the girls junior varsity softball went a perfect 16-0 on the season, and the boys baseball team was playing a semi-final at Mount Everett. Whitham got an update

during the meeting that they won.

The representative said members of the National Honor Society helped deliver diapers in a diaper drive, and will be holding a ceremony. He said the seventh and eighth grade spring shindig is coming up, and the school will be holding a block party on Aug. 24 in the parking lot.

Superintendent's Report
Interim Superintendent

Michael Wood said business services bids are due June 3. He said there is one more professional development day scheduled for June 5, about discourse in the classroom.

He said local superintendents met with the new state education secretary Stephen Zrike, and talked about concerns about rural aid. Wood said Ware is just over the cusp of what is counted as rural, as it is measured by population density.

Wood said he attended a high school concert and the spring showcase, and said graduation is June 6 in the high school gym, and starts at 10 a.m.

Account balance

Wood said there is a request to increase the balance of the High School

Student Activity Account from \$7,000 to \$10,000. He said all of the student groups use that account to pay for activities. The board voted to increase the balance.


Administrative items

The board voted to delay signing the custodian contracts and secretary agreements until a June 3 Zoom meeting, of which those signings will be the only items on the agenda. Winslow said they would discuss the contracts in an executive session following the meeting.

The board voted to approve next year's academic calendar with amendments, as they put down Memorial Day for May 24 of next year, but it is actually on May 31.

The board also approved warrants and payroll, along with May 6 meeting minutes.

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Girls Scouts from Troop 11383 joined the parade.

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

PARADE AND CEREMONY from page 1

that was written by his great-grandfather.

The purpose of the day is to remember those who paid the ultimate price to protect the freedom of their country.

"Once again, we gather today to honor them," Brusco said.

First to speak was state Rep. Todd Smola, who reflected on the past 250 years of our nation's history, and its hard-fought independence.

"Through perseverance, we got it," he said.

Smola said sacrifices were made at home as well as on the battlefield, with women taking over the workforce while the men were away, and supporting their families on their own.

Smola asked the young people in the crowd to reflect on what Memorial Day actually means, and the importance of service to your country.

"We are only successful as long as they are willing to wear that uniform for their country," he said.

Smola recognized Phil Hamel, who had the honor of being an awardee at the State House's inaugural Military Appreciation Day last year. This year, that honor went to Ed Wyzik and John Pajak.

Wyzik was nominated by Smola and state Rep. Donnie Berthiaume and Pajak by state Sen. Peter Durant.

Pajak and Durant were unable to attend the Memorial Day service, but Smola and Berthiaume presented Wyzik with a plaque to recognize this honor.

"He's the fabric of this community because of all the things he's involved with," Smola said of Wyzik.

The Melha Highlanders of Springfield performed "Amazing Grace" on the bagpipes and Brusco recognized Gold Star families; those who have lost loved ones to their service.

"We thank you for your sacrifice to our nation," she said.

Featured speaker was Rolly Gratton, who shared about his father's military service in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. His service spanned three decades.

Gratton recalled traveling with his family throughout his father's military career, spending time growing up in Germany, where he was able to deeply feel the weight of loss at battle sites.

"I watched and learned from my dad what it means to support the troops," Gratton said.

Gratton shared memories of his father buying gifts for the orphans, and his mother



Rolly Gratton drove with Parade Marshal Phil Hamel.



Brandy Brusco and her daughter Alisyn drove in the parade.



The Melha Highlanders of Springfield provided bagpipes and drummers.

wrapping them. These gifts were then delivered by Santa to make Christmas brighter for children who faced immense hardship.

Although he was unable to serve his country in the armed forces like his father, Gratton has worked to ensure the needs of veterans and their families are met in western Massachusetts.

He talked about his involvement with the Patriot Guard Riders and escorting a fallen soldier from the airport to the funeral home in the middle of the night, and sitting with the soldier's grieving father.

"We stayed with him," he said.

Gratton also talked about the One Call Away Foundation, which has served western Massachusetts for 10 years. He also talked about the recent Memorial Day 5k organized by Karyn Petracone and Sculpt Well Co. at Grenville Park, which helps benefit veterans.

Gratton told those gathered to continue to remem-

ber sacrifice on Memorial Day, and throughout the year.

"The men and women we honor today believed so much in this country that they gave their lives," he said.

Gratton said people can honor them by being kind, being involved and helping one another.

The Weir River Concert Band then performed "America the Beautiful" and Brusco read President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

Steve Kutt and Frank Bateman read the names of the fallen.

The band then played the anthems from each branch of the armed forces, and veterans stood as their branch's song was performed.

Following a salute by the firing squad, David Deslauriers performed "Taps" and Carol Zins and Jane Sterndale sang "God Bless America" accompanied by the Weir River Concert Band.



President of the Veterans Council John Pajak led the Color Guard in a march inside the Town Hall during the 16th annual Ware Remembers ceremony.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

WARE REMEMBERS from page 1

Town Hall with an official introduction by Tony Swiercz of the Ware Center Meeting House. The Master of Ceremonies was Ware native and longtime resident Nancy Talbot, who is also the Town Clerk.

Julie Bullock of the Ware Historical Society said the flags displayed in front of the Meeting House and how Ware Remembers is about dedicating and honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

"Saying their names is important," Bullock said as Ware Remembers participated in a roll call to recognize the names of veterans from Ware.

Bullock shared some history of the town and a moment in history when soldiers from Ware answered the call after the alarm of Lexington and Concord took place in 1775.

Performing the National Anthem were Carol Zins and Jane Sterndale who also provided another musical selection later in the ceremony. This year's Ware Remembers featured several invited speakers.

John Pajak of Ware is a retired colonel, president of the Ware Veterans' Council, and commander of the AMVETS Post 2577 in Ware.

Pajak reflected on the history of the U.S. going back over 250 years ago when soldiers responded to the call. In his speech, Pajak spoke of every American-involved war throughout history and why it was important for citizens to serve.

"They serve because they believed in something greater than themselves," Pajak said.

Pajak talked about patriotism and how it involves the willingness to step forward and many citizens have stepped forward to make the sacrifices they made to earn the freedom that is expressed today.

For those who made these sacrifices, Pajak asked that all remember those who did on these days of remembrance.

State Sen. Peter Durant



David Deslauriers performed "Taps" on the trumpet during the Ware Remembers ceremony.



Editor of the Ware River News Paula Ouimette gave a speech during Ware Remembers.

spoke about how 250 years ago, a nation risked everything for independence. Brave soldiers stood at Lexington and Concord and thought self-governance was worth dying for.

The U.S. has reached an incredible milestone this year and Durant wants Americans to continue to honor those who paid to preserve these 250 years of history.

State Rep. Todd Smola also reflected on the 250 years of the U.S. A proclamation was read by Smola and presented to the Ware Historical Society.

In this proclamation Smola talked about how Memorial Day was first known as Decoration Day after the Civil War. Later the day would soon become Memorial Day and was to be held on the last Monday in May.

This day remembers those who made the ultimate sacrifice and communities across the nation participate in celebrations of those who served.

Editor of the Ware River News Paula Ouimette was another guest speaker during Ware Remembers. Ouimette talked about how she has interviewed veterans over the years in her line of work.

One veteran she mentioned was Michael Domey, who enlisted in the U.S. Army back in 1961. Domey was honorably discharged with the rank of PFC in 1964. Domey passed away in 2025 and is one of many veterans that Ware Remembers.

Ouimette said she has family members who were veterans, including her father who was stationed in Italy. She was aware of her family members' service but they



Carol Zins and Jane Sterndale performed the National Anthem. Ware Remembers 2026 6

didn't share too many stories about their time in the service.

Many family members tend to learn about their loved ones' service after they pass. With this in mind, Ouimette encouraged veterans and family members share these stories and keep their memories alive.

The roll call during Ware Remembers was conducted by Stuart Beckley, Steve Kutt, William Lak, Wanda Mysona, Nancy Talbot, Tony Swiercz and Ken Willette. Emily Jones conducted the ringing of the 1859 Holbrook Bell.

The American Legion Post 123 did the firing detail followed by David Deslauriers' performance of "Taps" on the trumpet.

Closing remarks were made by Bullock, who shared the history of Ware, including the history behind the Ware Center Meeting House and the Town Hall.

"Ware is memorable," Bullock said.



Ware Lions Club members Judy Fair and Jeannie Odiorne drove in the parade.

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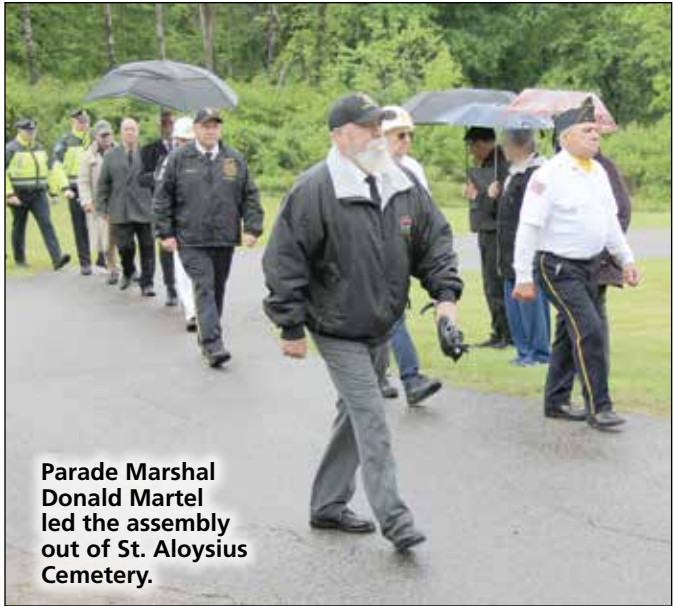
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Veteran Stash Wroblecki and Fire Chief Nicholas Gaumond marched through St. Aloysius Cemetery.



