

WARE RIVER NEWS

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UNITED CHURCH OF WARE *celebrates 100th/200th*

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARE – This past Sunday marked two important dates for the United Church of Ware, UCC, as its congregation celebrated both its 100th and 200th anniversary.

The original East Congregational Church was dedicated in 1826 and burned in 1925. The church was rebuilt and the new sanctuary was dedicated in June of 1926.

The United Methodist Church and the East Congregational Church voted to join together officially in June 1968 as the United Church of Ware, which retains ties to both denominations.

At the June 21 service, Pastor David Blessinger of the United Church of Ware's ministry team, welcomed everyone to the celebration, and talked about his involvement with the church.

He said when he and his wife first moved to town several years ago, they began searching for a new church to attend. They found the United Church of Ware, and instantly felt at home.

"We knew we did not have to look for another church," he said.

The United Church of Ware has been home for



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

The United Church of Ware celebrated its 100th/200th anniversary on June 21.

Please see **UNITED CHURCH**, page 7

SB hears Mill-Health redevelopment plan

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARE – BSC Group Senior Planner Adam Duchesneau presented the Mill-Health District Redevelopment Plan to the Selectboard.

“THIS SCOPE WAS TO PROVIDE A DISTRICT PLAN THAT FOCUSES ON IDENTIFYING REDEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES TO ACTIVATE THE FORMER MARY LANE HOSPITAL SITE AND THE WARE MILLYARD, INCLUDING THE POTENTIAL FOR HOUSING AND COMMERCIAL SPACE.”

ADAM DUCHESNEAU
SENIOR PLANNER FOR BSC GROUP

The Mill-Health District is the area that encompasses the historic millyard and the former Mary Lane Hospital site.

"This scope was to provide a district plan that focuses on identifying redevelopment strategies to activate the former Mary Lane Hospital site and the Ware millyard, including the

potential for housing and commercial space," he said at the June 16 meeting.

Duchesneau said technical assistance for the project was provided by the MassDevelopment Real Estate Services program.

He said there were regular project team meetings throughout the process, site walks and tours and community engagement events.

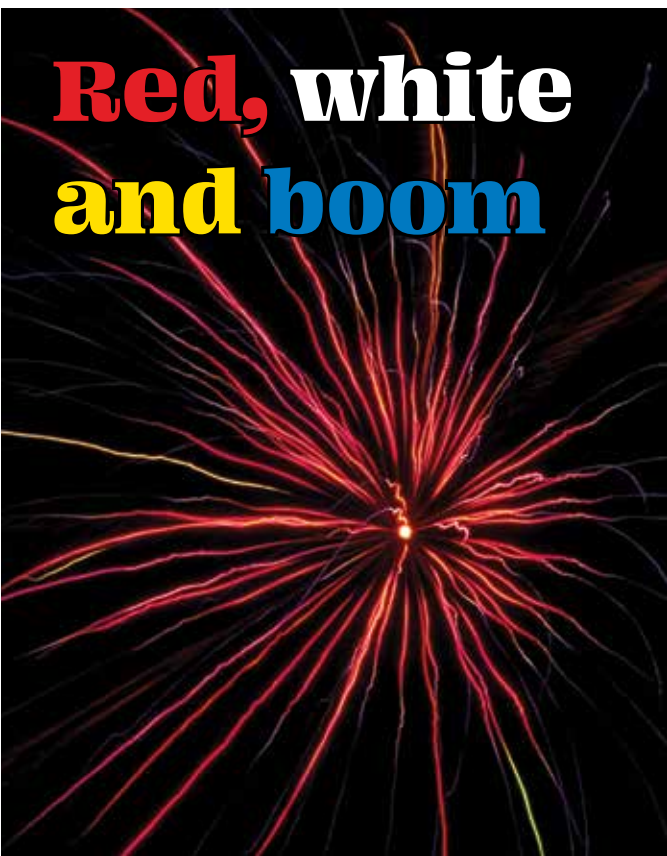
He said the first community engagement event was held in February at the Ware Senior Center, and the crowd source map was shared with the public. People were able to write comments about specific areas they identified on the map.

"People could write or submit whatever they wanted to," he said.

Duchesneau said site tours were held in April, and they received strong feedback from participants.

He said they identified opportunities for redevelopment in the Mill-Health District, including in the millyard; the industrial properties on East Street, Knox Avenue and Maple Street; St. Mary's rectory and former school; the Ware River; auto

Please see **MILL-HEALTH**, page 3



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

Annual fireworks show enjoyed at Quaboag

WARREN – The Warren Parks Department held its annual fireworks show at Quaboag Regional Middle High School last Friday, welcoming the start of summer.

Prior to the start of

the fireworks show, people enjoyed live music by Wonderland Mafia, face painting and feather hair extensions, a bounce house, food trucks and vendors.

The Warren Parks Department will continue its summer entertainment

Please see **FIREWORKS**, page 8

Select Board talks IT contract

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Select Board met Monday to discuss a new information technology contract with Anevry.

Town Administrator Justine Caggiano said the request for proposal was for IT services starting in fiscal year 2027, or July 1, and would replace the current provider, CMGeeks.

At the June 22 meeting, Caggiano said with the current provider, it is difficult to get people to the municipal building to solve IT problems, and Select Board Clerk Zack Spencer said it took the provider three days to set up his Select Board email, and did it incorrectly. He said the provider treated him unprofessionally when he confronted them about it.

There were some concerns with the new contract proposal brought up

Please see **CONTRACT**, page 5

100 and fabulous

Millie Reed celebrates centennial birthday

By Paula Ouimette
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WEST BROOKFIELD – Mildred "Millie" Reed celebrated her 100th birthday surrounded by family and friends at her residence at Brookhaven Assisted Care last week.

The June 17 party featured live music by Lori Brooks, a variety of refreshments, a birthday cake, and an outpouring of support for Reed, who spent many years living in neighboring Warren.

Reed was born during the Great Depression in 1926, the daughter of John and Fabiola Brunelle. Her family moved around a lot during this time, and she remembered eating only oatmeal and water.

A proud Republican, Reed recalled voting in her



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

Millie Reed celebrated her 100th birthday with family and friends at Brookhaven Assisted Care on June 17.

first presidential election, and selecting candidate Dwight D. Eisenhower.

At the party, Reed's friends said she was both an accomplished painter and a dedicated nurse. She also went to college, which was uncommon during her time.

Reed said she was a caretaker for her father for three years, her mother for seven years and her husband, Erwin Harry Reed, for 20 years.

"He's been gone 34 years," Reed said of her husband.

The Reeds had two chil-

dren during their 40+ year marriage, Erwin Harry Reed Jr. and Sandra Aulenback.

Family has always been important to Reed, who said her mother inspired her artistic side. She said they would stencil and quilt together.

"My mother and I always were together," she said.

Many of her family members were able to attend her 100th birthday party, including her son and her brother, Raymond Brunelle. Reed said her brother served

Please see **100**, page 5



Friends of Stone Church appoints Mackenzie as Artistic Director

HARDWICK – Friends of the Stone Church is investing in its celebrated concert program with the appointment of Mary Mackenzie, soprano, educator and arts administrator, as Artistic Director.



Mary Mackenzie

Critically acclaimed as “a soprano of extraordinary agility and concentration” by the New York Times, Mackenzie has performed across the U.S. and is particularly known for her evocative chamber music performances. As a soloist she has collaborated with the Albany Symphony, Phoenix Symphony, American Symphony Orchestra and the Juilliard Percussion Ensemble, among others.

After over a decade of being a full-time freelance musician based primarily in New York, she and her husband now live in Worcester, and she serves as the Director of Events & Operations for Infinity Events Co., an event planning company with a focus on producing events for corporate and non-profit businesses.

Mackenzie has a large network of colleagues in the northeast who are exceptional performers and educators in classical (and classical-adjacent) music and she is excited to bring her skills and contacts to FOSC and to

work with the FOSC board to develop its concert programming.

“As a performer and producer whose training is rooted in the classical tradition, but who has had a career built on a love of contemporary classical music, I believe very strongly in bridging the gap between old and new,” said Mackenzie. “I want audiences to have the opportunity to experience something familiar – and something surprising.”

Of the Stone Church Cultural Center, she said, “The Stone Church’s strength as a venue is its ability to be both a formal and informal space. The combination of wonderful acoustics, excellent instruments, and a warm, inviting and creative local community make it a true gem of a place for musical artists to share their work and to have fun doing it!”

FOSC continues its dual mission of preserving the iconic 1874 Stone Church and welcoming the community in through its open doors. Since its founding 11 years ago, one of the primary ways FOSC has engaged the community is through the presentation of high-quality music.

To continue the tradition of Friends of the Gilbertville Organ, established by founding board member the late

Don Boothman, and to develop its own signature concert program, former FOSC director Mary Warbasse reached out to many talented musicians to create a distinctive concert series. Her success is reflected in the fact that musicians contact FOSC wanting to play at the Stone Church Cultural Center.

FOSC president, Judy Edington, and the entire board recognized that this was a program worth continuing and investing in. Warbasse is “delighted that the program will continue with professional leadership.”

Mackenzie begins her part time position with FOSC immediately and will help complete and fill out the upcoming 2026/2027 concert season. The fall concerts will include Wild and Tended, a program of art songs from the 19th century to today, developed by and presented by Mackenzie and collaborator Matthew Jaskot from College of the Holy Cross.

Edington stated, “The board could not be more excited to begin this new relationship, and we look forward to watching how FOSC’s concert program will grow and evolve in the years ahead.”

FOSC is a charitable organization that relies on the generous support of time, talent and treasure of its community supporters. The Friends look forward to keeping the doors of the Stone Church Cultural Center wide open and welcoming in the community.

Are You Old News?



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



Last week's photo from 2023 showed Jen Robert of Warren and her children Jakob and Jordan at the Ware Veterans Carnival.

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

FinCom seeks volunteers to fill vacancies

WARE – The Finance Committee is looking for volunteers to fill two vacant positions on the five-member group.

One is for a three-year term, the other for the remaining two years of a three-year term.

The committee meets roughly once a month for most of the year but more frequently – at least four times a month – during the budget review cycle, primarily in March and April.

Once the recently passed revisions to Ware’s Town Charter are reviewed and approved by the state, the Finance Committee will become the Advisory Committee. It will continue to advise the Town Manager and Selectboard on the annual municipal budget and make recommendations on all financial articles to Ware Town Meeting.

As the Advisory Committee, it will also have the responsibility to review and make recommendations on all non-financial articles presented to Town Meeting.

This is an opportunity for citizens to participate in one of the most important roles that town government plays – developing the annual budget and how it funds the programs and services Ware citizens rely on.

If you are interested, please send a short message supporting your nomination to the Selectboard by email to ncroteau@townofware.com or by mail to Town Hall, 126 Main St., Ware, MA 01082.

Residents reminded to return annual census forms

WARE – Town Clerk Nancy Talbot said it is the last call to return your annual town census forms.

Massachusetts General Laws require each city and town to send an annual census to each household every year. The census was sent out to all households in Ware several months ago and currently the return has not been done by many households.

The law also requires that an inactivation of voters is done for those voters who have not returned the census. This will be done in the next week for those who do not mail or return their census in the blue drop box outside the lower-level offices.

When a voter is inactivated, a confirmation card is mailed and must be returned

to the Town Clerk to reactivate them.

