

WARE RIVER NEWS

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Welcome BACK TO SCHOOL



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette
Wyatt Goodrich, age 8, played on the Ware Middle School playground.

Swinging into the school year

WARE – Students of Ware Public Schools said goodbye to summer vacation and hello to the new school year with a Back to School Block Party this past Monday evening.

On Aug. 24, staff, students and their families were able to enjoy a celebration before the start of the 2026-2027 school year, with music, food, games and more. The block party was held in the parking area between Ware Jr./Sr. High School and Ware Middle School and at Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School's playground.

The Back to School Block Party provided a great opportunity for students to connect with each other, and get to know their teachers and administrators.

Students in grades one-12 returned to school on Aug. 26.

Kindergarteners will have a staggered start, with students with last names starting with letters A-M starting on Wednesday, Sept. 2 and N-Z on Thursday, Sept. 3.

Preschool students will have their first day of school on Wednesday, Sept. 8.

SEE MORE BACK TO SCHOOL PHOTOS ON PAGE 2.



Olivia Francis, age 8, enjoyed the swings during the Back to School Block Party at Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School this past Monday.

Change of manager OKd at Whistle Stop

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

HARDWICK – A public hearing was held Monday to approve a change of manager license for the Whistle Stop restaurant, which recently re-opened two weeks ago, to allow for liquor to be sold on site.

Town Administrator Justine Caggiano said the applicant made their payments and passed the CORI check. The license will now be sent to the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission of Massachusetts before it is finalized.

Cable access/YouTube

At the Aug. 24 meeting, the board discussed the contract with a vendor who helps run the YouTube channel and cameras during Select Board meetings live.

There was confusion among the board members at the meeting of Aug. 10 about whether that vendor had a contract. It was not on file anywhere, so it was unclear how much the vendor was being paid.

During the meeting, Caggiano received a text from the vendor, saying it is \$100 per meeting. According to Caggiano, the text said they would send

over the contract for the board to see.

Select Board member William Tinker brought up whether the job had to be done through a vendor, and if they could have an in-house employee or a senior work off resident learn how to operate the camera.

Select Board member Zack Spencer said the vendor has an account that has information for other towns they serve, and if something were to happen to the vendor, the town would have to start over, so he said the town should have full access to it.

The board will continue the discussion at a future meeting.

Digital records management

Tinker said in 2028, the state is mandating that towns keep digital records of everything, and suggesting a pilot program with the treasurer/collector and accountant to start digitizing their warrants and making them searchable, and easy to find.

Select Board Chair Jeffrey Schaaf said it may not be in the board's purview to get into the day-to-day operations of the

Please see **HARDWICK BOS**, page 2

Board reviews police station study

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – A presentation from Tecton Architects was given during the Board of Selectmen's meeting on Aug. 20.

This presentation discussed the recent study findings on the potential redevelopment options at 968 Main St. for the purpose of housing the Police Department.

Jeff McElravy of Tecton Architects gave the presentation with several items to talk about and addressed questions that were submitted to him by the Board of Selectmen.

McElravy went over the conceptual designs for both the bank building at 968 Main St. and the location next to the Department of Public Works.

When discussing the conceptual design of the bank building, McElravy proposed some additions which would include a new elevator to

Please see **WARREN BOS**, page 7



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago
The patriotic quilt designed by five Kids Can Sew Quilters was displayed at the Paige Memorial Library during Colonial Field Day.

Kid Quilters' work is highlighted at the library

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Paige Memorial Library had a patriotic quilt displayed during Colonial Field Day this past Saturday.

The quilt was made by the students of Pam Hinckley, who taught sewing classes at the Paige Memorial Library back in

March. The project started in the late winter and finished around April while Hinckley was teaching and offering workshops for kids and adults.

According to Hinckley, all the kids she got this past year were very interested in making another quilt. The kids, ages 7-13, also made a

Please see **LIBRARY**, page 2

Regional meeting discusses rural health/economic needs

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – A meeting was recently held at E2E to discuss healthcare needs of the region, and use of Rural Health Transformation program funding.

At the Aug. 12 meeting, Cindy Allen Bourcier of Mary Lane Health, said

she is an advocate for the protection of Mary Lane Hospital's assets and renovation of the historic building.

She said Mary Lane Health seeks to get healthcare services back in town, but primarily "we're advocating to get something going over on the Mary Lane site."

Also attending the

meeting was Emily Kirby, Director of Prevention and Community Health for the town of Ware. In addition to her work for the town of Ware, Kirby oversees Healthy Quabog and the Quabog Hills Substance Use Alliance.

Kirby said these two

Please see **HEALTH NEEDS**, page 6

Vertical lift and Urban Hall dedicated at Workshop13

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – Workshop13 had a lot to celebrate this past week as a couple dedication ceremonies were held at the 13 Church St. building.

The celebrations began on the first floor of Workshop13 as the cultural arts and learning center welcomed a new feature to the building.

Executive Director Marie Lauderdale welcomed board members and special guests to the building for a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially welcome a new accessibility lift to Workshop13.

Please see **LIFT**, page 6



A ribbon cutting ceremony was held at Workshop13 to celebrate the newly installed lift to make the building accessible and inclusive. Shown with the scissors was Tracy Opalinski, Trustee of the Edward & Barbara Urban Foundation.

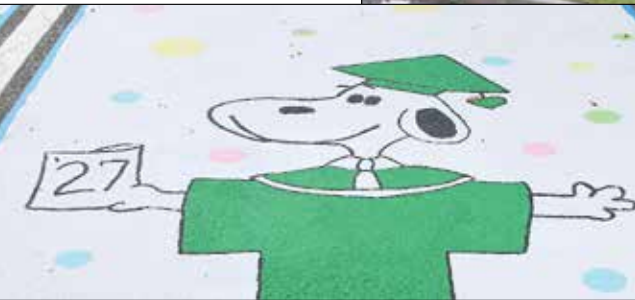


8 0 4 8 7 9 1 3 1 8 1 6



Sisters Maddie Dougan, age 5, and Elena Dougan, age 8, played on the seesaw at the Back to School Block Party.

Welcome
BACK TO SCHOOL



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

Seniors were invited to customize their parking spots.



HARDWICK BOS

from page 1

offices, since the department heads do what they think is necessary.

According to Tinker, if the town implements this policy to make records searchable, it would save time on public records requests, and the town clerk would be able to find records without searching through the dozens of boxes in his office.

He said they have a machine that can do optical character recognition, which makes each part of the document searchable to anybody who has it, including residents getting their record request.

Tinker described it as standardizing and streamlining operations. He also suggested standardizing the names of the folders so they are easier to find.

According to Caggiano, a lot of those records, including Select Board packets and warrants, are already digitized and saved into specific

folders that can be accessed.

Additional meetings

Around the beginning of the fiscal year, the board voted to have additional meetings to conduct financial oversight like reviewing warrants, but there have not been any additional meetings since that vote was taken.

The board voted 2-1 to cancel all additional meetings, and call them on an as-needed basis.

Schaaf said in budget season, there is a need for more meetings to build the budget, but it is the middle of summer now, and there's nothing to put on an agenda.

Tinker said that he has made agenda requests that could be put on the additional meetings, but they get declined, and he voted in opposition to their cancellation.

School lease

The board signed the lease agreement for the Hardwick Elementary School. It was reviewed by the town council

who recommended it be signed.

Town Administrator's report

Caggiano said there was \$253,000 of winter recovery from the state, and the town used about \$50,000 of it for a roadside mower, and it was submitted by her and Highway Superintendent Martin Gryszowka.

Some of the other money will be used for road projects including Highland Terrace and put into free cash.

She said the new highway clerk also gave her notice since the town of West Brookfield increased her hours there.

Caggiano said fire calls are up, and the budget will have to be looked at around fiscal year 2028.

There were two interviews for executive assistant, and a recommendation should be coming at the board's Sept. 14 meeting. The executive assistant will do meeting minutes, but until then, Spencer will.

Are You Old News?



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

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



File Photo
Last week's photo from 2021 showed Marty Goulet at the "Bringing Awareness to Recovery" Art Exhibition held at ArtWorks Gallery during Recovery Month.

Tickets available for Ware Comedy Show on Sept. 26

WARE – The laughter begins the moment the lights come up at this year's Ware Comedy Show, hosted in the newly renamed Urban Hall at Workshop13, 13 Church St.

This 21+ show will be held on Saturday, Sept. 26 from 7-9 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and tickets are \$20 per person.

Audiences can expect an evening packed with stand-out comedy talent from across New England and beyond. If you attended last year's sold-out event, you already know the bar is set high – and this year's lineup is poised to raise it even further.

Workshop13 is also proud to share that Urban Hall is now fully ADA wheelchair accessible, ensuring more members of the community can enjoy live performances comfortably and safely.

Returning as host is Boston Comedy Festival winner Dan Boulger, whose relaxed delivery, sharp observations, and polished stage presence made him a crowd favorite last year. His ability to make comedy look effortless is a testament to his skill and experience.

Headlining this year's show is Jake Silberman, a

nationally touring comedian known for his quick wit, unique perspective, and exceptional crowd work. His talent for finding humor in everyday life and connecting with audiences guarantees a performance that is both intelligent and hilarious.

The opening acts bring their own impressive credentials. Avery Quinn, a regular at Mohegan Sun's Comix stage and a headliner throughout New England, commands the room with his animated style and magnetic presence. Joining him is Hilary Price, celebrated for her offbeat humor, originality, and relatable storytelling. Her clever, thoughtful material consistently earns big laughs while giving audiences something to chew on.

Together, these performers deliver a lineup loaded with originality, talent, and the kind of creative material that defines great stand-up comedy.

A heartfelt thank-you goes to the Ware Cultural Council for its support, helping make this exceptional evening of comedy available for just \$20 per ticket. Tickets are available at workshop13.org.

International Overdose Awareness Day is Aug. 31

Candlelight Vigil hosted by Recovery Center of HOPE

WARE – The Recovery Center of HOPE's third annual Overdose Awareness Candlelight Vigil will be held on Monday, Aug. 31 at Veterans Park at 6:30 p.m.

The vigil will remember those lost to overdose, honor those impacted by overdose and stand together in hope and community.

The Recovery Center of HOPE will provide candles for the vigil, as well as purple candles to bring home and place in your window as a visible sign of overdose awareness. All are welcome.

There will be gathering beforehand at the Recovery Center of HOPE, 52 Main St., from 5:30-6:30 p.m. for food, soft drinks and fellowship.

LIBRARY from page 1

quilt last year.

This year's theme came from a suggestion of making a patriotic quilt for the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Each kid drew their own square, or block, that was placed on the center of the quilt.

The entire project took about a month to complete from start to finish. The kids had fun last year designing a quilt, and Hinckley thought it was a wonderful activity for them to do at their local library.

"They love their library," Hinckley said.

When last year's quilt was auctioned off, one of Hinckley's students was the winner and took the quilt

home. The quilts are auctioned off to raise money for the Paige Memorial Library.

Hinckley said the effort of raising money had a good turnout last year.

This year, the patriotic quilt was being raffled off during Colonial Field Day, an event to celebrate the end of summer reading. Folks donated and received a ticket and waited for the announcement of who won the quilt.

On the back of the quilt were the signatures of the kids who designed the quilt at the library. The Kids Can Sew Quilters were Maren Goddard, Michaela Dias, Madeline Boyko, Marianne Pacek and Magdalena Pacek.

Next year, due to student interest, Hinckley is plan-

ning on doing a knitting class for kids. Hinckley will return to the Paige Memorial Library in the winter for another fun session of classes with her talented students.

As part of Colonial Field Day, the Friends of the Paige Memorial Library also hosted their book sale.

Library Director Julie Bullock said the Paige Memorial Library was grateful for the help they got from volunteers and participants of Colonial Field Day who set up the obstacle course for the event.

For more information, visit the Paige Memorial Library at 87 Petersham Road, or contact them at paigelimbrary.hardwick@gmail.com or 413-477-6704.

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\$5.28 lb

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\$1.77 lb

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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, Aug. 31
- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
 - 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Foot Nurse Allison Williams. Call 413-967-9645 for appointment.
 - 10 a.m. Scat
 - 11:30 a.m. Lunch

- Tuesday, Sept. 1**
- 9 a.m. Exercise Class at Valley View Housing
 - 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Foot Nurse Allison Williams. Call 413-967-9645 for appointment.
 - 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, Sept. 2**
- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
 - 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Foot Nurse Allison Williams. Call 413-967-9645 for appointment.
 - 9:30 a.m. Quilting Club
 - 10 a.m. Scat
 - 11:30 a.m. Lunch
 - 1 p.m. Chair Yoga with Lori

- Thursday, Sept. 3**
- 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, Sept. 4**
- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
 - 10 a.m. Scat
 - 11:30 a.m. Lunch
 - 1 p.m. Chair Yoga with Lori
 - 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

LUNCHES
DINE IN 11:30 a.m.
All meals \$3.50 unless otherwise noted
Required: call 413-967-9645 by noon on the business day before, to put you name on the lunch list.

Monday, Aug. 31
Turkey Waldorf Wrap, Potato Chips, Dessert of the Day

Tuesday, Sept. 1
Meat Lasagna, Caesar Salad, Dessert of the Day

Wednesday, Sept. 2
Hot Dogs with Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Dessert of the Day

Thursday, Sept. 3
Grilled Ham and Cheese Sandwich, French Fries, Dessert of the Day

Friday, Sept. 4
Baked Fish, Roasted Potatoes, Veggie of the Day, Dessert of the Day

Paige Memorial Library
lists ongoing programs

HARDWICK – The Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, has celebrated the Hardwick Community Fair, the Hardwick Fair-y Village, and Summer Reading which ended with a fun Field Day.

Library staff are grateful to the Friends of the Paige Library and to all the volunteers who made those activities possible.

As summer winds down and schools open, the Paige Memorial Library will continue to offer programs and resources for all. Homeschoolers can access books and materials through the library and through Interlibrary Loan.

Ongoing programs
The library's Wednesday morning Story Hour and activities begin at 11 a.m. with "getting to know you time" at 10:30 a.m. The Book Sale is also ongoing, though smaller.

The Book Club and the Cookbook Club meet monthly. The Paige Writers meet

every other week. Friends of the Paige Memorial Library, the Movie Committee, the new Hardwick Gardening Club, and the PML Volunteers are open to new members.

Upcoming events
Coming in September will be the Wendell Warriors African Drumming Workshop with Jafar Manselle and Massachusetts Good Neighbor Day on Sept. 26.

For more information, stop by the library; visit www.paigelibrary.com or Facebook; email paigelibrary.hardwick@gmail.com; or call 413-477-6704.

New Health Care Committee formed

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – The Selectboard continued discussion about a request to form a Health Care Committee.

At the Aug. 18 meeting, Town Manager Stuart Beckley said there is already work underway to form a regional rural health care coalition, as well as a redevelopment authority to include the health care district.

Selectboard Chair Josh Kusnierz said he thinks the additional committee would be beneficial to the town.

Beckley said Selectboard would be responsible for establishing the charge of the new Health Care Committee to determine what area it will cover.

Kusnierz said the formation of the committee has his support as long as its not limited to the Mary Lane Hospital site.

"We can't hyper-focus on one spot," Kusnierz said. "It is looking for the broad vision of healthcare overall for this community."

Kusnierz said the committee will not be about trying to "get the hospital back."

Resident Ann Bigda said the U.S. Department of Agriculture recommended the town have this committee for when Rural Health Transformation funds become available.

"Having this committee is in the best interests of the town of Ware...once that money is doled out," she said.

Resident Cindy Allen Bourcier said it is important to form this committee now and get it running before the

funds are released.

The Selectboard voted to form a Health Care Committee. The board will make appointments to the committee at its last meeting in September.

Sidewalk concerns
Selectboard member Valerie Granger shared a concern she received from a resident about bushes growing over the sidewalks on Wildflower Drive.

Beckley said Wildflower Drive is not a town-maintained road and the owner of the property would be responsible for its care.

He said the Planning Board has been in discussion about ownership of the road with the bank that sold the lots to a developer. The bank did not sell the road to the developer and therefore retained ownership.

Selectboard member Steven Hawk asked about the East Street underpass and the new ownership of the railroad tracks.

Beckley said the manager of the railroad tracks said it was a high priority and he can reach out again to invite him to meet with the board.

Selectboard Clerk John Desmond spoke about the sidewalk project that will span Church Street from Pleasant Street to Walnut Street.

He said the water and sewer lines also need to be replaced on that street, and he was concerned about the new sidewalks being torn up when that happens.

Cathy Cascio also brought up concerns about sidewalks near Park Street and further up on Church Street.

Beckley said the grant for the Church Street sidewalks

only covered the section mentioned by Desmond, but work will continue further up the street in phases.

Recognition
The Selectboard recognized members of the town's U.S. 250th Celebration Committee for their efforts to celebrate the nation's semiquincentennial.

Appointments
The Selectboard appointed Robin Sager to the Rail Trail Committee.

The Selectboard discussed appointing Thomas Rizzo to the Americans with Disabilities Act Commission

Hawk shared his concerns about posts Rizzo has made on social media and asked to table the appointment.

Hawk said he thought Rizzo's posts were "a little troublesome" and wanted to ask him questions about them before moving forward with the appointment.

"I'm not saying he's not worthy of being on the committee," he said.

The board voted to table the appointment until they spoke to Rizzo.

Town Accountant position
Beckley presented the board with information about new Town Accountant Elise Diemand, who will start the following week.

Diemand recently worked as the part-time accountant for the town of Hampden. She also previously worked in Ware at Berkshire Blanket.

Announcements
Kusnierz asked drivers to be mindful of buses, school vans and students walking to and from school as the school year starts.

"There are buses; where there are buses, there are children," he said.

The International Overdose Awareness Day Vigil hosted by the Recovery Center of HOPE will be held on Monday, Aug. 31 from 6:30-7 p.m. at Veterans Park.

Regional retreat
Kusnierz said he wants to schedule a regional communities retreat with select boards and town administrators/managers from neighboring towns to discuss ideas and issues, as well as network.

"I'm wondering whether it's an opportunity for us to bring in some of the surrounding communities together," he said.

He said the retreat could provide towns with an opportunity to collaborate and share resources.

Kusnierz said there are grant funds available to cover the cost of the retreat.

The Selectboard will continue discussion about the retreat at its next meeting.

Waiver of first refusal
The Selectboard reviewed a partial waiver of the right of first refusal for property at 298 Belchertown Road that is in Chapter 61A. Beckley said the waiver is only for a small part of the property, and the rest will remain in Chapter 61A.

The board waived its right of first refusal.

Toll road
The board approved a toll road fundraiser to benefit the Ware Holiday Flair. The fundraiser will be held on Sept. 12 and 13, from 8 a.m.-noon at intersections along Main Street.

Trinity Episcopal celebrates 125th anniversary with dinner

WARE – Trinity Episcopal Church, located at the corner of Park and Pleasant streets, is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year.

A fundraiser dinner will be held on Saturday, Oct. 3 in the Alfonso Banquet Room at Teresa's Restaurant, 315 Palmer Road. Tickets are \$50 per person and include a social hour, family-style dinner and live music.

Social hour begins at 5

p.m., and a dinner of chicken parmesan with ziti, salad, coffee and tea will be served at 6 p.m. Cash bar is available.

Raffle tickets will also be sold during the dinner. Raffle items include at least two handmade quilts made by the church ladies quilt group, and items donated by friends and local businesses.

Entertainment will begin at 7 p.m. and has been graciously donated by local musicians, including Seth

Newton.

All proceeds from the evening will go toward physical improvement projects at the new Jubilee Ministries center, 80 Pleasant St., especially a handicap ramp and awning and other projects.

This year is also the 45th anniversary of the Jubilee Cupboard, which got its start in the church's kitchen.

Tickets can be purchased on Sundays at the church after services from 10:30 a.m.-noon; during church

office hours Tuesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; at Jubilee Ministries, 80 Pleasant St., on Thursdays from 9 a.m.-noon; at Jeffery & Jeffery, 137 Main St., during regular business hours Monday through Friday; or by calling the church office at 413-967-6100.

Tickets must be purchased by Thursday, Sept. 24.

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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viewpoints

By Ellenor Downer

I received an email from a Hampden resident, who sent two photos of Eastern bluebirds – one adult male and a fledgling.

She states, “I live in Hampden, for the past several years we have been blessed to have a pair of bluebird’s nest in our yard. They have had three broods of babies each year including this year.”



This adult male Eastern bluebird is seen at the entrance of a bluebird house checking on his brood.



The fledgling male Eastern bluebird blends in with the ground cover. Blue feathers are visible.

The fledgling in the above photo is a male. The photo was taken shortly after fledging. Wing feathers, wing coverts and tail feathers are essential in determining the sex of young bluebirds.

By day ten to eleven days after hatching, feather colors are noticeable. The blue tail in males and gray in females become apparent. In the male, the short tail at fledging is bright blue. Times may vary but by day 13 the tail color is apparent.

Both sexes have a gray spotted back and chest. They also have a white eye ring.

By the time a bluebird is 19 to 24 days old, the male has blue wing coverts and the female gray ones.

At five weeks old the young male has blue wing feathers and a bright blue tail. The female’s primary wing feathers are blue, but concealed. The base of her tail is blue and the rest bluish gray. Spots are still present on back and breast.

Young bluebirds continue to depend on their parents for food until six weeks old. Siblings tend to forage nearby until they join flocks of young birds. Some first brood birds even help raise their parents next brood if their parents have a double brood season.

Between July and October young birds begin to replace their juvenile plumage. Blue and brick red feathers begin to appear. By mid to late October all juveniles finish molting into their first adult plumage.

Leucistic crow

I met a New Braintree resident at the Oakham Post Office this week. He said he saw a crow with one white wing. Leucistic birds are birds that have abnormal plumage coloration due to a genetic mutation that causes a partial loss of pigmentation.

They may have washed out feathers or blotches of white feathers. While rare, they are found in many bird species around the world.

Whippoorwills

A Brimfield resident

Preservation questions are popular this time of year

Dawn, who gardens in Tolland, asked a few questions of the Garden Lady this past week.

You see, this is the first year in three years that Dawn has a had a productive garden. Her former garden was too far from the house to be tended. It was tricky to irrigate and animals often found their way through or under the fence.

Dawn’s hard work ended up being a hearty meal for woodchucks and more. Now, with raised beds close to her house, she is grateful for a bountiful harvest.

First, she wanted to be reminded how to roast tomatoes.

I enjoy roasting my cherry tomatoes; it’s a great way to use them up when they produce like gangbusters.

Depending on the size, I either cut them in half or quarters and put them no more than two rows deep in a roasting pan. I sprinkle a teaspoon or two of extra virgin olive oil over the tomatoes and then I add half an onion and two-three cloves of garlic.

After mixing all the ingredients together, I bake at 400 degrees for about an hour, stirring midway. You know when it is done when the skins pucker and there is very little liquid left. Now you can either eat it this way, say over pasta or rice, or you can zip it up with a few basil leaves and you have made your own sauce.

No need to de-seed or remove the skins. Just think, all that added fiber and goodness, with less work to boot!

You can tailor your roasting to suite your own taste buds as well. Some folks add chopped peppers or eggplant.

Certainly you can use any type of tomato, too and add additional herbs or spices.

Speaking of peppers,

Dawn also wanted to know how to roast peppers. It’s a little different from tomatoes.

by Roberta McQuaid

Peppers roast best when they are fully ripe – i.e., when they have changed color. I have mentioned it before, but my favorite roasting pepper is “Carmen,” a long bell pepper with thick walls.

Simply wash the fruits and position them whole in a single layer under the broiler, turning frequently until they bubble up and char slightly. This can also be accomplished on a gas grill or as my husband will attest, over the flame of your kitchen gas stove.

Once charred, place them in a paper bag or covered container. The steam will soften the skin to the point it can be rubbed off, revealing yummy, thick flesh.

Pull off the stem and remove the seeds and voila! Roasted red peppers are yours to freeze.

I just blot mine dry and put them in single servings in plastic freezer bags. The fruit is easily thawed by placing the bag into a shallow basin of water; likewise, you can pop the pepper popsicle on to a plate and let it thaw in the fridge.

Roasted peppers are fantastic on homemade pizza or blended into hummus.

I shared with Dawn that I was making pickles. She went on to say that hers never turn out well, so I texted her a copy of a recipe given to me by a dear coworker over 20 years ago. I am still making them.

I’m not sure who originally gave Ron the recipe, but here it is for anyone wanting to use up an abundance of cucumbers. I’ve made it with full size cukes as well as picklers.

I would recommend that you fill your canning jars, be it quart or half gallon, with the cucumbers first. They can be packed tightly.

Then, add plain water to the jar all the way to the rim. Dump the water out into a large measuring cup to see just how much liquid you need.

Then you can adjust the other ingredients to the ratio in the recipe. I learned this trick the hard way after wasting ingredients because I didn’t need quite a double recipe.

Ron’s Pickle Recipe

Ingredients:

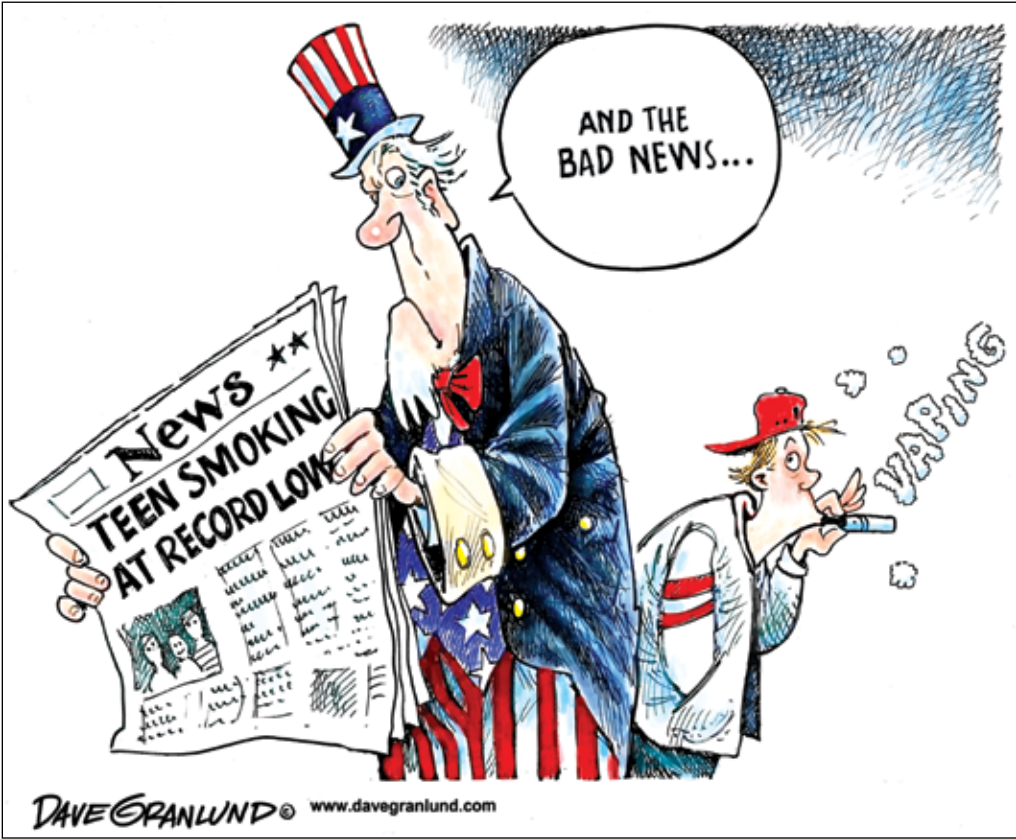
14-16 cucumbers
8 teaspoons pickling spice
6 dill tops
6 cloves garlic
2 teaspoons sugar
4 tablespoons Kosher salt
1 cup vinegar
5 cups water

Instructions:

Combine all ingredients into canning jars. Shake and leave on counter for 36 hours. Refrigerate for two days before eating. Will keep in the fridge for a few months although the flavor will intensify with storage.

Enjoy the harvest as much as Dawn is!

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.



By Russell Gloor

We were bitten by Medicare’s IRMAA this year; What should I so?

Dear Rusty:

My wife and I file our taxes jointly.

In 2024, I took an IRA Required Minimum Distribution, which was significantly more than I was required to take.

My Medicare premiums were not affected in 2025 and our Social Security payments were not reduced. Then, our joint filing in 2025 kept us below the IRS’ “Modified Adjusted Gross Income level.

Yet in 2026 our Medicare payments increased and our Social Security payments were reduced.

If my MAGI is below the maximum for 2025, will my regular SS payments/ Medicare reductions be restored in 2027? Is there any action I need to take to ensure this will happen or will our Medicare payments and reduced SS payments be our new norm?

Signed: Worried Retiree

Dear Worried Retiree:

FYI, your Medicare premiums in 2026 were affected by the large RMD you took in 2024, which caused a Medicare provision known as the “Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount ” to apply for 2026.

When determining the Medicare Part B premium for next year (each fall), Medicare uses the income you reported to the IRS two years prior to calculate your Medicare Part B (and Part D) premium for upcoming year.

If you exceed the base “IRMAA” income threshold two years ago, then your Medicare premiums for the next year will include a supplemental amount on top of the “standard” Medicare premium for that year.

The amount of the supplement depends on how much

you exceed the base IRMAA threshold by (FYI, the base IRMAA threshold for 2026 for a married couple filing jointly was \$218,000). If your 2024 income exceeded that initial IRMAA threshold, you paid a higher Medicare premium, which also reduced your SS monthly payment because Medicare is deducted from your SS benefit. IRMAA uses a sliding scale to determine how much more than the standard Medicare premium you will pay.

However, that will all automatically correct itself going forward. In other words, when determining your premiums for 2027, Medicare will look at your 2025 income. If your 2025 MAGI is less than the base IRMAA threshold, you and your wife will both automatically revert to paying the standard 2027 Medicare Part B and Part D premiums.

You don’t need to take any action for that to happen; it will all be automatic.

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 amac-foundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amac-foundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

WARE RIVER NEWS

EDITOR
Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Dan Flynn
dflynn@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

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WEB
warerivernews.turley.com

PHONE
(413) 283-8393

ADDRESS
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069

www.turley.com

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

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Ware River News
Letter to the Editor
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The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

Turley Election Policy

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

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

Note: Statements or allegations made during the public comment periods of municipal meetings are those of individuals and do not reflect the official views or positions of the public body, municipality, or this newspaper. Comments that are made are not checked for accuracy.



Turley Staff Photo

WBCA & BEYOND DONATES SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Shannon Ortana, Ware Branch Manager Monson Savings Bank, on behalf of the Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond, dropped off school supplies to the Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School staff. The collected school supplies were donations from this past summer's collection drive. Pictured left to right are Darcy Lohr, Ortana, Pam Iwasinski, Jen Knight and Amy Watson.

Downtown economic development committee hears updates

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

WARE – The Downtown Economic and Development Committee heard updates on the Millyard District, casino lot and Safe Streets for All grant at their Monday meeting.

The Selectboard will also vote to appoint five members to the committee at their next meeting.

The Millyard and Healthcare District, according to Town Manager Stuart Beckley runs from the Millyard businesses on East Main Street down South Street to the former site of Mary Lane Hospital. The healthcare portion of the district is only the former hospital site and the current site of the Cedarbrook Village assisted living facility.

That district was approved at a previous town meeting, according to Beckley.

Beckley said there was a Community One Stop for Growth application submitted online for the district, and there could be a re-development authority formed to tackle the area. The goal is for more economic development in the Millyard area.

The current plan from Baystate Health is to put a medical residency program at

the Mary Lane Hospital site where future medical staff can be trained, as the site can only be used for healthcare purposes.

There is also a small building in the district that is set to be demolished. A survey of the Millyard had come in, and the next round is water and sewer, according to Beckley.

Other areas of focus

Beckley said there are grants for Bank Street for sidewalks and lighting out, along with the casino lot, which is the area between the former Villa's Restaurant and Veterans Park, where there is a proposed seating area. Beckley said those grants get approved around October.

The Safe Streets for All grant will focus on intersections at Church Street and Pleasant Street and intersections with North Street. Beckley said a conceptual design was approved, and the final design will be in the second year of the grant. There will be crosswalks, lights and sidewalk improvements in those areas.

The other intersection is with Anderson Road and Route 9, where Beckley said there will likely be a turnout lane.

There will also be sidewalk improvements on South Street down to Marjorie

Street.

Two buildings on Main Street, across from the intersection with North Street are set to be demolished soon as well.

WBCA update

Dan Flynn with the Ware Business and Civic Association and Beyond praised the businesses for supporting the costs of the 250th fireworks celebration, saying it would not have been possible without them.

State Primary voting information

HARDWICK

Polls are open in the Hardwick Elementary School, 76 School House Drive, Gilbertville, on Tuesday, Sept. 1 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

WARE

Polls are open in the Ware Town Hall, 126 Main St., on Tuesday, Sept. 1 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

WARREN

Polls are open in the Charles E. Shepard Municipal Building, 48 High St., on Tuesday, Sept. 1 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

Pool committee discusses past grant, future possibilities

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

WARE – The pool committee met Monday to discuss a past grant that the town applied for with the Environmental Protection Agency that could have replaced the pool along with various other amenities at the property.

The committee also discussed future grants that may become available in the future.

At the Aug. 24 meeting, grant writer Jay Mooney attended the meeting, explaining that in 2023, the town applied for a grant of about \$8 million with the EPA, and they got through the first phase of interviewing with no problems, but it never came to fruition.

Mooney said part of the problem was the new administration that started in 2024 cut a lot of that funding, and there are at least 20 grants across the country in similar situations.

The grant would have replaced the pool, brought programming like swimming instruction and implemented a shuttle bus to get people to and from the pool.

The reason the town qualified in 2023 was because the portion of the town where the pool sat was designated an environmental justice community. Part of the criteria for the grant was electrifying the Quaboag Connector and having charging stations in the town.

According to mass.gov, an environmental justice community has at least one of these criteria: median income is 65% less than the state average, the population is at least 40% minority, at least 25% of the population do not speak English fluently or minorities make up 25% of the population and the median household income of the municipality in which it is located does not exceed 150% of the statewide average.

Mooney said other grants of that magnitude are hard to come by, but there are other agencies like the USDA and their facilities grant, which have been used for community centers in other places.

Committee member Nancy Talbot said the town is lacking community centers, so it should be looked at.

Mooney said a lot of the USDA grants are actually

loan programs, and their criteria changes often.

There is also the Community Development Block Grant, but the town already tried that for a splash pad, and it wasn't approved. Mooney said other options are reaching out to legislators like state Rep. Todd Smola and state Sen. Peter Durant for earmarks and a wellness initiative.

Mooney said there are some health organizations out there that will post requests for proposals where anybody can sign up, but there are not many, as most of them are on an invite only basis, and he said it is difficult to get into them.

He said the environmental justice designation doesn't matter anymore, but there are still grants for areas with persistent poverty if at least 20% of the population are below the poverty line. As of now, that figure is about 18.5%.

Mooney said since the town is close to a final design, now that they have the \$40,000 donation from Charles McQuaid, they could be competitive for grants since they can demonstrate exactly what the plan will be for the site.

'Glow Ball' tournament fundraiser is Aug. 29

BARRE– Quabbin Area Little League is holding its annual "Glow Ball" fundraising event for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute on Saturday, Aug. 29 at Felton Field, 120 Old Coldbrook Road.

The Quabbin Area Little League's summer baseball program, the Jimmy Fund Baseball League, culminates each year with a dedicated fundraising event. This initiative is entirely focused on generating vital funds for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, supporting their critical research and patient care programs.

Check-in starts at 5 p.m. and games start at 7 p.m. The game features specialized glow-in-the-dark balls, and all participants are adorned with luminous bracelets and necklaces, creating an electrifying visual experience.

This six-team, double elimination tournament is a glow-in-the-dark modified wiffle ball game.

The game itself is designed for rapid-paced play, allowing for a five-inning game to conclude in approximately 35 minutes. There are no age restrictions, no prior skill level is required, and all necessary equipment is provided.

For a nominal fee of \$10, anyone can participate and enjoy this unique, community-focused event.

This year, they are elevating the experience further by incorporating black light technology, reducing reliance on traditional glow sticks. Field lines will

be marked with fluorescent paint, and in addition to glow accessories, players will receive black light-reactive face paint.

They encourage participants to wear fluorescent or white clothing to maximize the vibrant visual effect under the black lights.

Following registration, teams are formed in a "sandlot" style, guided by six designated captains, ensuring a balanced and fair competition. The festive atmosphere commences upon arrival, promising an evening of spirited play and community engagement.

Food and drinks will be available for cash purchase.

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Annual Ware Grange Fair returns on Aug. 28-29

WARE – The Ware Grange Fair will be held on Friday, Aug. 28 and Saturday, Aug. 29 at the Grange Hall on Route 9, 297 Belchertown Road.

This year’s fair will feature a fun dog show, Kids’ Corner workshop, children’s field events, games, raffles, bake sale, live music, a barbecue dinner and an auction. Exhibits may be entered on Thursday, Aug. 27 from 5-7 p.m. or Friday, Aug. 28 from 9-11 a.m.

The exhibit hall opens to the public Friday evening

from 5-7 p.m., and there will be a bake sale, raffles and penny sale. The fair continues on Saturday with exhibit hours from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and various events throughout the day.

An auction of fruits, vegetables, baked items, etc., will begin at 6 p.m. Raffle and penny sale winners will be drawn after

A barbecue dinner will be held from 4-5:30 p.m.

For more information, details on exhibiting, or to make reservations for the barbecue, call 413-284-1135 or visit waregrange.org.

Kids’ Corner workshop explores nature on Aug. 29

WARE – The next Kids’ Corner workshop at Ware Grange will be the “Enchanted Forest Nature Party” and will take place during the Grange Fair on Saturday, Aug. 29 at 10 a.m. at the Grange Hall at 297 Belchertown Road.

Kids’ Corner workshops are led by preschool teacher, Jen McNally, and teach children about nature and the environment through

stories, songs and fun activities. This workshop will explore the great outdoors in conjunction with the Ware Grange Fair.

Children will take a guided nature walk to learn about the outdoor world and look for natural items to use in making crafts.

Visit Ware Grange on Facebook or at waregrange.org for more information.

Ware Grange hosts dinner Aug. 29

WARE – The Ware Grange is holding a barbecue dinner at the annual Grange Fair on Saturday, Aug. 29 at 4 p.m.

The menu includes pulled pork, chicken, bris-ket, baked beans, coleslaw, cornbread, drink and dessert

for \$25. Eat outside under the tent or take your meal to go.

Reservations are required. Please call 413-284-1135 or email waregrange164@gmail.com to make your reservations for the barbecue.

LIFT from page 1

“This is a special moment for Workshop13,” Lauderdale said.

Adding this new lift to the building, which was built back in 1897, is now able to let everyone enjoy this space thanks to this additional accessibility.

“Living up to something we believe in,” Lauderdale said. “Arts enjoyed by everyone.”

Lauderdale acknowledged the amount of support Workshop13 got to make this project become a reality. The cultural arts center received a grant for this project but also received additional support.

The additional support came from the Edward & Barbara Urban Foundation. Lauderdale said more than 100 people in total donated to this campaign, which can be considered a testament to how important this project meant to not only Workshop13, but also the entire community.

“It’s inclusive,” Lauderdale said.

Prior to the ribbon cutting, Cindy Purcell spoke about how meaningful it is to provide this accessible support for people who need it and get to experience Workshop13.

One of the trustees of the Edward & Barbara Urban Foundation, Tracy Opalinski, did the honors of using the ceremonial giant scissors to conduct the ribbon cutting for the new lift at Workshop13.

After the ribbon cutting, Purcell made her way into the new lift, which successfully brought her to the upper floor of Workshop13 where the celebrations continued.

In the grand hall of Workshop13, there was another reveal to be celebrated.

The grand hall was renamed Urban Hall with sev-



Members of the Worskhop13 Board of Directors, Trustees of the Edward & Barbara Urban Foundation and special guests came together to celebrate the dedication of both the new lift and renaming of the grand hall at Workshop13.



Workshop13 Executive Director Marie Lauderdale, left, presented a plaque to Paul Opalinski.

eral new signs placed above the entry ways. The signs were donated by the contractor who worked on the new lift.

This dedication is a way to recognize the supporters who helped Workshop13 accomplish so much in recent years.

Trustees of the Foundation,

Tracy and Paul Opalinski, accepted a plaque presented to them by Lauderdale as a thank you to the foundation for its support of the project.

Paul Opalinski shared a few words during the dedication and described Workshop13 as a premier art center with a dedicated board

and volunteers.

The Edward and Barbara Urban Foundation has been running since the late 1990s and supported the community of Ware in multiple ways including projects for the Rail Trail, the Senior Center, St. Mary’s Church and now Workshop13.

As part of the celebration, guests were given early access to view the entries of the 8th Annual Northeast Fine Arts Exhibition.

The architect behind the work of the new lift, Juan Cruz attended the ceremonies. Cruz said a lot of design work and construction went into the new lift and took about a year’s worth of work to complete.

Cruz has volunteered at Workshop13 for three years, and he also worked on the façade project for the building and helped make the downstairs floor more accessible.

More information can be found at workshop13.org.

HEALTH NEEDS

from page 1

grant-funded organizations serve 18 towns in the Quaboag region.

Gail Gramarossa, a public health practitioner, is working as a consultant with support of the New England Rural Health Association. She is co-facilitating a process with Kirby to speak to various stakeholders about healthcare needs.

Bourcier gave some background about healthcare services efforts that have occurred over the years. She talked about medical staff being laid off before and after the merger between Baystate Health’s Wing and Mary Lane hospitals.

“We knew that services were being shut down...it wasn’t a decrease in demand for healthcare, it was a decrease in the services,” she said.

Bourcier said a lot of people in the community were active in trying to keep healthcare services in town, but by 2024, Mary Lane Hospital was closed.

Since then, buildings have been demolished at the hospital site on South Street with the original Wetherby Building remaining.

Bourcier said there have been many surveys and community assessments completed which identify the need

for healthcare services. She shared a photo of people raising their hands in support of restoring healthcare to the former hospital site.

“93% want healthcare back on Mary Lane,” she said. “That is why I keep advocating for that.”

Bourcier spoke about the region’s aging population, noting that many senior citizens live alone and about 30% have a type of disability. She said falls at home are a risk for senior citizens, which also put a strain on emergency services.

group’s mission was divided into two parts: healthcare and economic development.

He said economic development will help to bring healthcare providers back into Ware. It will also increase the number of potential patients.

“It’s a better business situation for the healthcare providers,” Lyon said. “It’s essential to the viability of the healthcare section.”

He said economic development will also benefit the town, in addition to bringing in healthcare providers.

Health is a healthcare partner involved in the Rural Health Transformation conversation.

“We’ve got lot of ‘next steps,’” Bourcier said, when talking about what needs to happen to move forward.

Lyon said the healthcare needs should not be tied to just one parcel of land, and it shouldn’t be limited to Ware.

“There’s many towns, it’s a big area, and it may look a little bit different in every community,” he said.

A regional coalition is in the process of being formed to represent area towns in order to receive Rural Health Transformation funds.

Bourcier said the town needs to form a committee in addition to the coalition to represent the town of Ware. She said the town of Hardwick has its own committee.

Gramarossa explained the state’s definition of a rural region, and why certain towns are grouped together.

“It’s a very complex area with lots of unmet needs both health-wise and social service-wise,” she said.

Gramarossa said she has been meeting with stakeholders in the Quaboag Valley to determine how the Rural Health Transformation funds would be utilized to meet healthcare needs.

Lyon said the staff at the USDA’s Rural Development program are “very committed” to making this happen.

The group discussed if the new zoning for the Mary Lane Hospital site would allow for certain economic development including housing for senior citizens. A zoning amendment may be required to move forward with this type of project.

The Mary Lane Hospital property is privately owned by Baystate Health.

Mike Dambrosio, Transportation Operations Supervisor for Ware, who oversees the Quaboag Connector, the Senior Center van and a Baystate Urgent Care van, spoke about the needs of the people in recovery and those who are homeless.

He said the Mary Lane Hospital site could be developed to provide treatment and housing.

Bourcier said she would like to see more senior housing in the community, and suggested looking for grant money to conduct a study to determine senior housing needs, or hire a consultant.

Sawyer Blake, Project Coordinator for Community Health for the town of Ware and Healthy Quaboag said there are two different things being talked about – the Rural Health Transformation program and the redevelopment of the Mary Lane Hospital site.

“We are trying to get a coalition of people to put together a Rural Health Transformation application,” Blake said.

Blake added that Baystate

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CLUES ACROSS

1. A vast desert in Africa

7. Reciprocal of a sine

10. Type of phone

12. Biblical figure

13. One who renounces a religious belief

14. Warren and Monroe are two

15. Wild ox

16. Dismounted a horse

17. Cave dweller

18. Where infants sleep

19. Popular type of shoe

21. Clumsy large person

22. Evil-like

27. Integrated circuit

28. Austin-based athlete

33. Postscript

34. Follows 18

36. People of Gambia

37. Popular actor

38. Platform for a lectern

39. Taxi

40. American songwriter Sammy

41. Iranian city

44. Heavy clubs

45. One who is expelled

48. In bed

49. Lifelessness

50. Former CIA

51. Most slick

CLUES DOWN

1. Slovenly person

2. In addition

3. Hovels

4. Pie ___ mode

5. Subway rodent

6. They ___

7. Indigenous S. American people

8. Fine sand

9. Central nervous system

10. Nightclub

11. The perfect example of something

12. Supreme Islamic leader

14. Pain

17. Binary-coded decimal

18. Projecting corner of an angle

20. “Succession” actor Brian

23. Dinner table decor

24. Ancient settlement in modern Turkey

25. You can call Paul Simon this

26. Opposite of a pro

29. Atomic #28

30. Type of drug (abbr.)

31. Arrives at

32. Nullifies

35. Bird’s beak

36. Partner to “ooed”

38. Ray-finned fishes

40. Taxis

41. Sat on and controlled

42. Sea eagles

43. Remain as-is

44. Chinese revolutionary

45. Tooth caregiver

46. Snakelike fish

47. Compensate

PB continues public hearing for meadery

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Planning Board continued a public hearing for the special permit application on Aug. 24.

The applicant, Jack Fowler III, requested a special permit to operate a home-based meadery business at 661 Main St.. This public hearing continued from July 20.

The Planning Board received letter from the Building Inspector saying the board should deny the special permit after making the determination that this use is not allowed in this zoning.

The board’s Administrative Assistant Laura Sheris told the board members what Town Administrator James Ferrera recommended and the opinion from town counsel.

Town counsel said the Planning Board can make the decision on the special permit. The Planning Board is

within its right to accept or deny this special permit application.

Ed Londergan of the Planning Board said the main concerns from the inspector was about fermentation and odor. These concerns were addressed by Fowler at a previous Planning Board meeting.

Fowler explained the distance from his neighbors, which has one from the entrance of his driveway. He also met with most of his neighbors across the street and they seemed okay with the operation.

The advertising for Fowler’s home-based meadery business would all be done on social media. When asked how many people he anticipates working in his home, Fowler said no more than 10.

For parking, Fowler would allow parking on his property. If his special permit application is approved, Fowler is

planning on clearing the property up in the spring.

The Planning Board thinks a site plan might be needed if Fowler’s goal is to put in parking spots, and possibly a gazebo. The plans would have to show dimensions and handicapped access.

Planning Board Chair Derick Veliz read suggestions from the letter they received. The letter stated, “The Board should list all of the findings and its reasonings for the denial.”

“The building inspector’s letter is not binding on us,” Londergan said.

If Fowler was granted permission to produce mead, his goal was to also do medieval and renaissance festivals. Also, Fowler wants to go to local farmers markets.

According to Fowler, there are no other meadery producers nearby in the central and western regions of the state.

Fowler talked about the concerns addressed in that letter and said there will be monitoring systems in place. There will also be circulation of air put in place.

The Planning Board would like to see some plans presented to them just to get an idea of what the meadery space on the property would look like.

The Planning Board could also put conditions in place if this special permit was approved. These conditions would also include what the inspector raised as concerns.

The board agreed to continue the public hearing until

Sept. 14.

Housing Production Plan grant

The Planning Board met with Emily Glaubitz of the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission to discuss a Housing Production Plan grant.

Glaubitz said the plan is to get feedback on affordability and the structures of housing that are needed in the community. For example, multi-family housing and senior housing.

Glaubitz said the plan is helpful when the town applies for grants. The plan would be a document with data and analysis of where the town is in housing.

Considerations such as population and an assessment of what the challenges are of creating new housing.

“It is good to be proactive and have a plan in place for housing,” Glaubitz said.

The board went over some of the survey questions in the draft and made some recommendations. The board wants the important questions addressed that will make sure residents are participating and get essential answers.

Glaubitz said the responses will be formatted in a report, which are something the board would like to see to get an idea of where residents stand on housing for Warren. Glaubitz plans to attend the next Planning Board meeting and will work on a flyer for promotional purposes.

Time capsule sealing happening on Oct. 31

Items needed by Sept. 27

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – To help preserve Warren’s history, the Warren Parks Department is collecting items for the next time capsule.

Back in July, in celebration of America 250, the town gathered on the common for the unveiling of the time capsule, which was sealed and placed under the gazebo back in 1976.

The museum inside the Warren Public Library has a display of all the items that were inside the time capsule from 1976.

During the unveiling, the town decided to collect items to be placed inside a new time capsule, which won’t be released until the 300th anniversary of the U.S.

Since then, the Warren Parks Department has been collecting items from residents, local businesses, and town departments to be placed inside the time capsule at the weekly farmers markets. The department is collecting small-sized items that will fit in the capsule.

Danielle Fountain of the Warren Parks Department said they have received sev-

eral items so far this summer. The Warren Public Library has shared some items, as well as some from local businesses and schools.

The 2026 school yearbook from Quaboag Regional Middle High School was collected to be featured inside the time capsule and Warren Community Elementary School also gave a book.

The Warren Parks Department will also be contributing something to the time capsule.

Residents interested in placing something in the time capsule can reach out to the Warren Parks Department or visit the table set up during the Farmers Market on Saturdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on the common.

The deadline for submitting a contribution to the time capsule is Sept. 27.

The time capsule will be sealed during the farmers market on Saturday, Oct. 31. The time capsule will be placed underneath the gazebo.

For more information or wanting to submit an item for the time capsule, reach out to the Warren Parks Department on their Facebook page, email at parksandrec@warren-ma.gov, or call 413-436-5701 extension 118.

Trinity Episcopal hosts talk about Lost Towns on Sept. 20

WARE – Trinity Episcopal Church, located at the corner of Park and Pleasant streets, will host a program about the Lost Towns of the Quabbin Reservoir by Ed Maxwell on Sunday, Sept. 20 at 4 p.m.

This program is free and open to the public. A goodwill offering will be taken to benefit the

Proprietors of the Ware Center Meeting House.

Tickets for the church’s 125th anniversary celebration dinner on Saturday, Oct. 3 at Teresa’s Restaurant will be available for purchase after the program. Tickets are \$50 per person and include a social hour, meal and live musical entertainment.

WARREN BOS

from page 1

access a third floor, a sally port and a cell area.

The floor plans for the bank building were also addressed, including the basement level. McElravy said there are different pieces to the plan. A ramp was suggested to get to the first-floor level.

As for the elevator, the plans have it placed away from the foundation wall.

Board of Selectmen Chair Richard Eichacker asked about the elevator, believing it may not be for public use. McElravy said an elevator in the bank building would “meet the Title II requirement for a government building that must be accessible.”

The additional floor could be a potential space for an investigative area, archive storage and office spaces.

Since Warren is a Green Community, the town would have to think about the envelope of the bank building and make insulation and window upgrades. There may be some roof insulation work as well.

McElravy said the budget for the police station at the former Cornerstone Bank building is approximately \$10,343,350. With project development and contingency, the total amount for the project was estimated at \$13,876,350.

One of the major questions the board raised was how the renovation of a pre-existing building can be more than the cost of a new building.

According to the architect, costs are higher for renovations than in new construction. The other factor is labor efforts that go into building renovations.

There were some questions regarding Americans with Disabilities Act compliance that McElravy addressed. He will look further into seeing if there is a way to substitute a Lula lift for an elevator.

“I have not got a definitive answer on that one yet,” McElravy said.

The next location was a police station next to the Highway Department property. After going over the costs for each component

of the budget, the estimated cost for a new building off Brimfield Road, with no fire-arms simulator, came out to be \$10,850,460.

There was an initial concern whether the Highway garage would lose storage space if the new building was built next to it. A proposal was brought up to possibly do some earth removal and replicate the storage, so no space of the Highway garage was lost.

One of the main questions was about the difference in contingency for renovating a current building or a new building. There is a higher percentage when working on the renovation of an existing building.

McElravy said is 7.5% for renovation versus 5% for the new construction.

“Basically, because you never know what you’re going to find when you’re opening up an existing building,” McElravy said.

As for new construction, McElravy recommended that the town should make sure the building goes well into the future and plan for growth.

As for unknown costs, McElravy said there were no environmental testings done at these locations and doesn’t anticipate seeing any environmental conditions. Tecton also didn’t do a hazmat investigation inside the bank building.

When McElravy walked through the bank building, he saw a floor tile that might have had asbestos, but there was nothing else that raised any red flags in the bank building, according to McElravy.

The architect does anticipate some structural reinforcing that may have to occur in the bank building if it was to be renovated. Also, reworking the stairs and the lateral loads.

Tecton Architects will finalize a draft and the town will look into public information sessions, the Board of Selectmen will vote on a single site and design option, and a future town meeting would occur.

Eichacker said the Highway Surveyor seemed fine with the idea of sharing the Brimfield Road site

and understands the Police Department needs a building.

As for storage, Eichacker talked about areas into the hill of the property; maybe install burrows.

The board members knows they have to have public meetings to help them find out what the Town residents would support.

McElravy talked about some grants that may help relieve the cost. An EOC Grant was mentioned as an example.

Board of Selectmen Vice-Chair, Derick Veliz, wanted to make sure that the process is explained clearly for the public and it’s important for them to share input at these public meetings.

“This is for you to come and decide,” Veliz said.

Town Administrator James Ferrera asked the Board is they had any potential public meeting dates in mind. After speaking with McElravy and amongst each other, the board decided to do a public session on Sept. 9 at the Quaboag Regional Middle High School auditorium, if it is available.

Cultural Council appointment

The board discussed and voted on the appointment of Danielle Fountain for a three-year term on the Warren Cultural Council.

Sludge contract

The board approved a contract with Wind River Environmental LLC for the transportation and transfer of liquid wastewater treatment plant sludge. Ferrera said a bid went out around May and June, and the town received a low bid from Wind River Environmental, who have been a vendor for the town for quite some time.

The Sewer Commissioners also signed off on the contract, which will begin on Nov. 1.

Building Commissioner

The board had a discussion about the reappointment of current Building Commissioner, William Cantell.

Eichacker said he spoke with the Cantell a couple weeks ago and said he is willing to do some training. Some customer service complaints

were brought up by some residents and addressed to the Board of Selectmen.

Ferrera also had a discussion with the Building Commissioner, and all parties understood there were some communication issues.

The board voted to appoint Cantell until the end of the calendar year, Dec. 31. The motion passed by a 2-1 vote.

The board will have another meeting sometime in December to continue this discussion.

Town Administrator’s report

Ferrera said a kitchen sink had been installed in the break room for staff in the Shepard Building.

There were also some weatherization needs on the exterior of the building. Rotting wood was spotted near some of the windows as well as some of the vents outside the building.

To be prepared for the winter, drains were cleared and overgrown grass was cleared out. Ferrera said the

town is trying to get water away from the building prior to the winter and rain season.

Bids have come in for the translucent panel replacement project. Ferrera is reviewing bids and will have a path identified for the town in the next week or so.

A benefits fair was held for employees this past week. Staff were able to make changes to their health insurance, and beneficiaries for life insurance.



VETERANS DAY SALUTE

Ware River News ~ November 5, 2026

Ware River News will be saluting our local veterans (from all wars and branches, including honoring deceased veterans), reservists, active duty U.S. Military members.

Please submit a photo of your veteran with his or her name, rank, branch of military and hometown by email to dflynn@turley.com or drop off a photo to **Ware River News, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069**

All photos will be returned.

Please submit your photo no later than **Monday, October 20, 2026.**

There is no cost to submit a photo. No photos will be accepted after deadline. If you would like to use a prior submitted photo, please contact Dan Flynn no later than October 13th (413) 297-5886.

Rocky Acres Farm

Family continues dairy tradition with raw milk sales

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARREN – On about 500 acres at the top of Coy Hill Road sits Rocky Acres Farm, a multigenerational farm known for its raw milk and passion for the dairy industry. Operated by Brian and Heather (Gregoire) Richardson, Rocky Acres Farm has been owned and operated by the Richardson family since 1961. First by Brian’s grandparents, and then by his parents. Rocky Acres

Farm is the last working dairy farm in the town. “They kept it going by the skin of their teeth,” Heather said. Now, Brian and Heather are busy raising the fourth generation of Richardsons to be dairy farmers, Conrad, age 4 and Claire, age 2. “They’re with us all the time,” Heather said. “Claire can name you all the cows, and he [Conrad] is like the manager.” For about five decades, Rocky Acres Farm has pro-

vided its top-quality milk to the cooperative Agri-Mark, but as of June 15, the farm lost access to this vital milk market when the Richardsons would not stop selling raw milk to loyal customers – something they have been licensed to do for over 20 years. “My dad had a 45-year contract,” Brian said. “They didn’t care about that at all.” The Richardsons said the cooperative recently required them (and others) to stop selling raw milk, something they have been licensed through the state to do since 2003. “Raw milk supplemented our income,” Heather said. “Some of the customers we have, have been with us from day one.” Brian and Heather said they did not agree with Agri-Mark’s request, which was not stipulated in their long-standing contract and would hurt the farm financially. This resulted in the farm being dropped by the cooperative, despite it being top-ranked in quality year after year.

Praline, a Brown Swiss, is the oldest cow in the herd at 13 years old.



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette
Heather (Gregoire) and Brian Richardson are shown with their son Conrad and their herd of dairy cows at Rocky Acres Farm in Warren.

“We did not back down from our loyalty to our milk customers. We chose our milk customers – they have been loyal to our family and we wanted to still be able to provide their families with a safe, high quality source of grass fed raw milk,” Heather said.

Brian said the request goes against what the cooperative was telling farmers years prior during the COVID pandemic when Agri-Mark wasn’t picking up milk, and recommended farmers find other means to support themselves, including selling raw milk if licensed to do so. “For 22 years the co-op allowed us to sell raw milk with the same contract,” Heather said. Heather said there is only one other milk cooperative in the area, and they are not accepting new customers. “So as of June 15, we



Submitted Photo
The fourth generation of farmers at Rocky Acres Farm are Conrad and Claire Richardson.

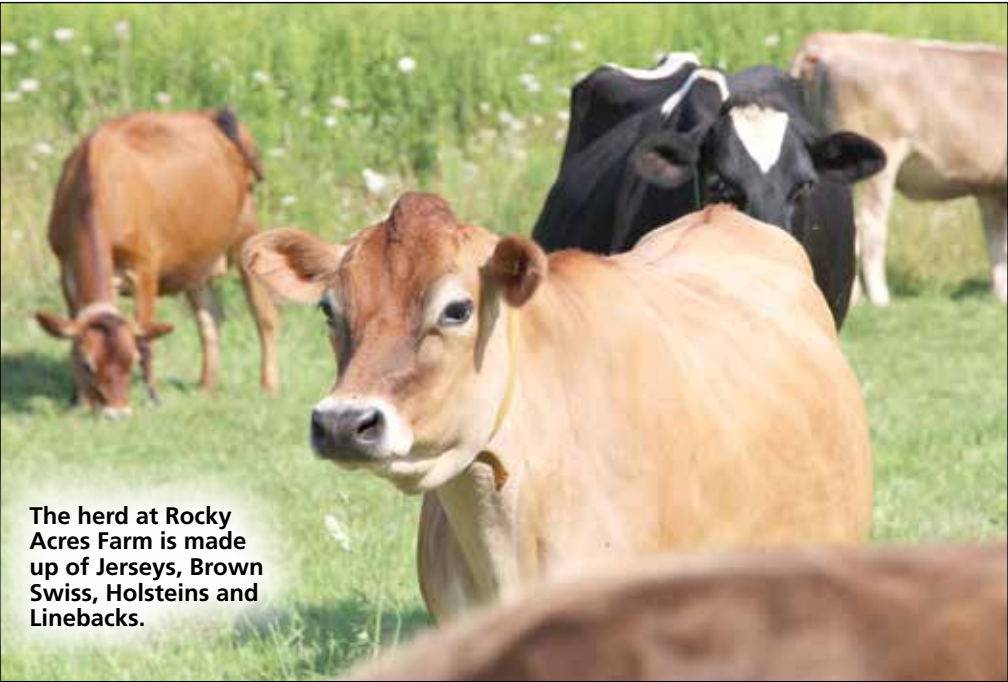
have been on our own, and trying to navigate our new normal. We have been forced to sell cows and dump excess milk. We are praying for more customers and trying to figure out our advertising in the future, and hopefully allow us to keep the cows we still do have,” Heather said. Brian said the farm used to calve anywhere from 40-50 cows a year, but they have had to cut back their herd. “We’re milking like half now,” Brian said. For the Richardsons, their cows are part of the family, with several of the cows connecting back to the couples’ 4-H days. The oldest cow in the herd is Praline, a 13-year-old Brown Swiss.

The herd is fed a grass-based diet and milked seasonally. Each one has a name, and a special place in the hearts of the Richardson family. Conrad, said his favorite cow is Penelope, who he affectionately refers to as “Buddy.” Heather, who is a native of Ludlow, first met Brian and his family years ago, as Rocky Acres Farm was part of her father’s milk truck route. The two also competed alongside each other in 4-H.

The family breeds Holsteins, Jerseys, Brown Swiss and Linebacks, with the Jerseys and Brown Swiss bloodlines going all the way back to when they showed in 4-H. “We love our cows,” Heather said. Heather spoke about the health benefits of raw milk, and how studies have shown it can be beneficial to people with allergies, IBS, and can even help prevent cancer. It also has the same shelf life

as store-bought, pasteurized milk. She described raw milk as a “nearly perfect food,” with numerous vitamins and minerals. “We understand the science behind it,” she said. Heather, who attended Virginia Tech, managed a 500-head herd farm in Delaware before moving to Warren and marrying Brian. She has extensive knowledge about the dairy industry and farm management. Customers can order raw milk from Rocky Acres Farm in gallon (\$7) and half-gallon (\$4) sizes. Orders can be placed online at rockyacresmilk.com, by email to rockyacresmilk@gmail.com or by phone, 413-436-5806. For email and phone orders, please provide your name, phone number, how much milk you would like and what day you will pick up. All orders must be placed by 9 a.m. to ensure same day pick up and all milk will be ready to be picked up by 11 a.m. daily. Raw milk is available seasonally, from late March through Christmas. All milk must be pre-ordered as it is bottled fresh each day on the orders received.

“We want it to be a sustainable thing,” Heather said. “We’re hoping to build up more customers. I want to keep it affordable for families to come and buy.” Brian added, “We’re just trying to do what we can to preserve what we have.” Rocky Acres Farm is located at 690 Coy Hill Road, which can be accessed via Route 67. For more information, visit the website, rockyacresfarm.com or follow Rocky Acres Farm on Facebook.



The herd at Rocky Acres Farm is made up of Jerseys, Brown Swiss, Holsteins and Linebacks.

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SPORTS

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2026 BAY STATE GAMES



Turley photo by Gregory A. Scibelli
Andrew Dziadroz makes a play on the ball.

Boys take silver in Bay State Games

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

FITCHBURG—A year ago, Chicopee’s Griffen Wrisley and Minnechaug’s Tyler Supczak were starters for the West soccer team which captured the Gold medal at the annual Bay State Summer games.

The duo were the only returning starters on this year’s West squad.

The West team took home the Silver medal at the Bay State Summer Games following a 2-1 loss to Central in this year’s Gold medal match, which took place at the Game On Sports and Performance Center in Fitchburg on July 11.

“I was lucky enough to be a member of the Gold medal team last year,” Wrisley said. “We have a bunch of new

players on this year’s team and were hoping to win the Gold Medal again. It’s a lot of fun being a leader of this team.”

The other members of the West team, who live in the Turley Publications coverage area, are John Carra (Agawam), Zacharia Yarovoy (Chicopee), Antonio Maurico (Chicopee), Aidan Monaghan (Agawam), Kayson Gauthier (South Hadley), Spencer Parsons (South Hadley), and Braeden Fitzgerald (Agawam).

The West team finished pool play with a perfect 4-0 record.

They posted a pair of one sided matches against Northeast 6-2, and Southeast, 8-0. They also pulled out two matches by 2-1 results

Please see **BOYS**, page 10

Girls represented by two squads at Bay State games

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

FITCHBURG— While the other sections of the state only had one girls’ soccer team competing in this year’s Bay State Summer Games, Western Mass. was represented by two teams for the first time.

The West Red team was coached by Matt Mosher, while Eric Woods guided the West Yellow team.

The two squads faced each other in the final pool game on July 11 at the Game On Sports and Performance Center in Fitchburg.

After building a 3-0 lead, the Red team withstood a late comeback by the Yellow



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Taylor Bartosz, of Wilbraham, looks to clear the ball on defense.



Kalli White, of Granby, is pressured as she heads through the middle of the field.

team for a 3-2 victory.

“We had more than 40 girls’ try out for the two soccer teams, which shows how popular the sport is in Western Mass.,” said Mosher. “Eric and I have a very good relationship. We try our best to make the teams equal. It’s has been a lot of fun coaching this team.”

It was the sixth consecutive year that Mosher coached a Western Mass. girls’ soccer team at the Bay State Summers Games. His previous teams won two Silver Medals and three Bronze Medals.

Mosher was assisted by Laura Wray-Ramos, who’s the longtime girls’ varsity soccer coach at Agawam High School.

The members of the Red team, who live in the region, are Filomena Stellato (Agawam), Hannah Haesaert (South Hadley), Kyra Lippmann

(Holyoke), Gabriella Ramos (Agawam), Riley Platt (South Hadley), Audrey Afonso (Ludlow), Olivia Izzo (Agawam), Bridget Benoit (Belchertown), and Bri-Anne Kraus (Granby).

“All of the players on my soccer team have been playing with and against each other for years,” Mosher said. “They know each other very well.”

After finishing pool play at 2-1-1, the Red team surged to a 3-0 win over Northeast in the Gold medal game. It marked the first time that a West girls soccer team won the Gold medal at the Bay State Games since 2016.

“It’s very exciting being a member of this soccer team,” Haesaert said. “There are a lot talented soccer players in the west.”

The Red team began pool play with a 2-1 loss

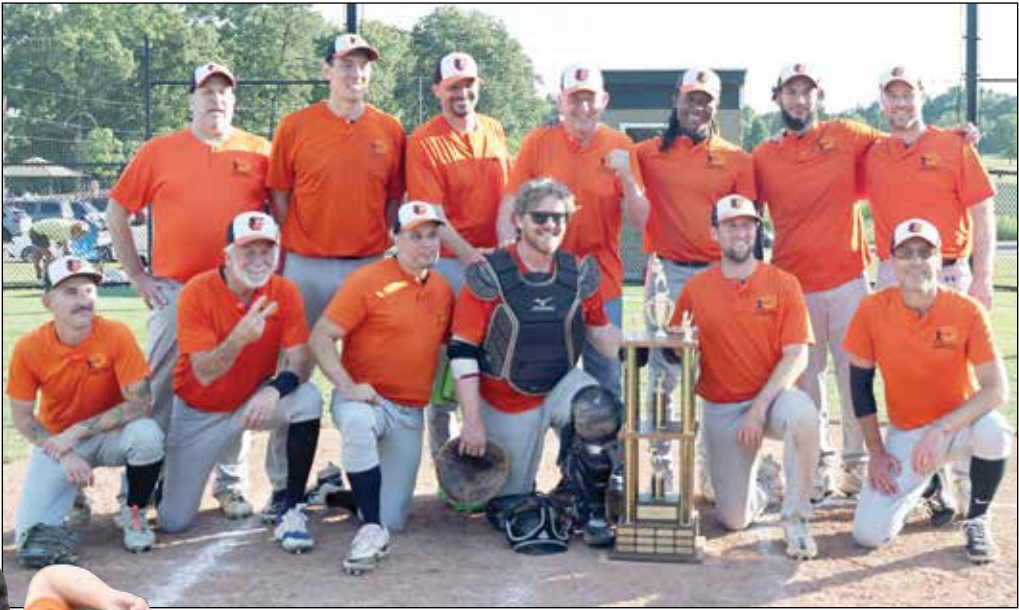
Please see **GIRLS**, page 10



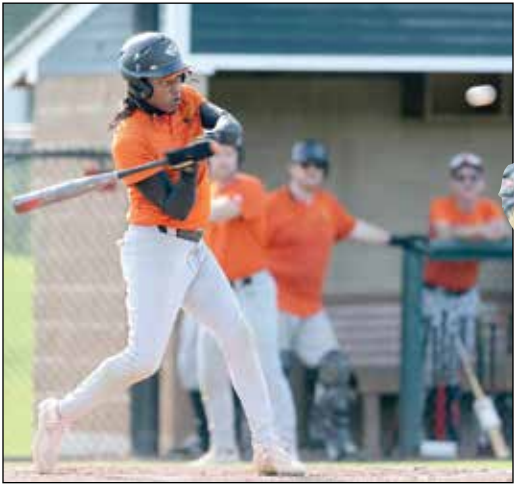
Pete Paroli makes a swing.

Orioles repeat as Valley Wheel champions

WILBRAHAM – On Saturday, Aug. 15 at Spec Pond in Wilbraham, the Orioles defeated the Angels 15-8 in the championship game. The Orioles were propelled by nine runs in the first two innings. While the Angels would manage some offense later in the game, it was not enough to come all the way back in the matchup. The Angels were this year’s pennant winners, taking first place with an 11-4 record. The Orioles won the championship for the second year in the row. They defeated the Twins in last year’s championship game.



The Orioles are the 2026 Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League champions.



Henry Henriquez is focused as he swings.

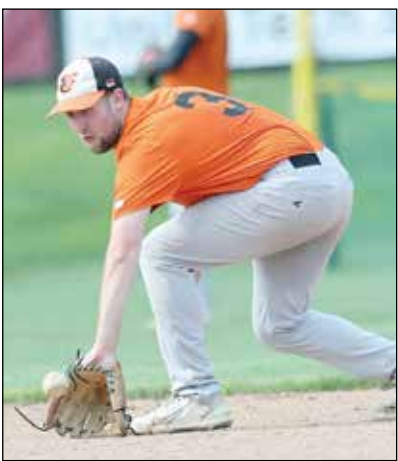


Mike Burgos delivers a pitch for the Orioles.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweet-dogphotos.com



Andy Roland fires a pitch for the Angels.



Sam Maxwell makes a backhand play.

West baseball defeats Northeast for medal

MALDEN – Between July 29 and Aug. 1, the baseball Bay State Games took place in Malden. The West came out as this year’s gold medal recipients. Here is a recap of the championship game between the West and Northeast:

West got on the board in the first inning after Jaeden Azevedo hit into a double play, but one run scored. Jared Burke hit a sacrifice fly, which helped Northeast tie the game at one in the top of the second. West took the lead in the bottom of the fifth. An error scored one run, to give West the lead, 2-1. Tyler Neville led things off on the mound for West. The starting pitcher gave up five hits and one

Please see **MEDAL**, page 10

sports

Teddy Bear Pools takes playoff title in Tri-County

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

THORNDIKE—For the first time since 2012, the Tri-County League championship title belongs to a baseball team other than PeoplesBank.

The third-seeded Teddy Bear Pools & Spas ended the second-seeded PeoplesBank twelve year dynasty after sweeping the best of three semifinal series. Teddy Bear then captured the championship trophy for the first time since the 1980’s with an 8-4 victory over the top-seeded St. Joseph’s Saints in last Sunday’s night decisive game three held at St. Joe’s Park in Thorndike.

“Before the start of the regular season, I thought we had the most talented team in this league,” said Teddy Bear player/manager Ryan Magni. “We have a couple of outstanding college baseball players on our roster, which made the biggest difference. It does feel great to win the championship title, but I do have a lot of respect for St. Joe’s.”

Ryan Magni played for St. Joe’s for eight years before switching sides a couple of years ago. His younger brother, Brandon, was the St. Joe’s starting first baseman in game

three.

Ryan Magni started the game in centerfield before replacing righthander Brendan Fournier on the mound in the bottom of the seventh inning.

St. Joe’s scored two runs against the righthander in their final at-bats. The game came to an end when Brandon Magni hit a ground ball to the second baseman against his older brother.

“I’ve faced my brother many times over the years,” Ryan Magni said. “I didn’t have my best stuff tonight, but I didn’t make it very easy for him.”

St. Joe’s, who lost to Peoplesbank in last year’s championship series, was looking to win the TCL title for the first time since 2006.

“They just capitalized on our mistakes in tonight’s game,” said St. Joe’s manager Paul Marcinek. “I t would’ve been nice if we could’ve scored a few more runs. We did win the regular season championship

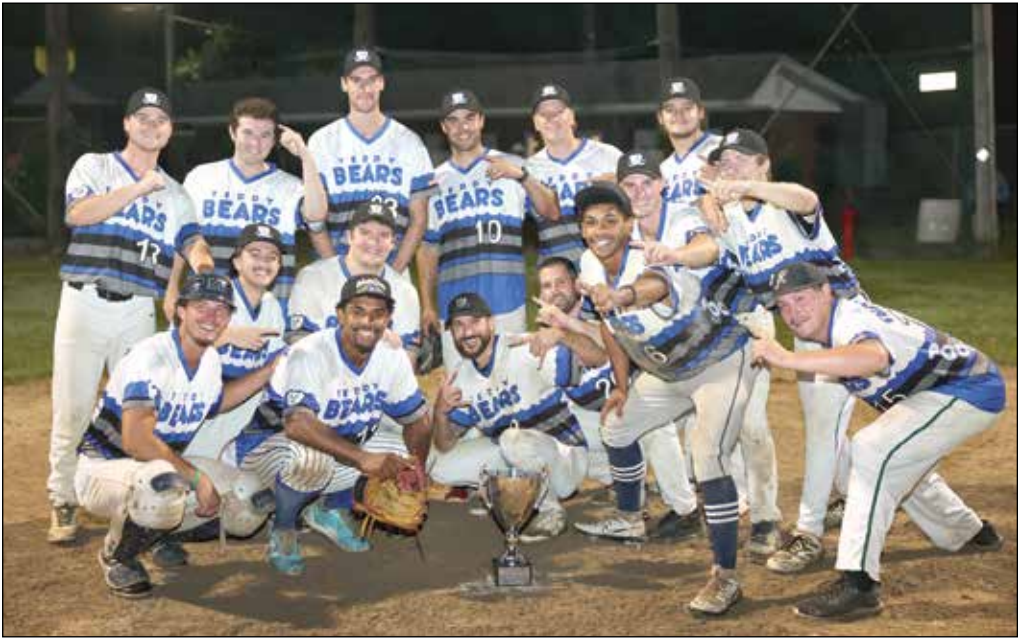
with a 16-4 record, and we have nothing to be disappointed about.”

Marcinek was assisted by Brian Hayes this season.

With one-out in the top of the first inning, Teddy Bear had runners on first and third when right fielder Willie Landman hit a ground ball up the middle. St Joe’s shortstop Jacob Hayes made an outstanding diving stop before tagging second base and throwing a strike to Magni completing the inning ending double play.

Jacob Hayes, who’s a member of the UMass Dartmouth baseball team along with his brother Jackson, belted a double to right center leading off the bottom half of the opening frame.

B r a n d o n



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Teddy Bear Pools becomes the first new playoff champions in more than a decade.

Magni followed with a groundball single into left field putting runners at the corners. St. Joe’s took a 1-0 lead when centerfielder Pat Fitzgibbons hit a blooper just out of the second baseman’s reach which scored Hayes.

Magni also crossed the plate following a throwing error by the catcher.

Fournier, who graduated from Chicopee High School in 2017, retired 17 of the final 18 St. Joe’s batters that he faced. St. Joe’s only base runner during that stretch was Fitzgibbons, who hit a triple to right field with one-out in the sixth inning.

“I struggled in the first inning, but I started throwing more off speed pitches that kept them off balance. My teammates also made the plays behind me,” said Fournier, who was the winning pitcher. “I’ve been playing in this league for almost ten years, and it feels great to

finally win a championship.”

Teddy Bear cut the deficit in half against righty Jack Feltovic in the third inning.

With one-out, catcher Mike Toth, who graduated from Granby High School, was hit-by-a-pitch. Second baseman Ramon Jimenez singled to right field putting runners at first and third. Then Landman hit a sacrifice fly to right.

Jimenez graduated from Chicopee High School before playing Division I college baseball at Boston College and Central Connecticut. He was intentionally walked in his other three plate appearances.

The visiting team took the lead for the first time two innings later.

Ryan Magni and Jimenez reached base via walks, which was sandwiched between a Mike Toth fly-ball single, which loaded the bases with one out. Left fielder Josh Frometa (2-for-3) blasted a triple to center giving his team a 4-2 lead.

“The bases were loaded and I was looking for a pitch to drive,” said Frometa, who played baseball at Chicopee High and A.I.C. “It was a huge hit at that point of the game, and it feels great to win the championship title.”

After scoring an unearned run in the sixth, Teddy Bear scored three more runs in the top of the seventh against lefthander relief pitcher Jackson Hayes. The key hit during that frame was a bases loaded double by first baseman Will Kennedy, who played for St. Joe’s several years ago.

Teddy Bear entered the bottom of the seventh inning holding an 8-2 advantage.

St. Joe’s DH Adam Zebian drew a walk against Ryan Magni leading off the final frame. Zebian was replaced at first base by pinch runner Adam Przybycien. Left fielder Ryan O’Leary followed with a triple to center scoring Przybycien. O’Leary scored on an infield hit by catcher Nate Carillon, who graduated from South Hadley High School.

Ryan Magni settled down and got out of the jam by retiring the next three batters, including his younger brother.

Teddy Bear Pools & Spas will be looking to defend their championship title in the summer of 2027, but challengers like St. Joe’s and People’sBank will be looking to knock them off the top of the mountain.



Matt Drobiak slides safely back to first.



RIGHT: Jacob Hayes fires over to first.

LEFFT: Joey DeMichele makes a play for St. Joe’s.

BOYS from page 9

against Central and Metro.

“Central was the best team we played in pool play,” Wrisley said. “I scored a goal and had an assist in that game.”

The West team was coached by Josh Wietecha, who’s the boys’ varsity soccer coach at Hampshire Regional. He graduated from Chicopee Comp in 2021 and helped the West team win the Gold medal at the 2019 Bay State Games.

Wietecha enjoyed coaching Wrisley at this year’s Bay State Games.

“Griffen is one of the best soccer players that I’ve coached,” Wietecha said. “He’s an outstanding forward and takes control of every game.”



LEFT: Tyler Supczak, of Wilbraham, makes the easy trap.

This fall, Wrisley will be one of the few returning players on the Chicopee Pacers varsity team.

“We graduated twelve players from last year’s varsity team,” Wrisley said. “We only have a couple of varsity players returning.”

