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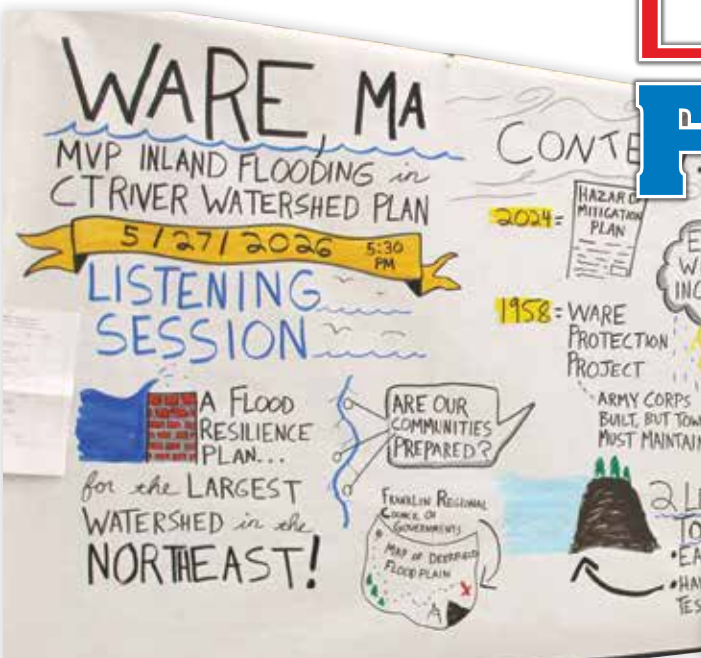
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LOCALIZED FLOODING



Artist Andy Goulet of dpict. created a visual to detail the topics of the listening session.



Pioneer Valley Planning Commission's Chief Environmental Planner, Patty Gambarini led a community listening session on localized flooding at the Ware Senior Center on May 27.

Board discusses COA agreement

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Select Board met last Tuesday, where they discussed an agreement between the Hardwick and Barre Councils on Aging.

The agreement allows the two towns to share one senior center in Barre. The proposed agreement is for three years, with a termination clause, according to Select Board Chair Jeff Schaaf.

The topic drew discussion at the May 26 meeting, when resident Liz Cyran said she has had conversations with Hardwick residents who have not had positive experiences at the Barre Senior Center. Cyran said through her discussions, she has heard that many people are tired of being treated poorly at the senior center.

not interact. She said people used to be active at the previous Hardwick senior center, but feel discouraged in Barre, and she said people do not like the administration.

“Our seniors don’t feel welcome there,” Cyran said.

Town Administrator Justine Caggiano said one of the biggest complaints that have been received in the past is communication, which has improved, and Caggiano said overall complaints have subsided.

She said she recommends direct contact with senior center administration to address complaints.

Cyran also said her plans at the former Ruggles Hill School have gone ignored, but she said it would be a good alternative, and bring senior services back into Hardwick. Cyran said the seniors of Hardwick deserve a place where they feel welcome.

The board decided to table signing the agreement

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Listening session identifies areas of concern

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Pioneer Valley Planning Commission’s Chief Environmental Planner, Patty Gambarini and Principal Planner Becky Basch hosted a listening session on localized flooding at the Ware Senior Center.

Healthy Quaboag’s Project Coordinator for Community Health, Sawyer Blake and Quaboag Hills Community Health Improvement Plan Coordinator Arianna Palano welcomed residents to the session, and explained the various projects they have been working on in partnership with PVPC.

Gambarini said localized flooding is an increasing concern due to climate change, and it’s important for towns

Please see **FLOODING**, page 3

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

CDAC hears about stair improvements

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

WARREN – The Community Development Advisory Committee held a meeting last Wednesday to hear about a stair improvement program, funded by the Community Development Block Grant.

At the May 27 meeting, Chris Dunphy, a representative from the Central Massachusetts Regional

Planning Commission, said this project is for all of the shops on Main Street across from the monument. He said this was a project originally done in 2012, but over the years the stairs have deteriorated from salt.

Dunphy said the project would be paid for by unused funds from the CDBG.

Dunphy said the lowest qualifying bid for the project came from A Martins and Sons, a general contractor out of Ludlow. He said the

engineers for the project will be Weston & Sampson.

He said the contract to start work is to be signed on June 4, with actual work starting June 8, and the estimated time from start to finish is three weeks.

Dunphy said the contractors will be replacing the sets of stairs two at a time, with more resistant concrete. He said there will be full access to all of the shops during construction, but there will be some parking

spaces taken up during work hours by the contractors’ vehicles during work hours, which are Monday-Friday from 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

Town Administrator James Ferrera said he is respectfully asking for cooperation, and this project will make the area better for customers and pedestrians, and said the town prefers just using sand during the winter months for treatment.

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Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

The teens began to form a friendship during a school assignment.

Ware is the Crab Universe

Original play written, performed by teens

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – A group of local teens spent the last six months preparing to perform an original play, which they wrote themselves thanks to a program by Valley Playwright Mentoring.

This program was made possible with support from the Ware Cultural Council, Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance, Workshop13, the Town of Ware, Country Bank, Monson Savings Bank and more.

Directed by Jonathan Mirin of the Piti Theatre Company, “Ware is the Crab Universe” is the combination of two short plays created by the students. It explores

friendship and bullying through the eyes of small town kids with big hearts.

The performance started with a scene where the character Sophia is being bullied by Ash because of the shirt she is wearing. Sophia’s friend sticks up for her, but Sophia goes home and asks her mother to take her shopping for new clothes.