There are three choices listed on the card: 1. I am still living at the same address in the Town of Ware, 2. I have moved to the following address (fill in the blank) in the Town of Ware or 3. I have moved out of town and wish to be deleted as a voter. My new address is (fill in the blank).

The card must be signed and dated by the voter and returned to the Town Clerk (it is a postage paid card).

If and when the card is not returned, the voter will need to complete paperwork when they come to vote at the next election. Proof of residency at the address the voter is listed at will be needed at that time.

WPS offers Summer Food Program from July 1-31

WARE – Ware Public Schools is committed to providing our students nutritious food.

Free meals for youth ages 18 and under will be offered Monday through Friday, July 1-31 at Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School for congregating eating and at the Municipal Parking Lot on Pleasant Street for to-go.

Breakfast will be served from 8-9 a.m. and lunch from 11:30

a.m.-12:30 p.m. at SMK. Lunch will be distributed from the Pleasant Street parking lot from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

No meals will be served on July 3. Dates and times are subject to change. No registration or ID is required.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Food Service Department at 413-967-5977. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

St. Aloysius Catholic School lists third trimester honor roll

HARDWICK – St. Aloysius Catholic School, 52 Church St., Gilbertville, announced the students who achieved the honor roll for the third trimester.

Grade Four, Honors
Jakob McBride, Lachlan McMartin, Juliana Moryl and Anthony Prentiss
Grade Five, High Honors
Connor Shunaman
Grade Five, Honors
Malikai Grinkley
Grade Six, Honors

Nicholas Barkoskie, Lillian Soja and Grant Verham

Grade Seven, High Honors
Aidan Caulfield
Grade Seven, Honors
Gabriel Docimo and Nikolas McBride
Grade Eight, High Honors
Gavin Letendre
Grade Eight, Honors
Jackson Boudreau, Hailey Casiello and Noelle St. Jacques

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 29

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

Tuesday, June 30

- 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, July 1

- 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, July 2

- 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, July 3
Closed for 4th of July holiday

LUNCHES DINE IN 11:30 a.m.

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

Monday, June 29 Picnic Lunch

Burgers/Hot Dogs, Potato Salad, Coleslaw, Watermelon, Dessert of the Day

Tuesday, June 30

Chicken Jambalaya, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day

Wednesday, July 1 Brunch

Chocolate Chip Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Dessert of the Day

Thursday, July 2

American Chop Suey, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day

Friday, July 3
Closed for 4th of July holiday

ACCURACY

WATCH

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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BEEF \$8.99 lb / CHICKEN \$5.99 lb

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Hardwick libraries ‘Dig’ into Summer Reading

Reptile show comes to Town House

HARDWICK – Hardwick libraries invite you to “Dig In and Read” and sign up for the Summer Reading Program at the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road. Beginning June 23 there will be activities and prizes for children through adult readers. Join the fun and explore history, science, and culture and dig into dinosaurs, paleontology, archaeology, American history, and plants, Nature and gardening.

This week focuses on dinosaur tracks and reptiles.

Rainforest Reptiles will be held on Saturday, June 27 at 10 a.m. at the Town House. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Paige Memorial Library.

Animals rescued from law enforcement seizures, abuse or neglect cases, or surrendered by owners will

be shown to help people connect with wildlife and learn about conservation. A uniformed, trained herpetologist will present a red or yellow-footed tortoise, a monitor or tegu lizard, a six-10 foot boa or python, a three-four foot American Alligator, frogs, bugs, snakes, lizards and real animal artifacts.

You will have the chance to safely touch some of the animals and to volunteer to assist.

Vintage Base Ball will be played on Saturday, July 11 at Roach Field. Join the library’s team, the Hardwick Haymakers, to defeat the Westfield Wheelman in a baseball game with Civil War rules or just come to watch the action and eat hot dogs and popcorn provided by the Parks and Recreation Committee to support their work.

Please call 413-477-6704 or email paigelibrary.hardwick@gmail.com for any questions or to secure your place at an event.

School Committee OK’s financial contract

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Interim Superintendent Michael Wood said the school district received one bid for financial services from TMS, Inc., the school district’s current provider.

At the June 17 School Committee meeting, Wood said the bid is for three years of financial services, and roughly reflects a 3% increase over the current contract.

The School Committee approved the contract.

Superintendent’s report

Wood said this was the official last day of school for the 2025-2026 school year. He said summer programs include an enrichment program, credit recovery for high school students and ESY.

These programs will be ongoing over four weeks.

Wood said the Class of 2026 graduation was “very, very nice” and that the students represented the school district and themselves well. He said it was a positive experience.

Wood said the final professional development

for staff was held on June 5, and it was follow-up training about discourse. “This was a hands-on practice event,” he said.

Wood said they are looking at a broad number of strategies to engage students in the classrooms.

“Just really trying to find ways that the kids come to school excited about what they’re about to do,” he said.

He said administrators will discuss this during their summer retreat.

Wood said the state had a committee looking at high school graduation framework after Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System test was removed as a graduation requirement.

Wood said they still have to take MCAS “very seriously” as it makes an impact on the school district’s accountability measures for overall performance of students.

“It’s still part of accountability,” he said of the test.

He said new graduation requirements, which focus on multiple pathways, will take effect for freshmen during the 2029 academic year.

“They follow what we approved earlier this year under MyCAP [My Career and Academics Plan],” he

said. “It’s something already existing...the majority of high schools in the commonwealth follow it.”

He said the new graduation course requirements include digital literacy, AI and financial literacy.

“I think we’re in good shape,” he said. “We’ve teed it up well.”

Wood said the administrative team has done a good job in hiring to fill staff vacancies for fiscal year 2027. He said they have candidates for the few openings at the high school

Wood said the school district is shifting to ParentSquare for communication with families and school staff. He said this will replace Class Dojo.

Training videos for ParentSquare will be posted on the school district’s website at wareps.org.

“It will be great to have all the families on the same one,” he said.

Wood announced the recent passing of paraprofessional Kim Roach. He offered his condolences to her family.

Principal departure

Wood said High School Principal Scott Slattery

announced that he has “concluded his employment with the Ware Public Schools.”

Wood said Megan Sears will remain as the acting principal, with the option to return to her position as assistant principal. He said he is offering her a three-year contract.

Financial report

Andy Paquette of TMS, Inc. said he is beginning a deep review of all open purchase orders and end-of-year expenses that aren’t encumbered. He said they also re-classed expenses to Circuit Breaker and school choice.

“To zero out the local and get us to a point where we’re able to close our books for FY 26,” he said.

Paquette said the school district received more Circuit Breaker and school choice money from the final numbers from the state.

“That’s always a good thing,” he said.

Physical therapist

Wood said the physical therapist is currently not included in the teacher’s contract, and she has asked

Please see **CONTRACT**, page 13

MILL-HEALTH from page 1

repair and service properties; and the former Mary Lane Hospital site.

Duchesneau spoke about the businesses that exist in the millyard today, including a gym, a brewery, a marijuana cultivation company, a childcare facility, a moving company and health and wellness services.

He said the millyard buildings are “in a variety of states,” including one mill building that is owned by the town.

The East Street, Knox Avenue and Maple Street area encompasses 12.8 acres and has environmental concerns due to the storage of junk cars near the Ware River. He said there are opportunities here for enforcement or reuse.

Duchesneau talked about the former St. Mary’s school building on South Street, which is vacant. The school is approximately 15,000 square feet and the property has significant open space.

Access to the Ware River was also discussed, and he shared an artistic rendering of river access at the east end of the millyard. He said the town could develop a scenic overlook or pocket park in the area.

“Just a way to get people to the river and be able to enjoy,” he said.

Duchesneau said there is an automotive repair and service property on Maple Street in a residential area. He said it is a nonconforming use in this zoning area.

“There is some heavy car storage in this particular area,” he said.

Duchesneau said an automotive repair property on East Main Street is allowed by special permit in the Downtown Commercial Zoning District where it is located.

The former Mary Lane Hospital site is about 22 acres and has one building remaining on the site. He said there are some environmentally sensitive areas on the property, including wetlands, but there is a “lot of opportunity here for future redevelopment.”

Duchesneau said the millyard buildings are recommended for “retention, renovation or significant intervention.” Five of the buildings are in use and in good condition, three could potentially be renovated and are presumed to be vacant and three are in poor or unsafe conditions.

“These buildings have holes in the roof or potentially no roofs at all,” he said. “They are in a dilapidated state and need some attention.”

Other recommendations for the Mill-Health District include areas for reuse, enforcement and screening; enhanced access to Ware River; public parking near Memorial Field; bicycle accommodations on South Street; community center/garden space or housing at former St. Mary’s School; medical services, assisted living housing and trail at the former Mary Lane Hospital; zoning adjustment for Health Care Services District (special permit to as-of-right) and the creation of a Redevelopment Authority.

The next steps for the project include forming the Redevelopment Authority and completing a detailed district-wide property, infrastructure and market assessment.

Neighborhood outreach

Police Chief Shawn Crevier, Board of Health Code Enforcement Officer John Prenosil and Building Commissioner and Zoning Enforcement Officer Anna Marques appeared before the board at the request of Selectboard Vice-Chair Ken Willette.

Willette said he asked Town Manager Stuart Beckley to invite this panel to the meeting after a recent drug bust on Otis Avenue, and the negative comments about the town on social media.

“That’s not what Ware is,” Willette said. “That’s not what we are, that’s not what we expect, that’s not what we strive for...we wanted to come in and talk about are we doing enough? Are we doing the right things? Are we doing the things to make your jobs easier? Supporting you with what you need? Improving the quality of life not only for the residents of town, but for the residents who live on those streets.”

Crevier the department to reduce substance use and addiction issues in the town over the past decade.

This includes starting the DART program, and partnering with the Behavioral Health Network. He said there are recovery centers on Main Street and a mobile methadone clinic comes to town regularly.

“The avenues for the help and the treatment are there,” Crevier said. “The enforcement, the trust between the Police Department and the public is also there.”

Crevier talked about residents on Vigean and Aspens

streets taking responsibility to help solve substance use problems, by standing up against drug dealing in their neighborhood.

“I’d like to see that be done up on Otis Avenue,” he said.

Crevier said they will continue to back and protect residents.

Marques spoke about an Otis Avenue building that was damaged by a recent fire.

She said the building owner has been responsive to the town and made sure the building was properly secured following the fire.

Marques there is significant damage to the building and if repaired, it will need code updates and sprinklers. She said the structure is sound on the exterior.

“Unfortunately we’re in a waiting period right now just to see what can be done,” she said.

Marques said it’s still too early to know what will happen with the property.

Prenosil spoke about the process to address abandoned properties in town, and he referenced a house on 16 Walnut St. He said the town is going through the receivership process with the Attorney General’s office.

“The owners haven’t done anything, they haven’t complied with past orders to renovate the property or fix any

of the issues there,” he said.

A receiver will come in and renovate the property and either sell it or put it out to bid through auction.

“That’s something that we can do through the Board of Health to take an older property that’s been abandoned or vacant...and that’s what we did at Webb Court,” he said.

Prenosil said this process can take time, and is not always the best solution, but it has been successful in the town.

Opioid settlement task force

Emma Berthiaume, epidemiologist for the Quabog Hills Substance Use Alliance, introduced the Opioid Settlement Fund Task force members and presented two grant proposals for approval.

