

WARE RIVER NEWS

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Photos of those who lost their lives to overdose were displayed at the International Overdose Awareness Vigil held at Veterans Park in Ware on Aug. 31.



Overdose Awareness Day



Candlelight vigil held downtown

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – A candlelight vigil was held at Veterans Park to observe International Overdose Awareness Day this past Monday evening.

July Lutz, Program Director of the Recovery Center of HOPE led the ceremony on Aug. 31, and she shared promising statistics about declining opioid overdose deaths in the commonwealth.

Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette
Randy Gratton spoke about staying vigilant to prevent overdose death.

“For the first time in over a decade, overdose deaths fell below 1,000,” Lutz said. “Every number is a person.”

This marks a 27% decrease in opioid overdose deaths over the previous year.

“It matters the work that’s happening all over the state right now,” she said.

Lutz said the Recovery Center of HOPE has two locations in town, one at 52 Main St., and the other at 78 Main St. She said it is a place where people are treated with dignity, no matter where they are in their recovery journey.

“The center is a place where people can come as they are,” Lutz said.

Lutz welcomed speaker and resident Randy Gratton, who said he is “always honored and

Please see **AWARENESS**, page 8

79th Annual Ware Grange Fair celebrated

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The 79th Annual Ware Grange Fair took place this past weekend with another strong turnout.

Judging took place the day before and there were 350 exhibits entered.

Randy Vaill of the Ware Grange said this year’s fair was “another good year”, as the traditions of the Ware Grange Fair continue.

In 2025, the fair had a record setting year with 419 exhibits.

This year, the Grange received 294 adult entries and 56 youth entries. There were 81 exhibitors at this year’s fair with 13 new exhibitors.

The State Grange is the parent organization that

helps support the annual Ware Grange Fair every year. There were a few “eye catchers” as Vaill described in this year’s fair.

One outstanding exhibit it was a giant field pumpkin that was entered by Rosalie Belisle of Ware. The field pumpkin received a Special Agriculture Rosette from the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources.

Some spectators at the Ware Grange Fair referred to it as “the Great Pumpkin.”

Another eye-catching exhibit was a non-agricultural entry. April Rose Carter of Barre made a crocheted afghan that received a Special Rosette from the Ware Grange Fair.

Please see **GRANGE FAIR**, page 7



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago
Mackenzie McNally of Brimfield received a Special Agriculture Rosette ribbon for her wildflower arrangement, which was exhibited during the 79th Annual Ware Grange Fair.

Family works to save veteran’s home

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARREN – West Warren resident Stuart McClelland, age 79, has lived at his house

since the late 1980s, where he has built a lifetime of memories not only for his family, but for many in the community.

The pre-Civil War house was built in 1832 and sits on close to two acres of land not far from the Quaboag River. The property was once part of a larger farm.

McClelland grew up in

Springfield and moved here with his wife to get away from the city.

A U.S. Army veteran, McClelland served in Germany and Vietnam during his four year and three month service.

After the military, McClelland had a lengthy

Please see **HOME**, page 6

Ice Cream Social



SEE COVERAGE ON PAGE 6.

The Quaboag Regional School district kicked off the year with an ice cream social. Here we have a couple students enjoying ice cream cups during the social.

Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

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Turley Staff Photos

Volunteers joined the East Quabbin Land Trust for a photo on the recently completed bridge on the Mass Central Rail that crosses through the Pelski Lot from Grenville Park to Church Street.

New bridge installed on Mass Central Rail Trail connector trail



The new bridge connects an accessible trail from Grenville Park to Church Street.

WARE – Volunteers and town employees joined the East Quabbin Land Trust to assemble and install a bridge to connect the Mass Central Rail Trail from Grenville Park to the existing trail on Church Street. This connector trail is located on the Pelski Lot, a parcel of land recently acquired by the town. On Aug. 21, the volunteers installed the bridge supports and railings, with work continuing over the weekend until the project was completed. The next step in the project is to re-grade the surface of the trail to and from the bridge, so wheelchairs, bicycles and strollers can access the bridge to cross the intermittent stream with ease. A ribbon cutting ceremony for the Mass Central Rail Trail’s Grenville Park trail connector will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 16 at noon at the bridge. During the ceremony, there will also be a time capsule placed to be opened as part of the nation’s 300th anniversary celebration 50 years from now. Items are now being collected to be placed in the time capsule.



Volunteers worked to assemble the bridge on Aug. 21.

Are You Old News?

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

File Photo
Last week's photo from 2022 showed Joe Salvatore running the Hardwick Community Fair's 5.7 mile road race.

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

Paige Memorial Library lists September events

HARDWICK – Staff at the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, thank all the volunteers and businesses who donated their time, items, or support that contributed to the Summer Reading success.

In particular, the Hardwick Co-op, Mimi's Coffeeshop of Hardwick, the Hardwick Winery and Hardwick Crossing Restaurant, who all provided gift cards as prizes for adult summer reading.

Ongoing events
Wednesday morning Story Hour and activities begin at 11a.m. with “getting to know you time” at 10:30 a.m. Homeschoolers can access books and materials through our library and through Interlibrary Loan. The Book Sale is also ongoing.

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.

The library would like to start a teen group where creative teens can come together and make art, discuss music and culture, and relax. Those interested should contact the library.

If you have ideas for books, our library of things, programs, speakers, or more, please email, call or stop in.

September Scavenger Hunt
Experience the September Scavenger Hunt for school-themed items hidden throughout the library. Check off items on your scavenger sheet and pass it in to choose a school themed prize.

Knot Drawing
Knot Drawing, Celtic and Scandinavian on Wednesday, Sept. 10 at 6 p.m. Learn to draw Celtic and Scandinavian Knots, simple or complex, for decorating and doodling. Materials provided.

Picnic at the Paige
Picnic at the Paige will be held on Saturday, Sept. 12 at 11 a.m. Bring a snack or meal for yourself or to share, and a picnic blanket.

The library will provide a treat and read a fun fall-themed book. Enjoy each other's company and Goddard Park Playground next door.

Hot process soap making
A crockpot hot process soap making demonstration will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 6 p.m. This demo will go over the basics of making your own hot process soap and discuss tools, materials, oils, safety, recipes and resources. All materials will be provided.

Drumming Circle
Wendell Warriors Drumming Circle with Jafar Manselle will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 22 at 6 p.m. Adults and teens and invited to join this joyous African drumming experience to learn to play different tones on the drum and make music together. This activity is funded by the Hardwick-New Braintree Cultural Council. Rain date is Thursday, Sept. 24.

Book Hunt
On Saturday, Sept. 26 at 11 a.m. take part in the Massachusetts Good Neighbor Day Book Hunt. Have fun in this friendly book hunt, where readers of all ages get to hunt outside and find books to keep.

For more information visit www.paigelibrary.com, follow the library on Facebook, email paigeli-brary.hardwick@gmail.com or call 413-477-6704.

See the full calendar of activities here: <http://www.paigelibrary.com/calendar-of-events/>.

Trail connector ribbon cutting is Sept. 16

WARE – A ribbon cutting ceremony for the Mass Central Rail Trail’s Grenville Park trail connector will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 16 at noon at the new trail’s bridge.

During the ceremony, there will also be a time capsule placed to be opened as part of the nation’s 300th anniversary celebration 50 years from now. Items are now being collected to be placed in the time capsule.

Read the Ware River News online at www.warerivernews.turley.com

AMVETS POST 74 BINGO IS BACK!

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September 2nd to September 7th
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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.

10TH ANNUAL HARVEST CRAFT FAIR

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Hardwick Community Fair rosette/blue ribbon winners

HARDWICK – The 2026 Hardwick Community Fair rosette and blue ribbon winners have been announced. Rosette winners are marked with an asterisk for Best in Class.

4-H
Sadie Russell*, Abbie Russell and Annie Russell.

Art Youth
Maren Goddard*, Everett Ramos, Rhett Rollet, Daphne Williams, Christian Brens, Piper Hager, Emmett Langlois, Bria Duncan, Eric Duncan, Maeven Litchfield, Penny Ouimette, Maria Hamm, Lily Nydam, Hazel Carter, Quinn Ouimette, Abigail Klee, Sophia Pascale, Walker Larson and Isabelle Wentworth.

Art Adult
Greg Davis*, Chas Mazik, Meg Haight, Marilyn Frost, Rachel Perry, Joshua Vinskey, Beth Stachowicz, Olivia Pascale, Stacey Hill and Ellie Shea.

Baking Youth
Summer Keddy, Meadow Vitello, Ellayne Lapointe, Carter Keddy, Sage Holland, Brynn Lagimoniere, Emily Beaulieu, Michaela Jo Dias, Abbie Russell, Hazel Larson, Jessa Ashley and Brooke Healey.

Baking Adult
Lisa Dibara*, Alice May Lowell, Blanche Carlson, Kristyl Kelly, Laura McCarthy, Stacey Hill, Kim Pagnoni, James Brussellback, Sara Doubleday, Vladia Buelow, Susan Bagdonas, Becky Savage, Susan Sandridge, Dawn Abare, Sarah Humphrey and Abby Mayou.

Beef Showmanship
Shannon Steins, Sawyer Picard, George Gates and Wyatt Gates.

Dairy Showmanship
Harper Fusco, Sadie Russell, Charlie Gates and Ian Lapete.

Beef/Beef Cross
Wyatt Gates and Samantha Bertrand.

Dairy/Beef Cross
Rowan Chicoine, Aubrey Savino and Samantha Bertrand.

Angus
Wyatt Gates and Sawyer Picard.

Ayrshire
Ian Lapete

Brown Swiss
Lauren Olson, Sara Doubleday and Megan Howe.

Guernsey
Frank Doubleday

Hereford
Taylor Days and Samantha Bertrand.

Holstein
Abbie Russell, Sadie Russell, Charlie Gates, Wyatt Gates and Sara Doubleday.

Milking Shorthorn
Wally Fusco, James Doubleday and Lauren Olson.

Shorthorn
Wally Fusco

Jersey
Annie Russell, Harper Fusco and Sara Doubleday.

Crafts Youth



Courtesy
Photos by
Neil Halin

Henry Beaulieu*, Rhett Rollet, Everett Ramos, Otis May, Summer Keddy, Ava Graves, Bria Duncan, Maeven Litchfield, Adaline Graves, Piper Hager, Hazel Rose Carter, Hannah Beaulieu, Ximena Palomera and Shannon Steins.

Crafts Adult
Nancy Brown*, Vladia Buelow, Marilyn Frost, Lisa Cohen, Ellie Shea, Patti Schaaf, Donald Chartier, Matthew Hager, Joseph Latulippe, Gary O'Brien, Alice May Lowell, Joyce Brousseau, Diane Buzzell, Amanda Lapete and Mike Begin.

Eggs Youth
Emily Beaulieu*, Jake

Gelineau and Adelyn Healey.

Eggs Adult
Kristyl Kelly* and Kim Wright.

Fiber Arts Youth
Daisy Stevens*, Emily Beaulieu, Madeline Boyko and Emily Flynn.

Fiber Arts Adult
April Rose Carter*, Kim Wright, Marilyn Frost, Kira Hakanson, Diana Cooley, Sarah Duncan, Gus Block, Sherry Johnson, Kate Morreale, Vanessa Cloutier, Brianna Pascale, Kaitlyn Malin, Cheryl Allen and Daisy Stevens.

Field Crops

Magnus Ruud*, Sarah Bjorklund*, Ray Waugh, Dana Prouty, Ava Prouty and Miles Sidur.

Flowers Youth
Jake Gelineau, Hallie Stachowicz, Emily Beaulieu, Alice Gelineau, Jackson Currier, Brooke Healey, Otto Raymond, Adelyn Healey, Margaret Annunziata, Kip Stillman, Riley Quattrucci and Summer Keddy.

Fruits, Vegetables & Herbs Adult
Curtis Stillman*, Abbie White, Roberta McQuaid, Becky Bottomley, Paul Lagrant, Chet Boronski,

Marlo Stein, Heather Vinskey, Brad Petrishen, Imanuela Costiner, Kira Hakanson, Warren Johnson, Kim Mongeau, Nancy Butler and Colin Brown.

Home Canning Junior
Dominic Sullivan
Home Canning Adult
Hilarie Shea*, Kristen Coltey-Wentworth, Becky Bottomley and Patricia Byrnes,.

LEGOs
Ryan Bottomley*, Bria Duncan*, Michael Bottomley, Forrest Raymond and William Wentworth.

Literary Competition

Youth
Adaline Graves, Bria Duncan, Maren Goddard and Faith Holland.

Literary Competition Adult
Laura Grunweg*, Diane Buzzell and Ginger Petraglia.

Nature Photography & Conservation Youth
Cheyenne Simmons*, Kayla Stafford, Moira Powers, Rhett Rollet and Kayla Stafford.

Nature Photography & Conservation Adult
Laura Grunweg*, Becky Bottomley, Keith LaChapelle, Sheena Korzec, Sylvia Sandridge, Eileen White and Harriet Pindell.

Photography Youth
Cheyenne Simmons* (Best Photo Taken of the 2025 Hardwick Fair in Youth Category), Lily Nydam*, Rhett Rollet, Penny Ouimette, Brigham Richardson, Moira Powers and Quinn Ouimette.

Photography Adult
Eileen White*, Neil Halin (Best Photo Taken of the 2025 Hardwick Fair in Adult Category), Harriet Pindell, Tim Gribbons, Neil Halin, Carolynne Lapointe, Carmen LaChapelle, Britta Naglack and Brett Duncan.

Scarecrows Youth
Samantha Mace

Scarecrows Adult
Matthew Hager and Linda Tomasi.

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viewpoints

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

Will Social Security run out of money soon?

Dear Rusty:

I'm concerned about Social Security running out of funding, since I rely on it for my income and I'm at an age where my having to go back to work is not an option I can consider.

The job market for people my age is slim. I've been reading reports and it doesn't sound reassuring. Your thoughts?

Signed: Concerned Senior

Dear Concerned Senior:

Thanks for sharing your concerns. This topic is a fairly complicated one, but I'll do my best to explain it.

Social Security income from payroll taxes, interest on reserves, and income tax on SS benefits has been insufficient to pay 100% of SS benefit obligations since about 2020.

Since that time, SS has been drawing money from the Social Security Trust Fund reserves to pay full monthly benefits to everyone.

In 2020, there was nearly \$3 trillion in SS reserves held in the SS Trust Funds, but as of the end of 2025, those reserves have dwindled to about \$2.56 trillion because they are being used to pay full SS benefits to all.

Without program reform, the SS trust funds will be fully depleted in 2032, which would result in an across-the-board cut of about 22% to everyone's monthly SS payment. And that would be devastating to millions of Americans!

However, Congress is acutely aware of this issue; they have been for years but have largely ignored previous warnings. Now, however, those predicted benefit cuts are dangerously close to becoming a reality.

As a result, we are beginning to see serious, even bipartisan, discussions in Congress about reforming Social Security to restore it

to solvency to avoid future benefit cuts.

For our part, AMAC and the AMAC Foundation have been working on a proposal to restore SS to full solvency for generations and we have offered our proposal to various Congressional Representatives and to the SSA Commissioner and his executive staff.

The proposal has been well received, and we are very optimistic that Congress will finally take real action to restore SS to solvency to avoid any benefit cuts. Frankly, doing otherwise would amount to political suicide!

AMAC is closely monitoring this situation and are very proactive in Washington, D.C. to ensure that benefits are not cut in 2032 and they will continue their vigorous efforts and their vigilance to avoid Social Security insolvency.

They are confident that Congress will act in time to avoid any reduction in SS benefits, and they can stay informed of their efforts by watching the AMAC Social Security information website at www.socialsecurityreport.org.

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

Rooting cuttings is a great way to overwinter your favorite plants

Late summer is a great time to take cuttings of summer plants such as geranium, fuchsia, and coleus.

Oftentimes planters containing these beauties are too big to overwinter. Likewise, these plants may be growing in your yard and maybe you are fearful of trying to dig them up and move them inside before frost hits.

It's also fun to root herb plants like rosemary or mint, so that you can enjoy them as seasoning in your favorite dishes over the winter months.

Getting a piece of stem to form roots is relatively easy. Here are a few tips that will guarantee your success.

First, make sure that the plant you are taking the cuttings from, called the "stock plant," is insect and disease-free and well hydrated. Plan to take cuttings in the morning before the heat of the day has a chance to cause any wilting.

A clean, sharp pair of scissors or hand pruners is the best tool for the job. Cuttings can be taken at any time during the growing season.

Spring is also a great time to take cuttings of plants that you've overwintered provided they are growing well.

Play it safe with stout cuttings.

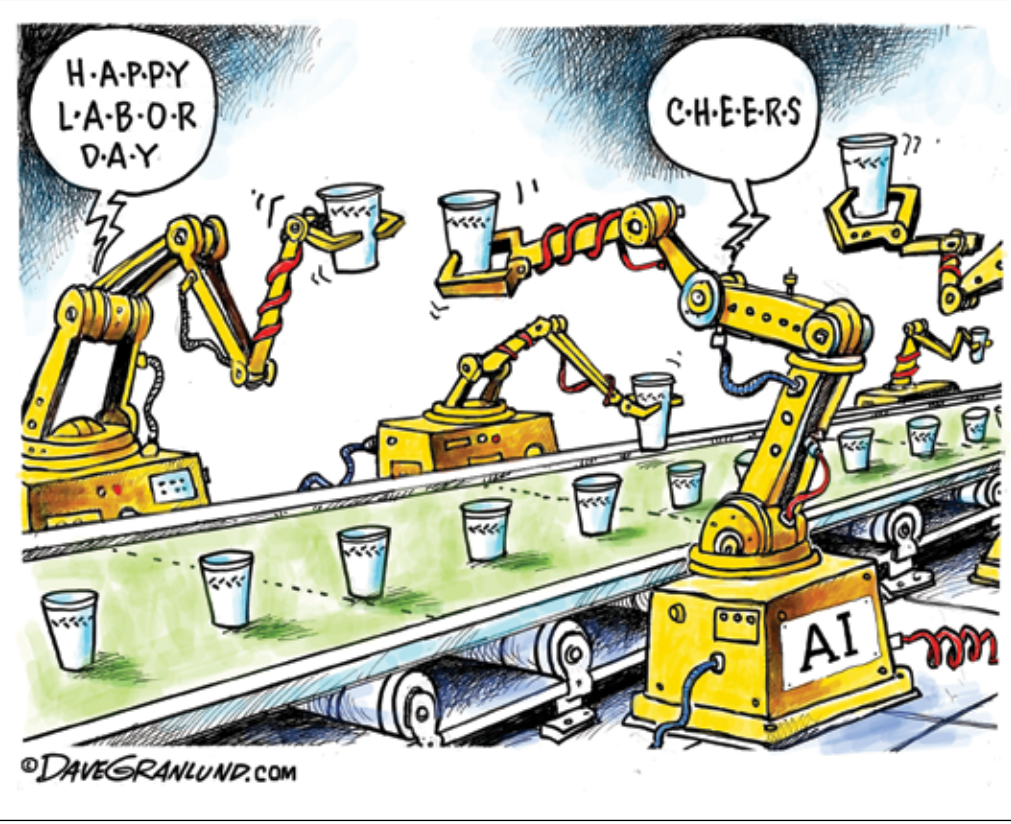
There are all kinds of potting mediums in which to place the cutting while it is grows roots. Ideally it should be able to hold enough moisture to keep the cutting turgid yet not hold so much that it rots the stem.