Parade Marshal Donald Martel led the assembly out of St. Aloysius Cemetery.



Fr. Don Ouellette said a prayer at St. Aloysius Cemetery.

HARDWICK from page 1

crowd of supporters joined the assembly to pay their respects as well.

Parade Marshal Donald Martel led the assembly to the monument in St. Aloysius Cemetery, where Fr. Don Ouellette said a prayer.

A wreath was positioned at the monument, and the veterans were honored by the playing of "Taps".

The group then moved to the World War I memorial in Gilbertville, where Town Clerk Ryan J. Witkos spoke about the memorial, which was dedicated 100 years ago.



Joe Szczepanek gave a salute after placing a wreath at the World War I memorial.



Jeff Nahkala performed the response during "Taps" at the World War I memorial in Gilbertville.



Joe Orszulak performed "Taps" next to Hardwick-New Braintree Police Department Clerk Lori Hoffman.



Town Clerk Ryan J. Witkos spoke about the World War I memorial, and how it was dedicated 100 years ago.

FLAGS from page 1

solemnity of Memorial Day.

Joining Musnicki at this year's field of flags ceremony was 30-plus year U.S. Army veteran and Sons of the American Revolution member Christopher Tourtellot, along with Scott Tourtellot and George Podmore.

Tourtellot spoke to the students about the American Revolution and its 250th anniversary this year.

He explained the details of his uniform, which is based off of the one worn by military officer Henry Knox, who was ordered by George Washington to bring cannons from Fort Ticonderoga to Boston to place on a hill to push the British soldiers out on what is now known as Evacuation Day.

Tourtellot then explained how his reproduction Brown Bess musket worked, from pouring the gun powder cartridges down the barrel, to loading the lead ball with a ramrod. He said once the gun powder and lead ball are loaded, the flintlock is struck to produce a spark.

The long and heavy musket was challenging to use in battle, and prone to misfiring.

Scott Tourtellot and Podmore fired a salute with



Students placed about 200 American flags in front of their school.

their muskets using just gun powder, before Christopher Tourtellot recited a poem to honor the American Flag.

Students then had the opportunity to ask questions about the Revolutionary War, the muskets and the uniforms.

The Sons of the American Revolution members ended the demonstration with an enthusiastic "Huzzah."

A student pushed the flagpole into the ground.



Gerry Podmore and Scott Tourtellot fired their muskets.

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette



U.S. Army veteran Christopher Tourtellot, who is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Col. Henry Knox Color Guard, talked about his uniform and his reproduction Brown Bess musket.



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WARE ATM from page 3

Public comment

Allen Bourcier said the response from KP Law at the last meeting regarding her open meeting law complaint was confusing because they cited untimely complaints. She said it seemed like they were intentionally invalidating a valid complaint.

She said it would be beneficial for everyone to have access to meeting minutes.

Ann Bigda complimented the Senior Center director for all of the support and information.

Administrative items

The board authorized the treasurer/collector to sign notes for the water tank and Main Street borrowing, and the board also voted to adopt select board operational guidelines pending legal review.

Town Manager's report

Beckley said at the next meeting there will be an executive session regarding Curaleaf, who are suing the town. He said the chicken BBQ is on June 27.



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Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Kyle Kaczuwka takes a swing and fouls off a pitch.

Indians fall in tough battle

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

HOLYOKE— Since the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) revised its postseason tournament format in 2022, Ware and Hopkins Academy have developed a strong rivalry in the Western Massachusetts Class D baseball playoffs.

During the past four seasons, the two squads have met in the semifinals three times and once in the quar-

terfinals.

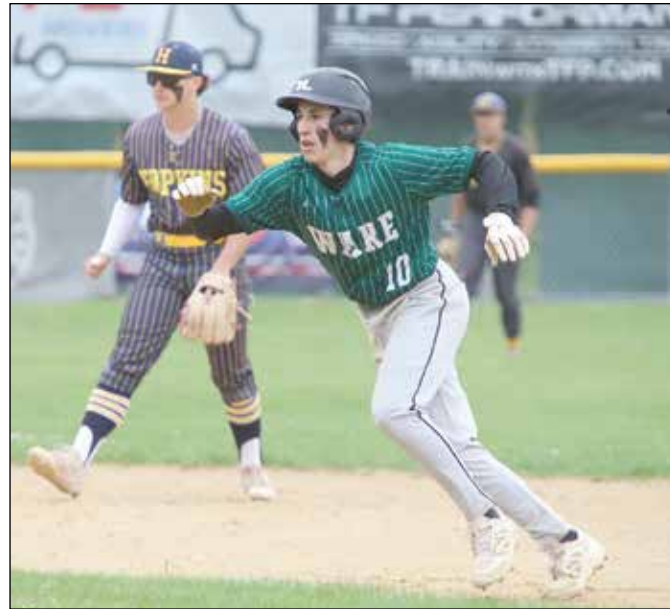
Last Saturday afternoon marked a new chapter in the rivalry series, as they faced each other in the Class D championship game for the first time. The top-seeded Golden Hawks emerged with a 3-1 win over the third-seeded Indians at Mackenzie Stadium in Holyoke.

“We proved that we could play with one of the best baseball teams in Western Mass.,” said Ware interim head coach Shawn Clark. “We did our best and I’m very proud of my players.”

The Ware players were hoping to celebrate a win in the Western Mass. title game for the third time since 2023.

The Indians (11-10) will now be playing in the Division 5 state tournament, which is scheduled to begin this weekend. “The seeds for the state tournament will be announced on Wednesday,” Clark added. “We’re looking forward to playing against any team.”

The Indians were ranked 11th in the Division 5 power rankings, which was released last Friday. They should be playing a home game at St. Joe’s Park in Thorndike in the round of 32.



Brodie Koczur takes a lead off second.

Indians set for state tourney matchup

WARE – It was a brilliant regular season for the Ware High School boys volleyball team. But the Indians ran into one team that they could not overcome in Veritas Prep High School. Veritas defeated Ware in the regular season, then less than a week later, defeated Ware 3-0 in the Class C semifinals, giving the Indians an overall 17-3 record for the season.

Ware now enters the State Division 2 tournament. Ware drew a matchup on the road against Burlington High School in the Round of 32. That matchup was set to take place on Wednesday, May 27 with Ware hoping to advance in to the Round of 16.

A year ago, the Indians advanced to the Elite 8 in the state tournament where they lost to Hopedale, 6-1, at historic Fino Field in Milford. Two weeks earlier, Ware lost to Hopkins, 7-4, in the Class D semifinals at Memorial Field in Ware. The Indians the home field is being refurbished this spring.

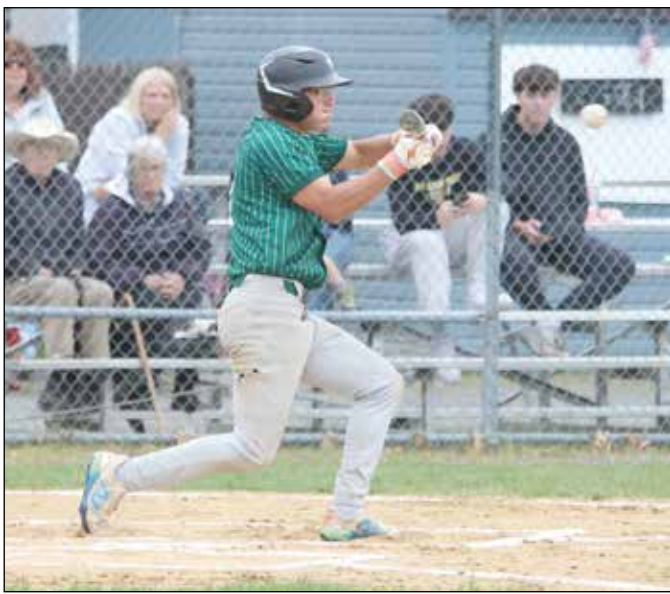
The Indians defeated the Golden Hawks in the 2023 and 2024 Class D semifinals before squeaking out a pair

of victories against Pioneer Valley Regional High School in the Western Mass. championship game.

Back in 2022, Hopkins posted a shutout victory versus Ware in a quarterfinal contest.

The last time that the Golden Hawks (19-2) brought home the championship trophy was in 2021.

Please see **INDIANS**, page 10



Troy Dufresne squares to bunt.

Middle school track action



Penny Ouimette winds up to launch the discus.



Turley photos by Jeffrey Haynes
Caleb Brouillet leads the pack in the one-mile race.



Landon Swindlehurst goes flying in the long jump.



Eden Fortier powers through her throw in the shot put.

BARRE – Last week, Quabbin Regional Middle School had outdoor track action, featuring contests in multiple events for the young Panthers. It was one of just a few meets scheduled for the middle school team this spring.