Berthiaume said the task force is made up of key stakeholders and public health experts.

The money from the settlement fund are intended to “address harms caused by opioids in the community.”

The money can be used for treatment and recovery, harm reduction, addressing the needs of people involved in the criminal justice system due to opioids, supporting pregnant or parenting individuals and families of babies with neonatal abstinence syndrome, preventing

misuse of opioids and implementing prevention education.

“There is currently about \$95,000 available with more funding coming in,” Berthiaume said.

She said they would like to establish a mini grant program in order to disperse the funds throughout the community. Local communities that utilize this program include Belchertown, Palmer and Monson.

The mini grants will be used to purchase 10 additional hot spots for the Ware Library (to bring the total number up to 20) and provide support for people in recovery through the Recovery Center of HOPE.

The Selectboard approved a mini grant to the Ware Library in the amount of \$1,425.48 and to the Recovery Center of HOPE for \$2,625.

Water survey results

Willette said the recent water survey received over 800 responses from residents.

He said many residents reported concerns about the perception of the town’s water quality.

“We know that we passed the laboratory rankings, we know that it’s not dangerous water, but we do know that there’s times that it is brown,” Willette said.



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viewpoints

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Buelow-Cascio withdraws from FinCom appointment

Editor's Note: This letter was also submitted to the Selectboard.

Dear Selectboard,

After reviewing the latest BOS meeting where you decided not to appoint me to the Finance Committee, I have now decided to pull back my application.

Realizing you were ready to appoint new people two months ago, when I submitted my application, and have had no response or communication since, I feel very discouraged.

I would have thought my previous experience on the Finance Committee and Selectboard, along with my work experience with budgets, and formal education, and having no conflict of interest, would have made my application a somewhat easy one to approve.

Though I am disappointed with the way this process was handled, I can assure you I will be staying involved. Looking at the expenditures of the town and the ways that the Finance Committee and BOS are looking at the departments to make changes and advising new ways of providing services in a cost-effective manner.

As we already know, using Free cash to manage our budget is not considered practical nor viable

long term.

Another area I am concerned about is in the biggest expenses for our town, town employee benefits. I hope to see "out of the box" thinking of ways to make changes and adjustments that are prudent and cost saving.

As you move forward with appointing new members to the Finance Committee, I firmly hope that you appoint candidates that can be fully engaged.

I sincerely hope you re-think any appointment to the Finance Committee that could create a conflict of interest. A candidate that is a town employee and has immediate family members also employed, will have any vote they are involved with regarding budgets, town employee benefits, and others, questioned.

When I questioned the state ethics in the past, they had told me that as a BOS member, a town employee should have recused themselves from any type of budget items, as this is a clear conflict of interest. On the Finance Committee this will also be scrutinized.

In closing, I wish you luck in finding interested and proper candidates to fill these positions.

Sincerely,

Catherine Buelow-Cascio Ware

Kohlrabi: The first Garden Lady question of the summer

A reader of 'In the Garden' wrote in with this question for the Garden Lady: "Can you tell me why my kohlrabi did not make a bulb? I have grown them all my life and enjoyed them shredded like coleslaw or cooked with a white sauce. I also know I can use the leaves in stir fry. Thanks for any advice you might have."

While I am not highly experienced when it comes to kohlrabi culture, I applied a few basic gardening principles to come up with some ideas as to why you are having issues with bulb development, some within your control and others left up to Mother Nature.

Kohlrabi is a member of the cabbage family, a cruciferous vegetable. Think cabbage, broccoli, kale, Brussels's sprouts, etc.

The swollen stem is considered the "bulb" but it does not grow below ground. Picture the heart of cabbage or the stem of broccoli swollen to look like a flying saucer of sorts.

As our reader mentioned, they are great in coleslaw and they keep a long time. Like other members of this family, they are considered highly nutritious.

Let's start with fertility. For the biggest, bulbous stem, think less nitrogen and more potassium and phosphorus.

I'm curious if you fertilized with high nitrogen sources, such as composted manure, blood meal or fish



emulsion? Or perhaps used a chemical fertilizer with a ratio such as 10-5-5?

The first number would indicate a higher amount of nitrogen than the other two numbers for phosphorus and potassium, respectively.

Another thought would be that kohlrabi can sometimes resist proper bulb formation if it is spaced too close together. Planting a minimum of eight inches apart gives the plant enough space to do it's thing.

Since you've had luck with kohlrabi in the past, I'm thinking either of these scenarios are likely not the case, unless you are gardening in a new locale with new materials or more limited space.

The other two considerations are Mother Nature related.

As I recall, we had a burst of hotter than normal weather in late May. Since Kohlrabi is a cool weather crop, thriving at temperatures less than 75 degrees, the heat stress could have signaled the crop to bolt without ever forming a bulb.

Are your plants tall and spindly, or are they otherwise well developed? If you installed transplants, perhaps the trouble started even before the plants even made their way into your garden.



Just another thought!

The second weather related issue is moisture. Mother Nature has not been generous in the rain department. Sometimes when droughty conditions are followed by bouts of deep soaking, the would-be bulbous stems can crack or get fibrous before actually bulbing up.

Since we have had less rain that what would be ideal, providing consistent moisture is key.

Although I am not 100% certain why you are having issues this year, I hope that you do give kohlrabi another try. Maybe it was just an off year.

Typically we gardeners are an optimistic lot and our motto is "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." That, I know we will.

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

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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.

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SOCIAL SECURITY Matters By Russell Gloor

Why don't they just create individual Social Security accounts?

Dear Rusty:

Regarding Social Security's financial issues, three people contributing to Social Security for every one beneficiary sounds to me like a surplus.

If they had given workers their own accounts, similar to a 401k, where they could manage their own money, it would have worked out more favorably for retirees. President George W Bush suggested these changes, but it was shot down by Congress.

The average worker now pays a 6.2% Social Security tax. If the government had bumped it up to say 7%, I don't believe that me or anyone else would have cried too hard.

There are ways of correcting this before the SS reserves are depleted and, hopefully, Congress will address Social Security's financing soon.

Signed: Skeptical Senior

Dear Skeptical:

Believe it or not, putting SS contributions from payroll taxes into separate individual accounts is not really a good idea.

For information, most people get back all payroll taxes they contributed to Social Security within about five years of receiving SS benefits. Even with decent public market returns, some individual separate accounts would eventually run out of money, causing some to lose Social Security benefits before they die, meaning they would like-

ly live in poverty.

People are now collecting benefits on average for decades and the current SS format means that even those who contribute only a small amount will collect benefits no matter how long they live. Remember, the primary purpose of the SS program is to reduce poverty in America.

FYI, President Bush's plan had opposition in the 2005 Congress largely because of the cost to transition to that plan and the fear that investments in the public markets subjected individual retirement savings to unacceptable risk.

In any case, few have since advocated investing Social Security funds in the public financial markets because of the risks and the political backlash. And adding a small amount to the FICA/SECA payroll tax rate only somewhat mitigates the problem; it doesn't completely solve it. I'm afraid that Social Security's financial issues are more complex than that and can't be fully solved by a small increase in SS payroll taxes.

You are right Congress can and, we are confident, will address this and hopefully soon. For its part, the Association of Mature American Citizens and the AMAC Foundation have been evaluating this issue for years and have developed a Social Security reform plan for Congress to consider.

Please see SSI, page 13



Defeating glyphosate like we did tobacco

By Jack Kittredge

I was 19 years old in 1964 when Luther Terry, U.S. Surgeon General, warned the nation about tobacco.

He released a historic study linking cigarette smoking to cancer and other serious diseases. The reaction was fast and furious.

Legislation flew through both houses of Congress to require warning labels on cigarette packages and in tobacco ads. It went into effect the next year, in 1965. Cigarettes are still sold and smoked today, but nowhere nearly as widely, having declined among US adults by about 70%.

The industry had disputed such studies for over a decade, contesting their methodology and challenging the authors' credibility. They even published a number of articles in scientific journals whitewashing smoking, which were later retracted, including ones on nico-

tine and liver disease, heart attacks, and diabetes. But the 1964 report was unequivocal, conclusive, and carried the authority of the highest health official in the U.S. government.



Such a precedent may seem inconsequential today, considering all the problems confronting us now. But to those millions of people who never took up smoking because of it, that firm action by the federal government was a life-saver. We are presented with a quite similar situation today.

According to a Jan. 2 article in the New York Times, a 2000 study whitewashing the herbicide glyphosate has been retracted by the scientific journal that published

it. Glyphosate is the active ingredient of the pesticide Roundup and in the study it was absolved of being a carcinogen. The paper went on to become the cornerstone of regulations that deemed the pesticide safe.

In recently retracting the study, though, the journal, Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology, cited "serious ethical concerns" regarding the authors of it and indications (gained from emails later discovered during lawsuits) that they had received compensation for it from the weed-killer's maker Monsanto before its recent sale to Bayer.

"This is a seismic, long-awaited correction of the scientific record," said Dr. Philip J. Landrigan, Boston College's director of the College in Global Public Health. "It pulls the veil off decades of industry efforts to

Please see RESILIENCE, page 13



Millie Reed posed for photo with her family members.

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

100 from page 1

a year in Vietnam, and that he was approaching his 95th birthday.

Reed was also joined at her party by many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, including some that traveled from California for the special day.

Reed continues to be active in her community, and her friend’s said she never skips a song or dance at the Warren Senior Center.

Turning 100 has been bittersweet for Reed, who said she is both happy and sad about the milestone.

“Sad because I’ve lost just about everyone,” she said. “And happy to have such a gathering of relatives and friends.”

While blowing out the candles on her cake, Reed asked if she could make a wish to live 100 more years.

The staff at Brookhaven Assisted Care said Reed has touched the lives of a lot of people.

“She has such a big community,” BillyJo said.

Manager Erin thanked everyone who made the party a success, including Heidi McDermott at Shaw’s supermarket, Green Thumb Florist in West Brookfield, and Reed’s friend who baked the cake.



Millie Reed blew out the candles on her birthday cake.



Family and friends celebrated Millie Reed’s centennial birthday.

Workshop13 seeks contributions for community art project

WARE – Workshop13 invites community members of all ages and abilities to help create a large-scale modern Lady Liberty puppet to delight the crowds at Ware’s celebration parade for the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Revolution.

Your artwork will be incorporated into Lady Liberty’s flowing robes, bringing together public art, storytelling and community participation.

The deadline to participate is July 1.

Use 8 ½ inch x 11 inch paper or fabric to draw, paint, write a message, poem, pattern, or artwork of inspiration and hope for the future. Your artwork will become part of Lady Liberty’s robe — a colorful quilt of hopes, dreams and community stories. Artwork can be dropped off in per-

son in the dropbox outside Workshop13’s main building at 13 Church St. You can include your name, age, and email on the back of your piece or submit anonymously.

You can also submit your work by emailing info@workshop13.org with the subject line: Lady Liberty.

Workshop13 is also offering several free workshops related to this project. For adults, there will be a special community art gathering on June 24 from 6-8 p.m. facilitated by Megan McDonough.

For all ages, Elizabeth Buck will be leading three family-friendly workshops on June 23, 24, and 25 from 10 a.m.-noon. On the June 23, people can drop in to dye, paint, print, or draw on a fabric patch for Lady Liberty’s robes. On the June 24, participants will craft a

unique crown that reflects their personality, creativity, and community pride.

They will be invited to join Workshop13 in the parade as one of the shining stars on our celebratory flags.

And on June 25, participants can craft a personalized percussion instrument a be invited to march with Workshop13 in the parade as part of the vibrant drum circle that will lead the way for the Lady Liberty puppet.

About Workshop13

Workshop13 is a dynamic center where arts, culture, and community converge—expanding access to the arts and nurturing creativity and self-expression in our rural region.

For more information visit workshop13.org, or call 413-277-6072.

Quabbin High School lists honor roll

BARRE – Quabbin Regional High School announced the students who earned honor roll distinction for the third quarter.

Grade Nine, High Honors

Alison Baptiste, Hazel Carter, Lauren Colleton, Adalyn Cranston, Maya Faucher, Silas Flint, Porsche Mathieu, Whitney Reeves, Madisyn Shotwell, Addison Surprenant and John Tyler.

Grade Nine, Honors

Olivia Abbas-Peck, Emma Ackert, Shahad Alshujairi, Kalina Bassett, Annabella Desrosiers, Brynn Dunphy, Tyler Ellis, Kiara Hanny-Rivera, Sarah Jean-Francois, Aixamary Maldonado, Sage McQueston, Gemma Mullins, Greyson Mullins, William O’Neill, Nathaniel Perry, Lukas Potter, Chloe Richardson, Kimberly Riendeau, Jillian Rigney, Ava Rogowski, Connor Roohan, Zoey Salvadore,

Adele Strickland, Michael Tabares, Robert Tobin, Mackenzie Toupin, Launa Tran, Robyn Waltz, Dylan Woodward and Jack Wynne.

Grade 10, High Honors

Nicholas Carroll and Ava Sobol.

Grade 10, Honors

Brent Benoit, Anyiah Bergeron, Abraham Brown, Josephine Buck, Brian Colleton, Kayla Curran, Ryan Dailey, Hailey Days, Aliyah Edouard, Maya Edouard, Arianna Fagnoli, Audrey Faucher, Sydney Freeman, Daniella Gaudreault, Nolan Gorman, Chloe Howarth, Ava Kinney, Matthew Labrousse, Alison LaRoche, Collin Leclair, Emma Lindsey, Gianna Montalvo, Audrey Niles, Anthony Noborini, Sophia Pena, Aubrie Phelps, Moira Powers, Juliet Priestley, Carter Stevenson, Hailey Stoll, Silas Stukuls

Barrieau, Ryleigh Sullivan, Natalie Theriault, Benjamin Thompson, Erin Trottier, Catherine Tucker, Matthew VanScoy and Shane Woodruff.

Grade 11, High Honors

Alexa Araujo, Madeleine Boisselle, Isabel Doty, Leah Doucette, Tess Dunphy, Kathryn Ford, Ella Reeves and Ellary White.

Grade 11, Honors

Klavdiya Antonian, Skyler Bard, Jacob Bassett, Halo Bissonnette, Ruari Bosley, Mackenzie Casey, Brody Faucher, Grace Flamand, Kayleigh Fuller, Kirk Kaelin II, Sierra Lambert, Jillian LaMontagne, Audrey Laursen, Scarlett Merriman, Anna Metcalf, Mia Miville, Jesse Newton, Samantha O’Connor, Sylvan Rector, Emma Ryan, Sienna

Please see **QUABBIN**, page 7

CONTRACT from page 1

by Select Board Vice-Chair William Tinker, including significant price increases after the first year of the contract.

Tinker said over the three years of the agreement, the cost would rise 54%. He said that cost is excessive given the town’s budget. Caggiano said the second and third year can be negotiated, and the idea at the present is to agree to a one year deal as a trial.

Tinker said there were other issues with Anevry, such as them having no obligation to cooperate if the town moves to a new provider until the town pays a termination fee of \$15,000. Caggiano said that language had been taken out of the contract, but Tinker said he had not seen it.

Another concern brought up was a late fee imposed by Anevry, where if the town is 30 days late in a payment,

their services could be terminated without notice.

Tinker said another problem was the contract allows Anevry permanent right to town space during the duration of the original contract, even if services are terminated early. He said that takes away the town’s control to part of their building.

Tinker said another concern was the town only has five days to object to any service, and if they fail to send a detailed report, Anevry would deem the service acceptable.

Caggiano said she recommended the board sign the contract at the meeting, in order to give CMGeeks some notice, but the board voted to table signing the agreement until it was reviewed by town counsel.

Meeting minutes

There were several meeting minutes up for review, but

Tinker had amendments to make on some of them.

For the Oct. 14, 2025 meeting, Tinker said there was missing information regarding Historical Commission appointments, and an open meeting law response. These minutes were approved as amended.

For the Nov. 10, 2025 minutes, Tinker said there was conflicting information regarding a vote that was taken by the board, missing information regarding a presentation by Judi Korzec, requests from board members and the public to be put on the record were not on there, missing information about Historical Commission seed money and missing information regarding a meeting with Barre ambulance. The board tabled the pending amendments for this meeting.

For the April 13, 2026 meeting, Tinker said there

was only one sentence regarding audit findings, when there should have been information about illegal financial practices, cash variance, administration errors and stale checks. He also said there was missing information about the risk of the aging infrastructure at the Hardwick Elementary School, the Hardwick Mill Greenery and the Barre Council on Aging. Caggiano said the audit findings were not discussed in the April meeting, but a prior one, and Select Board Chair Jeff Schaaf said since it was not talked about in the meeting, it does not belong in the minutes. Spencer said that information should be available for residents to see on the website.

For the April 27, 2026 meeting, Tinker said there was missing information about the former chair, Eric Vollheim, keeping personal

complaints in a folder. He said there was missing information on the RFP for 179 Main St. and its unreasonable timelines, firetruck financing, and things said by state Sen. Peter Durant at the meeting.

The board tabled these minutes.

Hardwick Elementary lease agreement

The board revisited the Hardwick Elementary School lease agreement, and again voted to table signing it because there were unclear comments from town counsel on it, so the board wanted to seek clarification on what they meant before signing.

Appointment

The board voted to appoint John Horgan as a recycling center laborer. Caggiano said he was recommended by the Recycling Commission and passed his background check.

Year end transfers

The board signed a number of year end transfers as presented by the Accountant, Holly Mann.

STM

The board said there has not been a response from town counsel on the Planning Board bylaw change recommendations, so they tabled setting a date for the special town meeting.

Public comment

Dylan Sherwood, a resident, said he has purchased the Whistle Stop Restaurant, and it should be opening in a month. Sherwood said he was a former employee of the restaurant.

He said he plans on getting a liquor license, and the plans are to continue serving breakfast and lunch.

“I really look forward to being here,” he said.



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- ADA Commission (5) – assist people with disabilities by making the town more accessible
- Agricultural Commission (1) – promote farming and farmers
- Board of Registrars (1-Democrat) – assist with elections and census
- Conservation Commission (1 Member & 2 Alternates) – care of wetlands and open space
- Council on Aging (3) – provide assistance and programs for senior citizens
- Open Space Committee (2) – work on open space protection and trails
- Planning Board (1 Alternate) – review plans for development and growth
- Tax Increment Financing Authority (TIF Committee) (1)
- Youth Committee (3) – improvements and activities for town youth
- Zoning Board of Appeals (1 Member & 1 Alternate) -review permits and building appeals

Applications can be found at:
townofware.com/boardsandcommittees



Youth athletes of Warren/ West Brookfield Youth Football & Cheerleading held a car wash fundraiser in front of Lizak Bus Service, Inc. in Warren.

Clean cars left the bus station thanks to the members of Warren/ West Brookfield Youth Football & Cheerleading.

CENTER: Vice President of Cheer Danielle Fountain is shown with a car wash sign.



Cheer squad members Maggie, Amesley and Keaghan were keeping busy washing cars during the car wash fundraiser this past weekend.

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – Warren/West Brookfield Youth Football & Cheerleading held a car wash fundraiser this past weekend in front of Lizak Bus Service.

Every car wash helps fund equipment, uniforms and opportunities for kids who participate in these local sporting clubs.

President of the organization Erica Bouchard said this was the second year the Warren/West Brookfield Youth Football and Cheerleading organization had hosted a car wash. Last year’s car wash helped raise \$1,000.

Around 100 cars were washed last year, and the youth athletes were looking to get more cars this year.

There was a lot of teamwork happening and the cars were leaving the car wash shiny and clean.

More information about youth football and cheerleading can be found at www.wwbyfc.com.



Catherine and Izabella gave this car a good wash.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Vice President of Football Dan Bouchard washed a four-wheeler at the car wash.

Warren Public Library kicks off Summer Reading

WARREN – Roar into summer with Dino Adventures at the Warren Public Library on Friday, June 26 at 1 p.m. on the town common.

Do you like dinosaurs? Then stomp, rattle, roar your way down to the common to kick off the Warren Public Library’s Summer Reading 2026 with Dino Adventures.

Sign up for Summer Reading, see dinosaur fossils, meet live animals

and unearth a summer full of great stories. Summer Reading is fun for all ages.

Dino Adventures is presented by Animal Adventures, an exotic animal rescue founded by Ed and Brenda Laquidara. Since 1997, Animal Adventures has been educating the public about animals through engaging, interactive programs that inspire curiosity, conservation and respect for wild-life.

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Quaboag students featured at state civics showcase

WARREN – Quaboag Regional Middle High School eighth graders in Joe Salvatore’s civics classes completed their capstone Civics Action Project.

These group projects had the students identifying values that are important to them and from those values choosing a

topic within their community to research and potentially create an action plan to create a positive change. The process of researching their topic and collecting evidence pulled together many of the skills they learned in their civics course throughout the year.

Students also learned to

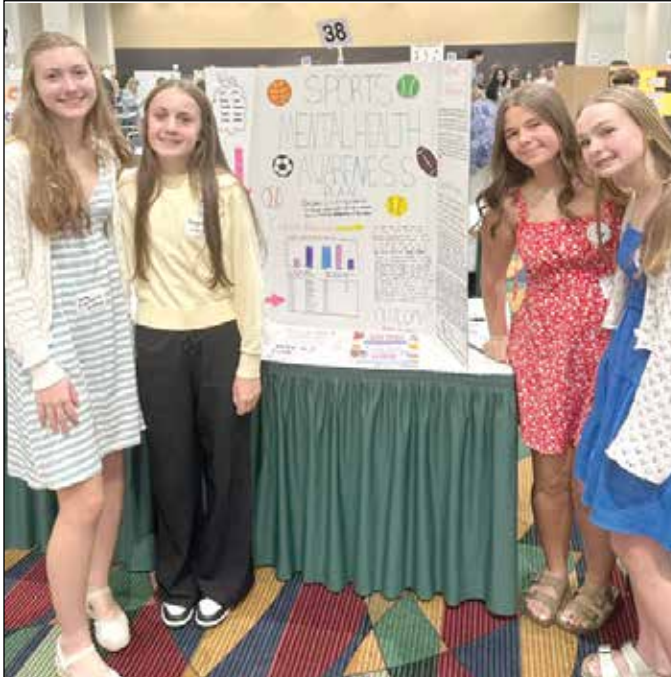
collect input from opposing sides, identify obstacles, communicate with policy makers, and realize that creating change or “getting something done” in a community is not as easy as just saying it.

After the school level showcase two groups were selected to attend the state

level showcase at the DCU Center in Worcester. Showing their work with hundreds of other students from central Massachusetts, Quaboag students did an excellent job presenting to community leaders and received praise for their project work and presentation.



Lorrelai Croft, Jariella Male(kneeling) and Leah Vongratsamy presented their Civics Action project focused on anxiety and depression awareness.



Farrah Piermarini, Raegan Grant, Callie Hawk and Caitlyn Toomey presented their Civics Action Project on sports mental health awareness at the DCU Center in Worcester.

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UNITED CHURCH
from page 1

many throughout the community over the past centuries, and it is well-known for its welcoming environment and outreach efforts.

The church members continue a long-standing tradition to serve free meals on both Thanksgiving and Christmas, ensuring that no one goes without or is alone on these important holidays.

Joining the celebration and representing the United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church, respectively, were Rev. Carol Steinbrecher and Rev. Megan Stowe.

Steinbrecher said the United Church of Ware has laid its strong foundation in the teachings of Jesus Christ, and reached an “amazing milestone.”

“We’re celebrating 200 years of service over three centuries,” she said.

Steinbrecher said people are hungry for care and connection, love and friendship – and they find that here at the church.

She presented the congregation with a certificate to mark these years of service.

Stowe shared greetings from the bishop and said they are delighted for the ways the church has been in ministry both locally and throughout the world.

Several ministers who had ties to the United Church of Ware joined the service to read the scripture, and share some of their memories.

Rev. Linda (Nicholas) Michel, Rev. Carlos Jauhola-Straight, Pastor Ira Cameron, Revs. Bruce and Beverly Prestwood-Taylor, Rev. James Desmarais-Morse, Rev. Charles Taylor and Pastor Carole Bull read from the scripture during the service.

Cameron said the congregation was an important part of his life and he was grateful to return this weekend to celebrate the 100th/200th anniversary.

Desmarais-Morse shared a story of the time he forgot to fill the baptismal font, and had to discreetly transport a cup of water in his robe from the pulpit to fill it.

“It’s so good to be here... it’s such a blessing,” he said.

Taylor and Bull also shared humorous baptism stories.

Taylor recalled a service in which the youth of the congregation dipped sticks in



Rev. Megan Stowe of the United Methodist Church's New England Conference spoke on behalf of the bishop.

water and waved them at the members of the congregation while shouting “remember your baptism.”

“Everyone got wet,” he said.

Bull said she baptized a teen church member, who requested a full-body immersion, which she was unable to fulfill in the middle of winter. She was able to meet this young churchgoer’s request by sprinkling them all over with water.

Church member Joanna Christensen read a letter from Rev. Barbara Schenk about her experience with the United Church of Ware.

Schenk stated, “The United Church of Ware will always hold a special place in my heart.”

Christensen also spoke about the discovery of the church’s time capsule from 1984. It was placed in the wall during a renovation project, and posed a bit of a challenge to locate for that day’s service.

She said she had forgotten about the time capsule, and was reminded about it by her son when she was talking to him about the anniversary plans a year prior. She spoke with various church members, and eventually found someone who remembered where it was placed.

A panel of the wall was removed, but unfortunately, the time capsule was not there. Christensen said they tried using a metal detector, but were unsuccessful.

A second panel was removed and after quite a bit of work, the time capsule (which was plastic and not metal), was found.

Following the service, the congregation was invited to explore the contents of the time capsule, while enjoying cake and coffee.

colors and more.

Free and open to the public, no registration required. All ages welcome.



The choir performed during a special anniversary service at the United Church of Ware.



Rev. Charles Taylor gave his scripture readings.



Pastor David Blessinger of the United Church of Ware's ministry team welcomed people to the anniversary service.



Music Director Cailan McClure accompanied the choir on the piano.



Joanna Christensen talked about the church's time capsule.



The choir performed the hymn “Come Christians, Join to Sing”.



Rev. Carol Steinbrecher, United Church of Christ's Area Conference minister, spoke during the service.



Revs. Beverly and Bruce Prestwood-Taylor shared a scripture reading.



The choir performed “Come With Thanksgiving”.

Library hosts ‘Dinosaur Origami’ on July 2

WARREN – The Warren Public Library will offer prehistoric fun with Dinosaur Origami on Thursday, July 2 at 3 p.m.

Local artist Faye Lee will teach our young dino enthusiasts how to fold, crease and create prehistoric creatures from paper. Lee is a multi-talented crafter and carpenter with skills in knitting, crocheting, paper arts, water

QUABBIN from page 5

Shaw, Brady Skinner, Owen Twarog and Brendan Welch.

Grade 12, High Honors
Adam Adams, Tricia Bruso, Elizabeth Matheson and Madelyn Stauder.

Grade 12, Honors
Aaron Bodine, Owen Breuer, Troy Budreau, Bailey Burke, Kylee Costello, Mia Ducos, Kalina Dyer, Hemily Halaby, Adelaide Harmon, Ian Haupt, Annie Howe, Emma Kahlau, Anthony Landry, Jacob LaValley, Aidan Mahoney, Grace Manna, Hunter McQueston, Adrian Parker, Madeleine Rigney, Lindsey Ryan, Cameran Vega, Samantha Vessair, Thomas Wigglesworth, Bianca Wilder and Jin Xi Zou.

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Red, white and boom



Students helped sell concessions during the fireworks show.



Wonderland Mafia performed before the fireworks show began.

A volunteer played the air guitar during Wonderland Mafia's performance.



A child got some cotton candy.



AJ Paquette had his face painted at the fireworks show.

FIREWORKS from page 1

with its Concerts in the Park series on Friday, June 26 at 6 p.m., featuring Moose and the High Tops at Dean Park, end of Dean Street in West Warren. Bring a blanket or chair.

This concert will have a "bounce house blow out," with multiple bounce houses and an obstacle course. The concert is free, but two-hour wristband admission to the bounce houses is \$15 per person with sales beginning at 5:45 p.m.

These events are sponsored in part by a grant from the Warren Cultural Council, a local agency which is sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



Maeve and Christine Luszcz waited for the Warren Parks Department's annual fireworks show to begin at Quaboag Regional Middle High School on June 19.



Turley Photos by Camren Robertson



Friends enjoyed the fireworks show and the start of summer.

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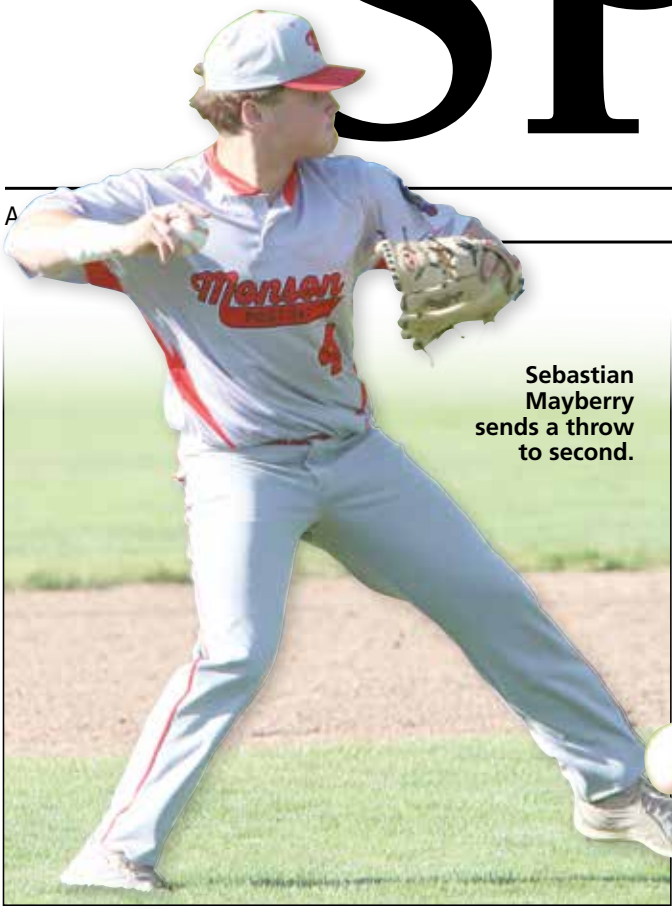
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Sebastian Mayberry sends a throw to second.

Post 241 suffers loss to visiting Greenfield

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—Entering the second week of the American Legion baseball season, Monson Post 241 had the opportunity to move into a first-place tie with Greenfield Post 81 in the Zone 3A standings.

The Monson sup-

porters didn't have very much to cheer for in the first meeting between the two teams. Greenfield remained in sole possession of first place and improved to a perfect 3-0 following an 11-0 shutout victory on a gorgeous evening at Legion Field in Palmer, last Monday (June 15). The contest ended after five innings due to the 10-run mercy rule.

"We made more errors than we had base hits in tonight's game," said Palmer manager Steve Tripp. "You always have to make the plays to beat a very good hitting team like Greenfield."

While Greenfield outscored their first three opponents, 39-2, Monson (1-2)

Please see **POST 241**, page 11

Quabbin EP Wine advances to District 3 title game

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BARRE—The final baseball game of the season played by the Quabbin EP Wine Little League team at Felton Field in Barre was a very enjoyable experience.

Quabbin EP Wine advanced into the District 3 championship game following a 10-0 shutout victory over Athol/Orange last Tuesday night. The game was halted by the home plate umpire with two outs in the bottom of the fourth inning due to the ten-run mercy rule.

"We played very well defensively, were aggressive on the bases, and we also got the job done at the plate," said Quabbin EP Wine manager Matt LaPointe, who's squad posted its first shutout of the season. "It was an awesome performance tonight."

Quabbin EP Wine (8-5) also defeated Athol/Orange (5-7) three times during the regular season.

Quabbin lefthanders Murphy LaPointe and Deklan Sampson combined

Please see **QUABBIN**, page 10



Anthony Elliott fouls off a pitch.



Brayden Mega sends a pitch home.



Kyle Kaczuwka makes a play on a bouncing ball to first base.

Pioneers battle to draw with Boston Bolts

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW— After 21 days away from historic Lusitano Stadium, the Western Mass. Pioneers returned home last Friday night for an intra-state showdown with the Boston Bolts.

The Pioneers faithful supporters had plenty to celebrate early in the match, as the home side stormed out to a 2-0 advantage in the 24th minute.

The Bolts responded with a goal late in the first half. They struck again 15 minutes into the second half and the USL League Two matchup ended in a 2-2 draw in front of a large crowd.

"We held a 2-1 halftime

lead," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. "We didn't play very well in the second half. This is a very disappointing result for us."

Both teams entered the match with a total of 14 goals.

The Pioneers (5-1-2), who have allowed 10 goals, are currently sitting in third place in the Northeast Division table behind NEC and Vermont Green FC.

The top two finishers in the division will auto-

Please see **PIONEERS**, page 11



Jaiden Williams makes a quick pass to his left.



Santiago Blasco fights to keep the ball.

LEFT: Yigit Kilic looks to play the ball off his body.

PVSSL adult summer soccer season action

RIGHT: Emily McGrail, of Ware, fights for the ball.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

WILBRAHAM – Last Thursday evening, the adult summer soccer schedule continued into its second week with Celtic United White, consisting of players from multiple communities, facing off with the Monson Mustangs at Minnechaug Regional High School. Monson, out to a 3-1 start in the women's division, defeated Celtic 8-0. Celtic fell to 0-2-1 on the season.