Sand, perlite, and soilless potting mixes have all been used with success. Water is not recommended as "watery roots" will have a harder time adapting to potting soil later on. I have had good luck rooting cuttings in peat-based potting mixes that are formulated for seed starting. Moisten the material well and fill your clean container of choice up to the top and tamp it down.

Cut only a few cuttings at a time so that wilting doesn't occur while you prepare the stems for insertion into the growing medium. Strip off the bottom one-third of leaves from the cutting.

If you wish to shorten the amount of time it takes for rooting to occur a commercial rooting hormone can be used. These come in powder or liquid forms. Follow the

Please see **GARDEN**, page 5



Nature through the eyes of a child

We recently brought our 1-year-old grandson, Dustin, to a local woodland area. After carrying him for miles, we lifted him out of the child carrier so that he could stretch his legs. Not yet walking independently, he grasped each of my index fingers, then carefully moved along the trail on unsteady feet.

A white birch tree just off trail caught his eye, and he steered me towards it. Once we reached it, he let go of my fingers and leaned his hands against the tree. His tiny fingers fell upon a loose piece of dry bark.

His eyes widened and a look of surprise came upon his face when the bark slipped from the tree into his hand.

Dustin looked at it, examining it with curiosity. Then, with all the seriousness a 1-year-old can muster, he reached up and pressed the



Dustin, age 1, held a piece of birch bark in his hand.

fragment back against the gnarled tree.

He held his hand over the bark for a moment, like someone gluing one object

to another. Once he seemed certain he had mended the trunk, he pulled his hand away.

Unsurprisingly, the piece



Submitted Photos

Dustin explored nature with his grandparents.

Dustin bent down, picked up the wayward piece of tree, and once again pressed it back against the trunk.

This time, he patted it carefully. But when he withdrew his hand, down went the scrap of wood once again.

Undeterred, Dustin repeated the process over and over and over again, certain that if he just kept trying, he could reattach the broken

Please see **HIKE**, page 5

WARE RIVER NEWS

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

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

The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

Turley Election Policy

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

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

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.

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, Sept. 7
- Closed for Labor Day holiday
- Tuesday, Sept. 8**
- 9 a.m. Exercise Class at Valley View Housing
 - 10 a.m. Scat
 - 11:30 a.m. Lunch
 - 12:30 p.m. Knit-Crochet-Laugh
 - 5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking. \$3 per class.
 - 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)
- Wednesday, Sept. 9**
- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
 - 9:30 a.m. Quilting Club
 - 10 a.m. Scat
 - 11:30 a.m. Lunch
 - 1 p.m. Chair Yoga with Lori
- Thursday, Sept. 10**
- 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. 11**
- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
 - 10 a.m. Scat
 - 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Food Bank of Western MA Brown Bag Program
 - 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 your name on the lunch list.
- Monday, Sept. 7**
Closed for Labor Day holiday
- Tuesday, Sept. 8**
Italian Chicken, Rice Pilaf, Veggie of the Day, Dessert of the Day
- Wednesday, Sept. 9**
Shepherd's Pie, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day
- Thursday, Sept. 10**
Chicken Parmigiana with Spaghetti, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day
- Friday, Sept. 11**
Fish Sandwich with Lettuce and Tomato, French Fries, Dessert of the Day

GARDEN from page 4

directions on the container.

I have found that “less is more” when using these products. When you are ready to “stick” the cutting make an indentation into the growing medium with a pencil or dibble first- do not push in with the stem!

After the cutting is inserted firm around it well so that it stays in place. Put the container, cuttings and all in a clear plastic bag and place in a shady location.

The humidity within the bag ought to prevent the stems from wilting.

Water well, only about once weekly. After a month or so roots will begin to form on the scented geraniums; rosemary may take six weeks or more.

Transplanting into individual pots can be done once

the roots equal or surpass the size of the cutting. I like to start out with a small pot and transplant up a size or two at a time as the plant grows.

The Ware Grange will be hosting workshop on this timely topic on Friday, Sept. 11 at 7 p.m. at the hall on Route 9 in Ware. Bring a potted plant to share cutting material or use a selection of plants that I will bring to try your luck at this skill.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 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.

HIKE from page 4

scrap of tree skin back onto the birch tree. But in spite of his tenderness and quiet determination, gravity won every time.

I stood beside him and watched. Half amused and half contemplative.

There was a lesson here, I was certain. Not for Dustin, but for me.

Dustin displayed no frustration. He was not aggravated or impatient. He just kept trying. With an open heart and a beautiful spirit. And a determination that somehow, he could fix the world around him.

I don't know how long Dustin would have spent trying to reattach the bark to that birch tree. I finally scooped him up and settled him on the dirt path.

He immediately reached for a nearby stick. He picked it up. Turned it. Stretched out his arm to show it to me – looking up at me with wonder in his wide eyes. Smiling as though he had discovered the greatest treasure on earth.

He poked a dry leaf. Drew lines in the dirt. Stirred the pine needles.

Absent of batteries, on-off switches, flashing lights and instructions – he held the stick as though it was a prized possession.

I felt an urgency to continue moving. There were trails waiting to be explored. Miles

waiting to be walked. A time frame to be adhered to.

Instead, I lowered myself cross-legged and settled on the pine needle path next to Dustin. And there we remained, lingering in a place where time has forgotten what it means to rush.

Years from now, my grandson won't remember this day. He won't remember the rough texture of the twig he held. The beautiful white birch tree he attempted to mend.

He won't recall the day sunlight streamed through the trees above him, as the grandparents who love him sat beside him while he discovered the natural world around him.

Regardless, perhaps he would leave the forest carrying something with him that would remain. Perhaps the forest was filling something inside of him that would not come from actual recollection, but was being planted nonetheless, before he could even form a sentence.

The twig came home with Dustin – a treasure he refused to let go of when I placed him back in the child carrier. The wayward scrap of bark, however, remained on the forest floor, where it would eventually return to the earth.

But long after the bark has dried, the unspoken lessons will remain.

Creamery Road bridge opens to traffic

HARDWICK / NEW BRAINTREE – The Department of Transportation announced the completion of the new Creamery Road bridge, which connects the towns of Hardwick and New Braintree over the Ware River.

This 100-foot single lane bridge replaced the previous bridge that was built in 1939, and closed in April 2024 due to structural and safety concerns. This closure resulted in a four-mile detour.

The project included new concrete bridge railings, guardrails and improvements to both approaches to the bridge. It also provides improved conditions for wildlife passage beneath the bridge.

MassDOT reported that the project was completed on budget and on schedule.

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette
The Creamery Road bridge that connects the towns of Hardwick and New Braintree reopened after being closed for over two years.



The one-lane bridge connects Creamery Road in Gilbertville to Unitas Road in New Braintree.



The new bridge spanning the Ware River opened for traffic last week.

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.

Simple budgeting tips that fit real life

If you've just started managing your own finances, recommitting to doing it well or noticed your spending isn't making you as happy as you'd hoped, a budget might be exactly what you need. When you know where your money is going, you're likely to feel more in control and more confident your finances reflect what actually matters to you.

A simple budgeting framework to start: The 50/30/20 rule. One of the easiest ways to structure a budget is the 50/30/20 rule. The concept is refreshingly straightforward: Put 50% of your after-tax income toward necessities (housing, groceries, utilities, transportation), 30% toward wants (dining out, entertainment, streaming subscriptions) and 20% toward savings or paying down debt.

The 50/30/20 rule is a great foundation, but you may need to adjust it a little. If you live in a high-cost city, housing alone might require more than half your paycheck. Or you may have high income and can save more than 20%. Think of the 50/30/20 rule as a starting point you can adjust as your life evolves.

Not sure where your money goes? That's completely normal. If you honestly don't know what you spend each month, try a low-pressure approach first. Spend a few months simply observing. Check your accounts without judgment, noting money coming in and going out. Think of it as a financial check-in rather than a report card. You can't change the past, but you can absolutely adjust for the future.

From there, small steps go a long way. Even spending 15 minutes a week on your budget can make the whole process feel far less daunting.

Make technology your easy button. Some budgeting apps do the routine work for you, syncing with your accounts and tracking spending automatically. Others are more hands-on, encouraging you to map out your spending plan in advance. There's likely one out there for every style of budgeting. The goal is to find a system you'll actually use and stick with.

When the numbers feel discouraging. Sometimes looking at spending brings up more stress than relief. If that happens, start by shifting your perspective. Focus on the expenses that brought you real value — a modest gift that meant the world to a friend or how your rent provides a comfortable, stable life. Then look for changes that align your spending with your values. Substituting expenses, reducing expenses or creating more income could all be used to help you keep your spending below your income.

Build a buffer. If you can, consider building a small buffer into your budget for unexpected expenses such as birthdays, minor repairs or spontaneous plans. Adding perhaps 3% of your income or a set dollar amount, like \$200, helps keep those costs from throwing your whole plan off course.

The bottom line. With a few simple steps, budgeting becomes easier to stick with and more meaningful over time. At its core, it's a way to align your money with what matters while enjoying today and planning for tomorrow.

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Quaboag kicks off school year with *Ice Cream Social*

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago
The West Brookfield common was one of the ice cream social stops hosted by the Quaboag Regional School District to kick off the upcoming school year.



By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Quaboag Regional School District kicked off the school year with an ice cream social tour.

Members of the school district’s administrative team

Students and families not only got to enjoy some ice cream but also meet members of the Quaboag Regional School District and community.

stopped in Warren, West Brookfield and North Brookfield to give out free ice cream.

This kickoff of the school year event was not only a chance for the community to enjoy a late summer treat, but to also meet and connect with members of the school district and community.

“We want to begin the school year by connecting with the families and communities we serve,” Quaboag Regional Middle High School Principal John Diorio said.

Diorio said this event was a

great way for the families to meet the administrators, learn about what’s coming up this school year and ask questions they may have.

Superintendent Stephen Duff, Warren Community Elementary School Dean of Students Brian Guimond, Director of Student Support Services Dr. Kirsten Esposito and newly welcomed Warren Community Elementary School Principal Kathleen Cadarette were on the ice cream social tour meeting everybody at each stop.

Cadarette saw the ice cream social as a great opportunity to meet the students and families as the school year was about to begin.

Joining the tour was Warren Police Chief Gerald Millette and Warren Fire Chief Adam Lavoie.

Students from the towns of North Brookfield, West Brookfield and Warren had a good time enjoying some ice cream, hanging out with friends, and connecting with their school leaders.

New England Hiking with Jeff Romano

WARREN – Join author Jeff Romano at the Warren Public Library on Thursday, Sept. 24 at 6:30 p.m. for a slideshow presentation highlighting hiking opportunities throughout New England.

The program will cover destinations in all six states with a focus on itineraries featured in his latest guidebook, an updated edition to “100 Classic Hikes New England”. Romano will share advice, provide insights, and answer questions on how and where to plan your next hiking adventure.

The program will also feature information on New England wildflowers, birds, wildlife, history, and conservation success stories.

Romano is a lifelong New England resident who has been hiking for five decades. He is the author of four other guidebooks: “Hike the Park Acadia” (2021), “Day Hiking New England” (2015), “100 Classic Hikes New England, First Edition” (2010), and “Best Loop Hikes: New Hampshire’s White Mountains to the Maine Coast” (2006). When not hiking, Romano directs public policy activities for Maine Coast Heritage Trust, a land trust that conserves and stewards Maine’s coastal lands and islands. This presentation is free and open to the public. Please contact the Warren Public Library to register: 413-436-7690 or warrenpubliclibrary@hotmail.com.

HOME from page 1

career as a truck driver across New England, from making deliveries to even driving a school bus.

“It got to the point where it was all easy,” McClelland said of driving. “Easier than my own car.”

McClelland and his late wife Janice enjoyed having a large family, even taking in foster children to care for.

“At one time we had six of them,” he said.

The McClellands built an addition onto their house, to accommodate the growing family.

At the end of July, McClelland received notice from the town’s Board of Health that his property was condemned, and he was no longer able to live there until conditions were improved.

McClelland is now living in town with his grandson William Toohey and his wife and children, while the family works to figure out how to save “Poppa’s” beloved family home.

“The same day that they condemned it is when we got him out,” Toohey said.

Toohey said the family had started to notice some changes in McClelland, including weight loss, but didn’t know the full extent of his home life over the past two and a half years, until the condemnation process started.

Toohey and his sister Shauna said their grandfather was a victim of elder abuse and neglect by a caretaker who was living with him. This caretaker allegedly moved people onto the property, misused McClelland’s income as a disabled veteran

and neglected not only the property, but McClelland himself.

“The person had a lot of demons,” Toohey said.

Toohey said many things were taken from McClelland’s property by people living there, including tools and his John Deere tractor, which was recovered elsewhere in town with the help of witnesses, Facebook tips and the Police Department.

Despite recovering the tractor, many of McClelland’s other possessions are now gone.

“They stole as much as they could,” Toohey said. “We couldn’t get anything else back.”

Toohey said the Board of Health and Regional Health Inspector Tessa Obuchowski have been working with the family to correct the issues at the property. He said they have been “very cooperative and understanding” of the situation.

The biggest challenge the family is facing is having enough money to cover the cost of repairs and cleanup.

This summer was also the time that McClelland and his family became aware that his caretaker had not paying the mortgage on the property, and it was now in foreclosure. The property is slated for auction on Sept. 17.

Toohey said the abuse of his grandfather was reported and a case was made, and they are working with Elder Services and Legal Aid to try and stop or delay the auction.

Toohey said there is also evidence that the caretaker had attempted to change the property’s deed, which is a life estate. When changes



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette
Stuart McClelland, right, is shown with his grandson, William Toohey. McClelland’s house was recently condemned and is in the foreclosure process. His family is trying to help save his home.

couldn’t be made without signatures of other family members, Toohey said the caretaker stopped doing anything for McClelland to ensure his health and well-being.

This includes missing vital appointments at the Veterans Affairs hospital, a lack of adequate food and upkeep of the house.

Toohey said many days his grandfather only ate the meals he received from his Meals on Wheels delivery.

McClelland’s lives off of his military pension and Social Security, which Toohey said is enough to support him and keep him comfortable in his home. But due to the financial abuse and mismanagement, McClelland can’t even get a debit card from his bank.

McClelland said he hopes and he can go back home, but he recognized that it will be a “lot of work.”

Toohey said his grandfather’s home means a lot to all of them, and holds many happy memories, including being the site of countless cookouts, and even a wed-

ding.

“This has always been like the central hub for the family,” he said. “Many people have called this place home. They [his grandparents] always opened their door to anyone who needed it.”

Shauna said she lived at her grandfather’s house most of her life and it has always been her “safe space.”

“I always had a place that felt like home,” she said. “All my memories are there.”

Shauna said it breaks her heart to think that “home didn’t feel like home” for her grandfather or her family during the past couple of years. She said he was always there for her throughout her life, even driving her to doctors appointments when she was pregnant.

“He was like a father to me,” she said. “My grandfather’s always been selfless.”

Shauna said her grandparents “gave the world” to everyone they could, and have been actively involved in the community.

Now, the family is getting help and support from that same community to make

sure McClelland gets to live out his golden years in safety and comfort.

Toohey said some of the repairs needed on the house were caused by water damage from an upstairs leak. The water damage also created mold.

He said the property needs electrical work, pest and rodent control, carpet removal and a full cleanout. Repairs to the roof, soffits and gutters are also needed.

“A lot of this stuff could have been taken care of right when it happened,” Toohey said of the damage. “But the money was used in other ways...an 85-inch TV was put in the living room when the roof was collapsing.”

Toohey said the family has received a lot of support and outreach from the community, and a GoFundMe has been started to help cover the costs and hopefully stop the foreclosure auction.

“We need every penny we can get,” Toohey said.

A fundraiser dinner is also being planned at the Fraternal Order of Eagles club located at 2167 Main St., West Warren.

“Even if the auction comes and we can’t save the home, all the money will help get him [McClelland] somewhere,” Toohey said. “And catch up on two and a half years of bills.”

How to help

To make a donation to McClelland and his family, visit the GoFundMe at www.gofundme.com/lets-bring-poppa-home. At the time of this newspaper’s printing, the fundraiser had already raised \$425 of its \$6,000 goal.

People can also contact Shauna through the GoFundMe link to donate services or volunteer their time to help with the cleanup and repair efforts.



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Turley Photos by Ryan Drago
The Massachusetts State Grange awarded Heidi Bara of Wales a Special Agriculture Rosette ribbon for this hydrangea.



This field pumpkin, entered by Rosalie Belisle of Barre, received the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources Special Agriculture Rosette in the adult group.



Second Chance Animal Services attended the Ware Grange Fair and had information and merchandise available.



Cairn proudly walking during the Fun Dog Show.



Timber is a Golden Retriever-Yellow Lab mix who won a few ribbons during the Ware Grange Fair's Fun Dog Show.

GRANGE FAIR from page 1

Heidi Bara of Wales won her first ribbon in this year's fair. Bara entered a hydrangea which won a Special Agriculture Rosette from the Massachusetts State Grange.

For the youth exhibits, Mackenzie McNally won her first ribbon in this year's fair for her wildflower arrangement.

"I was shocked," McNally said when she saw her wildflower arrangement receive first prize.

McNally put together an arrangement of wildflowers she picked near her home and ended up with a Special Agriculture Rosette from the



A watercolor painting was created by Eden Fanelli of Hardwick.

Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources.

Charlotte Corbett of Monson was another youth exhibitor who received a ribbon for entering duck eggs. Eden Fanelli of Hardwick entered a watercolor painting and received a ribbon from the Ware Grange Fair for Outstanding Non-Agriculture Entry.

The Ware Grange featured a lot of field events for children including limbo, pie eating contest, sponge relay race, balloon pop, hula hoop toss and water balloon toss. Carnival games also returned to the Ware Grange Fair.

Terry Vaill is the star

baker who made hundreds of cookies, breads, and pies for the bake sale. There were 143 packages of cookies, 87 breads, 117 packages of brownie bars, 32 packages of fudge, 20 packages of peanut butter crispy balls, 50 packages of whoopie pies, 27 large pies and 12 small pies.

Vaill also made cakes and cornbread for the supper later on during the Ware Grange Fair. The Grange also hosted a penny sale with hundreds of items available.

An auction of fruits, vegetables, baked items and other goodies took place after the supper on Saturday.

The Fun Dog Show returned to the annual fair and it has become a beloved event. A total of nine dogs entered in this year's dog show, participating in multiple categories.

Tammy Taquino of Second Chance Animal Services served as this year's dog show judge.

Second Chance Animal Services had a booth set up during the Ware Grange Fair sharing programs and services they have to offer. Second Chance was also selling merchandise with proceeds helping to support the animals.

Timber, Golden Retriever-Yellow Lab mix, received a few ribbons during the Fun Dog Show. One of Timber's tricks was rolling over on the ground.

Timber, now 10 years old, came from Second Chance at 6 months old and is a proud participant in the Dog Show.

Lily and Riley are a pair of bull mastiffs who were adopted at a young age and are both eight years old. Both dogs received the prize for best dressed wearing adorable outfits that made the audience make vampire noises. Riley received third place for Best in Show, and Lilly won second place.

One category in the show was for Best Rescue Story. This was an opportunity for dog owners to share the backstory of how their dogs came into their lives.