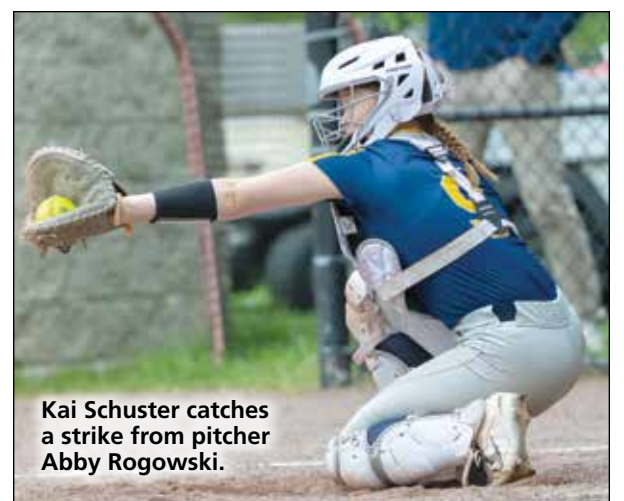
Kayla Despres propels herself for distance in the long jump.



Leona Barre stretches out as she easily clears the bar in the high jump.



Josie Castell slides and adds another run as she slides into home.

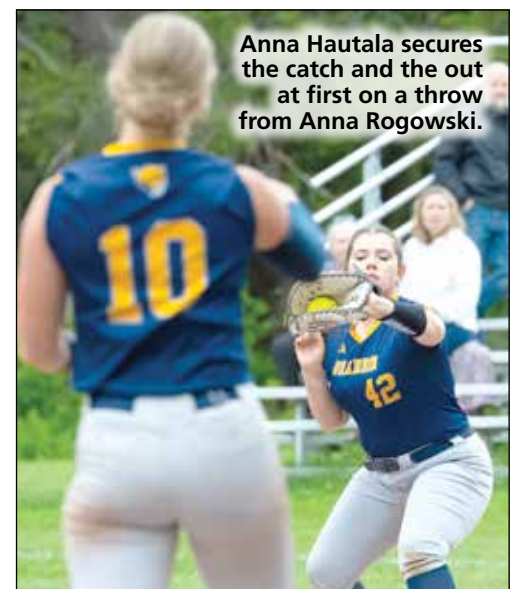


Kai Schuster catches a strike from pitcher Abby Rogowski.

Panthers score pair of wins



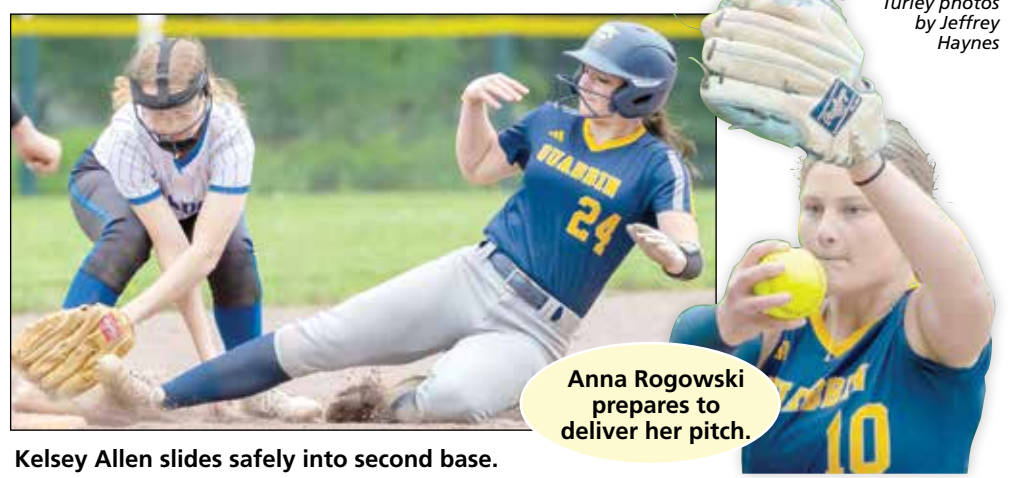
Izzy Doty braces as she is struck by an errant pitch.



Anna Hautala secures the catch and the out at first on a throw from Anna Rogowski.

BARRE – Last week, Quabbin Regional High School softball scored a pair of wins, defeating Bromfield last Monday afternoon 15-3 followed by a win over Murdock High School 17-1 last Thursday afternoon in a matchup that ended in the fifth inning.

Quabbin is on the borderline for qualification in the state tournament. The most recent rankings had Quabbin ranked at No. 35. With a sub-.500 record, Quabbin would need to finish in the top 32 in order to make the state tournament this year.



Kelsey Allen slides safely into second base.

Anna Rogowski prepares to deliver her pitch.

Turley photos by Jeffrey Haynes

sports



Brady Ronaldson looks for an opening to pass.

Mustangs close out regular season with win

CHICOPEE – Last Tuesday evening, the Chicopee Comprehensive High School boys lacrosse team, which co-ops with Chicopee High, was defeated in its regular season finale by Monson High School 8-3. Monson, which now co-ops with Pathfinder, is set to enter the state tournament this year. The Mustangs went 10-6 and are well above .500 for the season. Monson, which was set to learn its fate in the state tournament earlier this week, had a nonplayoff rematch scheduled against Comp on Memorial Day.



Brandyn Wilson fires a pass toward the middle of the field.

Turley photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com



Noah Latulippe runs along the sideline.

Landon Couture is pressured.



Landon Lacroix heads for the goal.



Dom Menard receives a pass.

Volley Hall announces Class of 2026

HOLYOKE – The International Volleyball Hall of Fame (IVHF) is proud to announce its 2026 induction class, with the official ceremony scheduled for October 17 in Holyoke, Mass., USA, the Birthplace of Volleyball. This prestigious group of nine legends, representing eight distinct disciplines within the sport, has been selected for their history-making contributions, standard-setting excellence as global icons on the field of play and significant impact off the court. In addition, four special award honorees will also be honored for their contributions to the sport.

The 40th IVHF induction class features transformational leader and former FIVB President Dr. Ary Graça (Brazil, leader); three-time Olympian and FIVB World Champion April



Ross (United States, female beach player); two-time Olympic Gold Medalist and legendary libero Fabiana “Fabi” Alvim (Brazil, female indoor player); two-time Olympian and World Cup Gold medalist Yoel “Joël” Despaigne (Cuba, male indoor player); four-time Olympian and two-time World Champion Ekaterina Gamova (Russia, female indoor player); three-time Olympian and two-time World Champion Alison Cerutti (Brazil, male beach player); legendary player who also coached his country’s first Olympic Gold Medal-winning team Laurent Tillie (France,

coach); the architect of Paralympic inclusion Denis Le Breuille (England, ParaVolley) and three-time Olympic referee Takashi Shimoyama (Japan, referee).

Also announced are four special award winners, recognized for their contributions to the IVHF or the global sport of volleyball itself. They include the late Gabriel Cherebetiu (Mintonette Medallion of Merit, Romania/Mexico), John Cook (Mayoral Award of Excellence, United States), Starlings USA (Court of Honor, United States) and Alejandro Coccia (Award for Media Excellence, Argentina). “The IVHF 2026 Induction Class brings together some of the most outstanding figures in

Please see **VOLLEY HALL**, page 15

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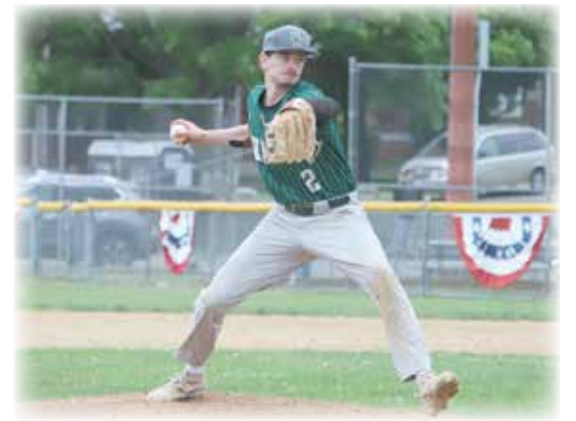
Turleysports

Brady Guimond
Ware High School

Athlete of the Month

The senior had an excellent game pitching for Ware in the Western Mass. championship game, not allowing an earned run in an unfortunate defeat.

To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.



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INDIANS from page 9

They beat the Indians in the Western Mass Division 4 finals that season.

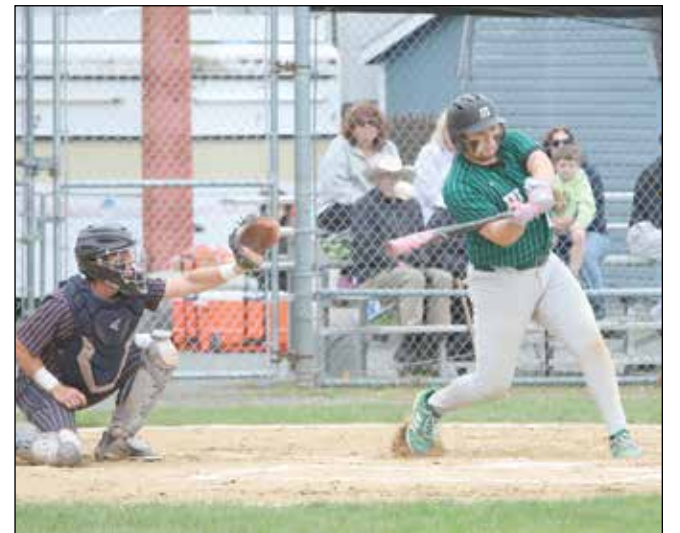
The two teams also met during the 2026 regular season, as the Golden Hawks posted a 12-0 shutout victory at St. Joe’s Park at the end of April.

The start of the Class D championship game was delayed for an hour and a half because the Class C final between Lenox and Greenfield went 17 innings. The Green Wave won that contest, 4-3.

The Indians were the visiting team and took a 1-0 lead in the top of the first inning by scoring an unearned run.

Senior second baseman Brodie Koczur connected with the first pitch delivered by Hopkins senior righthander Chace Earle. His groundball deflected off second base and rolled into shallow centerfield, resulting in a leadoff single. Then senior centerfielder Troy Dufresne executed a flawless sacrifice bunt, which allowed Koczur to advance to second base. Koczur moved to third base on a passed ball and crossed home plate on a wild pitch. Senior catcher Kyle Kaczuwka followed with a line-drive single into center field before Earle retired the next two batters on a flyball to left and a strikeout.

Earle, who’s committed to playing Division 2 col-



Turley photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Alex Orszulak looks to get on base.

lege baseball at Southern New Hampshire University, only allowed two more base runners during the rest of the game.

With one-out in the fourth inning, Koczur drew a walk and Dufresne put down another sacrifice bunt, but Earle struck out the next batter. Earle, who struck out a total of seven batters, retired the next twelve hitters before senior first baseman Alex Orszulak was hit-by-a-pitch with one-out in the seventh. Orszulak went to second base on a wild pitch before the game came to an end following a strikeout and groundball out.

Ware senior righty Brady Guimond scattered six base hits and gave up three unearned runs, as the defense committed three

errors behind him.

Guimond also suffered an injury to his left shoulder while swinging at a pitch in the third inning, which he remained in the game.

Hopkins loaded the bases without the benefit of a base hit in the bottom half of the first inning.

The game tying run scored when senior centerfielder Carter Stysepek bounced into a fielder’s choice play. Sophomore right fielder Derek Gromacki, whose father, G.P., is the women’s basketball coach at Amherst College, knocked home the go-ahead run with a single to right field.

Guimond limited the damage in the first inning as he stranded runners on second and third base following a strikeout.

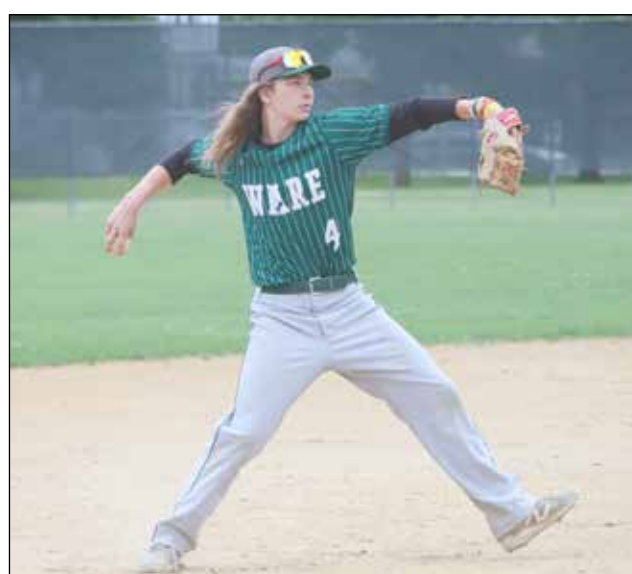
Kaczuwka threw out runners trying to steal in the second and third innings, which kept it a one run ballgame.

Guimond, who threw a total of 113 pitches, recorded three strikeouts in the fourth inning, which were sandwiched around a single.

Hopkins had a pair of runners on base in the fifth, but the score didn’t change on the large left field scoreboard.

The Golden Hawks did score an insurance run in the sixth inning, as Earle drew a bases loaded with two-outs.

The Indians had a few days off before beginning another tournament.



Logan Millet sends a throw across the diamond.

The Wellness Collective

Health, wellness and fitness businesses celebrate grand opening

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – The Wellness Collective recently celebrated its grand opening on the second floor of the Stone Mill Marketplace, 44 East Main St.

The Wellness Collective is a collection of independent businesses designed to support and inspire wellness through fitness, self-care, aesthetics and personal growth, created by FitFuzion Studio owner Nikki Durand-Cloutier.

“The vision for The Wellness Collective is to allow each business to remain independent while also being part of a larger community that brings together a variety of businesses centered around health, wellness, and personal well-being,” Durand-Cloutier said.

Currently, The Wellness Collective includes FitFuzion Studio as well as Tranquility Massage, offering customized massage sessions tailored to each individual’s needs, and Burnout to Bliss, which supports people in their physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, and energetic health and wellness through coaching, yoga, Reiki and sound therapy.

“Investing in the community is something that is especially important to me,” Durand-Cloutier said. “Both my immediate and extended family have owned and operated businesses locally, and my grandmother worked in The Stone Mill for many years and always spoke so fondly of her time there. Having the opportunity to be part of the reinvigoration of the mill – and what I believe is a time when the town of Ware is reinventing itself – is incredibly meaningful to me.”

She said being able to have her own business, FitFuzion Studio, within the mill, but also to help create opportunities for other small businesses and provide new experiences and services for the community, is something she is truly passionate about.

In the near future, The Wellness Collective will welcome Healthy Glow Co., offering custom airbrush tanning services as well as an herbal apothecary offering handcrafted teas, herbal remedies, wellness products and nature-inspired education focused on plants, creativity and community. The vision for the apothecary is to create a warm and welcoming environment where people can connect through herbs, art, learning and natural living.

In addition, a variety of classes and workshops will be offered through the apothecary, creating opportunities for education, self-care, creativity, and community connection within the space.

“We are also actively looking to expand by adding a hair salon, esthetician and nail technician to create a more complete wellness experience

for our clients and community,” she said.

FitFuzion Studio

Durand-Cloutier began FitFuzion Studio in January 2023 in the basement hall of All Saints Church with the goal of providing group fitness classes focused on improving strength, endurance, confidence and overall wellness in a supportive community environment.

“After instructing in that space for two years, I realized it was time to move FitFuzion Studio into a space of my own, so I could create the exact environment and experience I envisioned for my clients and community,” she said.

Having her own studio has allowed her to truly “level things up” by creating a more welcoming atmosphere, expanding class offerings and most importantly, increasing her ability to provide differentiated instruction opportunities that better support the needs and goals of every individual who walks through the door.

Durand-Cloutier has always been active, whether through dance or by working out at gyms, but after the birth of her second daughter in 2018, she was struggling to feel like herself again.

“Not only physically, but even more so mentally,” she said.

Through the recommendation of a friend, she joined a facility that offered group fitness classes combining strength training and cardiovascular exercise.

“I was immediately hooked by the programming, but even more drawn to the encouragement, sense of belonging and strong community atmosphere that the facility provided,” Durand-Cloutier said.

Durand-Cloutier began attending classes five to six times a week, and started to feel like herself again.

“I am overall a better person when I prioritize working out. My mind and body are stronger, and that positively impacts every facet of my life,” she said.

Durand-Cloutier said the facility she joined did not reopen after the pandemic, and she “deeply missed the people, the atmosphere, and the feeling of community that had become such an important part of my life.” She decided to offer her own group fitness classes, just like the ones she had grown to love.

“That realization sparked something in me – and that’s how the journey of FitFuzion Studio began,” she said.

Durand-Cloutier said one of the biggest benefits of fitness and exercise is that you are investing in yourself and your future. She said particularly for women, strength training is essential for longevity because it helps maintain muscle mass, preserve bone density, improve balance and support overall health as they age.

“These benefits play a major role in maintaining independence and quality of life for years to come,” she said. “Beyond the physical benefits, strength training



Shown from left are Dan Collette, Ware Business & Civic and Beyond director; Zack Cloutier; Sydney Slattery; Nikki Durand-Cloutier, FitFuzion Studio owner; Summer Rae Cloutier and Stacy Collette of Bonded by Stacy.



Nikki Durand-Cloutier stands next to the entrance of The Wellness Collective at Stone Mill Marketplace, 44 East Main St., Ware, second floor.

also builds confidence, resilience, and mental strength – both inside and outside of the gym.”

Durand-Cloutier said one of her favorite things about her job is watching her clients build confidence, improve their health and discover what they are capable of just by showing up and participating in class.

“Every person who walks through the doors of FitFuzion Studio is at a different stage in life, and together we have built a community that supports one another through all of life’s ebbs and flows,” she said.

In addition to the physical benefits of exercise, Durand-Cloutier said the class participants have a lot of fun together.

“The friendships, encouragement, laughter and sense of belonging within the studio are what truly make FitFuzion such a special place,” she said.

Currently FitFuzion Studio is offering Complete Body Conditioning classes on Monday and Wednesday from 5:30-6:30 a.m. and 6-7 p.m.; Friday from 5:30-6:30 a.m. and 8-9 a.m.; and Saturday from 7-8 a.m. Rise & Life Strength Training is offered on Tuesday from 5:45-6:30 a.m.

Durand-Cloutier be contacted on Facebook through FitFuzion Studio and The Wellness Collective at Stone Mill Marketplace, or by email at fitfuzionstudio@gmail.com and wellnesscollectiveaware@gmail.com.

Burnout to Bliss

Burnout to Bliss was started by Lisa Holloway in the summer of 2020.

“Social distancing was still

Bliss.