LEFT: Olivia McGrail dribbles down the field for Celtic United.



Blue Sox suffer loss to Newport

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox (7-5-1) were unable to score a run against the Newport Gulls (7-7-1) on Saturday night, suffering a 10-0 loss. This was the second meeting of the season for these two teams, tying their first game 2-2 on Opening Day.

To start the ballgame, the Blue Sox went down 5-0

immediately, after a rough inning from Kaden Kimble in his first start of the summer. Gus Gandy and Devan Zirwas hit back-to-back singles, and Brandon Larson was walked, loading the bases for Newport.

The Gulls' first two tallies came from Kimble consecutively walking Ryan Novak and Ryan Jaros,

which forced in the runs that put Newport up 2-0. With the bases still loaded, Braxton Tramel singled to left field and sent Novak and Larson home to extend the lead to 4-0.

Newport's fifth and final run of the first inning was the result of Adam Broski

Please see **BLUE SOX**, page 10

public safety

Ware Police Log

During the week of June 8-15, the Ware Police Department responded to 20 miscellaneous calls, 28 administrative calls, 14 traffic violations, 17 emergency 911 calls, 12 harassments/stalks/threats, four trespasses, five thefts/larcenies, six disturbances, four damage/vandalisms, three motor vehicle accidents, 14 animal calls and 25 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

Monday, June 8
12:40 a.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Gilbertville Road, Investigated
7:53 a.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, West Main Street, Assist Given
3:31 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Mirabile Drive, Services Rendered
4:06 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Palmer Road, Investigated
4:12 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Dispatch Handled
6:47 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Pulaski Street, Services Rendered
7:49 p.m. Assault, North Street, Arrest Made
10:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Upper Church Street, Citation/Warning Issued
10:57 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Parker Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Tuesday, June 9
1:03 a.m. Traffic Violation/Hazard, Belchertown Road, Vehicle Towed
10:39 a.m. Assault, West Street, Investigated
11:48 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Gilbertville Road, No Action Required
2:05 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Shoreline Drive, Investigated
5:44 p.m. Assault, Eddy Street, Report Made
6:22 p.m. Outside Fire, Crescent Terrace, Advised
6:54 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Valley View, Arrest Made
Arrest: Ryan Sullivan, 44, Ware
Disorderly Conduct
7:32 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted, West Street, Services Rendered
8:41 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Dale Street, Services Rendered
8:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, Belchertown Road, Arrest Made
Arrest: Kyle T. Mansfield, 24, Ware
OUI-Liquor or .08%; Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle; Leave Scene of Property Damage

Wednesday, June 10
2:18 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Palmer Road, Citation/Warning Issued
2:32 a.m. Assist Other

Agency, North Street, Assist Given
7:02 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued
10:14 a.m. Damage/Vandalism/Mischief, West Main Street, Assist Given
1:26 p.m. Assault, West Street, Investigated
3:34 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Eddy Street, Services Rendered
5:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Belchertown Road, Citation/Warning Issued
5:15 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Morse Avenue, Advised
6:30 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Hillside Village, Advised
6:59 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Williams Street, Appears Secure After Check
7:24 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted, West Street, Advised
7:46 p.m. Traffic Collision, West Street, Assist Given

Thursday, June 11
1:14 p.m. Assault, West Street, Investigated
2 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Eddy Street, Advised
4:07 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Hillside Village, Services Rendered
6:59 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Palmer Road, Dispatch handled
7 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, West Main Street, Advised

Friday, June 12
8:37 a.m. Damage/Vandalism/Mischief, Otis Avenue, Advised
10:01 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Shoreline Drive, Investigated
11:17 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, South Street, Dispatch handled
2:04 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Belchertown Road, Could Not Locate
6:17 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Church Street, Investigated
6:52 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, South Street, Could Not Locate
7:19 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Maple Avenue, Investigated
8:05 p.m. Damage/Vandalism/Mischief, North Street, Services Rendered
8:23 p.m. Damage/Vandalism/Mischief, High Street, Could Not Locate
11:04 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Main Street, Services Rendered
Arrest: Ryan P. Sullivan, 44, Ware
Trespass; Disorderly Conduct; Assault; Resist Arrest

Saturday, June 13
10:01 a.m. Disturbance/

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.

Nuisance, Eddy Street, Investigated
10:32 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Crescent Terrace, Services Rendered
11:30 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Park Street, Advised
12:24 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Otis Avenue, Appears Secure After Check
1:11 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Otis Avenue, Services Rendered
1:41 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Mirabile Drive, Services Rendered
5:46 p.m. Assault, Main Street, Could Not Locate
6:35 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Services Rendered
6:53 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Park Street, No Action Required
10:02 p.m. Outside Fire, Greenwich Road, Extinguished
10:48 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Clinton Street, Services Rendered

Sunday, June 14
2:35 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasant Street, Citation/Warning Issued
9 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Advised
9:36 a.m. Theft/Larceny, West Street, Investigated
12:01 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Hillside Village, Services Rendered
12:05 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, West Street, Services Rendered
1:46 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Eddy Street, Advised
2:41 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Church Street, Services Rendered
5:25 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Monson Turnpike Road, Dispatch Handled
9:55 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted, West Street, Services Rendered

Monday, June 15
1:25 p.m. Theft/Larceny, River Road, Investigated
7:28 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Advised
9:04 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Cherry Street, Investigated



The 65th graduating class of the Worcester County Sheriff's Officer Basic Recruit Training Academy.

14 recruits sworn in as Worcester County Correctional Officers

WEST BOYLSTON – Worcester County Sheriff Low Evangelidis recently administered the Correctional Officer Oath to 14 graduates of the Worcester County Sheriff's Office 65th Basic Recruit Training Academy during a ceremony at the department's Training and Command Center.

Shawn Galarneau of Warren was one of the graduates.

The academy prepares recruits for careers at the Worcester County Jail & House of Correction through classroom instruction and hands-on training in areas including de-escalation techniques, defensive tactics, first responder protocols, mental health awareness, suicide prevention and physical fitness.

This graduating class includes recruits from seven

Massachusetts communities, including three active-duty service members or veterans of the U.S. Army.

"After 13 rigorous weeks of training, I am proud to present some of the best and brightest future leaders in corrections," said Evangelidis. "I am confident these graduates are prepared

Please see **RECRUITS**, page 13

Warren Police Log

During the week of June 1-6, the Warren Police Department responded to 129 building/property checks, two community policings, 11 emergency 911 calls, one complaint, one safety hazard, two motor vehicle accidents, one fraud, one harassment, two trespasses, one identity theft, two animal calls and 15 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Monday, June 1
10:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
11 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Bemis Road, Written Warning
11:26 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
11:33 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
12:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Written Warning
1:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
1:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
1:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
2:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road,

Written Warning
2:04 p.m. Trespasser/Prowler, Pine Street, Information Taken
3:01 p.m. Complaint, Brimfield Road, Referred to Other Agency

Tuesday, June 2
10:03 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
10:32 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Cottage Street, Report Filed
3 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Main Street, Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, June 3
8:16 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Brimfield Road, Transported to Hospital
8:50 a.m. Fraud or Forgery, Southbridge Road, Officer/Chief Advised
10:55 a.m. Headache, School Street, Transported to Hospital
12:34 p.m. Trespasser/Prowler, North Street, Report Filed
2:08 p.m. Suspicious Vehicle, High Street, Officer Spoke to Party
5:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Boston Post Road, Report Filed
9:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Thursday, June 4
11:58 a.m. Stroke (CVA), Constitution Avenue, Mutual Aid Transport
2:32 p.m. Sick/Unknown, O'Neil Road, Transported to Hospital
3:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Hit and Run, Bemis Road, Report Filed

Friday, June 5
9:24 a.m. Safety Concern, Gilbert Road, Report Filed
8:58 p.m. Harassment, East Road, Report Filed
10:25 p.m. Identity Theft, Comins Pond Road, Call Transferred

Saturday, June 6
9:42 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, West Brookfield, Area Search Negative
10:11 a.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Heritage Drive, Mutual Aid Transport
3:27 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed
5:12 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Constitution Avenue, Transported to Hospital
7:26 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, West Brookfield, Mutual Aid Assist
10:23 p.m. Power Lines/Wires, Nelligan Terrace, Referred to Other Agency

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of June 15-22, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 39 building/property checks, 40 directed/area patrols, seven radar assignments, three traffic controls, seven emergency 911 calls, six citizen assists, one motor vehicle investigation, two complaints, two safety hazards, one burglary, one property damage, one scam, one motor vehicle accident and one motor vehicle stop in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, June 15
9:41 a.m. Complaint, Barre Road, Spoken To
1:20 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Death/Unattended

Tuesday, June 16
7:36 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Main Street, Officer Handled
2:45 p.m. Suspicious

Activity, Birch Street, Officer Handled
3:42 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Prospect Street, Spoken To
3:45 p.m. Burglary (Breaking and Entering), Main Street, Report Taken
5:02 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Crash, Hardwick Road, Report Taken

Wednesday, June 17
6:57 a.m. Assist Citizen, Grove Street, Officer Handled
8:28 a.m. Suspicious Activity, Main Street, Services Rendered
9:01 a.m. Property Damage, Barre Road, Negative Contact

Thursday, June 18
11:41 a.m. Assist Citizen, Ware, Services Rendered
2:15 p.m. Assist Citizen, Barre Road, Services Rendered
2:24 p.m. Safety Hazard,

Lower Road, Officer Handled
4 p.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Lower Road, Services Rendered

Friday, June 19
3:14 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled
4:22 p.m. Scam, Main Street, Report Taken
7:29 p.m. Complaint, School Street, Officer Handled
10:42 p.m. Assist Citizen, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered

Saturday, June 20
7:31 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
11:04 p.m. Medical Emergency, High Road, Transported to Hospital

Sunday, June 21
9:24 a.m. Assist Citizen, Unknown Location, Spoken To

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obituaries

Amateur radio Field Day is June 27-28

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club will be participating in the 2026 A.R.R.L. Field Day on Saturday, June 27, and Sunday, June 28, operating from 2 p.m. Saturday through 2 p.m. Sunday on the West Brookfield Town Common. The public is warmly invited to visit between 2-6 p.m. on Saturday and between 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Sunday to explore the world of amateur radio firsthand.

Field Day is the largest on-air amateur radio exercise in the United States, bringing together tens of thousands of licensed operators to demonstrate the reliability, resilience, and public-service value of amateur radio. For QVARC, it’s also a chance to welcome neighbors, families, students, and anyone curious about radio, electronics, or STEM activities.

Visitors will be able to watch live radio contacts being made across the country and around the

world, explore the equipment and antennas used for emergency and off-grid communication, and even sit behind a radio to make a contact themselves. Club members will be on hand to explain how amateur radio supports communities during storms, power outages, and public-service events, and why these skills remain relevant in today’s interconnected world.

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, recently reflected on the long tradition behind Field Day, noting that “Amateur radio has been part of the American story since the earliest days of wireless communication...For more than a century, the Amateur Radio Service has advanced the nation’s communications capabilities by fostering technical innovation, developing a pool of trained and skilled operators, strengthening emergency and public service communications, and promoting international goodwill.”