Dora was imported from St. Martin and is considered a "blessing" according to her owner. Dora is also a calendar dog for the 2026 Bay Path Calendar.

Cairn, who received second place for being the scruffiest and fluffiest dog, was found somewhere on the Appalachian Trail. Her rescue story was voted for first



The Ware Grange Fair awarded a Special Rosette for an Outstanding Non-Agriculture Entry to April Rose Carter for designing this afghan.



The Ware Grange Fair hosted a coloring contest for children aged 7-10.



The Ware Grange hosted a bake sale with hundreds of goods available and baked by Terry Vaill.



Lily and Riley dressed up for the Dog Show.

prize. Shiva, a Belgian Malinois, was voted Best in Show for this year's dog show.

The annual Ware Grange Fair ended with a barbecue dinner featuring pulled pork, chicken, brisket, baked beans, coleslaw, cornbread, desserts and drinks. This

year's fair also featured live music by the talented Brianna Lamb.

The Ware Grange is located off Route 9 at 297 Belchertown Road in Ware. More about the Ware Grange can be found at www.ware-grange.org.

Items wanted for Warren time capsule

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

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Overdose Awareness Day



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette
Sean O'Connell spoke about his recovery.



Julie Lutz, Program Director at the Recovery Center of HOPE, shared statistics about the reduction in overdose deaths across the commonwealth.



Vigil attendees observed a moment of silent for those lost to overdose.

AWARENESS from page 1

grateful” to speak at the candlelight vigil.

It was eight years and four days ago that Gratton used a substance for the last time.

“The last time I used, I overdosed,” he said.

He credited the decrease in opioid overdose deaths to the normalizing of carrying Narcan [naloxone], which he said is a “huge step at giving people a second shot at life.” “Without that, I wouldn’t be here,” Gratton said.

Gratton said he has lost a lot of friends to overdose deaths, and that he carries their memories with them.

He shared a story about coaching his late friend’s son, who lost both his father and mother to overdoses.

“I couldn’t help but call him by his dad’s name,” Gratton said of the little boy.

Keeping people, especially the youth, away from substance use is something that Gratton feels passionate about and he said it gives his life purpose.

“To hopefully steer kids away from the path so many of us went down,” he said.

Gratton said he wants to see the annual opioid overdose death number reduced to zero; something that seems impossible now, but he believes will happen in the future.

He said his recovery coach always reminds him that the beginning of his recovery was a “great start,”



Randy Gratton led the vigil attendees in a prayer.



The Town Hall’s clock tower was illuminated with purple lights.

and just a part of the journey ahead of him.

At last year’s candlelight vigil, Gratton spoke about gratitude. This year, he focused on vigilance.

Gratton said as far as the community has come to decrease overdose deaths, they still need to stay vigilant and check in on those who need support. He credited the Recovery Center of HOPE and its peer recovery coaches, as well as community allies such as Town Manager Stuart Beckley and the Quabog Hills Substance Use Alliance.

One person that Gratton gave support to, even when it took numerous attempts just to receive a text back of “OK,” was resident Sean O’Connell.

O’Connell said he had over 20 years in recovery back in 2019, when the pandemic hit. It was then that he became exposed to fentanyl, which he said was like the “bogeyman” of substances.

O’Connell said overdose can impact any substance user, especially when fentanyl is often mixed with other substances.

“It can happen the first

time you use,” he said. “Sometimes the person doesn’t know what they’re taking.”

O’Connell said it takes a combination of community, recovery networks and mental health support for people to break the cycle of addiction. The availability of Narcan, and efforts to reduce the stigma around addiction have helped save lives.

“We’re showing that in numbers,” he said.

O’Connell said educating people on proper medication storage is also important to prevent substance use. He

said the first time he tried a drug was from a family member’s medicine cabinet.

O’Connell encouraged people to carry Narcan in their vehicles and keep it in their homes. He said it can be picked up for free from recovery supports and from Walgreens.

“Narcan is not a solve-all,” O’Connell said. “But it saved my life twice.”

O’Connell, who moved here from the Boston area, said he is grateful for the community of Ware. He asked people to “stay connected” to each other and not

to give up on someone that is struggling.

“People that use are typically broken and trying to fix something with a substance,” O’Connell said. “I’ve been welcomed...Randy wouldn’t leave me alone.”

Gratton led a prayer, which was followed by a moment of silence.

Lutz then invited those in attendance to say the names of loved ones they lost to overdose, or to recognize those who survived.



Purple candles were lit for International Overdose Awareness Day.

Trinity Episcopal hosts talk about Lost Towns

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.

Kids’ Corner workshop explores healthy food Sept. 12

WARE – The next Kids’ Corner workshop at Ware Grange will be “Healthy Foods” and will take place on Saturday, Sept. 12 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 help children understand the connection between diet and health. They will discover how putting the right kinds of foods into their body can help keep them healthy.

They will also explore the food groups and the importance of fruits and vegetables. Visit Ware Grange on Facebook or at waregrange.org for more information.

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Jadrien Berthiaume takes the carry. Ware's season gets underway next week.

Ware football set to start season under new coach

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARE— Kyle Whitney spent the past two seasons as an assistant football coach at Ware High School under

head coach Mike Fazio. Whitney was expecting to return to the same position this fall.

Those plans changed last spring when Fazio was hired as the varsity football coach

at David Prouty High School in Spencer, which is his alma mater. Whitney has replaced him as the Indians varsity football coach.

"I was planning on returning as an assistant football coach, but I'm very excited to be taking over as the head football coach," said Whitney during a recent interview. "During the past couple of years, coach Fazio, along with coach (Scott) Slattery taught me a lot about the history of this program. I already know the players and I just want to continue the winning tradition here."

Whitney, who's lives in Ware, grew up in Rhode Island. He played football at Cranston East High School and college football at Nichols College in Dudley.

Whitney had only coached a youth football team in Rhode Island before arriving in Ware.

"I just love the game of football," he said. "When I became the assistant coach here, my mind set was to learn as much as I could from coach Fazio and the other coaches."

Whitney isn't a teacher at Ware High School, but he's built a very good relationship with the returning players.

In Whitney's first season as an assistant football



Jayden Diaz makes a return.

coach, the Indians posted an 8-3 overall record. They finished with a 7-4 mark a year ago.

"It took me a couple of weeks to get to know the players and for them to get familiar with me," Whitney said. "They quickly realized that I was there to help them improve as players. We haven't qualified for the Division 8 state playoffs during the two years I've been coaching here. Qualifying for the state tournament is our number one goal. I just want to have a successful season."

Back in the fall of 2023, the Indians finished the regular season with a perfect 8-0 record before losing to Randolph High School, 3-0, at home in a Division 8 first round game.

The Indians graduated nine players from last year's team.

Whitney has named seniors Troy Jurczyk, who's the returning starting quarterback, and running back Dalton Marquis as co-captains of this year's team.

Please see **WARE**, page 10

Committee announces next Hall induction

BARRE – Tickets for the 11th Quabbin Regional Athletic Hall of Fame Induction are now available for the Nov. 7 ceremony to be held at Teresa's Restaurant, 315 Palmer Road, Ware, MA. A social hour will begin at 5 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m. followed by the induction ceremony.

Seven individuals and a pair of championship teams will be honored. Dating back to the first

induction in 2002, this will bring the total number of individual inductees to 72 in addition to 11 teams.

The induction class includes Louis Panaccione '75, Eugene Rich '95, Matthew Brunelle '08, Stephany Halfrey '15, Thaddeus J. Gumula Contributor and Athletic Director, Coach Cheryl Adams, Coach Debra

Please see **INDUCTION**, page 10



AT LEFT: Jarett Skowyra takes the return toward the right sideline. With Palmer not fielding a varsity team for this season, Pathfinder will be representing Palmer in high school football this year.

Grayson Griswold takes the snap for Pathfinder.

The Pathfinder defense comes up with a big stop during last year's final game with Belchertown on Thanksgiving.

Pioneers set to represent Palmer for 2026

PALMER – The Palmer High School football team is not fielding a varsity team this season due to lowering numbers. The team hopes to have a JV team this year and rebuild its varsity roster

for next season. Meanwhile, Pathfinder will be representing the town in the varsity ranks by itself this year. The Pioneers were scheduled to be in scrimmage action this week, but rain threatened that matchup. Pathfinder's sched-

ule was slightly changed by some of the matchups being moved around this year. The season opener for the Pioneers will not be far away, however, as Pathfinder will make a very short trip to Ludlow to take on the

Lions on Friday, Sept. 11 at 6:30 p.m. Their season opener will take place on Friday, Sept. 18 against Commerce. The Pioneers will be using Legion Field as their home field once again this season.



Submitted photo

UMPIRES ASSOCIATION AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP

Western Massachusetts Baseball Umpires Association Board Member Chris Anderson awards a \$500 scholarship earlier this summer Sean Krol. The umpires' association funds the scholarship through dues paid by its members. Anderson hopes in the future to fund more scholarships either through fundraising or donations, saying it's important to give back to the sport they love, and promote education for high school seniors who play. Applications for next year's scholarship will open up early in 2027.



Cassian Kowalik lumbers through the crowd on a carry.



Trevor Alexander makes a carry for the Pioneers.



Aiden Girard makes a great block.

sports

Westfield State University girls volleyball ranked second in 2026 preseason poll

WESTFIELD – 2025 MASCAC Volleyball regular season and tournament champion Bridgewater State are the preseason favorites to win the 2026 crown as voted on by the coaches around the league.

The Bears received seven first place vote to land in the top spot. Back-to-back tournament MVP Lily Welch returns after she helped the Bears to their first MASCAC Regular Season title since 2008. Last season, she led the team in kills with 234, hitting percentage (.313) and digs (262). Welch was also second with 46 total blocks and fourth with 31 service aces.

