

WARE RIVER NEWS

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School Committee looks at district's data from 2022

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Superintendent Michael Lovato shared data compiled from 2022, showing areas of concern for the school district.

At the School Committee's Aug. 30 meeting, Lovato said that many of the kindergarten through grade three students struggled with read-

ing at the beginning of the year, but through interventions, staff at Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School were able to reduce the number of students "in the red" from 43% to 23%.

"They're moving in the right direction," Lovato said of the elementary school students.

Lovato said initially all students are tested, but in the Middle School, only the students that

received intervention are retested to see their progress.

He said at the end of the school year, 139 students are still struggling with reading at grade level.

Lovato stressed the importance of supplying accurate data to the state in order to get a complete picture of the school district's needs.

Lovato shared attendance rates for students, compared to neighboring school districts, showing that

Ware Public Schools has the lowest attendance rate of all of them.

He said 746 students in the school district missed more than 10% of school days during the year.

Lovato said of students participating in Advanced Placement classes, only 53% passed the test.

"We need to be very much at least at the state level, which is about 70%," he said.

Lovato said the High School's 77% graduation rate (52% for special education students) shown in the data was "unacceptable."

Elementary School Principal Pamela Iwasinski said the staff are working on closing the gaps in the students' learning.

She said teachers are focusing on posting "learning targets" on the board so students going into the classroom know what the expecta-

tions are every day.

"This is a strategy many schools use to really frame the learning and engage students in the learning," Iwasinski said.

To maintain or improve the culture of the school, Iwasinski said the staff will focus on using the same language and celebrating their accomplishments.

Please see **2022 DATA**, page 9



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette
Faith Montaperto Ward stands with her sculpture "Rooftop Hero", created in memory of her brother, Michael.

Bringing aWAREness to Recovery

Art exhibition focuses on recovery and overdose awareness

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – In recognition of National Overdose Awareness Day, the Recovery Center of HOPE and Workshop13 presented the third annual "Bringing aWAREness to Recovery" art exhibition at ArtWorks Gallery.

The exhibition will be open Saturdays and Sundays from 1-5 p.m. through Sept. 17 for Recovery Month, helping to reduce the stigma those with substance use disorders face.

Please see **EXHIBITION**, page 6



A portrait of Tarra Simmons, the first former felon elected as County Supervisor in Kitsap, Washington, was made using nonrecyclable materials by artist Sarah Schneiderman.



This collage shows the complexity of sobriety.

Selectmen accept bid for Senior Center project

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARREN – Town Administrator James Ferrera said the Senior Center's exterior building project was brought to his attention when he first took his role in town, and now it's close to becoming reality.

"We were able to have some time, put together a scope of work," he said at the Board of Selectmen's Aug. 31 meeting.

Ferrera said the town received five quotes for the project and presented them to the Board.

Work for the project includes adding vinyl siding to the front and sides of the building, adding insulation to the front, replacing gutters with seamless gutters and scraping and repainting painted areas, as well as power washing.

Quotes ranged from \$33,400 to \$58,725. The project could

Please see **BID**, page 9

Reps. Smola and Durant hear feedback

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – State Rep. Todd Smola appeared before the Selectboard this past Tuesday with state Rep. Peter Durant, a candidate for the vacant Senate seat.

The primary will be held on Oct. 20, followed by a general election on Nov. 7 to fill the seat formerly filled by Anne Gobi before she took a new role as Director of Rural Affairs in the Executive Office of Economic Development.

Durant is a Representative for the 6th Worcester District and has 14 years in that role. He has also been a Selectmen in his hometown of Spencer for six years and served on its Finance Committee.

"I just think this is a great opportunity for me to come here... and share what your concerns are," he said. Durant is the ranking minority on the Joint Committee on the Judiciary.

Please see **WARE BOS**, page 3

School Committee welcomes new admins, staff to Quaboag district

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARREN – Superintendent Stephen Duff introduced several new staff members, including Middle High School Assistant Principal Micheal Lavelle.

"Mike comes to us with many years of experience as an assistant principal," Duff said, most recently at Oxford Public Schools for the past five years.

Lavelle, a Ludlow resident, is "very student-oriented," Duff said.

Lavelle has been a teacher for eight years and has 13 years of experience as an assistant principal.

"When I came here and I interviewed, and I met the people...I felt really good about everything that was going on here...and opportunities here for our students that different districts are looking to get – we already have the infrastructure, we already have it here," he said. "I'm really happy to be here."

School Committee Chair Andrew Schwenker said he's always excited for the school year to start, but this year, he's "really excited."

"Outside of Superintendent Duff...our administration in the Middle High School has 99 years of experience," he said. "We don't have 'green' people here. They may be 'green' to Quaboag, but they know what they're doing, and I'm really excited to see what's going to happen this year."

Duff also introduced the new Director of Technology, Chris Lajoie.

Lajoie was previously a teacher in the Auburn School District for 19 years.

"He's come in and hit the ground running," Duff said of Lajoie. "Chris has learned quite a bit in his first month and a half."

Lajoie said he previously lived in Warren for 13 years and loved the area. He's also worked in corporate information technology.

"I'm really excited for this job," Lajoie said.

Dress code and cell phone policy

Middle High School Principal Casey Handfield discussed some proposed changes to the language in the student handbook. This includes revision of the dress code and the cell phone policy.

Changes to the dress code policy, will "just make it conform in a fashion that is representative of kind of today's day and age... for all of our students," he said. The cell phone policy currently applies to grade seven students, and the revision would have it across all grade levels.

Handfield said they are looking at an "away for the day" cell phone policy, teaching the students to use their cell phones appropriately, allowing them to use them before school, between classes, lunchtime, or anytime that teacher's feel it is appropriate to use for educational purposes.

The revised cell phone policy also includes restricting

Please see **QUABOAG**, page 8



Fall Craft and Food Festival benefits food pantry

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer

HARDWICK – The month of September began with the fall season quickly approaching, with the Hardwick Vineyard & Winery hosting its third annual Fall Craft and Food Festival.

Over the weekend of Sept. 2-3, the fields of the vineyard were flooded with many craft vendors,

the trails were lined up with food trucks, and the stage was set for live music for the locals to enjoy a weekend of fall themed fun. The event benefited The Jubilee Cupboard, a food pantry located at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Ware.

Hardwick Vineyard & Winery owner, John Samek enjoys seeing

Please see **FESTIVAL**, page 5

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CNEER prepares for Fall Festival

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EDUCATION

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POLICY**

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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 1991 showed Scott Slattery crossing home plate with a run for Ware in the state semi-finals game with Narragansett. If you recognize the folks in this week's photo, please send their names and your full name to pouimette@turley.com.

Hearing discusses blasting at site

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer

WARREN – The Planning Board continued a public hearing on a special permit and site plan approval for Cal Rolling Hills, LLC.

At the Aug. 28 meeting, the applicant requested the special permit to remove earth material from the property located at Gilbert Road.

According to the Planning Board, the special permit request does require a variance. In order to get a variance, Cal Rolling Hills, LLC must go through the Zoning Board of Appeals.

The variance is for the amount of earth the company is looking to remove prior to reclaiming it.

Associates of Cal Rolling Hills, LLC have a seven-acre operating space already for their equipment. The company was seeking extra space to have outside of their seven acres.

This extra space would be an additional acre.

To get more insight on how to handle this request, building commissioner, BJ Church was asked by the Planning Board about certain rules and regulations. Church was asked if the area of operation for Cal Rolling Hills, LLC is all they have, or if they can have a space outside of

their area for a separate designation.

"I've always known that if it's not stated, it's not allowed," said Church.

With both parties seeking clarification before moving on, the Planning Board observed the zoning bylaw to see if they can allow their one-acre request. The board addressed that the best course of action is in order to get the acre; Cal Rolling Hills, LLC should put the one-acre request on the plan first.

Church will later inspect where the equipment area is and where it shouldn't be. Cal Rolling Hills, LLC did provide a map of their operation area and continued to address what they needed including an access road and what area still needs to be seeded.

The Planning Board addressed concerns that all of the equipment on the property, including crushers, is useable equipment and not abandoned. According to the zoning bylaw there shouldn't be any abandoned equipment left on the property.

The next concern addressed during the special permit hearing for Cal Rolling Hills, LLC, is neighbors close to where they're working. With work being done under this special permit on Gilbert Road, one resident

attended the meeting to acknowledge that there is neighboring residency during the operation hours.

This raised questions, comments, and concerns regarding blasting during the operation hours on Gilbert Road.

Cal Rolling Hills, LLC representatives said that they used to handle making the calls to abutters, and gave at most a 48-hour notice. Later on, the Fire Department would initiate the calls to inform residents.

The resident of Gilbert Road mentioned one time she got a call from the Fire Department roughly two hours before the blasting started and would prefer more advanced notice.

Planning Board Vice-Chair David Dufresne brought up the idea of pushing out a town alert to inform residents on their phone about blasting taking place. Instead of the Fire Chief making all the calls to residents, a town alert would be instantly sent.

"We're going to try to do better to notify the residents," said Dufresne.

With a new plan to be provided, Cal Rolling Hills, LLC's special permit hearing will continue and be held during the next meeting on Monday, Sept. 11 at 7:15 p.m.

Medicare 101 educational event offered Sept. 14

BARRE – The Barre Senior Center will be hosting an educational presentation on Thursday, Sept. 14 at 2 p.m. at the senior center located at 557 South Barre Road, for current beneficiaries and for those who will soon be eligible for Medicare.

The information is specific to Massachusetts. The session will run from 1 to

1.5 hours, including time for questions.

The presentation will be conducted by Ed Spater, a licensed Insurance agent, who will explain the basics of Medicare including:

Why it's important to evaluate your current Medicare coverage each year

The pros and cons of each of your Medicare cov-

erage options

What to consider when deciding which Medicare coverage option is right for you

Ways to save money and get better Medicare coverage in 2024

For accommodations of persons with special needs at meetings call 774-271-5199 or 711 for TTY callers.



PHONE

413.967.3505
Fax: 413.967.6009
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL

Advertising Sales
Dan Flynn
dflynn@turley.com

Editor

Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

Subscriptions

cgriswold@turley.com

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Ware Senior Center events

WARE – The Ware Senior Center, 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. 11**
- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
 - 10 a.m. Scat
 - 11:30 a.m. Lunch
 - 6 p.m. Whist Party (doors open at 5 p.m.)

- Tuesday, Sept. 12**
- 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
 - 9:30 a.m. Quilting Club
 - 10 a.m. Scat
 - 11:30 a.m. Free Lunch, limited to 125
 - Courtesy of the Friends of Ware Seniors featuring entertainer, Stephen George. Reservations must be made by Sept. 11 at noon.
 - 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

- Wednesday, Sept. 13**
- 9 a.m. Tai-Chi
 - 10 a.m. Scat
 - 10-11:30 a.m. Kristen Krieger, Quabbin Region DPH Nurse
 - 11:30 a.m. Lunch

- Thursday, Sept. 14**
- 9 a.m. New Senior Spring Walk
 - Meet at Senior Center and wear comfortable footwear. Bringing water, sunscreen, bug spray and energy snack are suggested.
 - 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
 - 9:30 a.m. Line Dancing for Beginners
 - 10 a.m. Line Dancing
 - 10 a.m. Scat
 - 11:30 a.m. Lunch
 - 2:30 p.m. Art Class

- Friday, Sept. 15**
- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
 - 10 a.m. Scat
 - 11:30 a.m. Lunch
 - 1 p.m. Chair Yoga
 - 1:30-3:30 p.m. Chair Massage (available by appointment only, call 413-967-9645; \$5

- for 10 minutes)
- 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

LUNCHES DINE IN
All meals \$3.50 unless otherwise noted

Reservations required by calling 413-967-4595 by noon on the business day before, to put you name on the lunch list.

Monday, Sept. 11
French Toast, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Dessert of the Day

Tuesday, Sept. 12
FREE LUNCH, limited to 125

Pork Loin with Gravy, Baked Potato, Veggie Medley, Dessert and Entertainment by Friend of the Ware Senior Center

Wednesday, Sept. 13
Fried Chicken, Oven Roasted Potatoes, Peas, Dessert of the Day

Thursday, Sept. 14
Lazy Pierogi, Polish Kielbasa, Dessert of the Day

Friday, Sept. 15
Meatball Sub, Potato Chips, Carrot-Raisin Salad, Dessert of the Day

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Michael H. Hakim, MD



Front row (from left to right)- Susan Piche, Dr. Michael Hakim, Caitlyn Garceau, RMA, Practice Manager, Back row (from left to right)- Charlene Gryszowka, Dawn Greene, RMA, Crystal Best, RMA, Faith Przybycie

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Fall Festival at the Farm

Central New England Equine Rescue prepares for annual event

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WEST BROOKFIELD – In its 20th year as a nonprofit organization, Central New England Equine Rescue, Inc. is preparing for its second major fundraiser this year, the Fall Festival at the Farm.

Founded by Vicky Berry and her daughter Betsy Johnson in 2003, CNEER has helped hundreds of horses and ponies find loving homes.

Now in its second year, the Fall Festival at the Farm will be held on Saturday, Oct. 14, at the 18-acre farm located at 96 New Braintree Road, with events and activities from noon-4 p.m. Last year close to 500 people attended to help support the horses and ponies rescued by CNEER.

Anyone that's owned a horse knows their care is expensive, but many of the rescues at CNEER face additional expenses due to age and health issues. Several of the horses are considered "seniors," and require a custom diet with medication to let them enjoy their golden years happy and healthy.

In addition to paying for the care of the horses at CNEER, the rescue also needs to replace their wood shavings shelter, which was destroyed by a wind storm earlier this year.

With the skills and help of students at Tantasqua Regional Vocational High School, the rescue will be able to rebuild the shelter, but will need to raise money to cover the cost of materials. The students have previously completed projects at rescue, building stall doors (complete with wood burned name plates) for two of the resident miniature horses, Thunder and Captain Jack.

Thunder, a senior miniature horse, has been with CNEER since October 2020 and is closely bonded with Little Jack.

Little Jack had previously

been adopted from the rescue, but returned after his longtime companion Annie passed away.

"Thunder wasn't nice to Jack at first, but now they're inseparable," said Sari Pomponio, event organizer and a longtime volunteer with CNEER.

Now, the two minis have found a new home, at Field of Dreams Therapy Farm in Paxton, where they will be part of a therapy program.

"I'm going to miss them so much," CNEER Vice-President Vicky Berry said.

Another mini at the rescue, Captain Jack, has faced more hardship than he should have in his young life.

"Captain Jack is 6 and was going to slaughter," Berry said. After he was purchased from the slaughterhouse and supposedly bound for West Brookfield, he was mistakenly sent directly to the slaughter pipeline in Texas.

Berry and CNEER were able to send a rescuer to pick Captain Jack up from Texas, bringing him to Arkansas, then Virginia, before he finally arrived at his new home.

"He's very friendly," she said. Joining Captain Jack in the field are Monet, a Shetland cross pony, Mama, a Haflinger cross, Winnie, a Paint and Bandit, the oldest member of the herd.

Bandit would be 100 years old in human years, and is considered a "sanctuary horse" like Badonk the donkey. This means he will spend the rest of his life at CNEER and is not available for adoption.

Other sanctuary horses include Segal, a blind Andalusian and his seeing eye guide Minnie Pearl, a mini. Segal and Minnie Pearl live at Johnson's equestrian center, Stoney Hill Farm in Barre.

Berry and Pomponio credit CNEER's numerous volunteers and supporters for helping the rescue continue its mission. It's also about family, and Berry said she couldn't do it without her daughter, her son Tommy, son-in-law Marty and grandsons Derek and Devin.

"It's just incredible what they do," Berry said, including loading the loft with hay for the winter and



Thunder enjoys the sunshine this past Sunday, before embarking to his "forever home" as a member of the therapy program at Field of Dreams Therapy Farm in Paxton, along with his herd mate Little Jack.



Central New England Equine Rescue, Inc. Vice-President Vicky Berry, left and volunteer Sari Pomponio visit with Daisy.

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

taking care of downed trees.

Being at the rescue brings a sense of peace and belonging to anyone who visits, Pomponio said.

"Everything about it feels right in here," she said, pointing to her heart. "I'm supposed to be here."

Fall Festival at the Farm

The Fall Festival at the Farm will be held on Saturday, Oct. 14 from noon-4 p.m. Students from Ware High School will be assisting visitors with parking.

Stoney Hill Farm will provide pony rides in the arena, as well as demonstrations. The Worcester Mounted Police are expected to return this year as well.

There will also be raffles, a 50/50, T.C. Scoops ice cream truck, pumpkin decorating, face-

painting, ornament decorating, coloring and other children's activities and many vendors. CNEER will be selling T-shirts and other apparel as well.

Leah Concetta Shattuck and her team of draft horses will give wagon rides during the event.

Deux Amis, made up of musicians Sam Politz and Betsy Bronstein (who is also a CNEER volunteer), will provide live music throughout the day.

Vendor space is still available, and people should call 413-265-3270 for more information about signing up.

For more information about CNEER, visit cneer.com or follow them on Facebook.

Planning Board discusses Subwatershed Master Plan

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer

WARE – The Planning Board recently reviewed a draft of the Muddy Brook Watershed Plan and went over what has been done for the project in the past and what is in store for the present year, and the future.

At the Aug. 17 meeting, Planning Board members reviewed what has been done since 2022, when the town applied for and was awarded a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness action grant to develop a subwatershed resiliency master plan.

The plan is also to develop a set of resiliency actions and strategies that reflect current and future concerns and priorities related to protecting the environmental, water supply, recreational, and public health of the Muddy Brook watershed area.

The Muddy Brook watershed provides most of the drinking water for residents in Ware and lies within a valuable economic and social area of town.

As part of the plan, the Board wants to identify current and future threats to the subwatershed and how it associates with drinking water supplies.

In year one of the plan, there has been a series of tasks that go along with the resiliency plan. Task one was monthly reporting and standard coordination and establishing a project summary.

Task two was all about getting the public involved by distributing information on the town website and interviewing stakeholders on the local access television channel.

Task three included the identification of opportunities for land acquisition and conservation in floodplains and wetlands of the subwatershed based on water supply protection needs, recreation needs, current and future threats, and areas of known current and anticipated future flooding.

Task four is culvert assessments, which involves training of

local technical school students in how to perform road-stream crossing assessments, and subsequent evaluation of the condition of road-stream crossings within the subwatershed.

After summarizing the work done for these tasks, the resiliency plan could move on with recommendations and replacements going into year two.

As for being in the second year of the plan, the Subwatershed Resiliency Master Plan involves public involvement and community engagement. Keeping everything online updated, the plan would then involve a watershed walk that could be a public event as a way to increase involvement and awareness of the project.

Then, the next task would have a regulatory code of improvement for resiliency. This would be relative to water supply Zone II land uses and protections, stormwater management, and use of green infrastructure strategies. The parties at task would then draft the subwatershed resiliency master plan going into 2024.

By that time, the plan would implement improvements for recreational opportunities, identify strategies to improve effectiveness of flood control, and prioritize projects to address concerns. The development of the Muddy Brook Subwatershed Resiliency Master Plan will take place between September 2022 and June 30, 2024.

Subwatersheds play a crucial role in maintaining the health of the environment. They are reliable with water source and quality, effective in erosion and flood control, rich in biodiversity, have recreational and aesthetic value, benefits climate and economics and are culturally and historically significant.

The Board is currently seeking volunteers from the public and other local technical schools. Their goal is to host the public watershed walk sometime in April or May of next year.

WARE BOS from page 1

"Here in central Massachusetts, we are a little bit of a different kind of breed," Durant said. "You kind of appreciate what we have out here and that's a strong sense of community, a strong sense of individualism and we kind of take pride in that."

Durant said it's important to have a strong representation for the area's identity in the legislature.

"We need somebody that's going to represent us," he said, adding that he hopes to serve constituents in a new role as Senator.

Durant said he is a strong Second Amendment supporter and the rights that go with that.

He said a current bill, HD.4420, is a "gross overreach" of those rights and "poorly written."

Durant said he expects to see that bill come back, but it could have a different form and number.

Smola said HD.4420 came out over a year ago with the intent to address "ghost guns."

"Ware is one of those communities at the top of the list that's been most vocal and outspoken about this bill," Smola said. He said a lot of people felt misled by legislative leadership when the bill shifted its focus, and public hearings weren't

held.

Durant spoke in favor of firearms education and supporting rod and gun clubs, which he said are an "enormous resource for our citizens and our kids to learn the right way."

Selectboard Chair Caitlin McCarthy asked Durant and Smola about how mill towns like Ware can preserve their heritage and still make use of mill buildings.

Smola said they partner with the towns and mill owners and try to come up with creative solutions to use the mills. He said for a lot of rural towns, the mills are the backbone of the community.

"It's a team effort," he said, to look for creative solutions for mill use.

Policy approval

Selectboard Vice-Chair Josh Kusnierz read a draft of the code of conduct for the town's elected and appointed officials. The draft was reviewed by the town's labor attorney, Layla Taylor.

The policy states that elected and appointed officials will strive "at every meeting, forum and other official interaction to treat every person fairly and with respect, regardless of any differences of opinion."

This includes official interac-

tions with other elected/appointed officials, town employees, volunteers and members of the public. Interactions cover all communication including verbal, electronic, written or social media.

If the elected or appointed official declines to sign the code of conduct, it will be noted on the form by the Town Clerk.

McCarthy made a motion to table approval of the policy, until all Selectboard members could be present.

Layla will return to the next meeting on Sept. 19 to answer any questions Selectboard members may have before voting on the policy.

Public safety nomination

Police Chief Shawn Crevier said Officer John Cacula has been nominated by the Drug Addiction Recovery Team Program for the L. Anthony Sutin Award for Innovative Law Enforcement and Community Partnerships.

Crevier said this award is through the Department of Justice and recognizes law enforcement that is actively engaged in the community, resulting in positive public safety outcomes.

"He's done a fantastic job with

that DART Program," Crevier said.

Police Department update

Crevier said he received a verbal resignation from one of the four Police Officers going into the academy. He will be looking to move forward in the hiring process for that position around December.

He said there will be a 14-day detour on Monson Turnpike Road next year during the next phase of the Three Mile Bridge project on Palmer Road. Speed signs and lighted signs will be added in both directions.

Crevier said the town will receive ample notice of when the detour will occur.

Crevier said the town's police officer to population ratio is 21 and it should be at 22. He's looking to meet the population ratio with next year's budget.

Fire Department update

Interim Fire Chief Jim Martinez said a new air compressor should be delivered next month and a local plumber will connect it.

Martinez said the Fire Station's air conditioning system is an ongoing issue, receiving about \$20,000 worth of repairs in the last year and a half, and still needing another

\$22,000 worth of repairs. He is waiting for a third bid before moving forward with the project.

Martinez said the building has water damage that needs to be addressed as well.

Martinez said he participated in Excel training offered by the town, and he is hoping to get his staff up to speed with the program as well.

He said he was accepted into the Fire Chief Credentialing Program in Stow, starting Sept. 19 and running once a week for four months.

Martinez said every piece of the Department's apparatus now has a valid pump certification.

Martinez also invited all residents to attend a 9/11 ceremony on Monday, Sept. 11 at 10 a.m. at the Fire Station.

Asset sale update

Town Manager Stuart Beckley said public information sessions about the possible sale of the town's water and wastewater assets would be held between October through December, with a town meeting occurring in January.

Beckley said involved parties felt that a November town meeting date

wouldn't allow for adequate public input.

He said Aquarion Water Company will meet with the Finance Committee before meeting jointly with the Selectboard to make a recommendation for the town meeting.

Selectboard member Jack Cascio said at a previous public information session regarding the sale of the town's assets, most people were against it.

McCarthy said the goal of continuing the public information sessions is to bring more information forward for residents.

Cascio made a motion to terminate searches and/or discussion of the privatization of the town's assets, which wasn't seconded and didn't carry.

"It's not my decision, it's the community's decision," McCarthy said.

Meeting dates

The Selectboard will shift its regular meeting dates to Oct. 3, 17, Nov. 14 and 21.

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I'm 64. When should I claim my Social Security?

Dear Rusty

I am 64 years old and still working full time.

My question is - when should I start my Social Security? I would like to start it in January 2024 and go part time at work, but would I be losing much Social Security by not waiting until full retirement age?

Signed: Trying to Plan Ahead

Dear Trying, to Plan:

You are smart to evaluate the impact of claiming your Social Security benefits early. First, be aware that your full Retirement Age for Social Security purposes is 66 years and 8 months and that is when you get 100% of the SS benefit you've earned from a lifetime of working.

It appears you already know that if you start benefits before your FRA, you'll be subject to Social Security's "earnings test," which limits how much you can earn from working before they take away some of your benefits. But if you go part time at work you can mitigate the earnings test and claim your benefits early - just understand that your payment will be permanently reduced by doing so.

If you claim your benefits to start in January 2024, you'll be taking your Social Security about 18 months early, which means that instead of 100% of your FRA entitlement you'll get about 90% (a reduction of 10%).

The earnings test will still apply, and we don't yet know what the 2024 earnings limit will be, but it will be something more than the 2023 limit of \$21,240.

If your 2024 earnings exceed the annual limit, SS will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. They "take away" benefits by withholding future payments until they recover what you owe for exceeding the limit.

If you work part time and don't exceed the 2024 annual earnings limit, there will be no penalty and you will get every month's SS payment. If you find you will exceed the annual 2024 earnings limit, you can call Social Security and inform them of that and by how much, and they will suspend your benefits for the number of months necessary to avoid overpaying you.

If you don't inform them and you exceed the annual 2024 limit, they will catch up in 2025 when they get your 2024 earnings information from the IRS and issue an Overpayment Notice requiring you to pay back the amount owed, half of what you exceeded the 2024 annual limit by. As you likely know, the earnings test no longer applies after you reach your full retirement age.

So, the decision on when to claim your Social Security benefit is yours to make, and you are smart to consider your work plans - but should also consider your life expectancy and marital status. If you are married and eventually die before your lower earning spouse, your spouse's benefit as your survivor will be based on your benefit amount at the time of your death.

Thus, your age when you claim your benefit may also affect your spouse's benefit as your survivor; the longer you wait up to age 70 the more your spouse's survivor benefit would be. If you enjoy at least average longevity, which is about 84 for a man your current age, then by waiting until your FRA or later to claim you'll not only get a higher monthly payment but also get more in cumulative lifetime benefits.

If, however, your financial circumstances are such that you need the SS money sooner, then claiming earlier may be the right decision, provided you don't substantially exceed the annual earnings limit prior to reaching your full retirement age. I hope the above provides what you need to make an informed decision.

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.

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Fall plants extend the season

Over the last few days, I have heard the same sorry statement again and again: "I can't believe summer is over."

I am not sure if this is because school has started, or if honestly, folks feel cheated out of summer because of all the rain and overcast skies we had. Probably it's a little of both!

There have been a few coldish mornings, enough to make me get excited about all that is fall. Pumpkins, crisp apples, beautiful foliage and you guessed it, autumn plants!

Read on for a column from the archives, one that will inspire you to add some late season color to your landscape.

It is always fun to freshen up the garden with new plants. I think of adding a splash of color at this point in the season as a last hurrah before old man winter sets in.

There are all types of mums, and flowering cabbage and kale available for sale right now. Unfortunately, they command higher prices than summer annuals do.

This article will teach you how to get the most out of your investment.

Choose mums carefully.

Daisy and other decorative flower types will generally not last as long in the garden

as "cushions" will. These have petals straight through to the center of the flower- no yellow center is visible.

Because the flower head is dense it tends to hold up after a heavy rain and as well as after the first few frosty nights. Although mums are pretty in their pots, they will do better if planted in the ground or at least repotted into a larger container.

The poor things have been growing in the pots you bought them in for quite a while and are usually root-bound. Because of this it is important to slice the roots in a few places just as you would annuals or perennials at planting time.

This way they will have a chance to expand into the new soil you have provided. Mums tend to dry out quickly and require water often.

If you notice that your plant has wilted before you have had a chance to plant it, submerge the pot in a bucket of water- the shrunken soil ball will soak up water like a sponge!

Although mums can stand temperatures a few degrees below freezing, it is still a good idea to cover them if an early hard frost is in the forecast. Try using bushel baskets, old sheets or blankets, etc.

It is a nuisance, but so many times I have been grateful that I went through a bit of work to be able to enjoy my mums for weeks longer than if I hadn't.

If you are hoping that your mums will return for another season, cut them back to "first height" in November, and provide them with a loose mulch after the ground freezes. The term "hardy mum" doesn't always prove true, but planting them properly, providing ample water and mulching for the winter will

increase your odds of a repeat performance.

Remove the winter mulch around the time forsythias bloom.

Prevent gangly growth by pinching them back to a manageable height two or three times prior to mid-July. Expect blooms this time next year.

Flowering kale and cabbage can add nice texture to the fall garden. The same planting instructions apply here, but I have found that they can be finicky about water.

Consistent overwatering and they rot; giving them too little and they wilt. The best advice: test them before you get out the hose by inserting your finger into the top couple inches of soil.

Kale and cabbage need little in the way of grooming other than an occasional bottom leaf removed. Slugs do tend to enjoy the foliage, however, so set up some traps or barriers nearby.

The color on cabbage and kale will intensify as the weather gets colder, and the plants will continue to look good well into December, provided we don't get an early long standing snow- it will eventually make the leaves mushy. While it's tempting to leave them in your containers and add greenery and such for the holidays, it's not recommended unless the planters are in a protected spot.

Plant now for your garden's last hurrah of the season- you'll be glad you did!

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.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hanna Devine's thanks community for support

Thank you to all the friends and supporters of Hanna Devine's.

Hanna Devine's opened its doors in 2016 and was warmly welcomed by the people of Ware and surrounding communities. Then again during COVID, Hanna's received overwhelming support - facts that are greatly appreciated.

Closing Hanna's came with a heavy heart, but the good times and memories will never be forgotten.

Hanna Devine's has often been called the "Cheers" of Ware. A title that reflects the true nature and spirit of the loyal friends and patrons.

The immediate plan is to diligently work to get a restaurant open and thriving in the space where Hanna Devine's has occupied for seven years; to continue to serve the amazing community of Ware.

Stay tuned for the next chapter.

The Craig Family



Ten ways to help adoptable pets



Editor's Note: The following information was acquired over the course of my career as a journalist, through my work as an animal advocate, and through common knowledge.

Volunteer - There are many different ways one can volunteer with an animal rescue organization, and the experience is truly rewarding. Volunteering offers a way to personally get involved with adoptable pets while eschewing the responsibility of pet ownership itself.

Volunteering duties might include: walking dogs; cleaning; socializing cats; taking photos; office tasks; community outreach; fundraising; transporting animals; attending adoption events; and more.

Donate - Animal rescues and shelters need financial assistance, and monetary donations are a welcome way to aid the mission. Certain shelters and rescues don't even have an operating budget, funded solely through donations. Donations can assist with daily operations, supplies, food, veterinary care, vaccinations, community outreach, and much more.

And if a financial donation is not possible, animal organizations are also in need of many items, such as: food; towels; blankets and pet beds; crates and carriers; pet toys; collars, leashes, or harnesses; cat litter; and more.

Educate - By educating others about the importance of adopting, as well as spaying and neutering our pets, we lay the groundwork needed for actual change. However, educating should not be confused with arguing; creating conflict and tension over these topics may feel befitting at times, but we can spend our time more wisely by having respectful, compassionate conversations with people who are willing to listen.

Advocate - Supporting legislation that improves the lives of animals is a pivotal step toward making change. There must be regu-

lations in place for certain actions and behaviors—including legal consequences - to set a precedent.

Also, many municipal animal shelters are relying on antiquated budgets to function. Contact your representatives by calling or writing a letter so that you can share your thoughts regarding local and state bills.

Wishlists - An animal group near you may already have a "wish list" on its website, go check it out! These lists, which highlight the current needs and donation requests of the organization, can be independent or linked directly to a website such as "Amazon" or "Chewy."

Additionally, when shopping online, consider choosing one of your local animal rescues as your "AmazonSmile Charity" - this is a separate entry from the main website that offers consumers the same items and prices while also contributing a certain percentage of qualified purchases to a charitable group.

Spay/Neuter - Spaying and neutering our pets is unbelievably important. Pet overpopulation can best be described as a crisis, both in the U.S. and around the world, and unconstrained cat and dog breeding creates lasting impacts.

Spaying/neutering presents pet owners with a way to not only be part of the solution, but also to keep their pets healthy and safe.

Three benefits of spay/neuter include: diminishing the burden on animal groups; keeping stray/feral pet populations in check; and protecting pets from health concerns.

Events - Hosting a fundraising event for an animal group is a unique and valuable way to help. You can design your own event, or combine efforts with an existing or upcoming event, such as a birthday party, wedding, or school function, asking attendees to bring a gift or donation for the animals.

Share - Talk about your own stories of adoption, both on social media and in your day-to-day life. The more we talk about our stories of adoption, the more we can share the message that shelter pets are not less or broken because of their circumstance.

They are resilient and capable of such a powerful love. Additionally, "sharing" can quite literally mean getting on social media and sharing posts or adoption profiles from

animal groups, who are constantly posting their needs, adoptable pets, wishlists, and more.

When you "like," "comment," or "share," those posts, you're boosting engagement and allowing more people to see and help.

Adopt - According to various reports and statistics, more than 6.3 million domestic animals enter into animal shelters and rescues across the U.S. each year. Adopting a pet is a tremendous decision that not only saves one animal, but also creates space in an already overburdened system for another, doubling the impact with every adoption.

When you adopt a pet, it's a lifelong promise (the pet's life, of course). This is not a decision that should be made lightly; before you adopt, consider whether you will be able to provide that animal with the following basic needs for the pet's entire life: love and attention; food, water, and shelter; exercise and medical care.

Foster - Fostering a pet entails the temporary housing of an adoptable pet in one's home prior to adoption. Foster homes afford shelters and rescues the ability to save even more animals, and it helps animals that would otherwise be in a cage find comfort and support.

Fostering is not for everyone. The foster must be able to transport the pet to various places and provide the animal with care.

It is also important to consider that fostering is intended to be temporary - many folks (like myself) have trouble saying goodbye, and that's okay, but if this is you, perhaps there's an alternative way to help.

Here are some questions you might ask yourself before fostering a pet:

Am I emotionally prepared to say goodbye?

Is everyone in my home equipped for this experience (other pets included)?

Am I able to transport this pet to vet visits and adoption events?

The best way to discover the needs of your local animal groups is by doing a search online, checking recent social media posts from the organization(s), or by contacting them directly and asking how you can help.

WARE RIVER NEWS TEAM

EDITOR
Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Dan Flynn
dfflynn@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

STAFF WRITER
Dallas Gagnon
dgagnon@turley.com

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Ware River News
www.warivernews.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO
KEITH TURLEY
President
DEANNA SLOAT
Graphics Manager



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

Send opinions to:
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Letter to the Editor
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The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

Turley Election Policy

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

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

FESTIVAL from page 1

shoppers supporting small businesses as the Winery brings many local vendors together during the annual fall fest.

"Locals helping locals, now more than ever," said Samek.

Organizing the weekend-long event was Gina Palazzo and her business, Clay Bae by Gina.

Starting her business around the time of the first fall Festival in Hardwick, Palazzo and her business returned for another year continuing her efforts to support local businesses.

Palazzo has witnessed substantial growth in popularity of the fall festivities dating back to its first event several years ago.

The Festival started off as a one-day event only, featuring about 40 vendors. After a successful first year, the Winery began hosting both a fall and spring festival and increased the event to two days.

As part of the fall Festival's progress, the amount of vendors expanded to over 90 across two days. Portions of the vendor fees go straight to the Jubilee Cupboard.

Palazzo enjoys being a part of the success of the annual fall Festival.

"It's fun to support local," she said.

Clay Bae by Gina had a booth of its own during the weekend Festival and offered handmade polymer clay creations.

At the start of her business, Clay Bae by Gina offered dangle earrings. Soon after, her products expanded from dangle earrings to adding new products such as necklace pendants, trinket dishes, keychains and much more.

Clay Bae by Gina can be followed on Instagram, Facebook, and Etsy. For more information and locations to shop at Clay Bae by Gina, their email address is ClayBaeByGina@gmail.com.

For delicious baked goods, the bright pink booth of Cupcakes and Confections by Jana stood out on the fields of the Winery. Jana Hayden was excited to bring her sweet treats to Hardwick.

Hayden is a licensed and inspected home baker specializing in cakes, cupcakes, a variety of other baked goods, and confections. Established as a business in 2018, Cupcakes and Confections by Jana offers something different in the world of baking.

One of her most popular baked treats are brownie-ups. In addition, Hayden also offers cake-ups. These delicious treats were displayed at the Cupcakes and Confections booth and according to Hayden, they were greatly enjoyed during the Festival.

"This makes people happy," she said.

Cupcakes and Confections by Jana is located on Church Street in Ware. They can be found on Facebook and can be reached by calling 413-461-5085.

For the science-fiction art world, Kit Catlett Photography and Art offered a display of photography and steampunk themed artwork. Steampunk is a sub-genre of science and fiction dealing with 19th century societies dominated by historical and imagined steam powered technology.

The business started with photography as Catlett mentioned she has been holding a camera since she was 7 years old. To learn more about Catlett's photography and art, you can check them out on Facebook or contact them by email at kitcatlettphotographyandart@gmail.com.

For pet items, a booth was set up by Jany Gagnon and her business, Bailey and Bam for Perfect Pups. Not just an owner of Bailey and Bam, Gagnon is also a proud dog



Just Imajen Crafts offered crocheted stuffed animals, keychains and more.



Rosie Porter & the Neon Moons performed on Saturday.

mom.

Based out of Monson, Bailey and Bam provides bandanas, leashes, collars, and other useful dog products. Bailey and Bam can be reached by calling 413-244-1068 or emailing jany@baileybam.com.

If you're looking for an item that brings good luck, maybe adopting a gnome is the best choice. A unique booth brought dozens of gnomes to the Winery.

For a great birthday gift or holiday gift, Adopt-A-Gnome has them all in various styles. The Prouty family of Hardwick, consisting of mother Pat and daughters Lisa and Michelle, have been enjoying the hobby of designing gnomes for the last three years.

According to Lisa, her mother Pat was bored one day, and it was suggested that she could try designing a gnome. What started off as a single-day activity turned into a passionate handmade family business.

It is believed that gnomes are mythological creatures that bring good fortune to you and your home. The gnomes handmade by the Proutys come in all fashions from sports, seasons, characters along with home guardian and woodland gnomes.

The process of designing these gnomes is only known by the Prouty family.

"A big family secret that started three years ago," said Lisa.

The one-of-a-kind gnomes you seek can be yours if you contact Adopt-A-Gnome by email at get-gnomes@gmail.com.

Echoing through the vineyards at the Winery was a lively lineup of musical entertainment all weekend. Several music groups were booked to bring soothing sounds to the visitors and vendors of the fall Festival.

On Saturday, the Winery had Rosie Porter & the Neon Moons open for the festival. Following them was Hit the Bus Band. On Sunday, Joe Macey started off the day. To



Brad Gannon brought his handcrafted collection of coin rings and necklaces.



Blown glass pumpkins offered the perfect backdrop for the Fall Craft and Food Festival.

wrap up the live music during the fall fest was the Time Stretchers.

Follow Hardwick Vineyard & Winery on Facebook for more fall events.



The Prouty family's Adopt-a-Gnome offered a gnome for every season.

Seniors continue sunrise tradition at Quaboag

By Haileigh Swistak
Student Intern

WARREN – The new school year has started and Quaboag Regional High School's senior class of 2024 is already making the most of it.

On Friday, Sept. 1, Quaboag's seniors gathered in the back parking lot to watch the sunrise at 5:50 a.m. The students were chaperoned by their class advisors, Sibilla Flannery and Tyler Shepard.

About 40 seniors showed up to carry on this four-year long tradition at Quaboag Regional Middle High School.

The Warren and Spencer

Dunkin' Donuts donated food for their student employees to bring in Friday morning to share with the class. Bagels, donuts, muffins, and coffee were among the goods provided for the early-bird seniors.

Some students even brought their own spikeball net and ball to have fun with while waiting for the sun to rise.

At 6:11 a.m. the sun rose slowly above the eastern trees at Quaboag, giving students plenty of opportunities to take pictures of it and with their friends.

Most students stayed at the school, sitting in their cars or talking with friends until the first bell rang for class at 7:35 a.m.

Warren town wide tag sale and fireworks this Saturday

WARREN – The Parks & Recreation will host the annual fireworks at Quaboag Regional Middle High School, 284 Old West Brookfield Road, on Saturday, Sept. 9.

Musical entertainment will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the fireworks will go off at dark. Refreshments will be available to purchase, with the proceeds ben-

efiting student groups at the High School.

The Parks & Recreation will also host a town wide tag sale on Sept. 9 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., rain or shine. Maps will be sold for \$2 on the common starting at 8 a.m., the day of the tag sale.

For more information, follow Warren Parks Department on Facebook.

Takeout turkey dinner at United Church Sept. 18

WARE – A turkey dinner will be offered at United Church of Ware, 49 Church St., on Monday, Sept. 18 from 5-6 p.m., takeout only.

The dinner includes turkey, potatoes, stuffing, veggie, roll,

coffee, tea and dessert. Dinners are \$15 per person; cash or check.

Drive up to 49 Church St., and a runner will take your order and bring it to your car. For more information, call the Church office at 413-967-9981.

Cub Scouts hold car wash on Saturday

WARE – Cub Scouts from Ware Family Pack 520 will hold their car wash fundraiser at NAPA Auto Parts, 175 West St., on Saturday, Sept. 9 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.



VETERANS DAY SALUTE

Ware River News ~ November 2, 2023

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

Please submit a photo of your veteran with his or her name, rank, branch of military and hometown by email to dflynn@turley.com or drop off a photo to Ware River News, 80 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082

All photos will be returned.

Please submit your photo no later than Monday, October 16, 2023.

There is no cost to submit a photo. No photos will be accepted after deadline. If you would like to use a prior submitted photo, please contact before to October 10th.

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Anthony Seay submitted three paintings to the "Bringing aWAREness to Recovery" art exhibition. This painting is called "Blue Moon".



"Colors" made using fabric and beads, was created at the Recovery Center of HOPE.



Susan Daley's quilt is based off of the Recovery Center of HOPE's logo and colors and it's filled with words that inspire her.

EXHIBITION from page 1

This was the first "Bringing aWAREness to Recovery" exhibition since the Recovery Center of HOPE opened at its 52 Main St. location at the beginning of this year, a milestone that Abaigeal Duda, program manager at the Center, is proud of.

"It's an honor to have the Recovery Center here," she said, giving the community access to numerous services and support.

Many of the artists featured in the exhibition were willing to share their stories, and how substance use disorders have impacted their lives.

"People in recovery longer, feel more encouraged to speak up and feel confident," Duda said. "I'm so glad that their art and their voice is present," she said of all contributors.

Art also has healing qualities, and the Recovery Center of HOPE is able to offer weekly art classes through the use of a grant.

Artist and coordinator of the exhibition, Faith Montaperto Ward has three entries in the exhibition, including a mask with an elaborately long nose entitled "The Liar" and a collection of original songs called "Conversations with God."

"Art and music heal," she said. Ward also entered "Rooftop Hero"; a sculpture based off of a poem she wrote for her late brother, Michael.

"He was an addict and in recovery a long time," she said, but went back to addiction after the death of their mother.

Ward is a photographer, and sculpture is something she "truly messed around with," admitting that it's not her "thing."

"Rooftop Hero" refers to her brother climbing up on the roof to retrieve balls when they got stuck up there during play.

The sculpture also has chicken bones, and Ward explained their meaning.

"We had no money and would buy pot pies when Mom couldn't work," Ward said. "Michael and I would fight over the beef pot pies and he'd leave me the chicken, which I hated."

The sculpture also features nails and screws and other pieces of metal, which are hard to bend.

There was "not a lot of bending" in the relationship between the two siblings, Ward said, but it also pays homage to Michael's work as a carpenter.

"He loved the smell of fire burned wood," Ward said, a detail she added to the back of the sculpture.

The sculpture, Ward said, is of her family's house.

"It's our house, it's not perfect...there was a lot of addiction and a lot of pain," she said, adding that the whole family goes through the addiction along with the substance user.

This is why she loves her time teaching art at the Recovery Center of HOPE, because it includes the whole family.

"You need all of them in recovery to be a family again," Ward said.

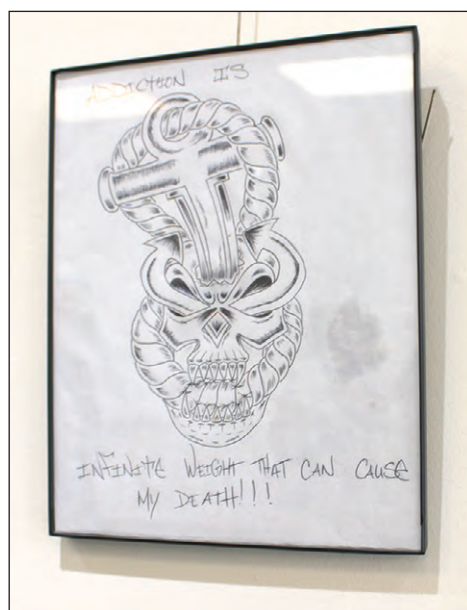
Susan Daley took up quilting 15 years ago, and gave up once before returning to it. Now it's something she commits three hours to each Saturday.

Daley works at the Recovery Center of HOPE and was "very proud" to sew a quilt bearing its logo and proudly displaying its colors, along with words of encouragement.

"I love the words; I live by the words," she said.

Quilting is something that is comforting to Daley and helps to get her out of her own head.

Daley also entered a mixed media project featuring one of her favorite symbols of joy and happiness; Santa Claus.



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette
This artist described addiction as an "infinite weight that can cause my death."

"Santa Claus is my man," Daley said. "I just love him so much."

Daley herself was a source of joy for one of the artists featured in the show, the late Charlotte "Charlie" Lopez, a Ware resident who died one month after being featured in her first art show in 2021.

Daley was Charlie's sobriety coach, and during an interview at the first ever "Bringing aWAREness to Recovery" exhibition, she credited Daley for helping her in her sobriety journey.

"Without her, I wouldn't be here," Charlie said during that first exhibition.

Charlie's painting is a mix of acrylic and oil paints, using techniques she learned during a painting class with Workshop13's Roc Goudreau.

Duda said the painting is included in this year's exhibition to remember Charlie and her impact on the world around her.

"She was so vibrant and effervescent," Duda said. "She's a permanent part of our community...she's still in our hearts."

Three Rivers resident Anthony Seay returned for his third time entering the exhibition, with three paintings.

One, called "The Raven" features the bird which in Sioux legend, is known as the Trickster. The raven is also a shape-shifter, and in Seay's painting he is holding a key in his beak.

"He is holding the key to change," Seay said.

In six years, Seay's life has changed immensely he said, since finding his path to sobriety and discovering painting.

One night while leaving a sunrise group in his town, Seay saw a sign offering painting lessons and he decided to ask to join in. Seay has since become a professional artist, painting lifelike pet portraits, military-inspired portraits and scenes and more.

A U.S. Coast Guard veteran, Seay has also painted a series of portraits of "pilot aces" of the military. Fifteen of these portraits are on display at the 104th Fighter Wing in Westfield.

Another painting Seay had in the show features a bonsai tree, and he was inspired to paint it while watching "The Karate Kid II" with his wife.

His favorite painting in the exhibition is "Blue Moon", which he said is his concept of "there is a God."

Seay said his talent for painting is a gift from God, and one he doesn't take for granted.

Also featured in "Bringing aWAREness to Recovery" this year, is the Photovoice Collection 2022, featuring seven photographs taken around Ware by people in the

community who are in recovery.

Photographs range from a broken trophy to a disinterested dinosaur drawn on a piece of playground equipment, to a cemetery and a car that can't be fixed.

Alyssa Curran of the Western Massachusetts Training Consortium, the umbrella organization for the Recovery Center of HOPE, explained that the photos capture the "hidden in plain sight" phenomenon, and bring awareness to the challenges people in recovery face.

The Photovoice Collection project was introduced as an optional strategy in the HEALING Communities Study, of which Ware and Belchertown were selected to participate.

Through a camera lens, people can identify, represent and enhance their community by focusing on issues that can affect them, like lack of transportation, substance use and more.

Curran was "blown away" by the number of participants who attended the Photovoice project at the Fire Station over six weeks last year, and she hopes to start the next installment in the new year with funding from District Attorney David E. Sullivan

About the exhibition

The "Bringing aWAREness to Recovery" art exhibition is a partnership between the Recovery Center of HOPE and ArtWorks Gallery/Workshop13, a cultural arts and learning center located in Ware and supported in part by a grant from the Ware Cultural Council, a local agency that is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

The Recovery Center of HOPE is a program of the Western Massachusetts Training Consortium and was founded by the Quabog Hills Substance Use Alliance.

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Ware girls volleyball continued practices last week gearing up for the regular season.



Turley photos by Jack Cascio NEAPsmugmug.com
The girls have a busy schedule out of the gate.

Girls volleyball gears up regular season

WARE – The Ware girls volleyball team has had its share of success during the past several years, including several playoff appearances. The Indians practiced through early this week getting ready for their regular season opener on Sept. 5. The Indians will then travel to rival Holyoke on Thursday, Sept. 7.

The Indians were scheduled to open at home on Tuesday, Sept. 5.

Quaboag football set for action

WARREN – Following a couple of preseason scrimmages, Quaboag football is set for their regular season opener. The Cougars will face Ludlow High

School on the road at 6:30 p.m. Ludlow, a Western Mass. opponent, is one of a couple Quaboag has regularly faced in recent years.



The Cougars are still a Central Mass. team despite facing some Western Mass. opponents in recent years.



Turley photos by Jack Cascio NEAPsmugmug.com
Quaboag football had a scrimmage at home last Saturday.



The Cougars are contending for the Division 8 state tournament again this year.



Quaboag will have a Week 1 matchup on the road.

Pioneers test their mettle

WILBRAHAM – Last Saturday morning, Pathfinder Regional football traveled a short way to Wilbraham & Monson Academy and had their final scrimmage action before the regular season is supposed to begin. The Pioneers are scheduled to open the season right nearby, taking on neighbor Palmer High School on Friday, Sept. 8 at 7 p.m.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Hunter Griswold looks to make a decision with the ball in traffic.



Jarrett Skowrya jumps to make the catch.



Aiden Girard blocks for the Pioneers.



Cecil Burgess-Bruso tries to avoid a tackle as he runs toward the sideline.



Nicholas Pfisher makes a throw.

Doug Coby among hungry contenders for Monadnock Race

MOORESVILLE, N.C. – After two races off, Tommy Baldwin Racing announced today that the team will field a Mayhew Tools No. 7NY entry for Doug Coby in this Saturday's NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour 150 at Monadnock Speedway.

Coby and Baldwin enter the event leading the point standings for the Whelen Granite State Short Track Cup, which will conclude Saturday night.

The Cup awards a bonus of \$5,000 to the team that captures the most points over three events. Coby picked up the win in round one of the Cup at Monadnock back in May and finished sixth in the second race at Lee USA Speedway to enter this weekend in the lead.

The team is also eligible for additional bonuses from the Cup, including a lap leader bonus from all three events combined and

the best average finish over the three races. The team has the opportunity to collect over \$6,400 in bonus money, plus any winnings collected for finishing position on Saturday. It made the decision to attend a no-brainer.

Last month, Tommy Baldwin Jr. announced a diagnosis of cancer and is currently undergoing treatments. The team is not returning full-time on the Whelen Modified Tour for the remainder of the season, but will come together to chase the Cup crown at Monadnock.

Baldwin is selling Baldwin Strong stickers on his website, TommyBaldwinRacing.com, and donating final proceeds to the Matheny School. His goal is to share awareness and have everyone know they are all

Please see RACE, page 8

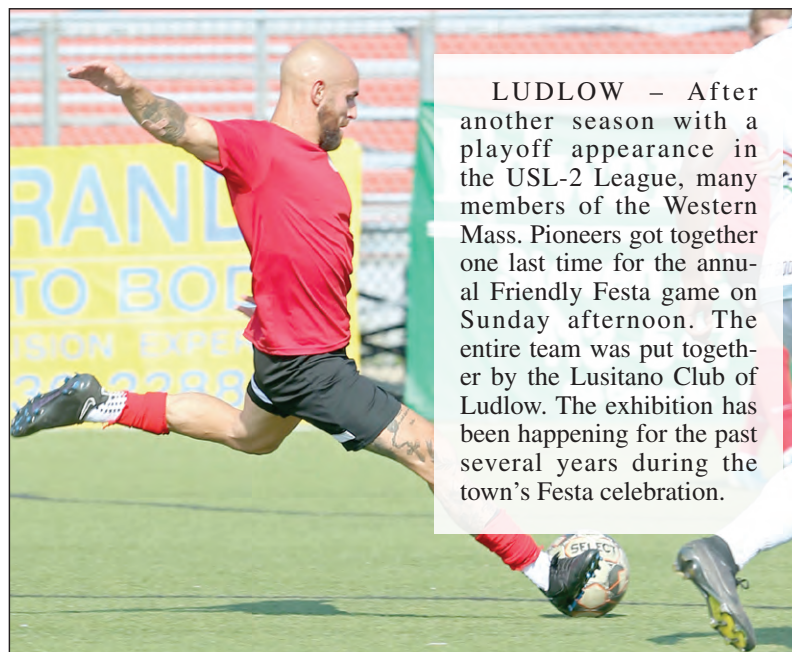
PIONEERS CAP SEASON WITH FESTA MATCH



Monson's Connor Hicks receives a pass and makes his way up the field.



Max Robbins looks to catch up with the ball.



Kyle Tomas winds up for a long kick.

LUDLOW – After another season with a playoff appearance in the USL-2 League, many members of the Western Mass. Pioneers got together one last time for the annual Friendly Festa game on Sunday afternoon. The entire team was put together by the Lusitano Club of Ludlow. The exhibition has been happening for the past several years during the town's Festa celebration.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Noah Rivera stops the ball.



Goalie Al Albano sends the ball up the field.

sports

Panthers scrimmage Abby Kelley

BARRE – Last Saturday, Quabbin football geared up for their regular season opener with a scrimmage against Abby Kelley High School. The Panthers are loading up for a regular season run, which starts off on the road at Gardner High School on Friday, Sept. 8. Game time is set for 7 p.m.



Luke Salvadore rushes up the middle.

Turley photos by Ray Duffy



The coaching staff has a word with the players.



A run up the middle for the Panthers.



Jake Leazotte tries to bat away a pass.

Worcester Railers name new VP

WORCESTER – The Worcester Railers Hockey Club (@RailersHC), proud ECHL (@ECHL) affiliate of the New York Islanders (@NYIslanders) is pleased to welcome David Aitken to the front office staff as the Vice President of Tickets & Corporate Partnerships.

“David has a proven track record of driving revenue in minor league sports,” said Railers HC President, Stephanie Ramey. “He has been a direct contributor of significant AHL ticket sales growth in both Rochester and Cleveland and will bring new ideas to enhance the Railers experience for fans and sponsors.”

Aitken will oversee all revenue channels for the Railers and will help further develop the ticket sales and corporate sponsorship departments. Most recently, Aitken spent nearly five years as the Director of Ticket Sales with the Rochester Americans (AHL) and Rochester Knighthawks (NLL), as part of Pegula Sports and Entertainment, the parent company of the Buffalo Sabres and Buffalo Bills. His responsibilities included strategy, budgeting, and personnel.

Under Aitken’s leadership, the Amerks achieved their highest season ticket numbers and ticket sales revenue in the franchise’s 67-year history. The Amerks concluded the 2023 Calder Cup Playoffs with the highest attendance for the AHL clubs playing more than one home playoff game, which featured three of six home games with a sell-out crowd of 10,662 at their venue.

Prior to his time in Rochester, Aitken spent eight seasons with

the Cleveland Monsters (AHL) as part of the Cleveland Cavaliers (NBA) organization. His position with the team was Sr. Manager of Business Development where he led all new business ticket sales efforts, as well as managed a senior level team of ticket representatives. During this time, Aitken was also responsible for youth hockey game-day programming and community outreach efforts for six seasons and was instrumental in the founding of the Monsters’ “Grow the Game” and Learn to Play initiatives in Northeast Ohio.

Aitken’s tenure in Cleveland was highlighted by placing among the AHL’s top 10 in group sales for five seasons and generated the most group sales in franchise history at that time in the 2015-16 season. He was also part of the 2016 Calder Cup champion Lake Erie Monsters staff which won the AHL’s President’s Award for Business Team of the Year.

Aitken is originally from Chestertown, NY in the Lake George region, and is relocating to Worcester with his wife Colleen, and their three daughters, Leah, Emma, and Olivia. His start date with the Railers is Monday, July 24.

The Worcester Railers HC 2023-24 Opening Weekend at the DCU Center is Saturday, Oct. 21 and Sunday, Oct. 22 vs. the Adirondack Thunder & Trois-Rivieres Lions. Season memberships, mini-plans, and group packages for the 2023-24 season are on sale now by calling the Railers front office at 508-365-1750 or by visiting RailersHC.com.

Foursomes needed for charity golf tournament

AGAWAM – Registration and signups are currently open and underway for the Sixth Annual “Shoot For The Stars To Cure Cancer” