

WARE RIVER NEWS

SERVING THE WARE REGION FOR 129 YEARS

Vol. 140 No. 16

USPS 666100

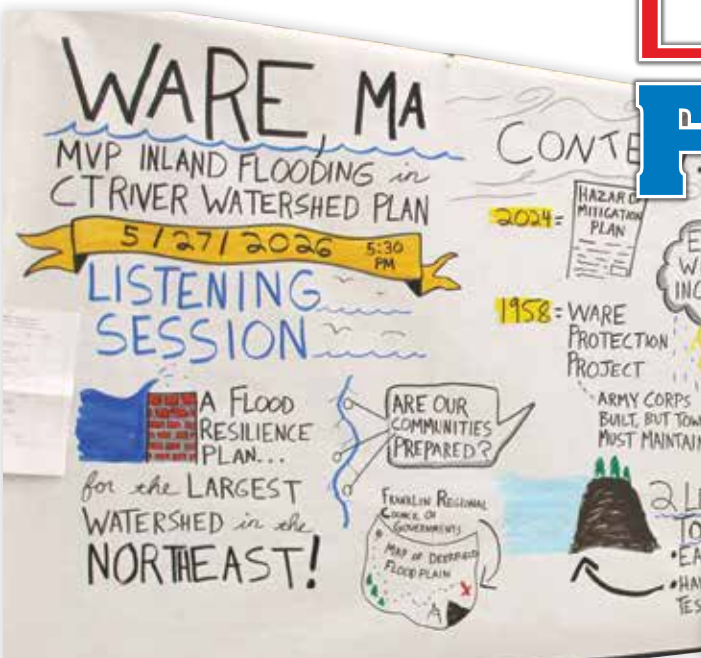
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THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2026

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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

Please see **HARDWICK BOS**, page 10

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
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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.

Please see **CDAC**, page 8



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
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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.

Please see **ORIGINAL PLAY**, page 9

Current and future projects discussed

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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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
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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





Teens and adults worked on their own stethoscopes. Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Welborn reads 'Dr. Rosie Helps the Animals'

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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HARDWICK – The Gilbertville Public Library welcomed author Jennifer Welborn to read her book, "Dr. Rosie Helps the Animals" this past weekend.

This program was made possibly thanks to the collaboration between the Gilbertville Public Library and the Paige Memorial Library. Welborn has been doing this program for the last three years and proceeds go to a veterinary scholarship fund.

The story follows Rosie,



Author Jennifer Welborn, right, read her story "Dr. Rosie Helps the Animals" at the Gilbertville Public Library. Abby, left, held pictures up during story time.

a young girl who travels the world to help animals. This adorable picture book, with illustrations by Rozillia MH, teaches kids about empathy, and animals who have com-

Please see **ROSIE**, page 9

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 8**
- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
 - 10 a.m. Scat
 - 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- Tuesday, June 9**
- 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 10**
- 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 11**
- 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 12**
- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
 - 10 a.m. Scat
 - 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Food Bank of Western MA Brown Bag
 - 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
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Monday, June 8
Stuffed Peppers, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day

Tuesday, June 9
Brunch
Blueberry Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Sausages, Dessert of the Day

Wednesday, June 10
Chicken Nuggets, French Fries, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day

Thursday, June 11
Hawaiian BBQ Pork Sliders, Onion Rings, Dessert of the Day

Friday, June 12
Tuna Melt Sandwich, French Fries, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day

Are You Old News?



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

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



File Photo
Last week's photo from 2023 showed Barbara Gellinas, Korean War veteran Vern Keith and Barbara Keith at Warren's Memorial Day parade.

PARKS & REC from page 1

second bidder on the list if Beckley doesn't hear back from the first chosen bidder.

The commission needs a design for the bathroom. According to Commission Chair William Imbier the waterline location is good for the bathroom.

Imbier asked if the person who did the Memorial Field bathroom could do the one for Grenville Park. Piechota said he could talk to the person and mention what they're looking for.

Memorial Field bathroom update

Piechota said progress on the bathroom at Memorial Field is going well.

"We're ahead of schedule," Piechota said.

The doors should be installed and completed by the end of the week and the rough plumbing should be done by June 5. Piechota anticipates that this project will be done on time.

250th anniversary events

The Parks & Recreation Commissioners briefly went over events for the 250th Anniversary. Piechota and the Commissioners asked Beckley about certain events.

Beckley said the movie night at the park will require electricity.

There is also parade participation as well as equipment needed and a list of who want to walk in the parade. Beckley will keep the Parks & Recreation Commission informed if anything new arises for the 250th anniversary events.

Rail trail updates

Piechota discussed updates to the rail trail. There is a bridge project which will be installed by the East Quabbin Land Trust. He said this project is about eight-10 weeks out.

Piechota asked the Park Commissioners if they're interested in installing trail cameras. He said the cameras could be purchased through use of a grant.

Imbier asked where exactly they could be installed. Piechota thought the best locations could possibly be by the exit and where park is by the road. The Parks Manager is looking to get two cameras for the trail.

The Parks & Recreation Commission thought cameras would be helpful. Beckley asked if someone from Parks could send him a note so he could order the cameras, which aren't too expensive according to Piechota.

Concerns

Chairman William Imbier had a couple concerns he wanted to address with his fellow commissioners, one being minibikes and other unregistered bikes.

He wanted some ideas on how to address these vehicles. He said he believed any gas-powered vehicle that is not registered shouldn't be in the park.

Piechota said he could ask the Police Chief about this concern.

Imbier also brought up adding security cameras to the restroom once it's installed. The Commissioners can move forward with a camera to be installed to view new

restrooms in the park.

Piechota could pursue an estimate for those cameras as long as Commissioners agree. The Parks & Recreation Commission voted unanimously to move forward with getting cameras installed for the restrooms.

New project idea

Piechota said there is another opportunity to apply for a Parklands Acquisitions and Renovations grant and the Commissioners began discussing future project ideas. One idea was to possibly put another pavilion over by the bandstand.

Beckley mentioned about adding access to the pavilion from the parking lot area and possibly to the bandstand. As for size, the Parks & Recreation Commission thought they could add a pavilion similar to the one by the playground.

Picnic tables were also brought up to add to the new pavilion.

During his update, Piechota talked about other ideas for the park. Kim Swarts of the Parks & Recreation Commission commented that people like the structures at the park. Piechota mentioned that the benches at the park are working out well.

Piechota also talked about the flowers being planted off Main Street and despite the weather the Memorial Day Parade went well.

The next Parks & Recreation meeting will be on Monday, July 6 at the Grenville Park Pavilion.

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USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS PORK SIRLOIN CUTLETS.....	\$2.39 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN PEPPERIDGE FARM CHOCOLATE FUDGE LAYER CAKE 19.6 OZ.....	\$3.99 ea	USDA INSP. FROZEN POPEYE'S PIEROGIES CHEESE & POTATO	\$2.49 ea
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USDA INSP. SLICED IN OUR STORE PROVOLONE CHEESE.....	\$4.44 lb	USDA INSP. STOREMADE KABOBS WITH VEGGIES	\$8.99 lb / \$5.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN AT SEA SNOW CRAB CLUSTERS.....	\$9.99 lb
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Ware ATM preview

Staff Report

WARE – The annual town meeting will be held on Monday, June 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ware High School auditorium to consider 34 articles.

Article 1 requests funding to pay \$6,460 for bills from last year.

Article 2 would fund transfers to budgets of several town departments including legal costs, snow and ice removal, and public safety for the expenses of the current fiscal year.

Articles 3, 4 and 5 provide funds for town's reserves including the Stabilization Funds, and trust funds used to pay for future insurance costs for retirees. The total of the funds to be reserved is \$1,089,327.

Free cash is available for the use of the town meeting to fund most of the articles. Free cash is comprised of funds that are not used from the previous year's appropriations.

Articles 6 through 15 are consent articles.

These articles may be approved by town meeting as a group. They include authorization to accept grants, to spend state funds on road repairs, and to fix the salaries of elected officials.

Articles 16, 17 and 18 are the town's budget articles.

Article 16 is the Water Department budget totaling \$1,193,500.

Article 17 is the Wastewater Department budget totaling \$1,266,000. The overall Town budget totals \$40,958,539.

During town meeting, Moderator Kathleen Coulombe will review each departmental budget amount.

Article 19 proposes amendment to the Town Charter. This would allow revisions to the Home Rule Charter to reflect current practices of management,

update regulations and eliminate obsolete information.

Article 20 would authorize one additional ABCC Off-Premises All Alcohol License be added to the town's allowed quota set by the state for a local business to be able to sell liquor products in addition to wine and malt.

Article 21 provides \$12,500 for the town to assist the Commonwealth in the protection of the Letendre Farm along Belchertown Road and Babcock Tavern Road through the purchase of an Agricultural Preservation Restriction.

Article 22 would have provided funding for the repair or replacement of the North Street bridge over Muddy Brook. The costs and designs are not finalized, so this article will be postponed.

Article 23 would provide funds to design and engineer plans to replace the existing garage and office at Aspen Grove Cemetery with a structure to accommodate the office and cemetery needs.

Article 24 would begin to address concerns with the maintenance of the Hardwick Pond Dam, which is town-owned. This project requires some preliminary planning and state assistance, so it will be postponed.

Article 25 addresses the need for restroom facilities at Grenville Park and the Water Treatment Plant. The project will utilize \$30,000 of Free Cash and \$60,000 of retained water earnings to design and construct restrooms for employees.

Article 26 proposes to provide \$52,000 to repair the boom on the DPW bucket truck. The bucket truck, which is used for tree trimming and removal is currently unsafe to use due to the condition of the bucket boom.

Article 27 will provide \$35,000 for the purchase of

an administrative vehicle for the DPW Director and Operations manager utilizing funds generated through a court settlement payment for the impacts of PFAS.

Article 28 requests town meeting to fund the final design of a replacement swimming pool and splash pad at the site of the Reed Memorial Pool. The article would use \$50,000 of Free Cash and \$70,000 of Pool Trust funds.

Article 29 considers funding for the demolition of the Reed Memorial Pool, however this article will be dismissed as the demolition will be primarily completed by the Highway Department.

Articles 30, 31 and 32 address planning and engineer needs for the water and wastewater systems. Article 30 funds a comprehensive plan for the wastewater plant that will guide future improvements at a first-phase cost of \$200,000.

Article 31 funds the final designs of water well and pump improvements at the Barnes Street station. This project will bring two restored wells on-line and remove the cistern from the system. If funded at \$330,000, the project would move toward completion in 2028.

Article 32 will continue the town's work to identify any lead service lines in the water system with \$330,000 of funding.

Article 33 seeks town meeting support for a resolution that the state increase funding and representation to towns that abut the Quabbin Reservoir.

Article 34 asks town meeting to discontinue a never-used road from Church Street to Grenville Park that currently crosses private properties.

The full warrant and budget with descriptions are posted on the town's website, www.townofware.com.



Diana Rucki's sons, Brian and Douglas, removed the covering from the new sign.

SIGN from page 1

Children's Room sign. The graphics for the signs were designed by local artist Gary LaCoste

Reed recalled first meeting Rucki 20 years ago, when she accepted her job at the Ware Library. She said Rucki was "very involved" in all things at the library.

"After I was hired, she came one day and took me out to lunch so we could talk about all the things that she wanted to do for the library and what we could do for the library," Reed said.

Rucki started the Friend's group at the library, and resurrected the popular lotto calendar fundraiser, Reed said.

"She sold more than anyone," Reed said. "And she sold them to all the members of her family who won more than anyone."

Rucki also raised funds through plants sales and the "pool your pennies" drives.

"Our Friends group is small, but it's mighty and Diana was the engine of that group," she said. "She had lots of great ideas."

Reed said while Rucki dedicated her time and energy into her role as a library trustee, her most important role was the one she filled at



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette
Angie Crevier spoke about her late mother, Diana Rucki, and how important the library was to her.

home. "The most important thing to her was her family," Reed said.

Rucki's daughter, Angie Crevier, spoke about her mother and thanked everyone for attending the ceremony to dedicate the sign.

"This honor means so much to our family," Crevier said. "She would have been so touched by this meaningful tribute."

Crevier said her mother was a teacher, and she believed in the importance of reading, and the opportunities that books and learning can provide.