There are many benefits to having a health and wellness coach, Holloway said, with the top two being accountability and having someone to listen to you.

“A health and wellness coach will work with you on your goals – what you want to accomplish. They will hold you accountable for your action steps,” she said. “It is so easy to not take steps to achieve your goals, but working with a coach, if you are committed, you will achieve your goals with this accountability...A coach is there for you. The coach will listen, not judge, and many times clients will have ‘a-ha’ moments where they realize something very important about themselves just having this space – time set aside to process and someone to truly hear them.”

Holloway said that health and wellness does not just include the physical. It includes mental, emotional, spiritual, financial, social, etc.

“The whole picture of well being,” she said.

Holloway said many people join her yoga classes to add exercise into their lives or to decrease their stress and they end up finding so much more.

“Just like in health coaching people usually start because they ‘need to lose weight’ or ‘need to decrease stress,’ but they find that is not what they really need,” she said. “The weight and stress were just side effects of not getting what they truly needed.” She said the classes provide social benefits, as well as physical, mental, emotional, spiritual and energetic.

With Burnout to Bliss’ new location at Stone Mill Marketplace, Holloway will offer 1:1 health and wellness coaching, yoga classes, sound therapy and Reiki.

She currently holds Hatha yoga classes on Saturdays from 8:30-9:30 a.m. and 10-11 a.m. Holloway also offers a Yin yoga class on Tuesdays from 6:15-7:15 p.m. and she is booking health and wellness coaching sessions and sound therapy sessions for Mondays in June.

“I hope to grow these services at my home base, but also continue with my current yoga classes at Hartman’s Herb Farm in Barre, the Town Hall in Petersham, the Oakham Senior Center, and my two online classes,” Holloway said. “I also meet students at different locations for their convenience for health and wellness coaching quite, often having walking meetings. I try to provide options for my clients/students and have a flexible schedule Monday through Thursday and Saturdays.”

Holloway can also provide support for her health and wellness coaching clients other days of the week and holidays.

Burnout to Bliss will continue to grow based on the community’s needs and wants. Holloway is also determining if there is interest in her offering group coaching and group sound therapy,

which is at a lower cost.

“This would bring down prices and clients would get not only my support, but the support of the group. Plus there is the opportunity to meet others with similar interests and even to make some new friends in groups,” she said.

Burnout to Bliss is part of the Wellness Collective, which is a group of practitioners, teachers and instructors who have their own businesses, but support each other and are located under one roof.

“The Wellness Collective provides more options than one business could alone, but our businesses support each other because people need different things throughout their lives depending on what they are going through and we can make referrals to one another depending on what our clients/ students are looking for,” she said.

Holloway said The Wellness Collective is also seeking businesses from the beauty industry to join them at the Stone Mill Marketplace, because feeling good about your physical appearance is also good for your well being.

Holloway is inviting people to try a free yoga class with her to find the class that is right for them.

She will also offer a free 30-50 minute health and wellness consultation so you can hear what supports she can offer you and if you make a good match to work together. Holloway asks that a health history form be completed before meeting.

For more information about Holloway, weekly yoga themes and upcoming events and announcements see Burnout to Bliss on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LisaHollowayHealthCoach or visit her website at www.burnoutto blisshealthcoaching.com.

Tranquility Massage

Twenty-one years ago, Tonia Jacque decided to become a licensed massage therapist, and her business Tranquility Massage recently joined The Wellness Collective at the Stone Mill Marketplace.

“The idea of helping others by relieving pain and reducing stress was very meaningful to me, and it’s been an incredibly rewarding career ever since,” she said.

Jacque said she was fortunate to own a spa in Uxbridge from 2016-2020, but unfortunately, had to close due to the impact COVID-19 had on small businesses.

“I feel very blessed to have the opportunity to run my own business again on a smaller scale,” Jacque said.

Jacque has always had ties to the community, and she graduated from Ware High School in 1992. She said she still has family who reside in town.

“I’m very excited for this new chapter in my life as part of The Wellness Collective and look forward to working alongside other small businesses and wellness professionals. I also look forward to meeting new clients and becoming part of the community,” she said.

Jacque offers 60-minute and 90-minute massage sessions customized to each client’s individual needs. Her services include Swedish, Deep Tissue, Prenatal, Hot Stone and Cupping.

She is available by appointment Tuesday through Saturday.

Jacque is offering an introductory special of \$20 off your first massage session to celebrate Tranquility Massage’s grand opening at The Wellness Collective.

Sessions can be scheduled by calling or texting 508-498-8289, or emailing Tranquilitymassage.tonia@gmail.com.

People can also follow Tranquility Massage on Facebook.



Shown from left are Dan Collette, Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond director; Doug Kramer; Tonia Jacque of Tranquility Massage; and Stacy Collette of Bonded by Stacy.

public safety

Ware Police Log

During the week of May 12-19, the Ware Police Department responded to 19 miscellaneous calls, 26 administrative calls, eight traffic violations, five emergency 911 calls, five harassments/stalks/threats, one trespass, two thefts/larcenies, three disturbances, one fraud, one damage/vandalism, one breaking and entering, one motor vehicle accident, three safety hazards, six animal calls and 30 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

Tuesday, May 12
2:25 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, West Street, Arrest Made
5:07 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Services Rendered
9:36 p.m. Weapons/Firearms, West Street, Services Rendered

Wednesday, May 13
8:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, Old Gilbertville Road, Services Rendered

Thursday, May 14
4:18 p.m. Fraud/Deception, North Street, Services Rendered
9:56 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Main Street, Criminal Complaint Request

Friday, May 15
1:13 p.m. Harassment/

Stalk/Threat, North Street, Advised
5:50 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Services Rendered
7:37 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Williams Street, Services Rendered
9:24 p.m. Drugs, West Main Street, Investigated

Saturday, May 16
12:34 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Services Rendered
6:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Street, Citation/Warning Issued

Sunday, May 17
6:11 a.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Laurel Drive, Services Rendered
1:24 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Beaver Lake Road, Advised
6:16 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Pulaski Street, Report Made

Monday, May 18
6:44 a.m. Warrant Service, Otis Avenue, Services Rendered
12:16 p.m. Damage/Vandalism/Mischief, Church Street, Services Rendered
12:29 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Church Street, Dispatch Handled
1:06 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Otis Avenue, Could Not Locate
6:45 p.m. Breaking and

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.

Entering/Burglary, East Street, Could Not Locate

Tuesday, May 19
6:56 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Citation/Warning Issued
5:08 p.m. Safety Hazard, Old Belchertown Road, Services Rendered
8:06 p.m. Safety Hazard, River Road, Services Rendered
8:15 p.m. Safety Hazard, Old Belchertown Road, Services Rendered
10:40 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Belchertown Road, Dispatch Handled
11 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Maple Street, Dispatch Handled
11:09 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Crescent Street, Report Made

Warren Police Log

During the week of May 3-9, the Warren Police Department responded to 157 building/property checks, 35 community policings, seven emergency 911 calls, three complaints, two safety hazards, one fire call, one smoke investigation, one motor vehicle accident, one burglary, two larcenies/thefts, one fraud, one animal call and 29 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Sunday, May 3
10:31 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
11:21 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
11:59 a.m. Complaint, Main Street, Area Patrolled
12:23 p.m. Parking Issues, Liberty Street, Officer Spoke to Party
12:34 p.m. Complaint, Nelson Street, Peace Restored
6:21 p.m. Landlord Tenant/Dispute, Brimfield Road, Report Filed

Monday, May 4
7:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
9:16 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
9:52 a.m. Smoke Investigation, Walkeen Koziol Road, Fire Extinguished
1:44 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed
7:30 p.m. Safety Concern, Old West Brookfield Road, Officer Spoke to Party

Tuesday, May 5
6:45 a.m. Motor Vehicle

Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
12:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
2:21 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Old West Brookfield Road, Officer Spoke to Party
4 p.m. Brush/Wildland Fire, Bragg Road, Fire Extinguished
10:21 p.m. Landlord/Tenant Dispute, Main Street, Criminal Complaint

Wednesday, May 6
7:18 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
7:24 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
8:19 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
8:27 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
9:26 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Bridge Street, Written Warning
9:56 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
10 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ware Road, Written Warning
10:17 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
10:32 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
10:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
2:43 p.m. Safety Concern, Summer Street, Officer Chief/Advised
5:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

6:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
6:59 p.m. Unwanted Party, A Street, Report Filed
7:59 p.m. Complaint, Brimfield Road, Call Transferred
11:33 p.m. District 7 Activation, Connecticut, Mutual Aid Assist

Thursday, May 7
1:45 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Comins Pond Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
5:31 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Main Street, Call Transferred
6:59 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned, Heritage Drive, Mutual Aid Assist
7:16 p.m. Burglary/Breaking and Entering, Old West Warren Road, Mutual Aid Assist

Friday, May 8
5:11 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Old West Warren Road, Transported to Hospital
6:31 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Old West Brookfield Road, Call Transferred
1:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brimfield Road, Written Warning
2:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brookfield Road, Criminal Complaint
7:39 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Constitution Avenue, Transported to Hospital

Saturday, May 9
11:52 a.m. Suspicious Activity, Dunham Road, Report Filed

Otis Ave. fire displaces 18 residents

WARE – On May 22 at 10:47 p.m. the WestComm Regional Dispatch received a call reporting a fire at 22-28 Otis Avenue.