He emphasized that

these contributions show why amateur radio remains “a uniquely resilient and volunteer-driven national resource.”

QVARC is proud to carry that tradition forward here in the Quaboag Valley. Its members include hobbyists, engineers, emergency volunteers, and newcomers who simply enjoy learning something hands-on and practical.

The club meets on the last Tuesday of each month, except for July and August, and welcomes anyone interested in getting involved or learning more about the hobby.

Whether you’re interested in emergency preparedness, electronics, shortwave communication, or just want to see what amateur radio is all about, Field Day is the perfect time to stop by. Everyone is welcome, and no experience is required.

For more information about the Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club, please visit www.qvarc.com.

Rail track rehabilitation project starts June 22

The Massachusetts Central Railroad Corporation, in conjunction with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, will be embarking on a project to rehabilitate its main rail track, scheduled to begin on

Monday, June 22.

This project has an estimated time for completion to be somewhere toward the fall of this year.

The daily train schedule will operate Monday through Friday starting at 7 p.m. (up to a possible

12-hour period) to service rail customers from Palmer to South Barre to then return to Palmer.

The train schedule will resume back to daytime service beginning at 7 a.m. (up to a possible 12-hour period) by the end of August.

CONTRACT from page 3

to be included in it. Wood said other school districts he has worked in have included this position in the teacher’s contract.

The School Committee voted to include the physical therapist in the teacher’s contract.

Use of facilities

The School Committee approved the use of the school parking lots for the town’s 250th celebration car show on Tuesday, July 28 from 5-8 p.m. The event will include music and an ice cream truck.

The committee discussed approving the use of the campus grounds for

the town’s annual fireworks show on Saturday, Aug. 1, pending insurance coverage for the event.

The event will begin at 4 p.m. and will feature food vendors, bounce houses, face painting and dunk tank. Live music will begin at 6 p.m., followed by the fireworks show at dark.

RESILIENCE from page 4

create a false narrative that glyphosate is safe.”

The chemical is widely used in industrial farming and food production, leaving traces in corn, soy, bread, cereal, beans and most snacks. It is so common because it is used both as a herbicide and as a desiccant to dry crops before harvest. Glyphosate is almost universally found in human urine now and many studies of midwestern farmers using it have shown an increase in cancers, as did reports emerging from Colombia after US spraying of glyphosate over thousands of acres of cocoa fields.

In 2015 the World Health Organization classified it as “probably carcinogenic to humans.” The question confronting us now is: Shall our country continue this long-standing corrupt effort (at great human health expense) to deceive the public into using a toxic chemical, or do we speak up and say clearly how dangerous it is?

Many juries are now making awards to victims of cancer caused by glyphosate. As a result Bayer has been lobbying Congress to exempt them from responsibility for such damages.

Last fall Bayer offered an amendment to a Congressional funding bill effectively holding them

harmless, but its adoption was defeated by a concerted and well-organized consumer effort. Is the tobacco example actually going to be repeated?

The Supreme Court recently heard a case examining current law regarding this exact question: In what way can government shield a company from responsibility for its products. So the battle is not yet won.

But the Congressional victory and the presence of national health agencies which have flipped the food pyramid and called for us to eat real food instead of the highly processed stuff, gives us all hope. Perhaps we do still have the courage to see corruption and confront it.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations

of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadviser@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

SSI from page 4

And we are actively promoting our reform plan in Washington, D.C. Please know that we share your concerns about the future of Social Security and will continue to work hard to ensure the program is here for many generations.

RECRUITS from page 12

to join our ranks and help advance our mission of public safety.”

Before entering the academy, applicants must complete a written examination, a physical fitness assessment, a comprehensive background investigation, and a psychological screening.

To promote fairness and integrity in the hiring process, Evangelidis maintains a policy prohibiting letters of recommendation from elected officials and provides hiring preference to individuals who have honorably served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

The Worcester County Sheriff’s Office is currently accepting applica-

tions for its 66th Basic Recruit Training Academy, which begins in September 2026. For more infor-

mation, visit: www.WorcesterCountySheriff.com/Careers/Correctional-Officer-Academy/.

Happy Heavenly Birthday

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and Your Children
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Tony and Kathy Staiti
Grandchildren
Curtis, Jacob and his wife Claire
Jillian and Adam Staiti
Great Grandson Landon

Francine Crevier, 77

WARE – It is with deep sadness and loving remembrance that we announce the passing of Gloria “Francine” Crevier, 77, on Thursday, June 18, 2026.

She passed away peacefully with her family by her side.



Family was the center of her life. She leaves behind her loving husband of 56 years, Lawrence “Larry” Crevier; her three beloved daughters who were her greatest pride and joy: Angela Oelmann of Iowa, Brenda Scibelli of Ware and Jamie Crevier-Szczakowski; two cherished grandsons who brought endless happiness to her heart: Gianna Scibelli and Wyatt Szczakowski; her brothers: Raymond Rivard of Vermont and Norman Rivard of Connecticut; along with several nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Her sister Madeline Charon predeceased her. Francine’s love, guidance, and unwavering support will remain with them always.

Francine was born and raised in Ware. She is the daughter of the late Edward and Laurette (Pruneau) Rivard. She and Larry were high school sweethearts and both graduated from Ware High School in 1967.

Francine was a devoted

mother, grandmother, and friend whose kindness touched countless lives.

She was a loving and generous woman who dedicated much of her life to caring for others through her work as a nurse at Mary Lane Hospital for most

of her career. Her compassion, intelligence, and gentle spirit made her a source of comfort and strength for everyone who knew her.

She had a remarkable ability to put others before herself and would do anything for anyone in need.

She found joy in life’s simple pleasures, especially playing cards with family and friends and traveling on family trips.

Those who knew Francine will remember her sweet nature, generous heart and endless devotion to her family and friends. Her legacy of love, kindness, and selflessness will continue to inspire all who were fortunate enough to know her.

She will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

All are invited to her calling hours on Wednesday, July 1, 2026, from noon-2 p.m. at Charbonneau Funeral Home, 30 Pleasant St., Ware, MA 01082 with a funeral service to begin at 2 p.m. in the funeral home. Burial will be held privately.

Nellie E. Soule, 71

WARE – Nellie E. Soule, 71, passed away on Sunday, May 17, 2026.



She was born and raised in Ware, the daughter of the late George C. and Rita (Charbonneau) Abbott. Nellie graduated from Ware High School and worked as a teacher for many

years.

She is survived by her sisters, nieces and nephews, cousins and friends.

A graveside service for Nellie will be held on Tuesday, June 30, at 10 a.m. in Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Crescent Street, Ware.

Death notices

Crevier, Gloria “Francine”
Died June 18, 2026
Services July 1, 2026

Soule, Nellie E.
Died May 17, 2026
Services June 30, 2026

Ware River News
OBITUARY
POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph.

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

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

NOTICE

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

Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10				
11					12						13	14	15	
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49					50				51	52				
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56			57				58				59			
60						61	62				63			
			64								65			

CLUES ACROSS

- Nocturnal S. American rodent
- Requesting
- Give temporarily
- Excitedness
- Armed Forces branch
- Actor Harris
- Middle Eastern capital
- Air hostesses
- Partner to “Pa”
- Percussion instrument
- Popular computers
- Reduce light
- Asian mountain range
- Every one of two or more
- Absence of difficulty
- A public announcement of a proposed marriage
- Whittles
- Impact
- Serviceman
- A French river
- Prehistoric people

- Messenger ribonucleic acid
- ___ Clapton, musician
- Ancient Greek sophist
- Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- Singer Hansard
- A way to disentangle
- Atomic #93
- Manifesting approval
- Indigo bush
- Former AL MVP Vaughn
- Off-Broadway theater award
- Fencers
- Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
- Relating to passerine birds
- Arrange systematically

CLUES DOWN

- Colorless fluid
- Of a main artery
- Photographer’s tool
- Blues Traveler hit “But

- ___
- Grew older
- Not the leader
- Lang (country singer)
- A driver’s license is one
- Nests of pheasants
- Wildebeests
- Equal to one quintillion bytes
- Japanese three-stringed lute
- Type of cat
- It cools your home
- The ancient Egyptian sun god
- Pouches
- German trigraph
- Form of Persian
- Measurement unit
- Body part
- Bridge building degree
- Indicates position
- Political action committee
- Snack food

- Front part of a quadruped
- Locate
- Pitching statistic
- ___, myself and I
- City in Utah
- They play in the trenches
- “Can’t Touch This” rapper ___ Hammer
- Type of tree
- Performers
- Slang for mistake
- More open
- Most slick
- Needles
- University of Dayton
- Atomic #11
- Large fish of the mackerel family
- Not any
- ___ and behold
- Popular sports highlight show (abbr.)
- “The Great Lakes State”

Classifieds

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All hardwood.
Tree length available
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Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!**
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WANTED

WANTED! CASH for:

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- Electronics & Audio Equipment.
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Donald Roy (860) 874-8396

ALWAYS BUYING ALL ANTIQUES:

Musical instruments, guitars, horns, keyboards, vintage electronics, jewelry, coins, watches, military cameras, sports memorabilia, art, sterling, signs, automotive, hunting, advertising, radios, ham radio equipment, audio equipment, toys, one item or entire estate.

Call Paul 413-206-8688

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A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL

Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.
We load it & take it.
413-531-1936
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

ARA JUNK FURNITURE REMOVAL

Full house cleanouts, attics, basements, garages, pools, hot tubs, sheds, decks. Same day service. 8am-9pm. Credit cards accepted. Free estimates on phone.
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Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. (413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868.

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

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PJ's Electrical MASTER ELECTRICIAN

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Providing safe, reliable electrical services for residential and commercial projects.
NOW OFFERING FREE CONSULTATIONS.
Call today to schedule your appointment.
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I offer good quality electrical work, no project too small, free estimates, service upgrades, pools, budget friendly, committed to satisfaction, dependable & insured. Master Lic. #20773-A, Business Lic. #9310-A1. Text or call Daniel at 413-218-3301 or visit my website at dannyselectricllc.com to fill an online work request

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

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Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

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

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Call Mike (413) 348-7967

STUMP GRINDING

DL & G STUMP GRINDING

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Classified Advertising DEADLINE

FRIDAY AT NOON

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GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPS.

Champion Czech and Belgian bloodlines. 30 years experience. 3M, 2F. READY NOW, \$1,200. 413-218-2321

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CHICKENS FOR SALE.

Barred Rocks, Reds, Australorp, Hybred. All large brown New England type layers. \$20 each/6 for \$100. 413-218-2321

HELP WANTED

SERVERS WANTED

Inquire at Girty's Grill, 1315 Park St., Palmer, MA 01069 or call 413-284-0005.

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

Call 1-413-283-8393

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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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

FOR RENT

ALL real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

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

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Palmer, MA 01069

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9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

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Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____

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OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

Quabbin Village Hills Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential Circulation: 59,000

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

GREAT VALUE! ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

Make checks payable to Turley Publications

Music program shines at Quabbin Regional High School concert

BARRE – Quabbin Regional High School held its Senior Night Concert on May 14, featuring performances by the String Orchestra, Quabbin Singers, Jazz Band and Symphonic Winds.

The String Orchestra and Jazz Band were directed by Sean Kelly, Quabbin Singers by Julia Tuttle, and Symphonic Winds by Toni Brown. Karla Peterson was the accompanist for the concert.