Westfield State is up next in second. The Owls were 7-1 in league play and bring back All-Conference honoree Lauren Carnes who earned first team honors as an outside hitter, racking up 185 kills while playing in just 17 matches after missing nine games during the middle of the season. Carnes per set num-

bers reflect her impact on a match-by-match basis with her 2.89 kills per set ranking third in the MASCAC. The Owls lost three of their top four hitters to graduation, but return a steady back line with Erica Majka (Agawam, Mass.) (266 digs) and Zurielys Rivera (264 digs) tops among the Owls’ defensive specialists a year ago.

Westfield will tip off the 2026 season with a non-conference match at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy on Sept. 1 at 6:00 p.m.

Sitting in third place is Framingham State with the final first place vote. Looking for her third straight MASCAC Offensive Player of the Year award is Natalie Reynolds. In 2025, she led the conference with 438 kills, 3.71 per set and 1,085 total attacks. She was second in hitting percentage at .279,

fourth in solo blocks with 16 and fifth with 51 total blocks while adding 85 digs and 34 service aces. The Rams upset the Owls, 3-2 to eliminate Westfield from the conference tournament in 2025.

MCLA comes in fourth in this year’s poll. The Trailblazers were 5-3 with the help of reigning MASCAC Rookie of the Year Kaelynn Greeley who closed out her first year with the Trailblazers fourth in the conference with 221 kills, seventh in kills per set with 2.63 and 10th in hitting percentage with .217. She also tallied 36 service aces, 167 digs and nine total blocks over 25 matches.

Up next in fifth is Worcester State. Last season, the Lancers were also 4-4 in league play. During the 2025 season, Katherine Crateau finished second in the MASCAC with 477 digs and 654 receptions with

third-most digs per set at 4.54. She also recorded 95 assists and 36 service aces to earn MASCAC Defensive Player of the Year accolades.

Salem State is in the sixth spot. Returning for the Vikings is Celia Carbone who dished out a career-high 512 assists, averaged 6.10 assists per set, and set a new career-high in digs (222) last season.

Rounding out the 2026 poll is Fitchburg State in seventh and Mass. Maritime in eighth. For the Falcons, Madison Keohane returns after averaging 3.38 assists per set, 284 total assists, 171 digs and 25 service aces last season. For the Buccaneers, Holly Sanders is back after grabbing All-Conference honors in her first season. She led the MASCAC with 577 digs and 6.63 digs per set while tallying 25 kills, 89 assists, 48 service aces.

The volleyball season gets underway the first week of September with the MASCAC teams in non-conference action.



Alex Orszulak attempts a reception.

WARE from page 9

“Both of our co-captains have worked very hard and they’re outstanding leaders,” Whitney said. “All of the other players on the team look up to Troy and Dalton. I’m really excited to watch them play.”

The Indians are scheduled to face Chicopee High School in a preseason scrimmage before opening the 2026 regular season with a non-league road game against the Easthampton Eagles on September 11.

“The first game of the regular season usually sets the tone for the rest of the season,” Whitney said. “It’s a very big game for us.”

A week later, the Indians are scheduled to face the Belchertown Orioles in their home opener, which is another non-league contest. The Indians suffered a 21-20 road loss against the Orioles last September.

“We lost a very close game at Belchertown last year,” Whitney said. “Playing them in our home opener should be another exciting game. It’s very special playing football games at Veteran’s Field.”

The Indians finished tied for first place in the Intercounty North Division

standings with Franklin County Tech.

The 100th meeting on the gridiron between Ware and Palmer isn’t going to take place this year because the Panthers are only fielding a junior varsity squad.

“We lost to Palmer last year and it’s disappointing that we won’t be facing them this year,” Whitney said. “It’s a 100 year old rivalry and hopefully we have the opportunity to play them again next year.”

The Panthers, who defeated the Indians, 21-6, celebrated their first victory in the rivalry series since 2015.

The Indians will be hosting crosstown rival Quaboag Regional at 10am on Thanksgiving morning.

“I love playing football on Thanksgiving morning. If you win that game, the turkey always tastes a little bit better,” Whitney said. “When I was in high school, we played Cranston West on Thanksgiving, and it was always a huge game.”

The Ware assistant football coaches are Shawn Clark, who was the Indians interim varsity baseball coach this past spring, and Andrew Soltys, who’s a first year math teacher at the high school.

New event added to Thompson Speedway calendar

THOMPSON, CT – In an exciting addition to the Thompson Speedway calendar, the Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series has been added to the 64th Sunoco World Series of Speedway Racing to headline the Saturday portion of the three-day extravaganza!

2026 will mark the first time in series history that the Monaco Modifieds have visited Thompson Speedway three times, this coming at a crucial point in the championship chase! While the championship

will certainly be on the forefront of the driver’s minds, the addition completes three-straight days of Tour-type Modified Racing at the Sunoco World Series.

It all starts Friday, Oct. 9 with the Modified Racing Series headlining the opening night with a 50-lap finale to crown their 2026 champion. The Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series now headlines the Saturday, Oct. 10 showcase while the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour will crown their 2026 champion follow-

ing the World Series 150 on Sunday, Oct. 11.

“We are glad we got to add the Monaco Modifieds to this year’s Sunoco World Series,” said American-Canadian Tour managing partner Cris Michaud. “They always put on a great show at Thompson and the fans are sure to get their Modified fix before the snow starts to fall!”

Thompson Speedway roars back to life on Wednesday, September 16 for the Eden Raftery Attorneys Fall Showdown

Late Model Special! The Late Models take center stage in their extra-distance showdown alongside the Thompson Sunoco Modifieds, SK Light Modifieds, Street Stocks and Crown Vics with a 6:00pm Post Time.

The North East Short Track Network (NESTN) will stream Wednesday Night Racing at Thompson Speedway all season long, visit www.nestn.tv for more info including Pay-Per-View pricing and ways to subscribe!



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Ware Cultural Council announces start of 2027 grant cycle

WARE – The Massachusetts Cultural Council will begin accepting online applications for the 2027 grant cycle starting on Sept. 1 through Oct. 15.

Please visit <https://mass-culturalcouncil.org/organizations/operating-grants-for-organizations/application-process/> for information on how to apply for funding cultural community activities in Ware.

These grants can support various artistic projects and activities such as exhibits, festivals, field

trips, school performances, workshops and lectures. The Ware Cultural Council thanks the Massachusetts State Legislature for providing the annual funds to each local cultural council in the Commonwealth.

The mission of the Ware Cultural Council is to promote, encourage, facilitate, the arts, plays, music and interpretive sciences for the enjoyment of Ware citizens of all ages.

For more information, email wareculturalcouncil@yahoo.com.

WHS Class of 1976 plans 50th reunion

Contact info for classmates needed

WARE – Ware High School Class of 1976 is planning its 50th reunion celebration to be held on Oct. 17 at Teresa’s Restaurant.

Class alumni have reached out to many, but are

still in need of contact information for many other classmates.

If you have not yet been contacted, or you know someone who needs information or for other questions, text or call Michelle (Nowak) Higney at 413-237-5854.

or through the mail by contacting: Quabbin Regional Athletic Hall of Fame, P.O. Box 874 Barre, MA 01005. The last date to purchase tickets will be Oct. 23. All checks must be payable to Quabbin Regional School District.

INDUCTION from page 9

Spinelli, 1979 Field Hockey Team and 1998-99 Boys Varsity Basketball Team.

Tickets are \$50 and may be obtained by calling Hall of Fame Chairman Ted Gumula at (413) 348-0414

During the week of Aug. 18-24, the Ware Police Department responded to nine miscellaneous calls, 18 administrative calls, eight traffic violations, 24 emergency 911 calls, three harassments/stalks/threats, seven disturbances/nuisances, two suspicious/wanted, two thefts/larcenies, three trespasses, one fraud, one indecency/lewdness, four motor vehicle accidents, one damage/vandalism, one breaking and entering, one structure fire, 10 animal calls and 14 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

Tuesday, Aug. 18
10:45 a.m. Damage/
Vandalism, Gould Road,
Report Made
10:57 a.m. Theft/Larceny,
Main Street, Services
Rendered
12:10 p.m. Assist Other
Agency, Hillside Village,
Services Rendered
12:14 p.m. Trespass/
Unwanted, Spring Street,
Advised
1:06 p.m. Trespass/
Unwanted, Lois Street,
Advised
1:09 p.m. Disturbance/
Nuisance, Church Street,
Advised
1:42 p.m. Abandoned 911
Call, Church Street, Dispatch
Handled

Wednesday, Aug. 19
8:22 a.m. Traffic Collision, Bacon Road, Services Rendered
8:58 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Unknown Location, Taken/Referred to by Other Agency
9:08 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Otis Avenue, Could Not Locate
9:16 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Williston Drive, Investigated
1:18 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Church Street, Investigated
1:53 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Pulaski Street, Advised
5:57 p.m. Traffic Collision, Upper North Street, Services Rendered
6:15 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, No Action

Required
7:51 p.m. Harassment/
Stalk/Threat, Otis Avenue,
Unfounded
8:19 p.m. Disturbance/
Nuisance, Pleasant Street,
Services Rendered

Thursday, Aug. 20
 10:16 a.m. Traffic Violation, Mechanic Street, Complaint Taken Care Of
 2:27 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Park Street, Services Rendered
 2:59 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Sczygiel Road, Dispatch Handled
 3:35 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Highland Village, Could Not Locate
 4:26 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Robbins Road, Services Rendered
 4:51 p.m. Breaking and Entering/Burglary, Cottage Street, Services Rendered
 6:10 p.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Cottage Street, Arrest Made
 Arrest: Chylyn R. Thresher, 28, Springfield
 Disorderly Conduct; Disturbing the Peace; Trespass
 Arrest: Michael Aldrich, 39, Ware
 Disorderly Conduct; Disturbing the Peace; Trespass
 9:51 p.m. Fire Alarm, Bellevue Avenue Extension, Investigated

Friday, Aug. 21
7:02 a.m. Structure Fire,
North Street, Extinguished
8:18 a.m. Trespass/
Unwanted, Greenwich Plains
Road, Advised
9:48 a.m. Abandoned/
Found Property, Main Street,
Services Rendered
11:37 a.m. Motor Vehicle
Crash, Palmer Road,
Services Rendered
1:55 p.m. Indecency/
Lewdness, Greenwich Road,
Services Rendered
8:37 p.m. Abandoned 911
Call, Homecrest Avenue,
Dispatch Handled
8:46 p.m. Abandoned
911 Call, Eagle Street,
Investigated
9:29 p.m. Abandoned
911 Call, West Main Street,
Could Not Locate

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.