A full fist alarm assignment was dispatched and on arrival the first crew found a working fire with heavy smoke and flames pushing form unit 26. A second and third alarm assignment was called for by incident command.

There was initially a report of possible entrapment, it was determined that all the residents had evacuated prior to the first crew's arrival.

The main body of the fire was quickly knocked down and contained to the unit of origin. The size and construction of the apartment

complex required extensive time to ensure there was no extension beyond the unit of origin.

National Grid was called to the scene, and power was shut off to the structure. Red Cross was also requested to assist the 18 displaced occupants. Many of the residents have been relocated to a temporary shelter at the Town Hall with the assistance of the Red Cross and Town/Emergency Manager Stuart Beckley.

There were no injuries reported.

Building Commissioner Anna Marques has ordered the building to be secured, as it is currently uninhabitable due to extensive smoke and water damage. The State Fire Marshal's office in con-

junction with Ware Police and Fire departments are conducting an investigation into the cause and it appears currently to be accidental.

Mutual aid was received from Warren, Monson, Palmer, Belchertown, West Brookfield, Three Rivers, Hardwick, Wilbraham, Brookfield, Granby Longmeadow and East Longmeadow and the Massachusetts State Police.

"I would like to thank the Department of Fire Services Support and Rehab unit Red Cross, and the Rehab 78 unit and its canteen for their assistance in not only supporting our efforts but the aid rendered to the building's residents," Fire Chief James Martinez stated in a press release.

FINCOM from page 6

Caggiano said it was not fair to pose those questions to the administrator or Select Board, but they should have been posed to the "two people spearheading the project." Korzec said it is fair to have a conversation about using non-reoccurring funds to pay for salaries and IT.

Select Board Clerk Zack Spencer said the town is "late in the game" in the budget process, and said they will have to accept the budget as presented this year, and take this conversation into consideration next year. Spencer said any additional cuts to the budget could lead to service impacts and the possibility of a proposition 2.5 override next year.

Finance Committee Chair Christopher Culross said the committee will not support a budget being funded with one-time revenues, and the boards will not be aligned going into town meeting, and they would put it to the voters to decide on.

Culross said the town trends at about \$1.17 mil-

lion a year in revenue, and the presented budget has \$1.3 million estimated. He said that is about a \$150,000 difference, and the town would need to come up with about \$95,000 worth of cuts. He said they need to look at every expense to decide on needs and wants.

Culross said by using the one-time revenues to fund the budget, the delta next year would be insurmountable, and the problem would continue to grow if they continue using one-time revenues. He said a 2.5 override would not be feasible in the town.

The boards discussed potential areas for savings, including police detail at the Hardwick Fair being an article rather than built into the budget.

Culross said the committee has been asking for that for several years.

Caggiano said the annual town meeting warrant was accepted already and is closed.

Select Board Vice-Chair William Tinker also brought up the town hall employee's salaries, as a full-time employee gets paid for 40

hour weeks while the town hall is only open 32 hours a week, and he said those extra hours of pay add up.

Caggiano said employees are working after hours, up to 50-60 a week because they are short-staffed.

Some of the ideas for cuts that were brought up by the boards included the IT budget, treasurer's salary, municipal building repairs, legal and police overtime. Caggiano and Spencer said what they were doing was illegal since they were willfully planning to overspend next year.

Culross said there is also the possibility to pass the balanced budget without the one-time revenues and find the money later in the fiscal year, and the ability to right-size the budget by funding stabilization accounts.

Caggiano said that by doing that, the town could lose services or run out of free cash.

Following discussion, the Select Board voted 2-1 to accept the budget as presented, and the Finance Committee did not accept the budget.

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of May 18-25, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 51 building/property checks, 28 directed/area patrols, 14 radar assignments, one traffic control, 13 emergency 911 calls, seven citizen assists, six assist other agencies, four investigations, one trespass, one burglary, one complaint, one threat, one property damage, five safety hazards, one motor vehicle accident and 10 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, May 18
12:12 p.m. Investigation, Barre Road, Investigated
12:48 p.m. Assist Citizen, Barre Road, No Action Required
1:07 p.m. Investigation, Barre Road, Officer Handled
3:16 p.m. Trespass, Summer Place, Report Taken
6 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital
6:02 p.m. Burglary/Breaking and Entering, Maple Street, Report Taken
7:42 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Crash, Barre Road, Vehicle Towed

Tuesday, May 19
2:27 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Birch Street, Patient Refusal
8:25 a.m. Assist Citizen, Barre Road, Spoken To
9:50 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Officer Handled
2:53 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Officer

Handled
4:51 p.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Moran Road, Merge
5:01 p.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Road, Referred to Other Agency
5:46 p.m. Safety Hazard, Out of Town, Referred to Other Agency
8:34 p.m. Investigation, Barre Road, Negative Contact

Wednesday, May 20
12:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
8:51 a.m. Assist Other Agency, North Road, No Action Required
4:49 p.m. Safety Hazard, High Road, Officer Handled
8:42 p.m. Threat, Main Street, Officer Handled
8:52 p.m. Assist Other Agency, North Street, Officer Handled

Thursday, May 21
10:15 a.m. Assist Citizen, Petersham Road, Officer Handled
10:24 a.m. Investigation, Hardwick Pond Road, Investigated
10:39 a.m. Welfare Check, Lower Road, Arrest(s) Made
10:54 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Lower Road, Officer Handled
3:47 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Lower Road, Patient Refusal
7:59 p.m. 911 Welfare Check, Lower Road, Services Rendered

Friday, May 22
2:26 a.m. 911 Hang-up/

Abandoned, Lower Road, Services Rendered
12:05 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Greenwich Road, Transported to Hospital
12:29 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled
1:27 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Spoken To
2:03 p.m. Medical Emergency, Delargy Road, Patient Refusal
4:39 p.m. Property Damage, Common Street, Officer Handled
6:30 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Spoken To

Saturday, May 23
3:21 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
11:19 a.m. Assist Citizen, Barre Road, Officer Handled
4:03 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Barre Road, Spoken To

Sunday, May 24
5:47 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Written Warning
9:35 a.m. Complaint, Barre Road, Spoken To
4:46 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Main Street, Officer Handled
11:09 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital

Monday, May 15
6:27 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Old Petersham Road, Services Rendered
7:06 a.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Road, Removed Hazard

GARDEN from page 4

As the Latin name of Origanum Majorana, suggests, oregano is a close relative, so pizza topping may be a good guess, but it also has undertones of balsam and spice...Hmmm.

To keep the plant producing its wonderfully scented leaves, pinch off the flowers as they form. It is a great candidate for growing in mixed herb planters or individually in small pots.

Last but not least is my all-time favorite fragrant herb: Cinnamon Basil. Like its pesto-producing cousin, this variety can be used in cooking, mainly where its cinnamon scent would complement the cuisine, such as fruit salads or vinegars.

I have honestly never grown it for culinary use, but when some herbal renewal is needed it sure serves a purpose. One sniff will give me a burst of energy, enough to tackle that last garden chore.

See for yourself!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 34 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.

Stone Church hosts free Concerts on the Lawn

HARDWICK – On Saturday, May 31 at 2 p.m., The Weir River Concert Band is preparing to “Celebrate America Through Music” on the lawn of the Stone Church Cultural Center, 283 Main St., Gilbertville.

The concert will include traditional and contemporary music that is part of America’s musical history to celebrate our country’s 250th celebration.

Music by Aaron Copeland, John Williams and John Phillip Sousa along with many other pieces will be featured. The band will also be joined by vocalist Karen Guertin and guest conductor Ian Wykes for an afternoon of great music.

The Weir River Concert Band is celebrating its 21st year of performing for the local communities.

The band is 40+ members strong with musicians from several surrounding communities including Ware, Palmer, Monson, Gilbertville, Hardwick,

Rutland, the Brookfields and Spencer. They have members of all ages and playing abilities.

On Sunday, June 7 at 2 p.m., Weir River Jazz is preparing to “Celebrate Jazz in June”

Weir River Jazz is a group based on the traditional Jazz Ensemble and Big Band formats directed by John Sacco.

Weir River Jazz grew out of the concert band to focus on jazz and improvisation. This June vocalist Donna-Lee DePrille will join the concert.

Since 2020, both groups have made the Gilbertville Stone Church Cultural Center their rehearsal home.

A career veteran, John P. Sacco was awarded the Silver Star for his actions in Vietnam in October of 1969. He trained at Boston Conservatory and taught music in the public schools.

The public is invited to bring lawn chairs. Tents, refreshments and accessible facilities will be provided.



St. Aloysius celebrates 10th year with chicken BBQ

HARDWICK – St. Aloysius Catholic School in Gilbertville is celebrating 10 years. Please join them on Saturday, June 6 at St. Mary’s Church Hall in Ware, from 1-4 p.m., for a chicken barbecue, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council #183. There will be

a DJ, all sorts of fun for the kids, basket raffles, a 50/50 and more. Tickets are \$25 for a chicken dinner or \$5 for a hot dog and chips.

Purchase tickets by calling the school at 413-477-1268 or by reaching out to Megan Morrison by phone or text 978-751-1211.

MLH from page 6

ple from different towns to figure out the needs of each community. Giving the region a strong voice. One of the biggest needs is some form of healthcare.

From Vice Chair Chris Dimarzio’s understanding, it’s a group that seems to move more into a regional coalition to help provide something for all the rural communities who have the needs.

Planning Board member Richard Starodoj brought up the needs assessment, which he thought was done already for Ware.