The String Orchestra performed themes from “American” and “A Hero’s Journey”; the Quabbin Singers performed “No Time”, “The Battle of Jericho” and “Bohemian Rhapsody”; the Jazz Band performed “It Don’t Mean a Thing”, “Chameleon”, “All Blues” and “Work Song”; and the Symphonic Winds performed “Tritsch-Tratsch Polka”, “Joy Revisited” and “Let Me Be Frank With You”.

Quabbin Singers performed “No Time”, “The Battle of Jericho” and “Bohemian Rhapsody” during the Senior Night Concert.



The Quabbin Singers performed “Bohemian Rhapsody” accompanied by Sean Kelly on guitar.



The Quabbin Singers from Quabbin Regional High School performed during the Senior Night Concert held on May 14.



The String Orchestra performed themes from “American” and “A Hero’s

public notices

Notice of Public Hearing Ware Planning Board LEGAL NOTICE

SP-2026-03

NOTICE is hereby given that the Ware Planning Board, acting as the Special Permit Granting and Site Plan Review Authority, will hold a Public Hearing during the scheduled meeting on **THURSDAY, July 9th at 7:00pm**, on the application of **Colleen Powers**, for the keeping of over 5 chickens, under Zoning Bylaw Section 4.4.1.D.2.B, and pursuant to MGL Chapter 40A. Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this hearing will be conducted in person and via remote means, in accordance with applicable law. This means that members of the Planning Board as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means. In person attendance will be held in the Board of Selectman’s Meeting Room, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA. It is possible that any or all members of the public body may attend remotely, with in-person attendance consisting of members of public. The meeting may be accessed remotely via zoom. Go to <https://zoom.us/join> or join by phone. Phone Number: 929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 784 604 1861; Password: 01082.

SITE LOCATION: 168 Fisherdick Road. Said premises being further described in deeds recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 11920 Page 16. Property is also identified as Assessor’s Parcel 33-0-9. Zoned: Rural Residential

(RR).

A complete copy of the application can be found at the Town Clerk’s office and on the Planning & Community Development Department website under Recent Filings. Anyone interested or wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.

WARE PLANNING BOARD
06/25, 07/02/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Probate and Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton, MA 01060
(413)586-8500
Docket No.
HS25P0441EA
Estate of:
Marie Gemma Erickson
Also known as:
Marie G. Erickson
Date of Death: 08/20/2024
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **S/A - Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Denise Pocal of Ware, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Denise Pocal of Ware, MA** be appointed as Personal Represen-

tative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/08/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administra-

tion is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Diana S. Velez Harris**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: June 10, 2026

Mark S Ames,
Register of Probate
06/25/2026

Ware Conservation Commission Notice of Public Hearing
The Ware Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, July 8, 2026, at 6:30 PM** pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. 131 c40. The hearing will include consideration of a **Notice of Intent (NOI)** by New

England Power Company for an Asset Condition Refurbishment Project on the company’s O15N overhead electric transmission line between Gilbertville Road and Prendiville Road.

Said hearing will be held in the Selectmen’s Meeting Room, Town Hall, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082.

To view application and related plans, contact the Conservation office at 413.967.9648.

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 4, Section 13, a copy of this legal notice can be found on the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association’s (MNPA) website: <http://masspublicnotices.org>. 06/25/2026

Notice of Public Auction
The contents of the following storage units will be sold for non-payment at **Country Corners Storage, 0 Greenwich Rd., Ware, MA on Sat. June 27, 2026 at 9:00 am:**
Felix Pequero: Bldg. 6 Unit 4
Ismael Fernandez: Bldg. 1 Unit 3;

Bldg. 6 Unit 31
Christy George: Bldg. 6 Unit 20

The contents of the following storage units will be sold for non-payment at **Country Corners Storage, 120 Dresser Road, Southbridge MA at 11:30 am:**

Wendy Vazquez: Bldg. 2 Unit 3
Lynn Fairbanks: Bldg 2 Unit 24
06/18, 06/25/2026

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

Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

Police Officer

JOB POSTING Town of Warren FULL TIME OPENING

The Warren Police Department is accepting applications for the position of a full time Police Officer. Applicants are preferred to be academy trained and must be willing to work weekends, nights, and holidays.

Responsibilities include responding to emergency and non-emergency calls for Police, Fire and Ambulance services. It is preferred that applicants currently possess valid certification as a Police Officer. Candidates must have strong interpersonal, verbal, and written communication skills. Preferences include an associate degree or higher in criminal justice, serve in the US military, or experience as a Police Officer.

The Patrolmen’s contract provides an education incentive and a candidate with prior municipal policing experience may also be considered to start at a higher rate of pay.

Resumes and cover letters must be returned no later than Friday, July 3, 2026, to the attention of Lt. Kyle Whitcomb, WPD PO Box 606, Warren, MA 01083 or whitcomb@warren-ma.gov.

The Town of Warren is an equal opportunity employer.

NOTICE

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

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of July 4th, there will be an **EARLY AD, PUBLIC NOTICES & CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINE**

To advertise,
place your ad no later than **NOON**

Thursday, July 2

– Thank you!

A TURLEY PUBLICATION
www.turley.com

Quabbin Middle School lists honor roll for third quarter

BARRE – The Quabbin Regional Middle School announced the students who earned honor roll distinction for the third quarter.

Grade Six, High Honors
 Lia Aiesi, Leona Barre, Clayton Cranston, Nolan Cronk, Kayla Despres, Ralph DiBenedetto, Elise Flores de Oliveira, Andrew Gingras, Annabelle Ickler, Kylee Lomastro, Dylan Mace, Thendara Magario, Richard May, Scarlett McDonald, Jonah Melad, Avery Phelps, Deklan Sampson, Sophia Serrano, Forja Thorpe, Andrei Timofeev and Richard Valcourt.

Grade Six, Honors
 Caiden Ahearn, Bella Arriola, Moriah Baxter,

Elias Bellemer, Danica Bjorklund, Makayla Boos, Ella Bourgeois, Audrey Breault, Casey Coates, Emily Conway, Troy Corbett, Charlotte Daniels, Milena DeSouza, Joshua Doherty, Isla Fargnoli, Derek Ferreira, Logan Grandmaison, David Groner, Noah Harper, Michael Hicks, Aria Jackson, Abigail Kaijala, Mason Kazanovicz, Hunter Kukas, Alix Lindsay, Mia Longtin, Noah Longtin, Evelyn Lord, Liam McKenzie, Logan McManaman, Chase McQueston, Aria Missildine, Valkyrie Moore, Sage Morin, Tyler Nadeau, Hunter Nagle, Owen Nally, Penny Ouimette, Harris Paakkonen, Bridgette Parker, Dylan Potter, Nathaniel Putelis, Jacob Rigney, Aubree Roseberry,

Sadie Russell, Vincent Stark, Jaide Stillman, Benjamin Toupin, Katara Tran, Emma Tyler, Jaylyn Vega, Irelyn Venne, Benjamin Wickstrom, Rhys Wynne and Luna Yules.

Grade Seven, High Honors
 Anna Coomey, Davin Goodwin, Maishao Lee, Brady Malin, Theodore Minton, Annaleigh Moncoeur, Nolan O'Connor, Ximena Palomera-Espinoza, Liam Shaw, Brayden Surprenant, Ty'v Vaughn, Alonzo White and Joseph Youngstrom.

Grade Seven, Honors
 Nevaeh Andrews, Asher Baker, Julianna Bienvenu, Jacob Blanchard, Talasun Boissoneau, Aleksander Bonenfant, Caleb

Caban, Jaysen Cassano, Josie Castell, Cameron Charpentier, Charley Chauvin, Ayla Clark, Ryan Colgate, John Cook, Ella Critelli, Hannah Cutler, Joey DeMalia, Ethan Donaldson, Hannah Dube, Matthew Flamand, Maia Flint, Andrew Fuller, Addyson Garceau, Alexander Girouard, Lincoln Graves, Colby Hill, Madilyn Houle, Jack Johnson, Levi Kniskern, Elizabeth Laramée, Ryan LaRange, Walker Larson, Ilyanna Lynch, Carter Majoy, Adalyn McHugh, Kayla McHugh, Lucy Merrill, Sawyer Minton, Adelaide Moeller, Avindhya O'Neill, Bryce Pariseau, Catheryn Racine, Hazel Serra, Weston Stukuls Barrieau, Landon Swindlehurst, Zachary

Thompson, Hana Mae Tousignant, Anthony Wade and Brady White.

Grade Eight, High Honors
 Saylor Bissonnette, Julia Blanchard, Winter Boyea, Eliza Brown, Emily DeMalia, Brody Despres, Maria Hamm, Nolan Herrick, Evelyn Johnson, Pele Johnson, Caiden Lance, Mathieu LeBlanc, Ava Maxim, Cameron McDonald, Madeline Omasta, Sebastian Palomera-Espinoza, Owen Pears, Evelyn Priestley, Madeleine Proulx, Lily Ryan, Baelin Sullivan, Maggie Ward, Elizabeth Welch, Lila Wilson and Raegyn Wnek.

Grade Eight, Honors
 Nicholas Baldwin, Addyson Barringer,

Amelia Breault, Caleb Brouillet, Henry Corbett, Christopher Dallair, Enzo Fargnoli, Lane Fargnoli, Addison Ford, Lucas Gaspar, Brayden Hurley, Aimee Ickler, Theodore Langer, Grace Lantegne, Maggie Leander, Jack Leclair, Chiara Manna, Bree May, Valerie Metterville, Giella Montalvo, Brayden Nadeau, Jonathan Nunes, Calleb Oliveira, Coleton Pina, Autumn Rector, Kira Roden, Maci Roseberry, Fordyce Ruggles, Thomas Schoonmaker, Andrew Scott, Hannah Shotwell, Madalyn Simons, Bella Spring, Emma Stauder, Fiona Stevens, Arina Timofeev, Kailyn Traynham and Lola Zantouladiis.

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JUST LISTED - WEST BROOKFIELD, MA
 This unique home has so much to offer! This property features a flexible layout and great privacy. Main floor offers 3 bedrooms, full bathroom, living/kitchen/dining rooms, and decks in both the front and back. Spiral staircase in the living room leading up to a loft, perfect for a home office or workout space! Lower level has another full bathroom, kitchenette, large bedroom and 2 other large bonus rooms. Ideal setup for an ADU or teen space. The detached, 3-car garage has heat and AC (mini splits) and has interior stairs up to the second level, perfect for a workshop or studio. All of these on a quiet country road! Available for \$525,000.
 YOUR LOCAL REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS
 We Do More So You Will Make More!!!
 Michelle Terry
 Broker
 michelleterryteam.com
 130 W. Main Street
 Spencer, MA 01562
 GIVE US A CALL TODAY! 508-202-0008

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 at Kelly & Velazquez Eye Center
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 The Most Advanced Lens Designs Available
 Frames to Fit Any Budget
 Large Selection of Designer Frames For All Ages
 SUNGLASSES
 Maui Jim • Ray Ban
 1504 N. Main St., Palmer, MA 413-283-3511
 362 Sewall St., Ludlow, MA 413-589-1806
 Expert guidance in selecting the right frame with the best fit & lenses for every lifestyle.

WHERE EVERYONE GOES FOR THEIR PIECE OF THE EARTH!
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