"She was passionate about helping others grow, discover and succeed," Crevier said. "I know she's watching from above with gratitude, happiness and pride. On behalf of our family, thank you for this beautiful recognition,"

Reed said the signs and the new checkout desk were also made possible with the a bequest from a former resident of Ware who passed away last year.

Following the ceremony and unveiling, attendees enjoyed refreshments provided by the Friends of the Ware Library.

FLOODING from page 1

such as Ware to be prepared for such an event.

"It really figures out how our communities can adapt," she said at the May 27 session.

Gambarini said the waterways in Ware are part of the Connecticut River Watershed, which spans to the Canadian border.

"It's a vast watershed...the biggest in the northeast," she said. "It's massive."

Gambarini said PVPC is working with other organizations to help protect 19 cities and towns in the watershed, including working with community-based organizations such as Healthy Quaboag.

She said there will be seven roundtable discussions across these communities, and that information gathered will help to identify areas where towns can coordinate and collaborate together.

"It's really a model that will be very valuable to all of us," she said.

In Ware, Gambarini said they are focusing on strengthening and deepening the Ware River, and monitoring earthen levees.

These levees are the Muddy Brook Water Plant dike and the Muddy Brook St. Williams Cemetery dike.

These levees were built following the aftermath of the 1938 and 1955 floods by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as part of the Ware Local Protection Project in 1958. The project was completed in 1960 at a total cost of \$400,000.

Towns are responsible for maintaining levees built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which many were unaware of, Gambarini said.

"A lot of communities are surprised it is their responsibility," she said. "The town has to make sure they are in good condition."

Gambarini said regular inspections are conducted of the town's levees, to ensure they remain in good condition.

Gambarini said a Hazard

Mitigation Plan was completed for the town in 2024, which highlighted the damage caused by the 1938 and 1955 floods, beaver dams and Hurricane Irene in 2011.

"There's a story of flooding in Ware," she said.

Gambarini said flooding events are predicted to increase due to climate change.

She said there have been

more intense durations of heavy rainfalls that cause flash flooding. This is due to there being more carbon monoxide in the air, which produces more water vapor or moisture.

Gambarini said there are three priority stormwater projects in the town, including creating two bioretention systems (rain gardens) for Belmont and Pearl streets

and a final design for a gravel wetland system at Reed Memorial Pool.

She said grants are pending for these projects.

Participants in the listening session identified areas of concern for localized flooding, including near the town

pool, the shopping plaza on West Street and by the Flat Brook crossing on Palmer Road. They also identified areas where flooding had previously occurred including the Church Street bridge over the Ware River, and the Quarry Street area.



The Ware River News will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 3. To request a correction, send information to pouimett@turley.com, or call 967-3505. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Ware River News, Attn: Editor, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069.

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viewpoints

GUEST COLUMN

ATM has pool demolition funding article

Article 29 of the warrant articles for the upcoming Town Meeting on June 8, is in regards to funding for the demolition of the existing, closed town pool and associated structures.

The \$175,000 cost is to come from free cash, but now is in jeopardy because the Selectboard member who proposed it now thinks it no longer a wise choice of spending and should be dismissed; I beg to differ.

Demolition costs, like construction costs, only increase every year. Unlike the previous letter I wrote protesting the spending of \$50,000 for a design study to replace the pool complex, I wholeheartedly support the spending of the \$175,000 to demolish the existing structures.

Yes, the demolition funding is three times the amount for the replacement design. Let's look at the situation: the \$50,000 design cost is too dear for the town because it's to design something that's extremely unlikely to ever be built due to its multi-million-dollar cost; as such, it is a huge waste of money unnecessarily.

The \$175,000 demolition expense is well worth it. Why? The pool complex had been closed for the last eight years; the buildings are deteriorated and no longer up to code; the pool itself has walls that are collapsing and the floor is badly cracked and the underground pipes that fill and drain the pool leak severely.

This situation is not because lack of nor poor maintenance; just the opposite. It was because of great maintenance that pool lasted as long as it has.

A municipal pool cannot be expected to last much more than 20 years. The pool was built in 1936; easy math will reveal that to be a lifetime of 90 years.

Everything at 90 years old will show its age. Yes, the pool had a major renovation in the 1980s; but that was still 40 years ago!

The Ware River News article quoted the Selectboard member as stating that the demolition is not necessary at this time because the grounds are well maintained and people cannot legally access it; correct on both accounts. However, visit the site and take a close look and you'll

realize the dangers and liabilities involved.

The doors to the buildings are made of 1/4 inch steel and are locked. That did not stop someone last fall from using a maul to repeatedly hammer one of the doors so hard that they put massive dents into it and created a hole an inch high by three inches wide in a failed attempt to bust the door in.

Since the complex closed in 2018, phone wires have been torn off the buildings in a failed attempt to defeat the alarm system; security lights have been smashed; the concession stand window, which was boarded up, suffered an attack from a hatchet by a drug user who was looking for non-existing cash (the hatchet was left behind and the user caught); teenagers (caught) broke in repeatedly to steal items to sell online; tables, ladders and equipment have been smashed and tossed into the pool; dishes and assorted household items have been tossed into the pool.

All the windows are boarded from the inside with wire mesh on the outside. People have ripped the screens off several of them.

Even when no one is involved, raw sewage occasionally backs into and completely floods the buildings from Route 9. In one weekend, someone spray painted every building's walls from top to bottom and every apparatus at the former Beauregard Playground.

Even during the years the pool was open the police had to constantly evict people who were in the pool after hours.

So yes, people cannot legally access the property, but that obviously doesn't matter to someone who does not have legality on the mind when they intend to vandalize and rob the structures.

But forget legality and look at the pool itself; what is a pool in its most basic form? A 10-foot-deep hole in the ground.

Most of the vandalism happens at night; how no one has been unfortunate enough to fall into the pit is amazing. If they do, you know a lawsuit is pending. A cat once fell into the pool,

Please see **POOL DEMO**, page 5

A question and an answer?

Carole, who faithfully reads the column in the Wilbraham-Hampden Times each week, wrote in with this question for the Garden Lady:

"I am hoping you can provide me with some advice as to how to rid my garden of an incredibly invasive plant. It is called *Houttuynia cordata* or chameleon plant. I bought a single variegated plant about 25 years ago and now I literally have hundreds of them in my gardens and lawn. The plant is no longer variegated but reverted to green with red around the edges. For at least three or four years, I have been trying to dig them out one by one which has been extremely difficult due to the long roots - some can be over a foot long - which become intertwined with other plants, choking them. I have not been very successful, despite spending hours at a time. And I painstakingly try to get every piece of root out. I am not sure if they are spreading solely through the roots or also from the flower pod seeds.

I notice they also spread under my brick walkway even though they get no sun there. It's been very frustrating. For that reason, I am considering using a herbicide, but am concerned that it might poison nearby plants or may not be effective due to the long roots. Yet, at this point, I am open to the idea. I look forward to any suggestions you may have.

Incidentally, I just learned from the internet that it is considered to be a medicinal herb, which I find quite shocking, given how much I

have come to dislike them! Thank you very much for your time and assistance."



Happy to help, Carole! It's funny you mention that this plant is a medicinal herb.

Some years back I was taking extract of Japanese Knotweed, another invasive plant, in my quest to cure late stage Lyme Disease. I guess most plants have some merit although some times it's hard to want to admit it, especially in the situation you are in.

While I have never grown *Houttuynia cordata*, I have dealt with similar invasive plants. Not always have I been successful, but here are a few tactics you can try.

If there is a way to smother, go for it. Try black plastic, a thick tarp or cardboard covered in mulch.

Eventually, if the plant can't photosynthesize, it will die.

You are smart to try and remove every little bit of root when hand digging it out; it's kind of amazing how a tiny piece will start a whole new plant. For that reason, never take the rototiller to a patch of any invasive plant, especially those that spread by rhizomes. The roots will be dispersed throughout the garden.

I also read about cutting the stems of the plants and then "painting" the open cuts with herbicide. To me that

sounds like a smart plan to get the chemical right to the roots. Time consuming, but targeted.

I'll be curious to know how you make out trying to rid your landscape of this plant.

Diane, who gardens in West Chesterfield, had a possible solution for my hyacinths getting cut off at the soil line.

"We had a great disappointment this spring when something chopped off most of our cultivated black berries. When I was trying to prune what was left and save something I found the stalks laying on the ground but the tops were eaten. It looked like someone took a clean angle sweep with a hatchet to cut down the stalks. Then one evening at dusk we saw the culprit. It was about a 60 pound porcupine! He was chomping on our wild white rose bushes. He would bite the stalks off but since the rest of the bush wouldn't let the branch fall, he couldn't eat the top. What a mess. When I read your article I was thinking this might be the answer to the mystery."

Hmm, I will have to keep on the look out for a porcupine; you never know.

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.



By Ellenor Downer

The green heron is solitary at most seasons and often somewhat secretive, living around small bodies of water or densely vegetated areas.

When seen in the open, it often flicks its tail nervously and raises and lowers its crest.

The small heron is about 16 to 22 inches long. The green on this bird's back is an iridescent color and often looks dull bluish or simply dark.

They have orange yellow legs, chestnut neck, black crown feathers. Young birds are duller and brown with a striped neck.

Northern birds migrates as far as Panama and northern South American. Green herons in the most southern



John Kunhardt of Belchertown took this photo of a green heron catching a fish at Lake Wallace.

states do not migrate. Green herons inhabit coasts and shorelines, forests and woodlands, freshwater wetlands, lakes, ponds, rivers and saltwater wetlands. Their call is a sharp "kyowk" or "skyow."

They nest in a wide variety of situations, including willow thickets, mangroves, dry woods and open marsh. The female lays three to five pale green or blue green

eggs. Both the male and female incubate the eggs which takes 19 to 21 days.

The male chooses nesting territory and calls repeatedly from prominent perch in tree or shrub. Displays of male include stretching neck forward and down and snapping bill shut, pointing bill straight upward while swaying back and forth. Male and female may perform display flights around territory. Nest

site is usually in shrub or tree 5-30 feet above ground, but sometimes on the ground.

It is often very close to water, but it can be quite distant away. The nest is a platform of sticks. The male begins construction, then female builds while male brings materials.

Both parents also feed their young by regurgitation. Young begin to climb about near nest by 16-17 days after hatching, usually make first flight at 21-23 days.

They are fed by parents for a few more weeks. Young are reportedly capable of swimming well. These herons have one to two broods per year.

These herons forage mostly by standing still or stalking very slowly at edge of shallow water, waiting for prey to approach. Sometimes they uses bait" by dropping a feather or small twig on surface of water to lure fish within striking distance.

They eat mostly small fish, but will also eat crayfish and other crustaceans, aquatic insects, frogs and tadpoles.

Other items include grasshoppers, snakes, earthworms, snails and small rodents.

Black and white warbler

My daughter, Paula, saw a black and white warbler by the cross country trail at Quabbin Regional High School last week. As the name implies, the warbler has black and white feathers with black streaking on the breast and white wing bars, white eye line and white belly.

Red shouldered hawk

A Montgomery resident had a red shouldered hawk in her yard. She sent a photo of it in flight.

Whippoorwill

I received an email on May 15 from a Belchertown resident. She stated, "The whippoorwill is back in my yard again this year. The calls starts around dark and continue off and on till sunrise. She or he perches on the

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 5

WARE RIVER NEWS

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

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

Send opinions to:
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Letter to the Editor
24 Water St.,
Palmer, MA 01069
or via email to:
pouimette@turley.com

The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

Turley Election Policy

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

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

Visit us on the web
www.turley.com

Paige Memorial Library lists events for June

HARDWICK –Due to the annual town meeting on Saturday, June 6 at 9 a.m., the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, will be opening from noon-4 p.m. instead of regular hours.

June events

Drawing Tessellations with Liz Buck will be held on Saturday, June 6, at 2 p.m. Create interlocking patterns inspired by M.C. Escher. Create your own piece using pencil and adding color and/or details. Open to all.

This program will also be offered on Tuesday, June 9.

STEM Workshop: Build Your World will be held on Thursday, June 11, at 6 p.m.

The EcoTarium of Worcester is presenting a free program for grades K-six. Explore forces and motion in small groups by planning, testing, building, and improving a way to cross a model river with only simple materials.

June 13 will be Dad's Day at the Paige Memorial Library. Bring your "Someone Special" to celebrate with a craft.

June 23 is the first day of Dig into Reading, the Paige Memorial Library's Summer Reading program. Dig into some great themes including plants and botany, history, dinosaurs, archeology and paleontology.

There will be challenges and prizes for children and adults.

Ongoing activities

Story Time with interactive activities is held every Wednesday from 10:30 a.m.-noon.

Join the Paige Book Club, the Cookbook Club, Celebrate Hardwick, the Ongoing Book Sale, the Paige Writers, Paige's "Page to Screen" book to movie discussion group, and the Movie Festival Committee.

Check out the library's Facebook page and website at www.facebook.com/paigelibrary/ and www.paigelibrary.com/

People may also call 413-477-6704 or email paigelibrary.hardwick@gmail.com.

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.

Hardwick's annual town meeting this Saturday

Staff Report

HARDWICK – The annual town meeting will be held on Saturday, June 6 at 9 a.m. at Hardwick Elementary School, 76 School House Drive, Gilbertville.

Article 1

To see if the town will vote to accept the reports of all officers and committees as printed in the 2025 Annual Report.

Article 2

To see if the town will vote to transfer a sum of money from available funds in the treasury to meet overdrawn and unprovided for accounts in the prior fiscal years.

Article 3

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds in the treasury, borrow or any combination thereof, a sum of money to meet deficits or unforeseen costs for fiscal year 2026 snow and ice removal.

Article 4

To see if the town will allow the Board of Assessors to appoint one of its members to a full-time position.

Article 5

To see if the town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Sale of Lots Fund Account to the Cemetery Commission Expense Account for the care, improvement and embellishment or enlargement of Town cemeteries, including all costs incidental and related thereto.

Article 7

To see if the town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Sale of Lots Fund Account to the Perpetual Care Account.

Article 8

To see if the town will vote to rescind the unused borrowing authorities voted under previous Town Meeting articles.

Article 9

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate from sewer revenues, a sum of money to the Water Pollution Control Facilities Enterprise Fund for the operation of the Gilbertville and Wheelwright Water Pollution Control Facilities and all supporting apparatus, including all costs incidental and related thereto.

Article 10

To see if the town will vote to transfer and appropriate a sum of money from the Sewer Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings to the Sewer Enterprise Fund for

the purpose purchasing and equipping 2026 Ford F250, including all costs incidental and related thereto.

Article 11

To see if the town will vote to transfer from the Capital Stabilization Fund, a sum of money to pay for one-year's lease payments for the Highway Department truck.

Article 12

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds in the treasury, borrow or any combination thereof, a sum of money to pay the necessary town charges for the Fiscal Year 2027 beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027.

Article 13

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds in the treasury, borrow or any combination thereof, a sum of money for the Stabilization Fund.

Article 14

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds in the treasury, borrow or any combination thereof, a sum of money for the Capital Stabilization Fund.

Article 15

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise fund a sum of money to the Reserve Fund.

Article 16

To see if the town will vote to transfer from available funds in prior years' warrant articles a sum of money for the Capital Stabilization Fund.

Article 17

To see if the town will vote to accept Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53F34, which establishes a special revenue fund known as the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund, to reserve cable franchise fees and other cable-related revenues for appropriation to support PEG access services and oversight and renewal of the cable franchise agreement, said fund to begin operations for fiscal year 2027, beginning July 1, 2026.

Article 18

To see if the town will vote to accept the second paragraph of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 60, section 2, which allows the tax collector to abate any unpaid tax which the collector determines was assessed on a valuation insufficient to meet the charges or expenses of collection, or if any other committed tax is unpaid and

POOL DEMO from page 4

could not find a way out and drowned.

Eventually, the structures by themselves will decay to the point of collapsing. Eventually, someone will get the idea of arson; then we risk the lives of firemen.

To build a new pool complex in the same site, the existing one must be demolished. To never build a new pool complex, the existing

1000' elevation and runs north/south about a half a mile east of our house."

They stated, "On a Thursday a raven was in the driveway where I throw a seed mix daily for ground feeders. I saw the bird from inside the garage, my wife saw it with binoculars from inside the house."

They stated, "We both noticed the larger size, bigger than the American Crows that often feed in the same

one must be demolished for the safety of everyone.

The cost will only go up; there are no grants for demolishing anything. This is a one-time cost: once the pool is gone and the site cleaned, all options are open to do something or nothing.

Do not vote to dismiss this article. Demolish the pool and its associated structures for safety and cost efficiency.

Denis R. Ouimette
Ware

area. I noticed the wedged shaped tail when it flew away and my wife saw larger, heavier bill and the shaggy throat feathers." A few days later they saw three ravens.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

is less than \$25.

Article 19

To see if the town will vote to accept Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59, section 57A, which provides that a notice of preliminary tax or actual tax bill for real estate or personal property taxes, in an amount not in excess of \$100, shall be due and payable in one installment and if unpaid after the day the first installment of the notice of preliminary tax or actual tax bill for the year is due, shall be subject to interest at the same rate and from the same date as any delinquent preliminary or actual tax first installment.

Article 20

To see if the town will vote to accept Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, section 54(b) to allow town trust funds to be invested in accordance with the General Law Chapter 203C, the so-called "Prudent Investment Rule."

Article 21

To see if the town will vote to accept Massachusetts General Law Chapter 64G, Section 3A to impose a local excise tax upon the transfer of occupancy of any room or rooms in a bed and breakfast establishment, hotel, lodging house, short-term rental or motel located within the Town at the rate of 6%.

Article 22

To see if the town will amend the General Bylaws under "ARTICLE #V - Board of Selectmen - Section 6 - DEPARTMENTAL REVOLVING FUND BY-LAW" by amending the Cemetery Commission Fund RESTRICTIONS OR CONDITIONS ON EXPENSES PAYABLE FROM FUND, from "Not to exceed \$5000.00" to "Not to exceed \$11,500.00."

Article 23

To see if the town will amend the General Bylaws under "ARTICLE #V - Board of Selectmen - Section

6 - DEPARTMENTAL REVOLVING FUND BY-LAW" by amending the Planning Board Fund RESTRICTIONS OR CONDITIONS ON EXPENSES PAYABLE FROM FUND, from "Not to exceed \$3,000.00" to "Not to exceed \$5,000.00."

Article 24

To see if the town will vote to appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds, an amount of money to be expended under the direction of the Quabbin Regional School District for the roof project at Hardwick Elementary School's feasibility study, 531 Lower Road, Gilbertville, MA 01031, including all costs incidental and related thereto, for which feasibility study the Town may be eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority. This requires a two-thirds majority vote.

Article 25

To see if the town will authorize the Select Board to acquire, on behalf of the town, by gift, for library purposes, the parcel of land with the building thereon known as the Gilbertville Public Library, located at 259 Main St., described in a deed recorded with the Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Book 1766, Page 347 and shown on Assessors' Map 59, Lot 8.

Article 26

To see if the town will vote to adopt the following resolution:

"WHEREAS eighty-eight years ago, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts disincorporated and flooded four towns (Dana, Prescott, Greenwich, and Enfield) in the Swift River Valley so that eastern Massachusetts could grow, aided by sufficient pristine drinking water, and

WHEREAS creation of the Quabbin Reservoir demanded the dismantling of more than 1,100 structures, including upwards of 650 homes; the exhumation

of more than 7,600 graves across 34 cemeteries; the stoppage of robust north-south rail service; the scuttling of west-east rail planning; and the shuttering of businesses and industry, and

WHEREAS families who had lived in the Swift River Valley for generations were forced to give up their homes and properties, and

WHEREAS today the 119,940-acre Quabbin Reservoir watershed is both publicly and privately held and the Hardwick and other watershed towns help to steward an invaluable 412-billion-gallon resource, and

WHEREAS Hardwick and other watershed towns work to ensure compliance with state and federal water protection regulations through volunteer and municipally funded positions, and

WHEREAS Hardwick and other watershed towns routinely forgo economic development opportunities to protect the water quality, even when those opportunities could catalyze our strangled economy,

BE IT RESOLVED that Hardwick and other watershed towns are united in our request for more just recompense for the region's historic sacrifice and our current service we join together seeking:

1. Increased regional representation on the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority Board of Directors and Board of Advisors;

2. Establishment of a Quabbin community trust fund for the purposes of meeting municipal needs such as potable water access and public safety services; and

3. Reconfiguration of the payment in lieu of taxes structure to much better recognize the value of New Salem and other watershed towns stewardship of the pristine and world-class Quabbin Reservoir."

TOWN OF WARE

Ware Town Hall – 126 Main Street
Ware Town Hall Meeting Room
Ware, MA 01082

Hybrid Public Hearing – Monday, June 22, 2026 6:30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/join>
Meeting ID: 784 604 1861
Passcode: 01082

Join by Phone
929-205-6099
Meeting ID: 784 604 1861

Ware FY25 CDBG Proposed Program & Budget Amendment

The Ware Community Development Authority (CDA) will conduct a Public Hearing on Monday, June 22nd, 2026, starting at 6:30 PM. The hearing will be conducted in a hybrid format and interested parties may attend in person at the Ware Town Hall or join via the Zoom link or phone number provided above.

The purpose of the Hearing is to present a proposed program and budget amendment to the Town's FY2025 Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program award funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities.

The proposed amendment will redistribute public social service funding received through the grant award. A total of \$45,135 awarded to the Planned Approach to Community Health (PATCH) Program will be split evenly between the Ware Adult Learning Center, Ware Senior Outreach Program, and Ware Domestic Violence Prevention Program. The PATCH program will not be funded by this FY25 CDBG award. The additional funding provided to the three programs moving forward will support their grant-funded contracts.

Any person or organization with questions or comments will have an opportunity to be heard. The Ware Town Hall is handicapped accessible. Written comments will be received by the Town through June 22nd at 3:00 PM. Written comments will be read aloud during the hearing. For further information contact Paralee Smith, Director of Planning and Community Development at (413) 967-9648 x118 or psmith@townofware.com.

BACKYARD from page 4

roof and calls all night. It can be very annoying as you are trying to sleep, but I still feel blessed or cursed."

Common Ravens

A Brimfield couple had common ravens in their yard last month. They stated in an email, "We mostly hear them and sometimes see them flying over a local feature called West Mountain that is about

public safety

Ware Police Log

During the week of May 12-19, the Ware Police Department responded to 28 miscellaneous calls, 23 administrative calls, 11 traffic violations, 12 emergency 911 calls, eight harassments/stalks/threats, eight trespasses, one theft/larceny, four disturbances, one damage/vandalism, four fire calls, one breaking and entering, four safety hazards, 11 animal calls and 12 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

Tuesday, May 19

6:56 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 8:15 a.m. Suspicious/Wanted, North Street, Services Rendered
 2:50 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted, West Street, Investigated
 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
Wednesday, May 20
 10:59 a.m. Theft/Larceny, Palmer Road, Investigated
 11:02 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Palmer Road, Investigated
 5:41 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, South Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 6:02 p.m. Fire Complaint, Pleasant Street, Investigated

Thursday, May 21

10:04 a.m. Trespass/Unwanted, North Street, Services Rendered
 4:49 p.m. Trespass/

Unwanted, Aspen Grove Cemetery, Advised
 9:47 p.m. Structure Fire, Otis Avenue, Extinguished
 10:12 p.m. Structure Fire, Sherwin Street, Services Rendered
 11:19 p.m. DUI/Impaired, West Street, Services Rendered

Friday, May 22

12:07 a.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Bank Street, Arrest Made
 9:37 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Mountain View Drive, Services Rendered
 9:45 a.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Pulaski Street, Advised
 10:36 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Church Street, Dispatch Handled
 3:13 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, North Street, Services Rendered
 5:50 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, King Street, Dispatch Handled
 9:54 p.m. Outside Fire, Howard Road, Investigated
 9:59 p.m. Breaking and Entering/Burglary, North Street, Services Rendered

Saturday, May 23

1:49 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Eddy Street, Services Rendered
 2:25 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Palmer Road, Could Not Locate
 3:55 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Otis Avenue, Could Not Locate
 4:02 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Hutchinson Road, No Action Required
 7:56 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Gilbertville Road, Advised

Sunday, May 24

3:44 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Highland Village, Advised
 3:59 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, North Street, Arrest Made
 4:12 p.m. Damage/Vandalism/Mischief, Otis Avenue, Report Made
 5:56 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Ragged Hill Road,

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.