Saturday, Aug. 22
4:41 a.m. Disturbance/
Nuisance, Juniper Hill Road,
Advised
11:39 a.m. Fraud/
Deception, Hillside Village,
Advised
3:36 p.m. Abandoned/
Found Property, Belchertown
Road, Investigated
5:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle
Crash, Gould Road, Services
Rendered
8:56 p.m. Abandoned 911
Call, Homecrest Avenue,
Taken/Referred to Other
Agency
10:01 p.m. Suspicious/
Wanted, Old Gilbertville
Road, Investigated

Sunday, Aug. 23
5:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle
Crash, Palmer Road, Vehicle
Towed
5:22 p.m. Abandoned 911
Call, West Street, Dispatch
Handled
6:10 p.m. Abandoned
911 Call, Monson Turnpike
Road, Dispatch Handled
9:37 p.m. Abandoned
911 Call, Charles Street,
Investigated
11:27 p.m. Disturbance/
Nuisance, Bank Street,
Investigated

Monday, Aug. 24
12:04 a.m. Suspicious/
Wanted, Pleasant Street,
Services Rendered
2:43 a.m. Motor Vehicle
Stop, Wrin Street, Arrest
Made
Arrest: Kyler A. Anadon,
Please see **WARE**
POLICE, page 13

During the week of Aug. 2-8, the Warren Police Department responded to 105 building/property checks, two community policings, 15 emergency 911 calls, three suspicious activities, two thefts/larcenies, two harassments, four safety concerns, two complaints, one burglary, four motor vehicle accidents, one animal call and 17 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Sunday, Aug. 2
11:04 a.m. Complaint,
Spring Street, Officer Spoke
to Party
11:19 a.m. Falls, Cronin
Road, Ambulance Signed
Refusal
3:24 p.m. Fire/Illegal
Burn, Town Farm Road, Fire
Extinguished
9:01 p.m. Noise
Complaint, Old West Warren
Road, Report Filed

Monday, Aug. 3
5:16 a.m. Sick/Unknown,
Brimfield Road, Transported
to Hospital
6:31 a.m. Sick/
Unknown, Little Rest Road.
Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, Aug. 4
9:01 a.m. Motor Vehicle
Stop, Main Street, Vehicle

Towed
1:17 p.m. Abduction/
Kidnapping, Keys Road,
Report Filed
5:27 p.m. Burglary/
Breaking and Entering,
Cronin Road, Report Filed
5:45 p.m. Larceny on
Theft, Old West Warren
Road, Report Filed
10:57 p.m. Welfare
Check, Keys Road, Officer
Spoke to Party

Wednesday, Aug. 5
11 a.m. Suspicious
Vehicle, Keys Road, Officer
Spoke to Party
2:59 p.m. Fire/Power
Lines, Southbridge Road,
Investigated
3:15 p.m. Safety Concern,
Milton O. Fountain Way,
Officer Spoke to Party
6:20 p.m. Larceny on
Theft, Comins Pond Road,
Officer Spoke to Party
6:51 p.m. Safety Concern,
Old West Brookfield Road,
Officer/Chief Advised
8:46 p.m. Follow-up
Investigation, Old West
Brookfield Road, Report
Filed

Thursday, Aug. 6
12:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle
Collision, Cronin Road,
Confirmed Accidental/
Misdial

5:03 p.m. Welfare Check,
Highland Street, Officer
Spoke to Party
5:54 p.m. Parking Issues,
East Road, Arrest(s) Made
Arrest: Effie J. Brigham,
43, West Brookfield
Warrant
8:36 p.m. Suspicious
Activity, Old West Warren
Road, Report Filed

Friday, Aug. 7
9:52 a.m. Motor Vehicle
Stop, Main Street, Written
Warning
10:39 a.m. Stroke (CVA),
Old West Brookfield Road,
Transported to Hospital
11:44 a.m. Chest Pain/
Heart Problem, Chapel
Street, Transported to
Hospital
3:14 p.m. Safety Concern,
Old West Brookfield Road,
Officer/Chief Advised
4:03 p.m. Follow-up
Investigation, Chapel Street,
Report Filed
4:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle
Accident, Milton O.
Fountain Way, Officer Spoke
to Party
7:05 p.m. Stroke
(CVA), Winthrop Terrace,
Transported to Hospital
7:32 p.m. Safety Concern,

Please see **WARREN POLICE**, page 13

During the week of August 24-31, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 60 building property checks, 26 directed/area patrols, 11 radar assignments, seven traffic controls, 11 emergency 911 calls, four citizen assists, two assist other agencies, three safety hazards, one burglary one disturbance, two animal calls and eight motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, Aug. 24
9:41 a.m. Assist Citizen
Church Lane, Dispatch
Handled
11:06 a.m. Welfare
Check, Hardwick Road

Services Rendered
12:29 p.m. 911 Medical
Emergency, Birch Street
Transported to Hospital
6:04 p.m. Burglary
(Breaking and Entering)
Turkey Street, Officer
Handled
6:52 p.m. Assist Other
Agency, Ruggles Hill Road
Dispatch Handled

Tuesday, Aug. 25
1:28 a.m. 911 Medical
Emergency, Turkey Street
Transported to Hospital
11:48 p.m. 911 Safety
Hazard, Barre Road
Referred to Other Agency

Wednesday, Aug. 26
1:20 a.m. 911 Suspicious

BELCHERTOWN – Roger Eugene Gauthier, age 84 passed away peacefully on Aug. 30, 2026.

Roger was born in Ware on Oct. 16, 1941 to the late Wilbrod Gauthier and Lydia (LeCroix) Gauthier.

Roger graduated from Technical High School in Springfield, Massachusetts. Shortly after, he joined the United States Army. He was based in Hawaii and enjoyed his time there exploring the far East and Orient.

Roger very much enjoyed the great outdoors. He loved hunting and fishing.

The Quabbin was his favorite place to fish and he loved it the most, when he could do it with his wife Judy and his children and grandchildren.

Roger also loved his rides, looking for wildlife and watching his Boston Red Sox. Roger also loved woodworking and would make many pieces of furniture for family and friends.

Roger is survived by his sister, Dolores Roy. He is also survived by his four



sons: Daniel Gauthier, Douglas Gauthier and his wife Darcy (Oberg), Gauthier, Davis Gauthier and Derek Gauthier and his wife Lee (Piche) Gauthier. Roger also has four grandchildren: Douglas Gauthier and his wife Lillian Gauthier, Jeffrey Gauthier, Alex Gauthier and Abby Gauthier. Roger was predeceased by his loving wife Judith (Mozdzierz) Gauthier in 1919, and his brother Richard Gauthier in 2025.

A Graveside Service for Roger with Prayers of Committal and Military Honors will be held on Saturday, Sept. 5, 2026 at 11 a.m. in Mount Carmel Cemetery in Ware. Funeral Services are under the direction of Cebula Funeral Home, Ware.

For more information and an online guestbook, please visit: www.cebulafuneral-home.com.

Death notice

Gauthier, Roger E.
Died Aug. 30, 2026
Services Sept. 5, 2026

Ware River News
OBITUARY
POLICY

Turley Publications
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HELP WANTED

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

TOWN OF WARE JOB OPENING

Part-Time Custodian
The Town of Ware is seeking applicants for the position of custodian. Duties include cleaning restrooms, sweeping, vacuuming, and mopping floors, cleaning windows, taking out trash and restocking supplies. Part-time, non-benefitted, \$17.50 per hour, 12 hours per week.
Job applications can be found on the Town of Ware website **https://www.townof-ware.com** under Human Resources, at the Ware Town Hall, or e-mail your application or resume to **resumes@townof-ware.com**. AA/EOE

REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE
Duplex for sale at 812/814 East Street Ludlow.

Built in 1974, each unit has 2 bedrooms, 1 ½ baths, private basements, gas heat and central air on 0.23 acres of land.
Great rental potential, good location with nearby schools and close access to the highway.
The house needs cosmetic updates. Property is being sold strictly in AS-IS condition. Priced accordingly \$425,000.
Call **617- 877- 3455** if interested.

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

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.