Wanting more clarification from Bourcier, Planning Board Chair Ken Crosby asked what the discussion is moving towards as far as what is the decided use.

“What are we moving forward towards?” Crosby asked

Someone with Bourcier said a health center is probably the goal. One of the entities they’ve talked to is Way Finders, who is a group interested in building some sort of senior citizen and physically disabled community space.

When it comes to zoning, whatever gets placed on the former Mary Lane site has to be healthcare related. The board wanted to know if this type of housing is housing for health assistance.

Next door to the site is Cedarbrook Village, with independent living and assisted living. Nursing is another level of care service. The board looked up the definitions to determine

if these kinds of services fall under healthcare.

The board wanted to know if there was any information given by Way Finders on what they thought of doing on the site if they were interested. The group should get information from Way Finders since everything seems spelled out in the bylaws.

Starodoj said, “There’s an absolute need for nursing home, assisted living, everything else.”

What they have to consider is the increased cost to services, especially ambulance services.

From the board’s understanding, the potential use involves taking the next step in living to connect those living in independent living that may want to seek health services in living establishments that offer those services.

“My interpretation is medical need,” Crosby said. “What is the medical need?”

Independent living is not a medical need, but what seems to be the answer to the potential use is a continuing care system. Any entity who has these kinds of services has to provide these services if needed for the people who choose to go into these sorts of places.

The Planning Board suggested that the group finds a concept that is approachable and when bringing up an idea, other departments are going to be included. Dimarzio mentioned that the town identified the property that had the fundamentals you need to house a health-care facility.

Ed Alexandrovich, 84



WARE – Ed Alexandrovich of Ware passed away on Monday, May 18, 2026, at the age of 84.

He was born on Oct. 19, 1941, in Marlborough.

A proud U.S. Army veteran Ed worked for many years as a truck driver. He loved fishing, having conversations with family, friends and visiting France.

He is survived by his loving wife, Ann Alexandrovich, daughter,

Lynn M. Alexandrovich, son, John E. Alexandrovich, grandson, John R. Alexandrovich, and his wife Kiaya A. Alexandrovich, great-grandchildren: Sarah E. Alexandrovich, Arya N. Alexandrovich, John R. Alexandrovich Jr., and Cooper R. Alexandrovich, as well as his brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Visitation will take place on Monday, June 1, 2026, 4-7 p.m. in Cebula Funeral

Home, 66 South St., Ware. A Funeral Service will take place on Tuesday, June 2, 2026 at 10 a.m. in Worcester County Memorial Park, Paxton.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in Ed’s memory to the Wounded Warrior Project.

Cebula Funeral Home is directing the funeral arrangements, for more information and an online guest book, please visit: www.cebulafuneralhome.com.

Lorena A. (Crimmins) Obrzut, 70

WARE – Lorena A. (Crimmins) Obrzut, 70, passed away peacefully on Thursday, May 21, 2026, with her children by her side.

Her husband of 40 years, Stanley S. Obrzut predeceased her in 2020.

She is survived by her children: David S. Obrzut of Ware, Jessica E. Burrows and her husband Daniel of Westfield, Elizabeth A. Obrzut of Ware and Catherine L. Obrzut-Keefner and her husband Kurtiss of North Adams; her grandsons: Jackson and Oliver Burrows; her sisters: Ellen Giffhorn and her husband Kenwood of Pennsylvania and Elizabeth Schneier and her husband Ronald of CT; her sister-in-law Saranne Crimmins of Plymouth; her brother-

in-law William Smead of Washington; several nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Her siblings Brian Crimmins and Anne Smead predeceased her.

Lorena was born and raised in Palmer, the daughter of the late Stephen and Josephine (Sawicki) Crimmins. She graduated from Palmer High School in 1973 and then earned her bachelor’s degree in English from Fitchburg State College.

Lorena worked as a bank teller, where she met her future husband. They married in 1979 and started their family in Palmer, moving to Ware in 1989.

Once their kids were grown, she worked in the Ware Public Schools as a substitute teacher for several years. Lorena loved teaching children, spending

time with her family and her grandsons, knitting, reading, and canning tomatoes.

All who knew Lorena will miss her dearly.

All are invited to attend her visitation on Thursday, May 28, 2026, from 9-10:45 a.m. in Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St., Ware, MA 01082. Her funeral Mass will follow at 11 a.m. in All Saints Catholic Church, 17 North St., Ware, MA 01082 with burial in St. Thomas Cemetery, Thorndike Street, Palmer.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Lorena’s memory may be made to the Ware Young Men’s Library Association, 37 Main St., Ware, MA 01082 or to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 6704, Hagerstown, MD 21741.

Please visit www.varnumfuneralhome.com to leave an online condolence.



Death notices

Alexandrovich, Ed
Died May 18, 2026
Services June 2, 2026

Obrzut, Lorena A. (Crimmins)
Died May 21, 2026
Services May 28, 2026

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 \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) 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.

Church hosts annual Strawberry Festival

NEW BRAINTREE – The New Braintree Congregational Church is hosting its annual Strawberry Festival on Saturday, June 13 at 5:30 p.m. at the New Braintree

Town Hall, Memorial Drive. Come enjoy this family-style meal of baked ham, baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw, rolls and beverages followed by strawberry shortcake for dessert.

Tickets are \$20 for adults; \$12 for children ages 5-10, children 4 and under are free. There will be one sitting. Make your reservations by calling 508-410-7424 or 413-477-6653.



QUABOAG from page 5

Joinville said Madison Schreier won a gold medal, and was just two points shy of a perfect score.

School store update

Two students from the business and entrepreneurship club, President Kasey Narov and Treasurer William Lopes gave a presentation on the student store.

They said the grand opening was June 5, 2025 and is fully student-run, and they design and produce merchandise like totebags, keychains and clothing. They said they fully

renovated the area before having the grand opening, which was attended by some state representatives, teachers and parents.

The students said they are starting to incorporate snacks into the store to get more profit. They said the store has a dedicated Instagram account ([qmhs_schoolstore](https://www.instagram.com/qmhs_schoolstore)) where they promote the store, and they also promote it through emails, posters and surveys.

Lopes said the renovation cost between \$8,000-\$10,000, and last year they made \$1,653 in profit, mostly from hoodies and quarter-zips.

SEWER from page 5

been made since the last rough draft and language was added to address grease traps, considering restaurants and food preparation establishments.

Baker mentioned that an applicant should provide a drawing of construction that shows the location, size elevation, connections and pipe measurements. An applicant wants to make sure they’re getting exact measurements during the completion process.

Baker read a section in the application regarding requirements an applicant must have under the sewer connection permit.

“Upon completion of the sewer connection, applicants shall provide the department with an as-built drawing of the construction of the building sewer show-

ing sewer location, size, elevation, connectors, pumps, distances of sewer lines. Failure to provide record drawing within 30 days will result in non-issuance of future permits to connect.”

After further review, the Sewer Commissioners voted and approved the sewer connection permit application. A final copy of this application will be listed on the town website, www.warren-ma.gov.

Town Administrator James Ferrera said that it is critically important for the Sewer Commission to also post a link to the meeting minutes on the town website, in addition to the applications and the meeting agendas.

The next regular Sewer Commission meeting will be on June 9 at 2 p.m. at the Warren Senior Center.

In Loving Memory of Joseph A. Supczak

October 16, 1914 - June 3, 2010



We Remember Always

Joseph & Doris Supczak’s children

In Loving Memory of Michael J. Mielowski

on the 5th Anniversary of his passing

July 6, 1964 - June 7, 2021

from Brian, John, Paul, Theresa, Brianna



NOTICE

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- Electronics & Audio Equipment.
- Sports Cards.
- 70s/80s/90s Toys.
- Antiques & Collectibles. Much, much more!

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Donald Roy (860) 874-8396

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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VOLLEY HALL
from page 10

our sport. Big congratulations to the inductees and to the IVHF Leadership," said Fabio Azevedo, President of the FIVB. "The entire Global Volleyball Movement thanks and fully supports the excellent work carried out by the IVHF in promoting the values, legacy and heritage of our sport by honouring the athletes, leaders and officials who have made an exceptional contribution to the development of volleyball and beach volleyball around the world. Celebrating these legends strongly aligns with the FIVB Strategic Vision 2032, and our continued partnership with the IVHF helps bring this vision to life. Together as One!" All told, the IVHF has inducted 185 individuals from 27 countries into its historic Hall of Fame - those totals will rise to 194 inductees from 28 countries after the 2026 event, as this will be England's first inductee. Three of the inductees also earned one of their votes by winning the Fan Vote for their respective category. More detailed information on each inductee can be found below. "The International Volleyball Hall of Fame continues to serve as a bridge between the sport's remarkable history and its exciting future,"

said Steve Bishop, President of the IVHF Board of Directors. "The Class of 2026 reflects the worldwide growth, diversity, excellence, and enduring legacy of volleyball across every level and discipline of the game. On behalf of the International Volleyball Hall of Fame Board of Directors, we are proud to honor these extraordinary individuals whose achievements and lifelong contributions have helped inspire generations of athletes, coaches, officials, leaders, and fans while continuing to shape the future of our sport around the world." The 2026 International Volleyball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will take place in Holyoke, Massachusetts, USA on Saturday, October 17, 2026. The event is open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis, and ticket packages are available online now at VolleyHall.org/Induction-Celebration. "This is one of the most historically significant classes ever assembled by the International Volleyball Hall of Fame," said George Mulry, Executive Director of the IVHF. "Collectively, the Class of 2026 and this year's special award recipients have helped shape, elevate and redefine the sport of volleyball across multiple eras, disciplines and

continents. From Olympic champions and transformational global leaders to innovators in coaching, officiating, media and ParaVolley, their influence can be seen in nearly every corner of the game today. Together, they represent the evolution of volleyball itself — honoring the sport's rich history while inspiring its future generations." Volleyball enthusiasts are encouraged to sign up for the IVHF Insider e-newsletter for behind-the-scenes and exclusive content before, during and after Induction Weekend, including the new series "The Road To Holyoke." To sign up for free, please visit ivhf.org/The International Volleyball Hall of Fame is a 501c3 nonprofit based in Holyoke, Mass., and is dedicated to honoring the legends, recognizing the greats and preserving the history of volleyball at all levels - men and women, amateur and professional players, coaches and contributors, around the world. The IVHF was incorporated in 1978 and continues to create a diversely representative institution from a wide range of countries and disciplines. For more information on the induction events, please visit the Hall's website at www.ivhf.org or email info@ivhf.org.