Advised

8:46 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Woodland Heights, Dispatch Handled
 10:34 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Church Street, Investigated

Monday, May 25

5:40 a.m. Safety Hazard, South Street, Complaint Taken Care Of
 10:27 a.m. Weapons/Firearms, Morse Avenue, Investigated
 12:33 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Palmer Road, Investigated

Tuesday, May 26

12:40 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Services Rendered
 3:21 a.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, West Main Street, Arrest Made
 11:22 a.m. Trespass/Unwanted, West Street, Services Rendered
 4:38 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Mirabile Drive, Advised

Wednesday, May 27

7:53 a.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Cherry Street, Investigated

Warren Police Log

During the week of May 10-16, the Warren Police Department responded to 191 building/property checks, one community policing, 11 emergency 911 calls, three complaints, three safety hazards, three motor vehicle accidents, two larcenies/thefts, one fraud, one identity theft, one harassment, one property damage, two animal calls and nine motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Sunday, May 10

4:52 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Winthrop Terrace, Transported to Hospital
 12:52 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned, Heritage Drive, Officer Spoke to Party
 12:55 p.m. Follow-up Investigation, Old West Warren Road, Criminal Complaint
 4:57 p.m. Noise Complaint, Comins Pond Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 6:41 p.m. 911 Transfer, Mass Pike, Call Transferred
 11:59 p.m. Seizures, Coy Hill Road, Transported to Hospital

Monday, May 11

12:15 p.m. Welfare Check, Main Street, Mutual Aid Assist
 12:56 p.m. Breathing Difficulty, Old Douglas Road, Mutual Aid Transport
 1:54 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Cronin Road, Officer/Chief Advised

Tuesday, May 12

1:03 a.m. Suspicious Person, Southbridge Road, Public Assist
 7:44 a.m. Stroke (CVA), Reed Street, Transported to Hospital
 8:37 a.m. Complaint, Crouch Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 10:03 a.m. Identity Theft, Brimfield Road, Report Filed
 11:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brook Road, Criminal Complaint
 2:56 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Brimfield Road, Advised Civil Action
 5:33 p.m. Harassment, Brimfield Road, Report Filed

Wednesday, May 13

3:29 p.m. Neighbor Dispute, Winthrop Terrace, Officer Spoke to Party
 6:34 a.m. Suspicious Person, East Road, Report Filed
 8:55 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle, Main Street, Call Transferred
 10:51 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Brook Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 12:32 p.m. Property Damage, Crouch Road, Report Filed
 4:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brimfield Road, Written Warning
 4:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brimfield Road, Written Warning
 7:45 p.m. Breathing Difficulty, Brook Road, Transported to Hospital

Thursday, May 14

12:31 a.m. Safety Concern, South Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 2:38 a.m. Larceny or Theft, Winthrop Terrace, Officer/Chief Advised
 4:28 p.m. Power Lines Down, Brook Road, Referred to Other Agency
 5:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brimfield Road, Citation Issued
 10:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, East Road, Report Filed
 11:32 p.m. Safety Concern, Main Street, Area Patrolled

Friday, May 15

4:21 a.m. Welfare Check, Old West Brookfield Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 4:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Boston Post Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 7:38 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road Extension, Written Warning
 11:49 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Reed Street, Transported to Hospital
 12:07 p.m. Neighbor Dispute, Main Street, Report Filed

Saturday, May 16

12:22 a.m. Noise Complaint, Coy Hill Road, Unfounded
 9:09 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 4:15 p.m. Safety Concern, Chapel Street, Gone On Arrival

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of May 25-June 1, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 73 building/property checks, 40 directed/area patrols, 19 radar assignments, one traffic control, seven emergency 911 calls, six citizen assists, seven investigations, one motor vehicle investigation, six complaints, two safety hazards, one motor vehicle accident, 10 motor vehicle stops and three motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Activity, Barre Road, Officer Handled

Tuesday, May 26

7:03 a.m. Assist Citizen, Barre Road, Officer Handled
 7:24 a.m. 911 Animal Call, Main Street, Services Rendered
 10:45 a.m. Suspicious Activity, Hardwick Road, Negative Contact
 11:30 a.m. Investigation, Barre Road, Officer Handled
 4:45 p.m. 911 Assist Citizen, Patrill Hollow Road, Officer Handled
 6:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, Bridge Street, Officer Handled
 7:01 p.m. Complaint, Prouty Road, Spoken To

Wednesday, May 27

6:29 a.m. Complaint, Prouty Road, Officer Handled
 7:11 a.m. Complaint,

Barre Road, Officer Handled
 2:05 p.m. Investigation, Barre Road, Officer Handled
 3:26 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 6:41 p.m. Complaint, Main Street, Officer Handled

Thursday, May 28

3:06 a.m. Investigation, Barre Road, Officer Handled
 3:25 a.m. Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital
 9:22 a.m. Investigation, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled
 10:49 a.m. Complaint, Lower Road, Spoken To
 5 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Referred to Other Agency

Friday, May 29

1:07 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Negative Contact
 5:12 a.m. Investigation, Barre Road, Officer Handled
 7:09 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 11:09 a.m. Assist Citizen, Petersham Road, Services Rendered
 1:56 p.m. Fire/Other, Sessions Road, Services Rendered
 3:30 p.m. Complaint, Muddy Brook Road, Spoken To

Saturday, May 30

10:34 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Old Petersham Road, Services Rendered
 11:44 a.m. Safety Hazard, Chagnon Road, Officer Handled
 12 p.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Road, Services Rendered

Sunday, May 31

12:09 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Services Rendered
 12:43 p.m. Suspicious Activity, School House Drive, Officer Handled
 1:09 p.m. 911 Animal Call, Main Street, Merge

Town Wide Tag Sale to be held June 20-21

WARE – The Town Wide Tag Sale to benefit the Ware Center Meeting House will be held on Saturday, June 20 and Sunday, June 21 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m., either or both days. Hosted by the Proprietors of the Ware Center Meeting House Inc., a nonprofit that owns the Meeting House and

runs the tag sale as a benefit for the Meeting House restoration.

The tag sale will be held rain or shine.

A donation of \$20 will list your tag sale on the official map. Sign up at www.ware-centermeetinghouse.org or mail a check to WCMH, P.O.

Box 1401, Ware, MA 01082 by June 13.

If mailing a check, please include your email, dates you will be selling and the address of the sale.

Maps will be available at the Ware Center Meeting House, 295 Belchertown Road.

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G.E. 27 CU. FT. FRENCH DOOR REFRIGERATOR REG. \$1999.99 \$1499.99	5 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER REG. \$699.99 \$499.99	AMANA WASHER OR DRYER REG. \$599.99 \$489.99	ENERGY STAR 18 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR REG. \$699.99 \$599.99
FAMOUS-MAKER OVER-THE-STOVE MICROWAVE REG. \$249.99 \$229.99	LG WASHER OR DRYER Front Load - REG. \$1599.99 \$1,399.99	MAYTAG DELUXE WASHER OR DRYER REG. \$699.99 \$499.99	FRIGIDAIRE SIDE BY SIDE REG. \$1,499.00 \$1099.99

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Kelly A. Hudson, 63

WARE – Kelly Hudson of Ware passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her family on Friday, May 29, 2026.

Throughout her life she served on local committees and boards. Some include the Ware Public School committee, Conservation Committee, By-law Committee and the Board of directors for Channel 15. As well as many years volunteering at Ware Schools.



Kelly loved to travel, antiquing, sewing, making candy and collecting cookie jars. Most of all she loved her holidays with her family.

Kelly leaves behind her husband Dave, her sister Dawn (Bob), her two daughters Amanda and Diane (Billy) her four grandchildren: Bryant, Gav, Ronan and Emmie. Her adopted family Gary (JoAnn) David (Lynn) Lori, Yolanda (Gary), Debbie and

numerous nieces and nephews. Special thank you to her niece, Alecia, for her loving and compassionate care during Kelly's final years.

We are grateful for the comfort provided by Harmony Hospice.

A Gathering of Family and Friends will take place on Saturday, June 6, 2026 from noon-2 p.m., in Cebula Funeral Home, 66 South St., Ware. The Gathering will conclude with a Prayer.

In lieu of flowers please donate to the Alzheimer's association.

Barbara Staiti, 79

WARE – Barbara, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, passed away peacefully on May 30, 2026, surrounded by her family after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease.



Born on Oct. 2, 1946, in Schenectady, New York, she lived a life centered on family, kindness, and love.

She shared a devoted marriage with her husband, Gary Staiti, and together they raised four daughters: Rebecca Cantwell of Belchertown, Tamara Young (Derrick) of Smithville, Tennessee, Dawn Anderson (James), and Leslie Wallace (Anthony) of Ware.

Barbara was a proud Nana to Shawn (Heather), Joey (Shannon), Kristy, DJ (Ashleigh), Olivia, Camryn, Dominique, and her eight great-grandchildren. She leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and treasured memories.

Known for her warm heart, home-cooked meals, and generous spirit, Barbara made everyone feel welcome. She loved cooking for family and friends, and her recipes and traditions will live on through those she loved.

Barbara was also known for her award-winning dart

skills, love of music and dancing, creativity, and excelled at everything she attempted. She proudly retired from the United States Postal Service after many years of dedicated service.

Above all, Barbara loved people. Her kindness, humor, and unconditional love touched countless lives and will never be forgotten.

While her family will miss her deeply, they find comfort knowing she has been reunited with her mother, sister, and best friend.

All are invited to her calling hours on Sunday, June 7, 2026 from 5-7 p.m. at Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St., Ware, MA 01082. A Mass of Christian Burial is Monday, June 8, 2026 at 10 a.m. at All Saints Catholic Church, 17 North St., Ware, MA 01082 followed by burial in Quabbin Park Cemetery, Ware.

In honor of Barbara, the family encourages everyone to share a meal with someone they love, tell a story, share a laugh, and remember the joy she brought to so many. Memorial donations in Barbara's memory may be made to: Shriners Children's New England, Office of Philanthropy, 516 Carew St., Springfield, MA 01104

Death notices

Hudson, Kelly A.
Died May 29, 2026
Services June 6, 2026

Kryzak, Joseph Sebastian
Died Jan. 20, 2026
Services June 16, 2026

Pariseau, Richard W.
Died May 23, 2026

Rucki, Richard S.
Died May 27, 2026
Services June 4, 2026

Staiti, Barbara
Died May 30, 2026
Services June 8, 2026

Witt Sr., Daniel C.
Died May 27, 2026
Services June 6, 2026

Joseph Sebastian Kryzak, 69

LUDLOW – Joseph Sebastian Kryzak, age 69, passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2026, at Baystate Hospital in Springfield after an illness.

Joseph was born in Ware on Feb. 24, 1956, son of the late Joseph Kryzak and Anna (Parzek) Kryzak. He was raised and educated in Ware, resided in Ware and Florida, before eventually moving to Ludlow.

Joe was employed as a laborer for the former Hershey foundry in Gilbertville.

He will be remembered

as a man with a big heart, easy going, with an ever-present smile on his face. Joe will be missed by those who knew and loved him.

He leaves behind his nephews Robert Joseph Kryzak and Dennis Kryzak Jr. his niece, Theresa LaFleur, his long time friend and caregiver, William "Bill" Methot and sister in law, Mary Kryzak Stupski. Besides his parents, Joseph Kryzak (1999), Anna Kryzak (1981)



he was predeceased by his "angel" wife Lisa F. (Conklin) Kryzak (2010), his brothers Clifford Kryzak (2002), Albert Kryzak (2024) and Dennis Kryzak (2026).

Joe will be placed to rest on Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Church, 59 South St., Ware.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Cebula Funeral Home, 66 South St., Ware.

Richard W. Pariseau, 91

WARE – Richard Walter Pariseau, age 91, passed away peacefully at his residence in Ware on Saturday, May 23, 2026.

Richard was born in Ware on Aug. 7, 1934, son of the late Walter Pariseau and Medora (Provost) Pariseau.

Raised and educated in Ware, he attended Ware High School and was a graduate of Springfield Trade School. He received an associate's degree from STCC.

Richard served as the appointed Fire Chief for the Town of Ware from 1980-1989. Richard was a long-time resident of Ormond Beach, Florida.

He served in the Army National Guard and was a

member of AMVETS.

Richard was a Fourth Degree Member of the Knights of Columbus and served in its Color Guard for many years. He was also a long-time member of the Elks Lodge of Springfield.

Richard was a devout Catholic, attending daily mass. He was a communicant of All Saints Church in Ware.