The next day, Sophia wears a new shirt, but Ash continues to target her.

Ash goes home that day and complains to her father about Sophia for being poor. Her father scolds her, but also calls the school’s principal to see what is going on.

He finds out that Ash has been bullying Sophia, and he sits his daughter down to talk.

Eventually Ash and Sophia get assigned to work on the same group project in school, and a friendship begins to form. It is here that the audience first hears of the possible existence of a Crab Universe in Ware.

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Current and future projects discussed

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The Parks & Recreation Commissioners met under the pavilion at Grenville Park for their June 1 meeting.

One of the regular agenda items the Commissioners have been talking about is the Grenville Park bathroom location and design. Town Manager Stuart Beckley shared that he has been trying to contact the contractor that won the bid for the project.

Parks Manager John Piechota said the Commissioners could consider contacting PM Construction, who was the

Please see **PARKS & REC**, page 2

New sign dedicated to memory of library trustee

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Family, friends and community members joined Ware Library staff for the unveiling of new sign dedicated to the memory of the late Diana Rucki.

Rucki was a longtime trustee, Library Director Heidi Reed said at the May 30 ceremony, and one of the library’s greatest supporters.

Reed said there has been a need to improve visibility to the library with clear signage in the front.

“People didn’t realize this building was a library,” she said.

Using money left to the library after Rucki’s passing in 2024, two new signs were installed; the main sign and the

Please see **SIGN**, page 3

The Ware Library unveiled new signs in front of the building located at 37 Main St.



SPORTS

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Ware softball beats Pathfinder

Qualifies for tournament

WARE – On Friday, May 22, Ware completed a suspended game with Pathfinder Tech on the road, and came away with a dominant 16-0 win over the Pioneers. The Indians finished with an overall record of 7-10, but their strength of schedule was enough to qualify

the Indians for this year's Division 5 state tournament.

While Ware had some struggles late in the regular season, losing four straight games in mid-May, the Indians came back to beat Lee 12-1 followed by the big win over Pathfinder to propel the Indians to a tournament spot.

Ware was scheduled to face Bristol County Agricultural High School in the Round of 32.



See more photos on Page 19



Thomas Wadas, of Ludlow, eyes a teammate up the field.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Michael Gouvin sends a pass away.

WMass Pioneers fall to NEFC

LUDLOW – On a very rainy evening, the turf was not kind to the Western Mass. Pioneers as they fell at home against NEFC 4-2. The Pioneers, which have a lot of new players on the roster this season, fell to a disappointing 1-2 on the short regular season. The Pioneers had another home game scheduled during the weekend, and were in action on the road against Black Rock FC. The Pioneers are on a lengthy road trip and are not playing at home until Friday, June 19.

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Quabbin tennis takes state playoff opener

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

GARDNER — The Quabbin girls' tennis team has compiled an impressive 47-7 overall record since the start of the 2024 regular season.

During that span, the Lady Panthers' have won two state tournament matches. Both of those victories were decided by the doubles team of Elizabeth Matheson and Madelyn Stauder, who are seniors.

Last Tuesday's Division 3 state preliminary round match was tied before Matheson and Stauder pulled out a win at first doubles, which sealed the 30th-seeded Lady Panthers, 3-2, victory over the 35th-seeded Whitinsville Christian School Crusaders at Gardner High School.

"We were in the exact same position in the state tournament two years ago," Matheson said. "We won that match and the experience gave us a lot of confidence in today's match."

As sophomores, Matheson and Stauder managed to win the deciding match in the Division 4 round of 32 match, as the Lady Panthers defeated Randolph High School, 3-2, at Gardner High School.

Quabbin competed in the Division 3 state tournament for the first time this spring.

The Lady Panthers play their regular season home matches at Felton Field in Barre, which only has three courts. The MIAA requires a school to have at least four courts to host a state tour-

namment match. Quabbin has played its home state tournament matches at Gardner High School, which has four courts.

In this year's preliminary round match, Matheson and Stauder posted a 7-6 (7-5), 6-3 win over Whitinsville Christian freshman Arielle Zdanis and junior Alexi Gilchrist.

"There was a lot of pressure on us in today's match because our season would've been over had we lost," Stauder said. "It just felt great after we won the final point."



Farrah Wojcik tracks the ball as she hits a return in women's singles.

Turley photos by Jeffrey Haynes

Audrey Larson hits a backhand from the baseline in women's singles.

with a perfect 12-0 record. Their only setback during the regular season came at Groton-Dunstable by the final score 3-2 on May 8.

The other four Quabbin seniors are Farrah Wojcik (first singles), Kalina Dyer (second singles), Alyssa Ebert, and Addy Harmon.

"I'm very happy for the seniors because this is their



It was a very successful regular season for the Lady

Panthers (15-2), who captured the Mid-Wach (C) title

Please see **TENNIS**, page 12



From left, Ella Reeves, Honour Michael and Arianna Fagnoli take off in the 800-meter race.

Unified track program continues success

BARRE – For the past several years, Quabbin Regional High School has hosted multiple meets and fielded an excellent Unified track and field team. This year has been no different as the program has continued its success last month. Highlights from more action will be in next week's edition.

Turley photos by Jeffrey Haynes

Hemily Halaby heaves the shot put.



Bailey Burke sends the javelin flying.



Chris Dallair launches himself in the long jump.



Arianna Fagnoli takes flight in the long jump.



Emma Thompson stretches out as she hurls the shot put.