T-Birds win Game 4 to force fifth deciding game



SPRINGFIELD - The Springfield Thunderbirds staved off elimination for a third time this postseason, picking up a 2-0 shutout win over the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins last Thursday night at the MassMutual Center. Springfield wins ties the series, 2-2, and forces a deciding Game 5 last Saturday at Mohegan Arena at Casey Plaza.

Early indications were that neither team's red hot goaltender was going to give up anything easy, as the Penguins' Sergei Murashov turned away 13 first period shot attempts from the T-Birds. In turn, Georgii Romanov went a perfect 7-for-7 in the opening period for Springfield.

The Penguins appeared to take a 1-0 lead just past the 6:00 mark of the game when Harrison Brunnicke jumped into a rush on the right side

and snapped a shot over Romanov into the top shelf. However, after officials gathered to converse, it was ruled that Romanov could not properly play his position, and the goal was disallowed.

The scoreless deadlock carried well past the midpoint of the game, with Springfield surviving a pair of Wilkes-Barre/Scranton power plays in the opening half of period two.

The T-Birds' power play then made its presence known, snapping an 0-for-15 drought when Dillon Dube fielded a pass in the slot area and chipped a forehand shot over Murashov's glove to make it a 1-0 Springfield lead at 16:14 of the middle stanza. It was Dube's team-leading fifth goal of the postseason and third in the series.

The T-Birds continued to make life miserable for the Penguin offense as the game shifted into the third

period. With Wilkes-Barre/Scranton unable to register more than seven shots in any period, Springfield took advantage to gain some insurance at 6:48 of the third when Akil Thomas fired a pass in the slot to Thomas Bordeleau. Bordeleau's shot deflected back to a trailing Marc-Andre Gaudet. The defenseman's one-time attempt knocked a stick out of a defender's hand, and the puck slowly elevated and trickled over the head of a perplexed Murashov, making it a 2-0 Springfield lead.

From there, Romanov took care of the rest, securing a Game 4 shutout for a second consecutive round and moving the T-Birds to a perfect 4-0 record following a loss in these playoffs.

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public notices

Notice of Sale of Motor Vehicle

Under G.L. c. 255, Section 39A
Notice is hereby given by REGIN'S REPAIR, 19 CHURCH ST GILBERTVILLE, MA 01031, Pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that on **June 12, 2026 at 10:00AM** at: Regin's Repair, 19 Church St., Gilbertville, MA 01031 by private sale, the following Motor Vehicle will be sold to satisfy the garage keepers lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle

2014 BMW 535
Registration#/State: 5AAG36/MA
VIN: WBAFV3C58ED686242
Name and address of owner: Daniel Hardaway
139 East Road
Warren, MA 01083
By: James M. Regin
Dated: 5/20/2026

This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L. c. 255, Section 39A
05/28, 06/04, 06/11/2026

INVITATION FOR BID SCHOOL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT SERVICES WARE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30B, the Ware Public School District is accepting bids for **School Business Management Services**. Specifications will be available beginning, **Monday, May 18, 2026, after 10:00 a.m.** via email request to krasys@ware.k12.ma.us and in the office at the address below:

**WARE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
239 WEST STREET
WARE, MA 01082**

Bids will be received at the Ware Public Schools' Superintendent's Office, 239 West Street, Ware, MA 01082, **no later than 2:00 p.m. on June 3, 2026** to be publicly opened and read. **No bid will be accepted after 2:00 p.m. on June 3, 2026.** Bids shall be in a sealed envelope, bearing the title "SCHOOL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT SERVICES FY27-1", per specifications, de-

livered personally or by mail to Ware Public Schools Superintendent's Office, 239 West Street, Ware, MA 01082 on or **before 2:00 p.m., June 3, 2026.**

Questions may be referred to the following:

Michael L. Wood,
Interim Superintendent
mwood@ware.k12.ma.us
05/21, 05/28/2026

Notice of Public Auction

The contents of Jason Strniste and Brian Tinker will be auctioned off at **Secure Storage, 70 Boston Post Rd., Warren MA on June 13, 2026 at 9:00 AM.**

The contents of Kaylee Louvittakis, Don Aubin, Lynn Nieber, Gerry Van Pelt, Joseph Mascroft and Michael Desrosiers will be auctioned off at **Secure Storage, 167 West St., Ware MA on June 13, 2026 at 9:45 AM**

Any questions or inquiries call 413-800-6278.
05/28, 06/04/2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Paul Muise, Sr. to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mortgage Research Center, LLC dba Veterans United Home Loans, dated April 15, 2016 and registered at the Hampshire County Registry District of the Land Court as document number 19333, and noted on certificate of title number 2395, as modified by a certain modification agreement registered on November 8, 2021, and registered with the Hampshire County Registry District of the Land Court as Document No. 21243 as noted on Certificate of Title No. 2395, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Mortgage Research Center, LLC dba Veterans United Home Loans, its successors and assigns to PennyMac Loan Services, LLC, registered on May 5, 2021, Doc-

ument No. 21027, as noted on Certificate of Title No. 2395 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at **Public Auction at 4:00 PM on June 18, 2026**, on the mortgaged premises located at 79 Pleasant Street, Ware, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT: The land in said Ware, Hampshire County, Massachusetts bounded and described as follows:

A certain parcel of land situate in Ware together with the buildings thereon in the County of Hampshire and said Commonwealth bounded and described as follows:

SOUTHWESTERLY by the northeasterly line of Pleasant Street fifty and seventy-five one hundredths (50.75) feet;

NORTHWESTERLY by land of Bridget Scheffer sixty-eight and seventy three one hundredths (68.73) feet;

NORTHEASTERLY by Lot C as shown on plan hereinafter mentioned fifty-seven and eighteen one hundredths (57.18) feet;

SOUTHEASTERLY by Lot A on plan above mentioned seventy-six and eighteen one hundredths (76.18) feet Being Lot B on sub-division plan numbered 609 B land in Ware, John T. Casey, Surveyor, January 1951. Sub-division plan filed in Registry District of Hampshire County November 2, 1951, Book 4, Page 13 1/2.

All of said boundaries are determined by the Court as shown on sub-division plan numbered 609 B as above referenced to. Subject to restrictions of record, if in force and effect. For mortgagor's(s') title see deed registered with Hampshire County Registry District of the Land Court as Document No. 19332, as noted on Certificate of Title No. 2395.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements,

public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

05/28, 06/04/2026

Ware Conservation Commission LEGAL NOTICE

The Ware Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, June 10, 2026 at 6:30 P.M.** pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. 131 c40. The hearing will include consideration of a Notice of Intent (NOI) by Shawn & Angeliqe Crevier for construction of a house and driveway, and installation of a well, a septic system, utilities and landscaping at 275 Malboeuf Road. Said hearing will be held in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Hall, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082. To view application and related plans, please contact the Conservation office at 413.967.9648.

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 4, Section 13, a copy of this legal notice can be found on the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association's (MNPA) website: <http://masspublicnotices.org>.
05/28/2026

WARREN PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Verizon New England Inc. 21 Quaboag Street
Pursuant to MGL, Chapter 40A, notice is hereby given that the Warren Planning Board, acting as the Special Permit Granting Authority, will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, June 15, 2026 at 7:00 PM** on the application of Verizon New England Inc. The hearing will be held at the Warren Senior Center located at 2252 Main Street in West

Warren.

The Applicant, Verizon New England Inc., is requesting a Special Permit (No. 317) and Site Plan Approval (SPR No. 74) under Sections 5.15 and 5.32 of the zoning by-laws to allow replacement of an existing standby generator at 21 Quaboag Street (Map 17, Lot 62) in the Village district.

A complete copy of the application may be inspected in the Office of the Planning Board or the Town Clerk during normal business hours. Anyone interested or wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.
05/28, 06/04/2026

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Pursuant to MGL Chapter 4, Section 13, a copy of this legal notice can be found on the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association's (MNPA) website: <http://masspublicnotices.org>.
05/28/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampshire Division
Docket No. **HS26P0316EA**
Estate of: **Edward Buckley Gervais**
Date of Death:

March 18, 2026 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Parmelie G. McManany of Cantonment, FL.**

Parmelie G. McManany of Cantonment, FL has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
05/28/2026

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for The Ware River News, please email warerivernews@turley.com.

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