Richard had a special place in his heart for St. Anne's Shrine in Fiskdale, attending masses and the annual St. Anne Novena in July.

Richard volunteered as a funeral attendant for Cebula Funeral Home for many years. On April 25, 1959, Richard entered into Holy Matrimony with Victoria

Wolkowicz. Together side by side, through good times and bad, sickness and health, they have been married for 67 years.

Richard leaves behind his beloved wife, Victoria (Wolkowicz) Pariseau, nephews; Joseph Wolkowicz and his wife Cate, and Nick Wolkowicz, great-nephews and niece, and many additional nephews and nieces.

Cremation took place in Springfield Cemetery & Crematory. Funeral Services will take place at the convenience of his family.

Cebula Funeral Home is assisting his family with the final arrangements. For more information and an online guestbook, please visit: www.cebulafuneralhome.com.

Richard S. Rucki, 85

WARE – The family of Richard Stefan Rucki, Home.

In honor of his beloved wife, Richard was especially proud to have established the Rachel Rucki Memorial Golf Tournament.



A devoted sports fan, Richard could always be found cheering on his favorite Boston teams; the Red Sox, Patriots and Celtics. He also enjoyed bowling, golfing and playing cards.

He treasured time spent with his wife, his family and his friends. He will be remembered for his kindness, loyalty, humor and generous spirit.

Richard is survived by his daughter, Donna Lynn Rucki; his grandsons, Benjamin Richard Clifford and his wife, Megan Rogalski, and Alexander Herve Clifford and his partner, Mickey Barron; his brothers, Francis Rucki, Ron Rucki, Robert Rucki and his wife Donna, and Len Rucki and his wife Valerie; and his great-nephew Danny Rucki. He also leaves behind countless nieces and nephews and dear friends.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Rachel (Briere) Rucki; his brother, Stephen Rucki and sisters, Christine Rucki and Irene Podbelski.

Richard's family would like to thank all those who offered love, support and friendship throughout his life. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered by all who knew and loved him.

A Funeral Mass will be offered on Thursday, June 4, 2026, at 10 a.m. in All Saints Church, Ware. Inurnment will follow the funeral mass in Mount Carmel Cemetery, Ware. There are no calling hours.

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

Daniel C. Witt Sr., 81

WARE – Daniel C. Witt Sr., 81, passed away peacefully at his home on Wednesday, May 27, 2026.

His wife of 60 years, Susan Jean Witt predeceased him in 2023.

He is survived by his children: Theresa S. DeSantis and her husband Dean of Arizona,



Daniel C. Witt, Jr. and his wife Kelly of Ware; and his grandchildren: Stephanie Witt of Palmer, Madison Witt of Ware and Jacob Witt of Ware; his great-grandchildren: Gabriel, Elliana, Malani and Phoenix; his siblings: Connie Witt of Hamden, Robert "Skipper" Witt and his wife Debbie of Hardwick and Bambi McQuaid and her husband John of Ware; his brother-in-law: Louis Lessard of Ware and Joseph Wnek of Springfield, his sister-in-laws: Diane Frazier and her husband Bob of Springfield, Judy Pariseau and her husband Roger of Ware and Jean Tapke of New York; dearest friends/neighbors Fran and Stacy Anair and children,

Bob and Teri Taylor and children, Ronald "Uncle Ronnie" Hebert and his wife Julie of South Carolina; along with several nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. His sister's Pam Carpenter and Tammy Lessard predeceased him.

Danny was raised in Belchertown and Ware, the son of the late Robert M. and Virginia (Pero) Witt where he attended Ware High School. He worked for many years with the Hersey and Palmer Foundries and later worked as a groundskeeper with Kanzaki Paper in Ware until his retirement.

Danny enjoyed his Harley Davidson and his 1947 Ford Convertible which he personally restored many times.

He loved listening to music, going to the movies and having movie nights with his grandkids where he eagerly declared himself the candy and snack aficionado. Known to many as "The go to guy", if you were repairing your car, building a home, garage or general yard main-

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.

tenance, Danny always made himself available to provide help.

He enjoyed the outdoors, specifically gardening, yard work and mostly the time he could spend with his family.

All are invited to his visitation on Saturday, June 6, 2026, from 9-10:30 a.m. at Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St., Ware, MA 01082 followed by a graveside service at noon in New St. William Cemetery, West Main Street, Ware.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Danny's memory may be made to: St Jude at www.stjude.org and or To Plant Tree's in Memory at www.shop.alivingtribute.org.

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warren

Robbins presents a history of Local Capitalism in Warren

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Warren Public Library welcomed Jeff Robbins to present the history of Local Capitalism in Warren.

Robbins is a former history teacher at Quaboag Regional Middle High School and a board member of the Quaboag Historical Society. Robbins thanked the Warren Public Library for the invitation to give this informative and fun presentation.

A while back, Robbins conducted some research and wrote a paper on the commercial enterprises that shaped the growth and development of Warren and West Brookfield. This presentation recognizes the history of local capitalism in Warren from 1870-1900. Robbins describes this time period as the peak of capitalism.

Robbins began with sharing a brief history of Warren, which was sent by the name “Western” up until 1834 when it was named after General Joseph Warren.

“A very fitting homage to that great patriot,” Robbins said.

A presentation about General Warren was given at the library by Ed Londergan, who mentioned that there are over 50 communities in the United States that are named after Warren, who died in 1775 at the Battle of Bunker Hill/Breeds Hill.

Robbins provided pictures of various locations in Warren that housed many manufacturers. When you travel through rural New England, you know you’ll come across a sawmill, gristmill, old grocery stores and markets.

One of the locations was Fairbanks Hall, which housed several businesses. The hall burned in 1868. There was also the Benjamin Tripp boot and shoe manufacturing building which ran from 1868 to 1916.

Robbins said in Warren, the employment was over 3,000 people working in the shoe industry in the community within 25 miles. At this time, the Industrial Revolution had now been in operation for decades. By the 1870s, there was a rise in manufacturing.

Railroads began to increase all over the nation. In this area, the biggest one was Boston to Albany.

Railroads were the model of efficiency and helping the increase of manufacturing. In Warren, anything made could go anywhere.

“The railroad is the key to this growth,” Robbins said.

Robbins shared a map of railroad growth from New England to expanding towards the Midwest and the South from 1850-1880.

Robbins shared names of various manufacturing companies that thrived from 1870-1900. He shared a picture of one of the cotton mills that operated from 1875 to 1938. The Knowles Steam Pump Company came in and helped move water. In Warren, around 5,000 pumps were made per year by the 1880s.

Robbins asked the audience at the Warren Public Library if they had any relatives who worked in the pump shops. There was a good number of hands raised.

Robbins talked about William Ramsdell, one of the main investors in manufacturing in Warren, including the pump shop. Ramsdell also had a shoe manufacturing operation and also built the Hotel Ramsdell in 1886. Ramsdell was a very much

involved man in Town. The Hotel Ramsdell was a fancy establishment back in the 1880s. Robbins had photos of various rooms and artifacts that were inside the hotel.

Robbins shared a list of specialty manufacturing companies from the 1870s and onward. There were Warren Cotton Mills, Sayles & Jenks, MK Whipple Co., Bradford Yarn Company, Boots & Shoe, Knowles Steam Pump Company (Warren Pumps), and J and I.E. Moore Company that made ink.

There was also Slater Engine Company or Perkins Machine. AW Crossman worked on edged tools such as chisels and other edged tools and has been manufacturing as early as 1853 in West Warren.

Some of Crossman’s brick buildings in West Warren still stand today with some right off Main Street. Torkelson Manufacturing was a firearms manufacturer, and Robbins had some pictures of Torkelson branded items.

Robbins talked about the Warren, Brookfield, and Spencer Street Railway Company, a streetcar compa-

ny that ran from 1896-1917. You can only imagine what it was like riding in an inner urban or electric car through your towns.

Towards the end of his presentation Robbins shared some interesting statistics about manufacturing. From 1870-1900, the value of manufactured goods had an 86% increase. From 1900-1940, there was a 98% decrease. This is based on the US census.

For Worcester County, 1870-1900 had a 70% increase in manufacturing. From 1900-1940, there was a 65% decrease. There were a lot of competing markets that came about. At this time, Warren had a good working environment.

Robbins also acknowledged the great agricultural element the Town has. Breezelands Orchards has been running since 1896.

A lot of Robbins’ research came from local books about Warren and an atlas from Worcester County, which was a reference item. Robbins thanked everyone for getting a chance to speak about the Local Capitalism in Warren back in the late 1800s.

Warren Library hosts owl program at Senior Center

WARREN – The Warren Public Library will host an owl program at the Warren Senior Center, 2252 Main St., West Warren, on Saturday, June 6 at 1 p.m.

Owls are all over New England, but how often do you get to see them up close? Join the Warren Public Library at the Warren Senior Center and meet six live owls.

They will be joined by naturalist and teacher Marcia Wilson, and author, photographer, and naturalist Mark Wilson of “Eyes on Owls,” an educational duo that have been sharing their passion for owls since 1994.

Learn how to find signs of owls in the wild, get tips on how to attract and protect owls near you, and practice your hooting.

This program is free and open to the public, and is ideal for ages 4 and up. There is no registration required, so stop by and meet some owls up close.

PTO hosts summer 5K and family festival

WEST BROOKFIELD – The West Brookfield Elementary School PTO is hosting a summer 5K and family festival on Saturday, June 20.

The event will include a 5K, a fun run for kids, family games and activities, food trucks, vendors and more.

The PTO is looking for sponsors to help make this event memorable for everyone. In return, sponso-

logos will be placed on runner’s T-shirts.

Sponsorship tiers include bronze \$100, silver \$200, gold \$300, diamond \$1,000. If you are interested in being a sponsor or a runner please email wbrookfieldpto@gmail.com

Proceeds of the 5k event go to the nonprofit WBES PTO to fund a variety of student events throughout the year.

CDAC from page 1

MVP grant

Ferrera said the town is using funds from the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program grant for a flood study and an infrastructure study. He said there are eight major culverts that are “barely sufficient for a ten year storm.”

He said the application for the next round will include a downtown culvert.

One Stop grant

Ferrera also spoke about the Community One Stop

For Growth grant, and said the funds are being used for the Pulaski Street infrastructure project, the plans for which will be presented on June 4. He said the construction budget is about \$1.7-1.8 million.

He said grant money is also being used for re-writing the zoning bylaws.

Green Communities

Ferrera said money from the Green Communities Grant is being used for the weatherization project at Warren Community Elementary School, to wrap

the whole building to bring energy efficiencies to the school. He said the project is targeted to be finished by July 30.

CDBG

John O’Leary, a representative from the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission gave an update on various CDBG projects. He said the 2022/2023 money is being used for the Main Street stairs.

He said the 2024 grant is being used for projects at Cutter Park, River Street and

Central Street.

O’Leary said the Cutter Park design is nearly complete, and there will be a meeting on June 8 to discuss the final design. He said the River Street and Central Street project is going out to bid on June 11.

He said for the 2025 grant, the bid for the Hillside Ave project is going out next month, and there is a request for quote going out for the Summer Street design project. He said the Washington Street planning study is expected to launch in July or August.

Saving for Retirement: Are You Guessing or Planning?

Let’s say you dream of spending your retirement mornings on a warm beach, coffee in hand, waves rolling in. To get there, you had a simple plan: save \$1 million and buy the beach house you always wanted.

But when retirement arrives, reality hits. After accounting for keeping your current home, everyday expenses and health care, \$1 million doesn’t stretch as far as you thought, and the beach house remains a dream. The problem wasn’t your discipline – it was that your number was never really your number. It was arbitrary, not anchored to what your ideal retirement would actually cost.

How can you make sure your retirement number is right for you?

A solid savings goal starts with a clear picture of the retirement you want. Think through where you plan to live, whether you’ll keep your current home or downsize, how much you plan to travel, if you’ll help children and grandchildren financially and what health care might cost you later in life. Build a realistic monthly budget, then multiply by 12 months to find your annual need. Adjust this amount for inflation until the first year of retirement.

Then, multiply that figure by 25 to get a sense of how much may be needed to save. It’s a formula based on the idea of withdrawing 4% annually from your savings, assuming you retire in your mid-60s. If you need \$60,000 a year, your target is around \$1.5 million. You may need more or less depending on your lifestyle, health, unexpected expenses, Social Security benefits and other income. No single rate or strategy will work for everyone. A financial advisor can help you determine your number and strategy.