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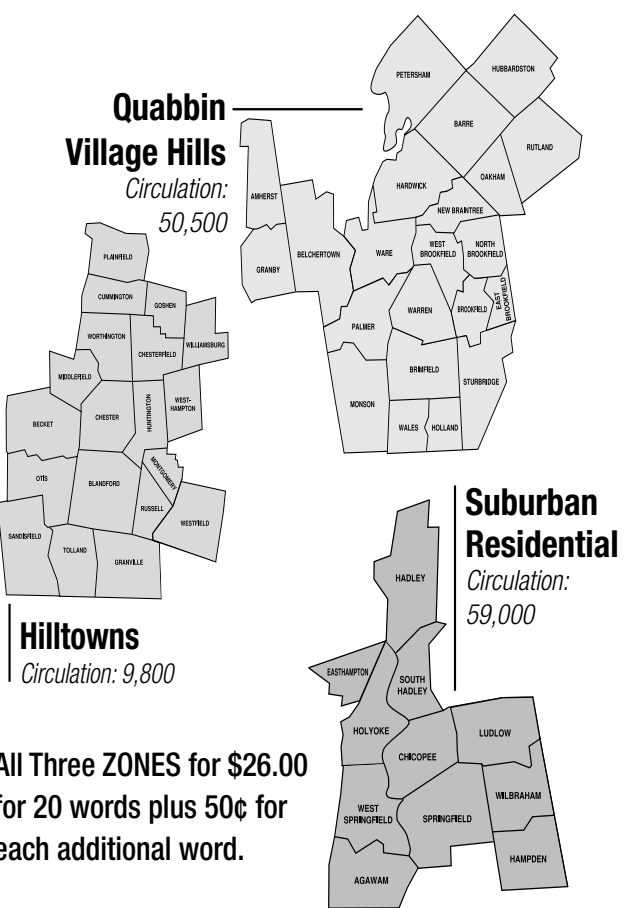
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Grange hosts gardening workshop on Sept. 11

WARE – Ware Grange’s next gardening workshop, “Plant Propagation and Simple Stem Cuttings,” will be held on Friday, Sept. 11 at 7 p.m. at the Grange Hall at 297 Belchertown Road.

The presenter will be Roberta McQuaid, author of the weekly “In the Garden” column for Turley Publications.

Attendees will learn about the various types of plant propagation. Seed sowing, simple stem cuttings and even grafting will

be covered in a broad sense.

This time of year we often take stem cuttings of tender plants to overwinter. Bring your own potted plant (geranium, coleus, fuchsia, Rosemary, mint, etc.) to share cuttings with others or take cuttings from some of the plants we provide.

Everyone will leave with a cutting(s) in a pot that can be rooted at home.

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

Trinity Episcopal offers sewing class

WARE – Trinity Episcopal Church, corner of Park and Pleasant streets, will host a sewing class on Tuesday, Sept. 15 from 6-8 p.m.

The fee is \$5 and materials will be provided. All skill levels are welcome.

Participants will learn

to sew by hand or with a machine. Join the class to become familiar with hand or machine sewing and leave with a finished project.

Fee free to bring your own machine and something to mend.

Call 413-967-6100 to reserve your spot.

HARDWICK POLICE

from page 11

Thursday, Aug. 27
1:12 p.m. Safety Hazard, Gaudet Road, Removed Hazard
3:10 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Prouty Road, Transported to Hospital
5:43 p.m. Medical Emergency, Broad Street, Patient Refusal

Friday, Aug. 28
8:08 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Old Petersham Road, Spoken To
3:49 p.m. Assist Citizen, North Road, Services

Rendered
10:14 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled

Saturday, Aug. 29
11:19 a.m. Safety Hazard, Petersham Road, Referred to Other Agency

Sunday, Aug. 30
9:08 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Services Rendered
5:25 p.m. Disturbance, Lower Road, Investigated

Monday, Aug. 31
6:20 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Call Canceled

WARREN POLICE

from page 11

Old West Brookfield Road, Officer/Chief Advised
11:43 p.m. Suspicious Vehicle, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party

Saturday, Aug. 8
12:33 a.m. Suspicious Activity, Main Street, Officer/Chief Advised
5:56 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Reed Street, Mutual Aid Transport
7:19 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned, Brook Road, Officer Spoke to Party
9:11 a.m. Harassment, Richardson Street, Officer Spoke to Party
1:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle

Collision, Main Street, Unfounded
2:02 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/Silent, Southbridge Road Extension, Officer/Chief Advised
2:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Southbridge Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
5:40 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, School Street, Transported to Hospital
5:45 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Main Street, Mutual Aid Transport
6:02 p.m. Recovered/Confiscated Property, Milton O. Fountain Way, Returned
9:59 p.m. Harassment, Cronin Road, Report Filed

WARE POLICE

from page 11

22, Ware
OUI-Liquor or .08%; Inspection/Sticker, No; Speeding Rate of Speed Exceeding Posted Limit
10:56 a.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, West Street, Services Rendered
12:24 p.m. Warrant Service, South Street, Arrest Made
Arrest: Joshua Hubbard, 41, Ware
WMS Warrant
5:54 p.m. Theft/Larceny, North Street, Report Made
8:32 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Unknown Location, Dispatch Handled
10:01 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Services Rendered

Hardwick Planning Board Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Hardwick Planning Board per Hardwick Zoning Bylaws (2025), sections 1.4 (Definitions), 3.2.4.r (business uses) and 4.0 (Special Permit), 5.0 (Site Plan Review) will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, September 22, 2026 at 6:45PM** at the **Municipal Office Building, 307 Main Street, Gilbertville, MA.**

The Hearing is regarding the application for a **Special Permit**, including site plan review by **Mark Filgerleski, Jr** to establish an **Ice Cream Stand** at **550 Lower Road, Rte 32.** All interested parties are asked to attend.

Interested parties may also view this Legal Notice at <http://masspublicnotices.org>

Hardwick Planning Board
William Cole, Chair
09/03, 09/10/2026

Town of Hardwick Conservation Commission Notice of Intent

Notice is herby given in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act that a Public Hearing will be held for a **Notice of Intent** on **Wednesday, September 16, 2026 at 6:30 pm** at the **Municipal Office Building, 307Main Street, Gilbertville.** All interested parties are urged to attend.

Applicant:
Richard and Kathleen May

Description of Proposed Work: Create 20,000 sq ft fire pond by enlarging existing 5,000 sq ft farm pond.

Location: 620 Ridge Road
Town: **Hardwick**

Interested parties may also view this Legal Notice at <http://masspublicnotices.org>.
09/03/2026

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

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 37 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. Lignon 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 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

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: 1GNDK13S432103983
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

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

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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.

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EQLT to hosts celebrations for new accessible trails on Sept. 16

HARDWICK – The East Quabbin Land Trust will celebrate the completion and formal opening of two new all-persons accessible trails with two public-access ribbon-cutting events, in Ware and New Braintree, on Wednesday, Sept. 16.

The first event, starting at noon, will mark the formal opening of the Greenville Park Connector Trail between Greenville Park and the Mass Central Rail Trail Church Street segment in Ware. Officials from the Town of Ware and representatives from EQLT will host the event.

“This new accessible trail linking Greenville Park with the MCRT creates a seamless path for Ware residents and visitors to enjoy a nearly five-mile contiguous nature corridor and all that the park and rail trail have to offer,” said Stuart B. Beckley, Town Manager for the Town of Ware. “We are grateful to everyone who helped make this possible, including the Ware Parks and Highway Departments, folks who responded to EQLT’s call for volunteers to help build the bridge, and the Edward and Barbara Urban Foundation and Mass. Trails Grant program, which funded this project.”

The ribbon-cutting will take place at the Connector Trail entrance located adjacent to the main park loop road at the northeast end of the park past the baseball

field. Due to limited parking, attendees are encouraged to park at the primary parking lot near the main entrance to Greenville Park and walk or roll to the trail entrance at the other end of the park or carpool to the smaller parking area near the baseball field.

The second event, starting at 2 p.m., will take place at the end of McEvoy Road in New Braintree, which marks the start of the newest segment of the MCRT. Representatives of EQLT will host the ribbon-cutting celebration, and guests and members of the public are invited to continue on a group walk on this new 1.5-mile section following the ribbon-cutting and welcoming remarks. Parking will be marked near the trailhead off of McEvoy Road.

“Rail trails offer safe, accessible recreational opportunities for public enjoyment. EQLT is proud to have been able to conserve this land and create another segment of rail trail for the benefit of our neighbors and visitors to the East Quabbin area,” said Cynthia Henshaw, Executive Director of the East Quabbin Land Trust. “This new section of completed rail trail builds on the existing 6.5 miles of rail trail owned and maintained by EQLT, further linking our communities and creat-



Steven Hawk is shown on the new bridge at the Connector Trail in Greenville Park in Ware.



Submitted Photos
 A ribbon cutting will be held to celebrate the new 1.5 mile segment of the Mass Central Rail Trail in New Braintree.

ing additional opportunities for individuals and families to experience nature and the rural character of Central Massachusetts.”

Greenville Park Connector Trail

This accessible trail connects Ware’s Greenville Park with the Church Street section of the MCRT. The Connector Trail runs for 1,500 feet along the Ware River and is composed of hard-packed stone dust.

The trail passes through hemlock groves and hardwoods and features stone walls, a new bridge crossing, and benches.

McEvoy Road – Barre Plains Rail Trail

This section of the Mass Central Rail Trail is a 1.5-mile stretch of all-persons accessible trail that extends from McEvoy Road in New Braintree to Station Road in Barre Plains.

This section is composed of hard-packed stone dust and passes through a mixed pine and hardwood forest with scenic water views of the Ware River. Benches are located along the trail.

The trail is open for passive recreation, including cycling, walking/hiking and horseback riding.

About EQLT
 The East Quabbin Land

Trust fosters a meaningful relationship with the natural world by conserving, connecting with, and caring for the farmlands, woodlands, and waters in the East Quabbin region of Massachusetts. EQLT works closely with community members to foster vibrant communities through engagement with the outdoors.

EQLT was formed in 1994 out of concern for the loss of farmland and wildlife habitat in and around Hardwick.

Since 1998, EQLT has expanded its land protection efforts to include Barre, Petersham, New Braintree, North Brookfield, West Brookfield, Hubbardston,

Ware and other nearby towns. By working cooperatively with property owners, government agencies, conservation groups, and other land trust organizations, EQLT has been able to protect over 7,000 acres in the region; purchased and leases the historic Country Store in Petersham, revitalizing the heart of the town; and has purchased and opened eight miles of former railroad corridor as part of the Mass Central Rail Trail in Hardwick, New Braintree, Ware and Barre.

For more information about EQLT, visit www.eqlt.org.

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