Wrisley never thought about transferring to a different high school.

“Chicopee High School is a very special place for me and my family,” Wrisley added. “We won the Western Mass. title for the first time in 43 years last year. It was very special.”

Wrisley is the All-Time leading goal scorer for the Pacers boys’ soccer team. He needs only three more goals to reach the 100 goal milestone. He currently has 116 career points.

Hugo Destapado, who coached the West team at the Bay State Summer games last year, is returning as the Pacers varsity boys’ soccer coach.

“I would’n’t be a successful soccer player without the help of my coaches,” Wrisley said. “I’m looking to playing soccer for one final season at Chicopee High School.

The Pacers are scheduled to host Northampton in the season opener on Labor Day. They’re also scheduled to play another match against Frontier Regional at historic Sztot Park two nights later.

LEFT: Tyler Supczak, of Wilbraham, makes the easy trap.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Lucas Cruz hustles past mid-field.



Spencer Parsons, of South Hadley, eyes an open teammate.

GIRLS from page 9

to Northeast. The following day, they tied Central, 1-1, before celebrating a 3-0 shut-out win against Southeast/Coastal.

During the past couple of years, Woods, who coaches the girls’ soccer team at the MacDuffie School in Granby, coached the Central/West team at the Bay State Games. His team won the Gold medal in 2024.

“The Central team had a mixture of players from Central and Western Mass. during the past couple of years,” Woods said. “It’s nice to coach a team with only players from the West. Soccer is a very popular sport in Western Mass.”

The Yellow team lost to Central, 5-0, in the Bronze medal game.

The members of the Yellow team, who attend a high school in the region, are Taylor Bartosz (Minnechaug Reg.), Kelsey Morrisette (Chicopee Comp), Grace Sherman (South Hadley), Sofia Marsh (Granby), Cecelia Litz (Agawam), Kalli White (Granby), Margaret Healey (Granby), Grace Curto (Agawam), Mackenzie Lynch (Agawam), Sydney Germain (Chicopee), Cayla Ribeiro (Chicopee), Eleanor Szlosek (Granby), and Jordyn Szado (Monson).

The Yellow team (0-3-1) began pool play with a pair of 4-1 losses to both Central and Northeast. They managed to tie Southeast/Coastal, 1-1 the following



Turley photo by Gregory A. Scibelli
Kelsey Morrisette, of Chicopee, starts her way up the field.

afternoon.

In the West vs. West match-up, Healey scored a penalty kick goal and added a corner kick goal.

“It was really a lot fun playing in the Bay State games for the first time,” said Healey, who’s a rising sophomore. “I enjoyed competing against the other players from the West.”

It was an enjoyable three days in Northern Worcester County for the two girls’ soccer teams from Western Massachusetts.

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MEDAL from page 9

run over six innings, striking out seven and walking two. Chase Richmond stepped on the hill first for Northeast.

The starting pitcher gave up six hits and four runs (two earned) over five and two-thirds innings, striking out four and walking four. Logan Millet tossed one inning

of zero-run ball for West in relief. The reliever surrendered zero hits, striking out none and walking none. Camden Witezak went 1-for-2 at the plate and led

the team with one run batted in. Leadoff hitter Hunter Donahue led West with three hits in three at bats. West turned one double play in the game.

Richmond and Ronny Leonor each collected two hits for Northeast. Burke led the team with one run batted in. Northeast turned two double plays in the game.

Ware Police Log

During the week of Aug. 12-17, the Ware Police Department responded to 21 miscellaneous calls, 22 administrative calls, 10 traffic violations, 14 emergency 911 calls, eight harassments/stalks/threats, 11 disturbances/nuisances, one safety hazard, four suspicious/wanted, two thefts/larcenies, one fraud, four motor vehicle accidents, nine animal calls and 10 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

Wednesday, Aug. 12
1:44 a.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Palmer Road, Services Rendered
6:37 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Upper Church Street, Citation/Warning Issued
11:26 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Fisherdick Road, Canceled En Route
11:28 a.m. Safety Hazard, Malboeuf Road, Dispatch Handled
12:02 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Palmer Road, Dispatch Handled
12:09 p.m. Suspicious Wanted, Spring Street, Services Rendered
2:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Otis Avenue, Citation/Warning Issued
2:21 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Old Belchertown Road, Canceled En Route
6 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Sherwin Street, Advised
7:19 p.m. Assist Other Agency, School Street, Assist Given

Thursday, Aug. 13
2:06 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Hillside Village, Transport Complete
2:41 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Vigeant Street, Services Rendered
1:39 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Church Street, Services Rendered
3:18 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Spring Street, Services Rendered
4:31 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Otis Avenue, Unfounded
7:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Street, Citation/Warning Issued

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Aug. 17-24, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 51 building/property checks, 12 directed/area patrols, nine radar assignments, two traffic controls, eight emergency 911 calls, eight citizen assists, four assist other agencies, one safety hazard, four complaints, one burglary, two motor vehicle investigations, one disturbance, one motor vehicle accident, five animal calls and three motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, Aug. 17
8:14 a.m. Safety Hazard, Ruggles Hill Road, Referred to Other Agency
2:58 p.m. Assist Citizen, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled
3:17 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Jackson Road, Officer Handled

Tuesday, Aug. 18
7:47 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Collins Road, Services Rendered
10:33 a.m. Welfare Check, Joslyn Road, Transported to Hospital
10:40 p.m. Fire/Alarm, Old Petersham Road, Investigated

Wednesday, Aug. 19
10:30 a.m. Assist Citizen, Lower Road, Report Taken
5:52 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Crash, North Street,

Friday, Aug. 14
1:03 a.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Laurel Drive, Patient Refusal
2:06 a.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Towne Street, Services Rendered
3:50 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Pleasant Street, Could Not Locate
8:32 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Convent Hill Rod, Could Not Locate
9:51 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Palmer Road, Criminal Complaint Request
11:53 a.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, Park Avenue, Report Made
2:12 p.m. Traffic Collision, Church Street, Could Not Locate
4:03 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Dale Street, Services Rendered
4:27 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Cummings Street, Dispatch Handled
8:47 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Upper Church Street, Could Not Locate
11:06 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Morse Avenue, Advised

Saturday, Aug. 15
1:44 a.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Warebrook Village, Unfounded
11:37 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Greenwich Road, Dispatch Handled
12:23 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Assist Given
4:42 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Sherwin Street, Services Rendered
4:46 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Pulaski Street, Investigated
8:09 p.m. Warrant Service, Otis Avenue, Arrest Made
Arrest: Jennifer Irizarry, 35, Three Rivers
WMS Warrant
8:55 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Kelly Road, No Action Required
9:01 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Services Rendered
9:04 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Services Rendered
9:18 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Services Rendered

Thursday, Aug. 20
4:48 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Charity Hill Road, Transported to Hospital
8:22 a.m. Assist Citizen, Pine Street, Spoken To
8:26 a.m. Assist Citizen, Upper Church Street, Officer Handled
10 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
10:54 a.m. 911 Animal Call, Lower Road, Referred to Other Agency
5:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, River Run, Negative Contact
7:43 p.m. Assist Citizen, River Run, Spoken To
10:50 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Bridge Street, Officer Handled

Friday, Aug. 21
7:59 a.m. Complaint, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled
8:51 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Spoken To
9:53 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Spoken To

Transported to Hospital
6:20 p.m. 911 Fire/Auto, Old Petersham Road, Transported to Hospital
7:34 p.m. Complaint, Old Greenwich Plains Road, Negative Contact
8:37 p.m. Neighbor Dispute, Summit Road, Report Taken

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.

Sunday, Aug. 16
9:01 a.m. Theft/Larceny, Palmer Road, Services Rendered
9:10 a.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, West Main Street, Patient Refusal
6:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, West Street, Services Rendered
Arrest: Donna M. Malmborg, 63, Springfield
OUI-Liquor or .08%; Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle
11:58 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Park Street, Services Rendered

Monday, Aug. 17
3:01 a.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Maple Street, Advised
9:50 a.m. Assist Other Agency, West Main Street, Assist Given
1:45 p.m. Fraud/Deception, Highland Village, Advised
2:46 p.m. Assist Other Agency, West Brookfield, Services Rendered
3:26 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Otis Avenue, Could Not Locate
3:27 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, South Street, Investigated
3:29 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Park Street, Advised
5:47 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Park Street, Advised
7:58 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Eddy Street, Advised
8:45 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, West Street, Services Rendered

3:42 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled
5:13 p.m. Complaint, Prouty Road, Officer Handled
5:28 p.m. 911 Animal Call, Muddy Brook Road, Voice Message Left
5:50 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Dispatch Handled
7:01 p.m. 911 Animal Call, Muddy Brook Road, Referred to Other Agency
8:06 p.m. Assist Citizen, Broad Street, Report Taken
11:55 p.m. Complaint, Broad Street, Officer Handled

Saturday, Aug. 22
9:23 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Services Rendered
11:32 a.m. Medical Alarm, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital
2:06 p.m. Burglary (Breaking and Entering), Broad Street, Officer Handled

Monday, Aug. 24
7:51 a.m. Fire/Alarm, Lower Road, Services Rendered

Ware man sentenced to 20-25 years

NORTHAMPTON – Angel Ramos, 53, of Ware, was sentenced on Aug. 19 in Hampshire Superior Court to 20 to 25 years in state prison, followed by 10 years of supervised probation, by

Superior Court Judge Charles W. Groce III.
According to a press release from the office of Northwestern District Attorney David E. Sullivan, on Aug. 3, Ramos was found

guilty of 28 counts of rape and sexual abuse of a child following a four-day bench trial. As a result of these convictions, Ramos is required to register as a sex offender.
Ramos was found guilty of the following offenses: Aggravated Rape of a Child (13 counts), Forcible Rape of a Child (three counts), Indecent Assault and Battery on a Child Under 14 (six counts), Aggravated Intimidation of a Witness (two counts), Posing or Exhibiting a Child in a State of Nudity, Trafficking of a Person Under 18 for Sexual Servitude, Open and Gross Lewdness, and Assault with Intent to Rape.
An investigation determined the offenses occurred over the course of several years, between 2018 and 2024, and involved one minor child when they were between 7-13 years of age.
Assistant District Attorneys Stephanie Jimenez and Jillian Parent prosecuted the case on behalf of the Commonwealth, with support provided to the survivor by Family Service

Please see **SENTENCED**, page 13



Submitted Photo
Ware Police Sergeant John Cacela recently took the oath of his office with Town Clerk Nancy Talbot. Cacela has been a member of the department for over 12 years and received the promotion during the July 7 Selectboard meeting.

Warren Police Log

During the week of July 26-Aug. 1, the Warren Police Department responded to 158 building/property checks, five community policings, 16 emergency 911 calls, four disturbances, three suspicious activities, one theft/larceny, one harassment, two safety concerns, one fraud/forgery, three complaints, one trespass, three motor vehicle accidents, four animal calls and 20 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Sunday, July 26
6:21 a.m. Unwanted Party, Winthrop Terrace, Officer Spoke to Party
9:07 a.m. Falls, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
12:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Mass Turnpike, Transported to Hospital
12:36 p.m. Harassment, Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed
2:53 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Keyes Street, Transported to Hospital
4:52 p.m. Parking Issues, Old West Warren Road, Officer/Chief Advised
6:38 p.m. Mutual Aid Ambulance, Ware, Canceled
7:33 p.m. Safety Concern, Main Street, Negative Contact

Monday, July 27
12:40 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, A Street, Transported to Hospital
1:36 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Old West Warren Road, Negative Contact
5:47 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Old West Warren Road, Negative Contact
7:11 a.m. Falls, Presidential Circle, Transported to Hospital
10:13 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned, Coy Hill Road, Officer/Chief Advised
1:37 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Winthrop Terrace, Call Transferred

Tuesday, July 28
9:08 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
1:04 p.m. Welfare Check, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
1:14 p.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Officer/Chief Advised
8:33 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Southbridge Road, Investigated
11:45 p.m. Overdose/Poisoning, Liberty Street, Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, July 29
11:37 a.m. Complaint,

Reed Street, Call Transferred
11:55 a.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Main Street, Investigated
12:15 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Main Street, Mutual Aid Transport
1:31 p.m. Falls, Mechanic Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
3:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old West Brookfield Road, Written Warning
4:40 p.m. Fire/Power Lines, Main Street, Referred to Other Agency
5:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Boston Post Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Thursday, July 30
7:36 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
7:41 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
8:05 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
8:32 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
8:38 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Old West Warren Road, Criminal Complaint
9:27 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Arrest(s) Made
Arrest: Isaac Callejas, 32, Warren
Warrant
10:09 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Milton O. Fountain Way, Officer/Chief Advised
12:09 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Milton O. Fountain Way, Officer/Chief Advised
12:39 p.m. Parking Issues, Central Street, Officer Spoke to Party
1:44 p.m. Abdominal Back Pain, Little Rest Road, Transported to Hospital
4:08 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Old Douglas Road, Area Search Negative
5:06 p.m. Welfare Check, Heritage Drive, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Friday, July 31
2:09 a.m. Complaint, East Road, Area Patrolled
4:29 a.m. Parking Issues, Walkeen Koziol Road, Arrest(s) Made
Arrest: Edward C. Mello, 38, Warren
Drug, Possess Class B, Subsequent Offense
8:17 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
8:38 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
9:22 a.m. Motor Vehicle

Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
9:39 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
10 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Brimfield Road, Transported to Hospital
10:31 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Keys Road, Investigated
11:20 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
12:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
1:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
1:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
2:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Written Warning
2:09 p.m. Safety Concern, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
2:20 p.m. Choking, Town Farm Road, Transported to Hospital
2:26 p.m. Trespasser or Prowler, Old West Brookfield Road, Report Filed
3:06 p.m. Unwanted Party, Sarty Road, Officer/Chief Advised
3:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
3:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Winthrop Terrace, Written Warning
5:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Ware Road, Vehicle Towed

Saturday, Aug. 1
12:34 a.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
2:14 a.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
12:31 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
Arrest: Antonio A. McClelland, 33, West Warren
Warrant; Larceny over \$1,200
1:45 p.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Bridge Street, Officer/Chief Advised
4:40 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Main Street, Negative Contact
4:44 p.m. Complaint, Main Street, Negative Contact
5:03 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Quaboag Street, Report Filed
11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
11:02 p.m. Unwanted Party, Pleasant Street, Officer Spoke to Party

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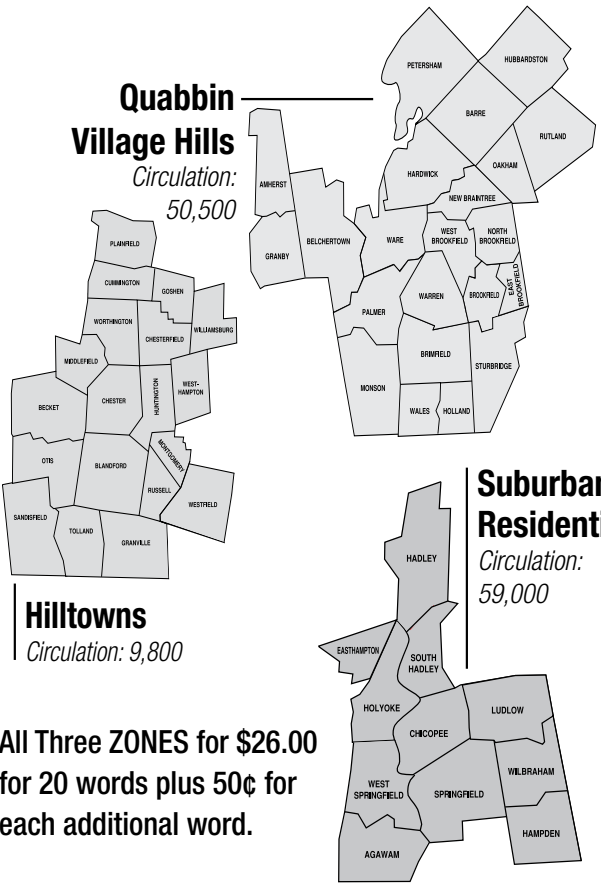
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public notices

WARREN, MA
PLANNING BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
Babe's Lawn Care
Brimfield Road

Pursuant to MGL, Chapter 40A, notice is hereby given that the Warren, MA Planning Board, acting as the Special Permit Granting Authority, will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, September 14, 2026 at 7:00 PM** on the application of Babe's Lawn Care Inc. The Hearing will be held at the Shepard Municipal Building located at 48 High Street in Warren.

The Applicant, Babe's Lawn Care Inc., is requesting a Special Permit (No. 319) and Site Plan Approval (SPR No. 75) under Sections 3.22.15 and 5.32 of the zoning by-laws to allow a landscaping and construction business and equipment storage on Brimfield Road (Map 30, Lot 2.3) in the Rural district.

A complete copy of the application may be inspected in the Office of the Planning Board or the Town Clerk during normal business hours. Anyone interested or wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.
08/27, 09/03/2026

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Hampshire Probate and Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton, MA 01060
(413)586-8500
Docket No.
HS26P0389EA
Estate of:
Nancy J. Brown
Also known as:
Nancy Joyce Brown
Date of Death: 03/09/2026
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for S/A - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Sherri Ann Pelskl of Fiskdale, 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: **Sherri Ann Pelskl of Fiskdale, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(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 09/24/2026.

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 administration 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: August 20, 2026
Mark S. Ames
Register of Probate
08/27/2026

**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.
HS26P0549EA
Estate of:
Michelle C. Dumas
Also known as:
Michelle Corrine Dumas
Date of Death: 08/01/1997
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Peter J. Contacos of Warren, 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 **Peter J. Contacos of Warren, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(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 09/16/2026. 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 administration 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: August 19, 2026
Mark S Ames,
Register of Probate
08/27/2026

**Town of Hardwick
Board of Health
Public Hearing Notice**
Pursuant to M.G.L. Chap-

ter 114, Sections 34 and 37, the Hardwick Board of Health will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, September 3, 2026, at 6:15 p.m. at the Municipal Office Building, 307 Main Street, Gilbertville, Massachusetts.**

The purpose of this hearing is to receive public comment on proposed Home Burial and Green Burial Regulations. The Board of Health may consider and vote on adoption of the proposed regulations following the public hearing.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend and provide comments and input.
Copies of the proposed regulations may be requested at Hardwick Town Hall or by emailing boh@hardwick-ma.gov.
08/27/2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
Premises: 37 Indian Hill Road a/k/a 8 Indian Hill Road, Ware, MA 01082

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by David L. Liggon to Ameriquet Mortgage Company, and now held by **Citibank, N.A., not in its individual capacity, but solely as owner trustee of the New Residential Mortgage Loan Trust 2019-2**, said mortgage dated May 17, 2004 and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 7839, Page 1, as affected by Declaratory Judgment dated May 4, 2026 and recorded in said Registry in Book 15737, Page 329, said mortgage was assigned from Citi Residential Lending, Inc. as attorney-in-fact for Ameriquet Mortgage Company to Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for, Ameriquet Mortgage Securities Inc. Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2004-R7 to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. by assignment dated January 15, 2009 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 9729, Page 282; said mortgage was assigned from Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for, Ameriquet Mortgage Securities Inc. Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2004-R7 to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. by assignment dated November 14, 2019 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 13489, Page 154; said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. to Citibank, N.A., not in its individual capacity, but solely as owner trustee of the New Residential Mortgage Loan Trust 2019-2 by assignment dated September 5, 2024 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 15228, Page 267; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on September 22, 2026 at 12:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land in Ware, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, being known and designated as Lot No. 72 (Seventy-Two) as shown on a plan of lots recorded in Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book of Plans 69, Pages 79 And 80. Said lot being more particularly bounded and described as follows:
Southerly by Indian Hill Road, seventy-five (75) feet;
Westerly by Lot No. 73 (Seventy-Three) as shown on said plan one hundred ten (110) feet;
Northerly by Lot No. 59 (Fifty-Nine) as shown on said plan, seventy-five (75) feet; and

Easterly by Lot No. 71 (Seventy-One) as shown on a plan of lots recorded as aforesaid in book of plans 69, pages 81 and 82, one hundred ten (110) feet.

Subject to possible flowage rights of Ansel Ross under instrument dated April 6, 1878 and recorded as aforesaid in Book 252, Page 349.

Subject to possible flowage rights of Loretta Smith under instrument dated march 1, 1871 and recorded as aforesaid in Book 279, Page 333.

Subject to restrictions of record.

Being the same property conveyed to grantee herein, by deed recorded on December 10, 1984, in Book 2518, at Page 216.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated December 10, 1984 and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 2518, Page 216.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for Citibank, N.A., not in its individual capacity, but solely as owner trustee of the New Residential Mortgage Loan Trust 2019-2
Present Holder of the Mortgage
(401) 217-8701
08/20, 08/27, 09/03/2026

(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 26 SM 002666 ORDER OF NOTICE
TO:
Vikki E. Patrakis
a/k/a Vikki Patrakis
nd to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (*et seq*):
CrossCountry Mortgage, LLC

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Ware, numbered 17 North Street, given by Vikki E Patrakis to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for CrossCountry Mortgage LLC, dated May 3, 2023, and recorded at Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 14852, Page 232, and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of

the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before October 5, 2026 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, **GORDON H. PIPER**, Chief Justice of said Court on August 18, 2026.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
08/27/2026

Notice of Sale of Motor Vehicles under G.L. c. 255., Section 39A
Notice is hereby given by **REGIN'S REPAIR 19 CHURCH ST GILBERTVILLE, MA 01031** Pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that on **9/4/2026 at 10:00AM** at: Regin's Repair 19 Church St Gilbertville, MA 01031 by private sale, the following Motor Vehicle will be sold to satisfy the garage keepers lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle

2003 Chev Trailblazer
Registration#/State: 54KE81/MA
VIN: 1GNDT13S432103983
Name and address of owner:
Jackson Lee Torres & Joshua James Roth
15 Canal St
Ware, MA 01082
Tina Magnan
10 Otis Ave. #3
Ware, MA 01082

2011 Toyota Prius
Registration/State: 56HR82/MA
VIN: JTDKN3DU3B0269590
Name and address of owner:
Beth Ellen Nichols.
19 Sherwin St., Apt. 1
Ware, MA 01082

By: James M. Regin
Dated: 8/16/2026
08/20, 08/27, 09/03/2026

Storage Auction
The contents of Melissa Bickford will be auctioned off at **Secure Storage, 31 Southbridge Rd. Warren, MA on September 5, 2026 at 9:00am.**
The contents of Melissa Bickford, Jonathan Burke and Bill Kitch will be auctioned off at **Secure Storage, 70 Boston Post Rd Warren, MA on September 5, 2026 at 9:30 AM.**
The contents of Julie Figueroa, Cynthia Stalter, Courtney Volland, Jose Sanchez and Karen Coughlin will be auctioned off at **Secure Storage, 167 West St Ware, MA on September 5, 2026at 10:15 am.**
Any questions or inquiries call 413-800-6278.
08/20, 08/27/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Division
Docket No.
HS26P0461EA
Estate of:
Sandra Sue Walther
Also Known As:
Sandy
Date of Death: June 19, 2026
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Karen F Bauer of Milford, CT** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Karen F Bauer of Milford, CT has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.
The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
08/27/2026

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.

Public Notices Are Now Online

1

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2

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3

Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

SENTENCED from page 11

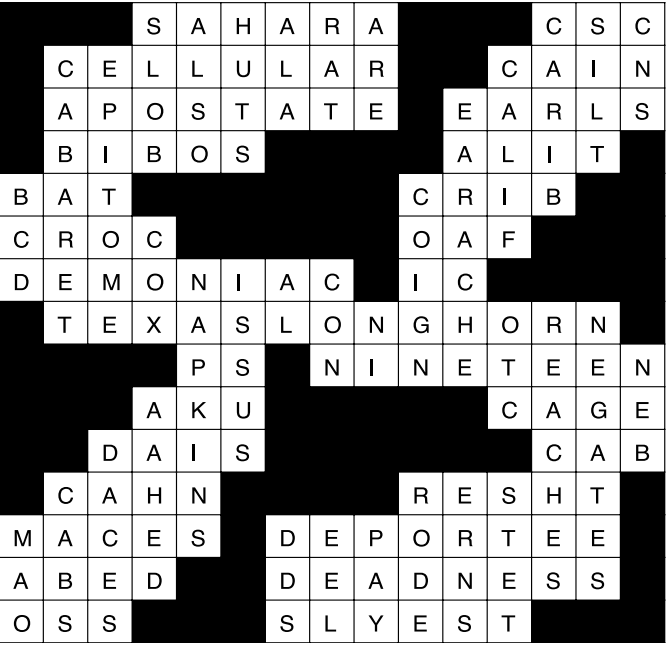
Advocate Julia Wallace. The Commonwealth recommended a 30 to 35 year state prison sentence.

Defense counsel, Attorney Bob Opsitnick of Chicopee, requested leniency and that the court impose the minimum term of incarceration on each charge. Judge Groce imposed a sentence of 20 to 25 years in state prison.

Following his incarceration, Ramos will serve 10 years of supervised probation. As conditions of probation, he must complete a sex offender evaluation and any recommended treatment; have no unsupervised con-

tact with children under 18; not reside with or have overnight visits with minors; have no contact with the victim; comply with all Sex Offender Registry Board requirements; and wear a GPS monitoring device.

“We commend the survivor for her courage and perseverance throughout this process,” said ADA Jimenez. “While no sentence can undo the harm caused, we hope this outcome provides her and her family with some measure of closure. We will continue to stand with survivors and vigorously pursue accountability for those who exploit and victimize children.”



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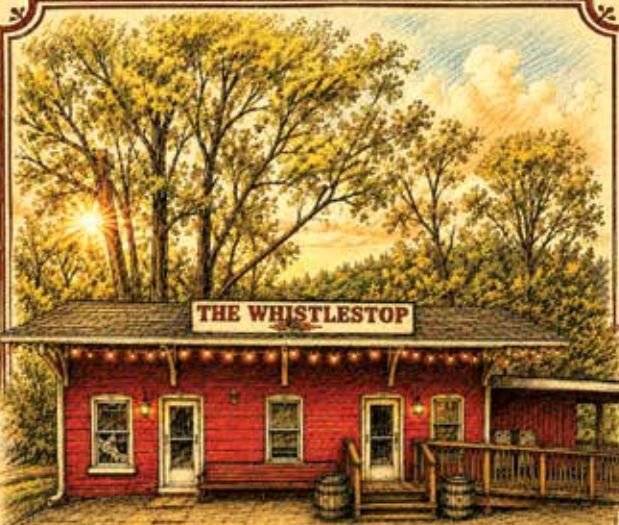
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