Once you know your target, the path forward becomes clearer. Here are a few tips for next steps:

Start early. The sooner you begin saving, the more time compound interest has to work in your favor. Small amounts set aside automatically each paycheck have the opportunity to grow significantly over decades.

Live below your means. Spending less than you earn is one of the most powerful wealth-building habits. When your income rises, save and invest the difference instead of upgrading your lifestyle.

Keep your debt under control. Since credit cards and other high-interest debt can slow your progress, pay off balances monthly when possible.

Invest consistently. If your employer offers a 401(k), aim to contribute at least 10%-15% of your salary, and increase your contributions after every raise. If you max out your 401(k), a traditional IRA or Roth IRA may offer additional tax-advantaged growth (eligibility and contribution limits apply).

Boost your income when you can. Develop new skills, ask for a raise or explore a side income. Every extra dollar saved moves you closer to your goal.

The difference between a retirement you love and one full of compromises often comes down to the planning you do today. Know your real number, build a solid plan and get the right help along the way.

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ORIGINAL PLAY from page 1

The action then turns to the local Subway, where teens are working to create the perfect ham and cheese sandwich for Ash, a demanding but loyal customer.

Talk of the Crab Universe comes up, and one of the characters mentions a secret lab that will transport you there.

The Subway workers and Ash make their way to the lab, where Ash pushes a button she's not supposed to and is trapped within the Crab Universe. The other teens run away, and hope that all will be normal when they return to work tomorrow.

All is not well the next day, when Ash doesn't show up to order her sandwich, and the Subway manager Crystal begins to seek answers. Being the last ones to see Ash, the police come in to question the group of teens.

They take the police officer to the secret lab, where despite their warnings, he pushes the same button Ash did, this time sending all of them to the Crab Universe.

They find Ash, but she

has been morphed into a crab and is organizing crab cakes under the rule of the Crab Queen.

The group of teens try to convince Ash to return home, but she said she has no friends there. They convince her otherwise, and with the help of the Crab Universe Subway manager, Vanessa (and a new sandwich recipe), she comes home.

Back home, the teens realize they need to live better in their town, and forget about the Crab Universe.

Vanessa comes to visit Ware and see the new friends she made, and they all enjoy a lively dance performance set to "Rock Lobster". Even the Crab Queen joins in on the fun.

Following the performance, the audience and cast participated in a question and answer period. The first question asked was "When is the next play?" which received a resounding applause of support.

Mirin said his theater company is ready to return to Ware for next year, and that registration for teens ages 13-19 can be found at ptc.

org in the coming weeks. Teens from Ware and Palmer are eligible to register for this afterschool program. No previous theater experience is required and space is limited to 12 participants.

All of the teens cast in "Ware is the Crab Universe" said they will be returning next year, and they talked about the friendships they formed since they started working together in January.

Max Perez, age 14, who played Ash, said the best part of this experience was "Having fun with people I like and writing a play."

Yasmin DosCantos, age 15, said she enjoyed the acting (and yelling) required of her character. Natalie de Melo, age 16, said she was happy for the opportunity to get on stage and act.

Sapphire Boone, age 12, said she really enjoyed writing the play, and the roles she was cast in. Boone was the narrator in the first part, and the Crab Queen in the second.

Naomi Vazquez, age 13, said her favorite part of the play was when she got to yell "Wake up!" as the character



The cast of "Ware is the Crab Universe" dance to "Rock Lobster" during a performance of the original play at Workshop13 on May 30.



Director and actor Jonathan Mirin pushed a button he's not supposed to.



Ash, portrayed by Max Perez, became stuck as a crab in the Crab Universe.



The teens learned about the Crab Universe.

Turley Photos by Paula Quimette

Alice Vazquez also portrayed Vanessa.

Jay Griffith, age 15, enjoyed the on-stage interactions with the different character's, especially Subway Dave, portrayed by Frankee

Hernandez Crehan, age 15.

Hernandez-Crehan said she enjoyed the chance to build stronger friendships with her peers. "I'm happy I got to grow closer to them," she said.

ROSIE from page 2

mon afflictions that children experience.

Rosie goes on an adventure to help a variety of animals and wants to become a veterinarian like her mother. Welborn was joined by many interested young guests who were ready to learn about the importance of taking care of animals.

Welborn was joined by the Italian Water Dog, Bari. This friendly dog is also a trained therapy dog and has been one for the last five years. He was named after a town in Italy.

Bari is a well-trained therapy dog and loves attending school programs and library programs.

Bari especially enjoyed meeting the kids at the Gilbertville Public Library

and enjoyed playing with the animal puppets. He sat alongside the children while Welborn shared a little bit about herself and began reading her book.

Welborn was a wildlife major and shared pictures of her meeting many animals. Welborn studied wildlife biology and had pictures of her meeting all kinds of animals, including a box turtle, a moose, and many others.

This inspiring picture book helps kids learn about conservation, science, and wildlife and maybe someday they want to learn about what it takes to become a veterinarian. The book featured the main character, Rosie, meeting all kinds of animals such as elephants, giraffes, crocodiles, octopus, whales, polar bears and many more.

During story time, Welborn asked the kids ques-

tions about what they know about different kinds of animals.

She said, "both paws up" when kids raised their hands. One of the teens, Abby, was holding up another book to show pictures to the kids while Welborn read the story.

After story time, kids got to do a couple of fun activities. One was exploring these mini-veterinarian kits that kids can take home. At

the library, some kids stuck around and tested their kits on some stuffed animals.

The other activity was crafting your own stethoscope, which kids tried out on Bari to check his vitals. Welborn joined in on the fun and made her own stethoscope as well.

More about "Dr. Rosie Helps the Animals" can be found at drosiehelpstheanimals.org.

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47	48				49				50	51	52	53	54
55					56					57			58
59					60					61			
62					63						64		

CLUES ACROSS

- Egyptian bull-god
- Small American songbird
- Large, stocky lizard
- Turkish leader title
- Nag
- Blank
- Closely woven cotton fabric
- A nice shot in golf
- Away from wind
- Evergreen shrub genus
- Large African antelope
- Something you receive
- Satisfy
- Wet dirt
- No longer here
- Writing utensil
- Ribonucleic acid
- Consume food
- Licensed for Wall Street
- Alternative forms of a gene
- Buddy
- We all do it
- Chicken
- No seats available
- Yearned to possess
- Ineffectual
- Explosive
- Turkish title
- Worn near the foot
- Impatient
- Set an example for others
- Actor Pitt
- Instrument of torture
- Swiss river
- Grayish white
- A way to print
- Storied college hoops program
- Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

- Bridge building degree
- currency
- Small American songbird
- One from L.A.
- After tenth
- Hillside
- Israeli city ___ Aviv
- Golden peas plant
- Breezed through
- Midway between east and southeast
- Frameworks
- Danish krone
- Fall back
- Influential Korean leader

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An Incognito Witch Selfie "Dana with Butterfly" by Mollie Kellogg.



"Ladies in Waiting" by Susan Montgomery.



An acrylic on canvas piece called "Seat of Thought" by Mollie Kellogg.

Wild Ornerly Women

WOW art exhibit returns to ArtWorks Gallery

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – ArtWorks Gallery in Ware held an opening reception for the Wild Ornerly Women art exhibit recently.

This exhibit is curated by artist Terry Rooney, who was one of 12 female artists whose work was featured in this exhibit.

WOW highlights the themes of energy, self-empowerment, and taking back power. The artwork of female artists, who might have been overlooked in the 20th century probably felt invisible, but no more as WOW arrived to Workshop13.

Rooney had several

art pieces up in the exhibit, including her charcoal on mylar work, "Ms. Liberty, part 1 of 4 panels". Rooney was joined by Mollie Kellogg who had four art pieces featured in the exhibit.

Kellogg returned to Workshop13 and showcased four of her art pieces that consist of figurative paintings and mysticism. These art pieces by Kellogg were worked on over a period of time, starting around 2004.

One of her pieces featured in the exhibit is one of her many Incognito Witch Selfies. The one in WOW

is Dana with Butterfly. This series of art by Kellogg shows strength and magic.

Holly S. Murray also attended the opening reception and had several sculptures exhibited. Her work is made of cone 6 stoneware and was shaped into the form of cactuses. Each cactus has a different feature to it.

Arriving at the opening reception was Cynthia Consentino of Shelburne Falls. Consentino usually works with ceramics but also enjoys painting and drawing.



A charcoal on mylar piece by Terry Rooney called "Ms. Liberty, part 1 of 4 panels".



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Shown from left are artists Mollie Kellogg, Terry Rooney and Holly S. Murray at the opening reception of the WOW: Wild Ornerly Women/Wisdom of Women exhibit at ArtWorks Gallery in Ware.

The theme behind her work revolves around love-hate, being interactive, and figurative thinking.

Several of her ceramics featured in Wild Ornerly Women are faces and the expressions these faces make when two faces come close to each other. One of her ceramic faces is called "Love You, Hate You", a title tied to that love-hate theme.

One of her popular figurines, "Figurine I & II" were made back in the late 1990s. These two earthenware and glaze figurines were also featured at Wild Ornerly Women. The figurines show two young women with guns in hand, showing they're trying to take power back.

WOW is a show of powerful social commentary works by women who have continued to voice their opinions.

Artists Grace Graupe Pillard and Holly S. Murray have works that express the outrage over the destruc-



Cynthia Consentino is shown sitting next to her ceramic pieces, which can be seen at ArtWorks Gallery in Ware.

tion of society and the world. Pillard's work featured in the exhibit is called "Disintegrating Capitol", an oil and alkyd on canvas.

Other artists featured in the Wild Ornerly Women exhibit include Denise Beaudet, Anne Burton, Irene Christensen, Roselle

Chartock, Lyn Horan, Susan Montgomery and Robin Tewes.

The exhibition is on display through June 20 with gallery hours being Saturdays and Sundays, from 1-4 p.m. at ArtWorks Gallery, 69 Main St.



Cactus sculptures made of cone 6 stoneware created by Holly S. Murray.

HARDWICK BOS

from page 1
to allow time for amendments.

179 Main St.

The board continued discussions on the requests for proposals for 179 Main St., the former senior center. Historical Commission Chair John Petraglia said the commission met and voted that there should be a preservation restriction in the RFP.

Petraglia also submitted comments, which the board

voted to attach to it.

Some of the suggestions from the Historical Commission include that they oversee any projects once they start, and be a part of the application process. According to the RFP, the preferred uses include housing, office space and community space. Cyran, who is also a member of the Historical Commission, said she'd be more comfortable with the distinction of over-55 housing.

The board voted to accept

the RFP with any amendments needed.

Public comment

Planning Board Chair Bill Cole talked about the solar agreement, and said he feels comfortable with the idea that the agreement is not a non-renewing item, since the payment in December is the first payment.

Cyran also talked about the budget. She said the Select Board should be "embarrassed" that they did not listen to the Finance

Committee and accept their version of the budget.

Resident Jeffery Smith talked about the town overspending on legal, saying there has been no oversight by the Select Board. He said there is a town policy that requires all legal inquiries to go through the Select Board.

Schaaf said there have been multiple events this year that added to legal fees, including work with the Zekos Group, the Paige building and public records requests.

Caggiano said that in her contract, it allows her to deal with day-to-day operations, which include legal inquiries. Select Board Vice-Chair William Tinker said he has reached out to counsel in the past and got no response, saying they cited the town policy.

Appointments

The board voted unanimously to appoint Ralph Kay as a van driver. Caggiano said he passed background checks, and is a Selectman in North Brookfield.

Tinker said somebody else applied and got no response, even though they are looking for multiple drivers. He did not disclose a name publicly.

Caggiano said she did not know about this, and suggested reaching out to

the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority director Sharon Hardaker.

Select Board member Zack Spencer was also appointed as the board's delegate for the Capital Planning Committee.

FY 27 meeting dates

Tinker suggested 12 additional meetings to the current set of dates for fiscal year 2027 Select Board meetings. He said these additions would allow the board to conduct financial oversight, and if a particular meeting is not needed, it could always be canceled.

Caggiano said adding that amount of meetings would lead to more preparation, agendas, minutes and updating the website. Caggiano said she did not understand the financial issues since employees follow state statutes.

The board approved the dates unanimously.

Meeting minute compliance

Tinker said there is still a bottleneck of missing meeting minutes even though they have been inventoried, and motions have been made by the Select Board to approve them. Caggiano said it could simply be missed emails, and Tinker sent over a list.

The board discussed the possibility of using AI to create minutes, but Tinker said they are paying an executive assistant to do this. The executive assistant only gets 19 hours a week though, according to Caggiano.

Administrative items

The board approved the minutes of April 22, with Spencer abstaining since he was not yet on the board. The board also sent a copy of the Hardwick Elementary School lease agreement to counsel, and tabled any action until the response gets back.

Town Administrator's report

Caggiano said the town got five bids on an IT RFP, fire extinguishers have been inspected and the elevator in the Town House has passed inspection.

Caggiano said she met with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission on the Green Communities grant, attended a benefits information session for town employees and attended an alcohol commission training.

Caggiano said she will present a draft employee handbook at the next meeting, and recognized town accountant Holly Mann.



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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 tournament 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.

sports



Kursten Shade looks to shoot in traffic.



Chicopee's Sam Breton clears the ball away.



Nadia Cassmajor sends a pass away.

Mutiny battles Hartford to scoreless draw

LUDLOW – On Friday, May 22, the New England Mutiny battled the Hartford Athletic to a scoreless tie. The Mutiny is now 1-1-1 on the season. They previously defeated the Worcester Wanderers and had a defeat against the Hudson Valley Crusaders. More on the Mutiny and their new challenges in next week's edition.



Se-Hanna Mars fights for the ball.



Kendall Bodak, of Monson, sends a free kick away.



Kayleigh Lukasik sends a pass away.

Turley photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com

Jarvis, Beecher top guns at Monadnock

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Joey Jarvis survived a slugfest to win his first Modified feature of the summer on May 23 at Monadnock Speedway. The second generation Vermont pilot accomplished the feat by sitting in the best seat in the house, the pole, from where he was immune to the wildness behind him. Jarvis was one of five first time 2026 winners on the high banks of the fast quarter mile Saturday. Justin Beecher, in house for the night's special R&R Open Street Stock show, duplicated his victory of the same event a summer ago, and reigning speedway Mini Stock champ John Fultz - in his first run of the summer - picked up where he left off last September.

In the Pure Stocks, red hot rookie Josh Brigham scored the first win of his career. New England Dwarf Car pilot Ryan Carman scored his first career victory on the high banks, and then there was 11-year-old Dylan Stati.

Stati, a quiet fifth grade student at the Old Mill Pond School in his hometown of Palmer, Mass. on weekdays, puts on his super hero personality every Saturday, when he dominates the speedway's Young Guns division. On this Saturday, he cruised to victory for the fourth time of his rookie campaign.

Jarvis and open-wheel rookie Kyle Kenny sat up front as Saturday night's Allstates Materials Group 604 Modified main event went green. They would run in that order until Ben Byrne blasted into second on lap four, with Nate

Wenzel close behind.

Wenzel took third on lap 11 and with the two veterans battling for second, Jarvis was able to open some breathing room at the front. That, though, went out the window when a lap-21 caution brought Byrne back to his side.

Jarvis was again up to the task, holding a perfect line for all 40 laps to score his second career victory on the high banks. And he may not have had the fastest car.

A grinding lap-25 multi-Mod dance out of turn four heavily damaged the Patnode and Martin rides, among others, and brought Nate Wenzel to the front row for the restart. Electrical issues, though, sent Wenzel quickly to the pits, returning now seventh at the green.

Flying back through the field, Wenzel would finish second, three lengths behind the speedy Jarvis. Andrew Brousseau, victorious seven days earlier, gobbled up Tyler Leary in turn three to come home second, Leary was fourth on the night, and Ben Byrne, in the mix all 40, came home fifth.

The R&R Open Street Stock feature saw three dominant Bay State stars again take center stage, Justin Beecher - who makes a habit of swooping onto the high banks to score victories in these specials - took first from Chris Buffone on lap eight and never looked back.

Top hometracker JD Stockwell, representing his Saturday night home well,

Please see **RACING**, page 19

Magical runs ends for T-Birds in Wilkes-Barre

WILKES-BARRE, PA – The Springfield Thunderbirds saw their remarkable Calder Cup Playoff journey come to a bitter ending in an 8-1 loss to the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins on Saturday night inside Mohegan Arena at Casey Plaza in a deciding Game 5 of the best-of-five series.

After getting shut out by Georgii Romanov and the T-Birds in Game 4 in Springfield two nights earlier, the Penguins came out with renewed purpose, and Tristan Broz's second goal of the series just 3:56 into Game 5 put Wilkes-Barre/Scranton in front, 1-0.

Harrison Brunicke would follow with a goal of his own on a 2-on-1 at 7:43 to make it 2-0. Broz added his third point of the period with a power play goal at 16:17, and Rafael Harvey-Pinard completed the Penguins' prolific first period with a rebound finish with just 20 seconds left in the frame to make it 4-0 at intermission.

The T-Birds swapped goalies heading into the second as Vadim Zherenko took over, but the Penguins still managed to find offense when Atley Calvert swatted a loose puck through Zherenko at 17:21.

As the third period began, the Penguins power play found a second connection when Ville Koivunen finished off a passing play at 2:52 to extend the lead to six.

Please see **T-BIRDS**, page 19

TENNIS from page 11

last run in the state tournament," said Quabbin head coach Garth Wideman. "Today's match was very close, and it went right down to the wire."

The Lady Panthers duo of freshman Addison Surprenant and eighth grader Maria Hamm celebrated their first state tournament victory by dispatching eighth grader Hadley DeFrancisco and senior Hadasyah Mestres, 6-3, 6-2.

"This is my first year playing for the tennis team and it's really cool to win a state tournament match," Hamm said. "Addison and I have built a very good bond on the court. We also play field hockey together. It has been a fun season and everyone on the tennis team are friends."

Last fall, Hamm led the Lady Panthers varsity field hockey team with 22 goals and 10 assists.

"The transition from field hockey to tennis was pretty easy for me," Hamm added. "I wanted to play a spring sport, so I decided to play tennis this year."

Surprenant, who was a member of the junior varsity field hockey team last fall, is also a first-year member of the tennis team.

"Because Maria and I already knew each other, it has helped us communicate on the court better," Surprenant said. "Communication is very important in double matches. We played very well in today's match."

According to Surprenant, winning the first set was very important.

"Winning the first set is always very important," she said. "We've won all our matches this season in two sets."

Wojcik, who also played field hockey, lost 6-2, 6-3, to Whitinsville Christian junior

Charlotte DeFrancisco at first singles, which evened the overall match at 1-1.

"We've been a very successful team during the past couple of years," said Wojcik, who has started at first singles the past two seasons. "I've known the other seniors my entire life and we really enjoy playing tennis together. It has been a lot of fun being a member of the tennis team."



Maria Hamm reaches for a backhand return in women's doubles.

Wojcik, who joined the Lady Panthers tennis team as an eighth grader, will be attending Springfield College in the fall.

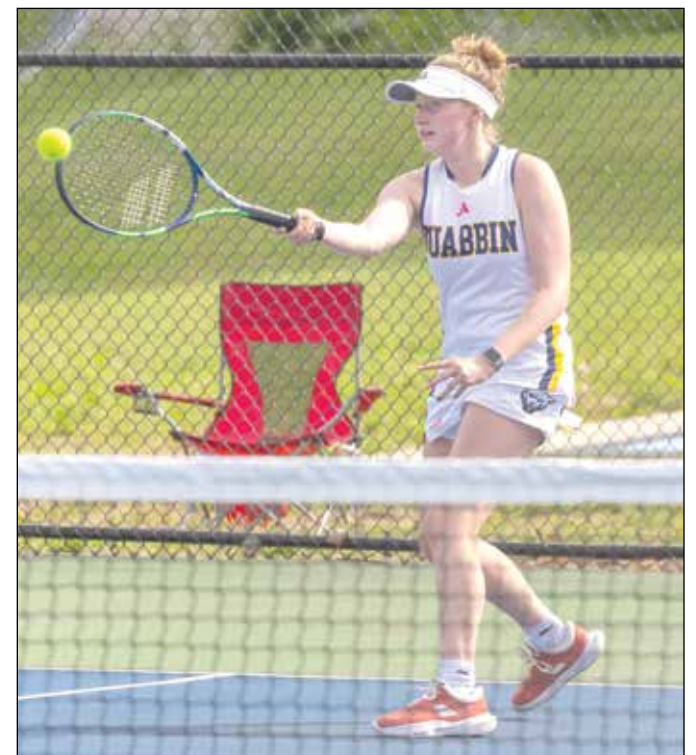
"I'm hoping to play tennis in college," Wojcik said. "I've spoken with the Springfield College tennis coach, but nothing is definite yet."

The other two singles matches were decided in three sets.

In the third singles match, Quabbin junior Audrey Laursen won the first set 6-4, but Whitinsville Christian senior Genevieve Tatulli managed to win the next two



Addison Surprenant stretches out at the net in women's doubles.

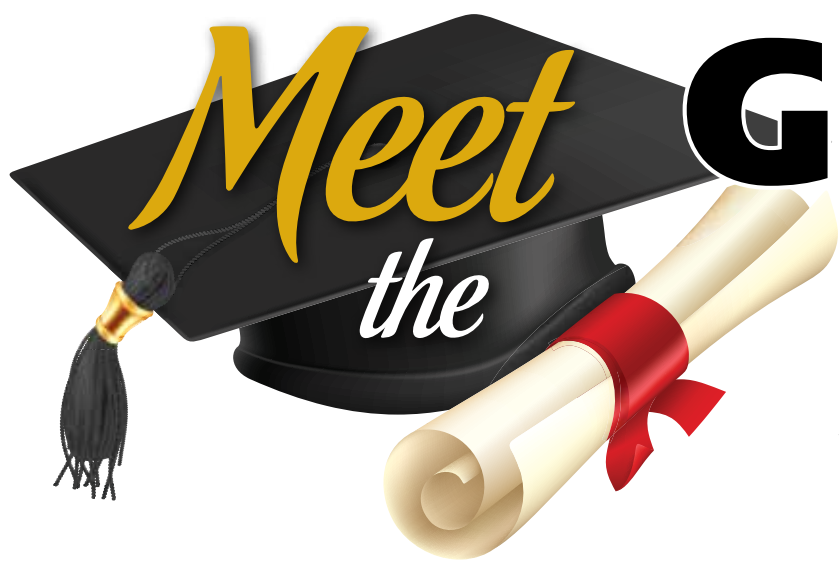


Kalina Dyer powers a forehand return in women's singles.

career coming to an end." Then Matheson and Stauder won their doubles match and Lady Panthers

players were able to celebrate a state tournament victory for the second time in the past three years.

Turley photos by Jeffrey Haynes



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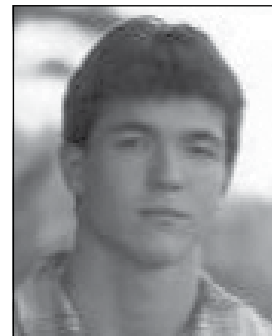
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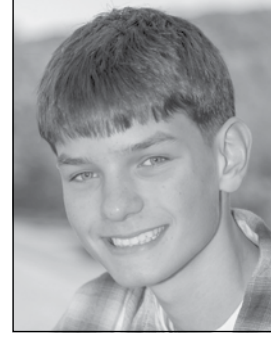
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Kyle Kaczuwka



Kaleb Kanozek



Brodie Koczur



Zachary Labroad



Maia Lamothe



Maliah Lee



Shealee Logan



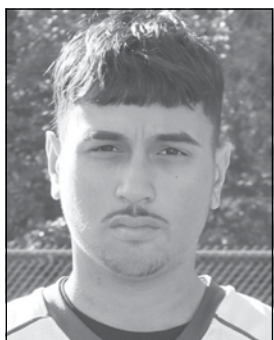
Jehslynn Lopez



Marek Luongo



Chase Lyons



Enrique Martinez



Aidan Montone



Shaymus O'Conner



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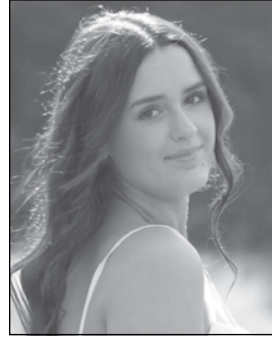
Briana Hawk



Landon Hogan



Evangeline Iwaniec



Alison Jones



CJ Kady



Jacoby LaBillois



Lynx Lamoureux



Mia Letendre



Gianna Lindsey



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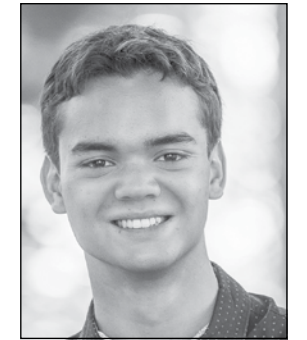
William Lopes



Gianni Manzano



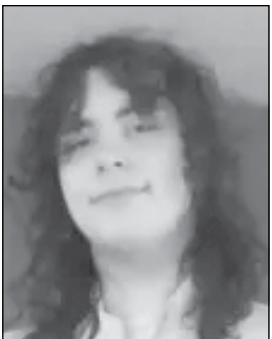
Jackson McGarry



Reece Miner



Gabe Moberg



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Kaitlyn Nault



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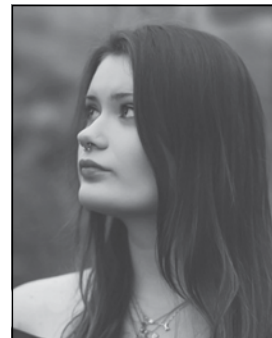
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Gabrielle Riendeau



David Robies



Makayla Savoie



Madison Schreier



Madison Sears



Kayden Smart



Lennon Smith



Steven Smith



Jack Stevens



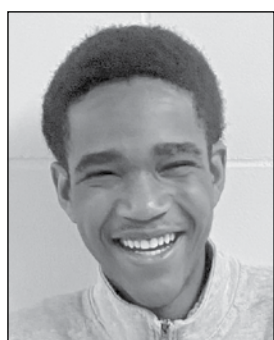
Jacob Toomey



Matthew Twomey



Kaleb VanKleef



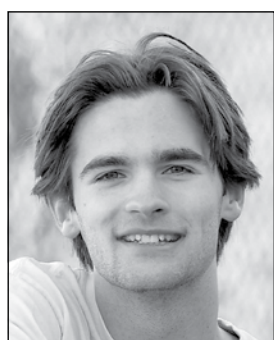
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Ashton Winders



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WMASS PIONEERS FALL



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Pearse O'Brien seeks to settle the ball.



Dylan Hunston looks to clear the ball.

RACING from page 12

got up for second on lap 11 and kept Beecher close until exiting in a cloud of smoke 51 circuits later, leaving Buffone to finish second, a third-lap shy of the high flying Beecher, Former speedway regular Adam Gray completed his hard night's work in third.

Jon Fultz strutted his championship stuff in the Keene Towing and Recovery Mini Stocks. Taking the lead from Tim Paquette on lap seven, the 2025 speedway king never looked back as he sped off to his first win of the season.

Paquette held strong to come home second, just ahead of week one winner Kevin Clayton. Tim O'Shea was fourth, and early race leader Craig Chaffee was fifth on the night.

Red hot rookie Josh Brigham left no doubt Saturday that his freshman season will be one to remember in the Brattleboro Towing and Recovery Pure Stocks. Coming off a handful of strong early season runs, Brigham started in row three Saturday, took the lead from Colton Hull on lap 17, and sped off into the night to score his first

career victory. And, with the win, move to the top of the points parade.

Sophomore speedster Kyle Begos finished at Brigham's bumper in second, high roller Jimmy Zellman, victorious a week earlier, was third, with Hull and Linsey Wenzel completing Saturday's top five.

Ryan Carman took the lead on lap seven of Saturday's Dwarf Car feature and dashed off to win by three lengths over series super star Tom Harwood. It was Carman's first career win on the high banks. Andrew Harmon was third on the night, just ahead of Cody Hodgson.

With Dylan Stati again working his magic in the Doug's Auto Body Young Guns to win his fourth in a row, Maeve Barry continued to get stronger each week, coming home second Saturday.

Monadnock Speedway will return to action next Saturday, May 30, with a Limited Late Model special event atop a full card of NASCAR Local Racing Series competition, including the exciting 604 Modifieds. Post time is 6 p.m.; every Saturday on the high banks of New England's fastest quarter-mile oval.

T-BIRDS from page 12

Akil Thomas finally got one back for Springfield at 4:30, but it would prove to only delay the Penguins' continued attack, as Harvey-Pinard and Koivunen each would add another tally to their

night's work to finish off the victory and the series.

The T-Birds' storybook season may have come to an end, but the excitement is only building as Springfield prepares to celebrate 100 years of hockey in the city.

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF HARDWICK FY2027 FUEL BID

The Town of Hardwick, MA is seeking FY2027 Invitation for Bids for Low sulfur diesel fuel, #2 heating fuel for public buildings, propane, heating equipment service specifications in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30B, Section 5. The bid will be awarded based on the most responsible, responsive bidder offering the lowest price. The IFB will be available on June 8, 2026 <https://www.hardwick-ma.gov> or by contacting Town Administrator at email listed below.

Bids must be sealed 12:00 PM on June 22, 2026. Deliver to the Municipal Building, 307 Main Street, Gilbertville, MA 01031 or mailed to: Justine Caggiano, Town Administrator, P.O. Box 575, Gilbertville, MA 01031. Additional information please contact Town Administrator at 413-477-6197 ext. 101 or Admin@Hardwick-ma.gov.

The Town reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to only award a contract if it is in the best interest of the Town to do so.
 06/04, 06/11/2026

Legal Notice 179 Main Street, Gilbertville Request for Proposals

The Town of Hardwick Massachusetts is requesting proposals for the acquisition, renovation and redevelopment of a town-owned historic building: the George H. Gilbert Historic Schoolhouse built circa 1903, which sits on a 0.993-acre parcel of land located at 179 Main Street. The property is served by Gilbertville water and sewer. The building is located within the socially, culturally and economically emerging Gilbertville Center. The bid package can be found at <https://www.hardwick-ma.gov> or by contacting Town Administrator at email listed below. **Bids must be delivered by 10:00AM on July 9, 2026** to the Municipal Building, 307 Main Street, Gilbertville, MA 01031 or mailed to: Justine Caggiano, Town Administrator, P.O. Box 575, Gilbertville, MA 01031. Additional information please contact Town Administrator at 413-477-6197 ext. 101 or Admin@Hardwick-ma.gov.

The Town reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to only award a contract if it is in the best interest of the Town.
 06/04, 06/11/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampshire Probate and Family Court 15 Atwood Drive Northampton MA, 01060 Docket No. HS20P0015PM In the matter of: Shirley Mae Ratcliffe of Ware, MA Protected Person/ Disabled Person/Respondent CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the **Temporary First and Final; First, Second, Third, Fourth & Fifth** account(s) of

Linda Flamand of Ware, MA
 Christine Bigda of Ware, MA as Conservator(s) of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object

to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **06/25/2026**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness, Hon. **Diana S. Velez Harris**, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: May 21, 2026

Mark S. Ames
 Register of Probate
 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, Document 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.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.
PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC
 Present holder of said mortgage
 By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
 150 California St.
 Newton, MA 02458
 (617)558-0500
 28437
 05/21, 05/28, 06/04/2026

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

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

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

GILBERTVILLE 2025 WATER QUALITY REPORT LEGAL NOTICE

The 2025 Water Quality Reports for Gilbertville Water District will be available June 4, 2026. Copies of the reports are available to the public and can be picked up at the Hardwick Municipal Building, Gilbertville Post Office or the Gilbertville Library or by calling:
 413-477-6413
 06/04/2026

TOWN OF WARREN PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

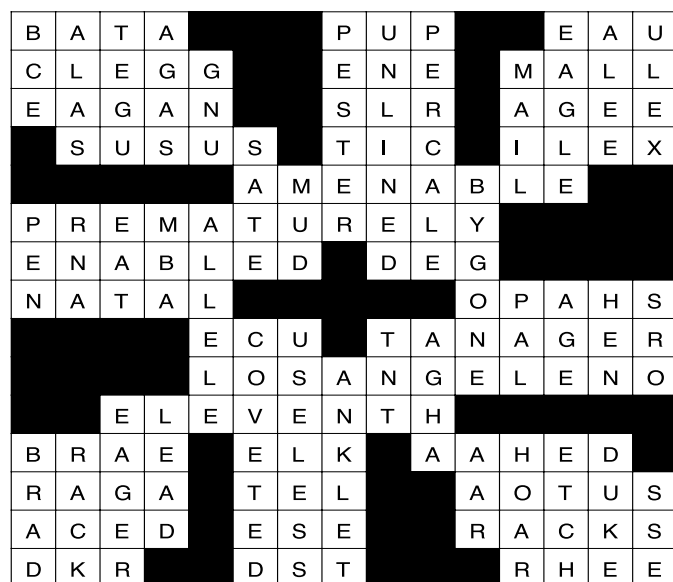
The Warren Board of Health will hold a public hearing on **June 24, 2026 at 3:00pm** at Warren Senior Center, 2252 Main St, Warren, MA, regarding the proposed Regulation of the Warren Board of Health Restricting the Sale of Tobacco and Vape Products that include but are not limited to incorporating M.G.L. c. 270, permitting, cigar pricing, blunt wrap ban and Nicotine Pouch restrictions. The Warren Board of Health will accept written comments sent to Warren Board of Health, P.O. Box 478, Warren MA 01083, until June 24, 2026. Draft Copies are available at the Warren Board of Health Office.
 06/04, 06/11/2026

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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Turley Photos by Camren Robertson
Juliana Lindsten sang "Amor Eterno" in Spanish for her solo.



Elizabeth Lambert sang "So Anyway" during the Quabbin Regional High School's Senior Night Concert held on May 14.



Anthony Quartarone performed on the euphonium (and also sang) during "My Way".



ABOVE: Garrett Erickson performed on the bass during a performance at the Senior Night Concert.

Concert highlights senior soloists

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

BARRE – Quabbin Regional High School hosted its annual Senior Night Concert to highlight its graduating class and the music department.

Senior soloists included Aidan Mahoney, who opened the concert with a Jimi Hendrix-inspired rendition of the National Anthem on electric guitar. This performance was followed by an arrangement of "In My Life" featuring all of the seniors from chorus, band and orchestra.

Garrett Erickson on piano and Aiden Fuller on drums performed "Imagine", followed by Gabriel Miller singing "Bloodsport", which

he dedicated to his mother. Elizabeth Lambert sang "So Anyway", followed by "I'm Moving On" by Rose Lyden and "Amor Eterno" by Juliana Lindsten. Lindsten sang her song in Spanish, and a capella, after a technical glitch stopped her music.

Maxwell Ure performed an excerpt from "Money" on the tenor saxophone and Finnegan Leander performed an excerpt from "Swan Lake" on bass clarinet.

Bailey Burke performed a duet with Symphonic Winds Director Toni Brown for the song "Samba-lele". Abigail Falconi also performed on clarinet with Brown for "Op. 62/3 No. 18".

Seniors Emma

Harrington on trumpet, Annie Howe on saxophone and Lia Sherblom on clarinet performed "Beauty and the Beast". Anthony Quartarone both sang and played the euphonium for a rendition of "My Way".

Seniors were also recognized with awards for their dedication to the music program at Quabbin, with Erickson receiving the Louis Armstrong Jazz Award; Lambert the National Chorale Award; Virginia Morin the Director's Award for Chorus; Harrington the Severino D'Annolfo Award; and Falconi the John Phillip Sousa Band Award.

Falconi was also awarded the Quabbin Pro Musica Scholarship in honor of the late Gretchen Nahkala.



LEFT: Virginia Morin hugged Symphonic Winds Director Toni Brown, while Quabbin Singers Director Julia Tuttle looked on.

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131 Pine Ave., Sturbridge - \$160,000
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1 First St., Sturbridge - \$150,000
Welcome to Sturbridge Retirement Cooperative 55+ community. 2 bedroom 1 bath home built in 1980. Spacious 3 season enclosed porch, oversized living area w/vaulted ceiling & wood burning fireplace. Newer windows throughout, mini splits for air conditioning. Open floor plan, kitchen with center island. Easy 1 level living centrally located only minutes to area markets, restaurants, shops and easy access to I-90, 84, 20. Monthly HOA includes water, sewer, trash, recycling, basic cable, land lease, taxes, road maintenance. Park share of \$25,000 NOT included in list price.

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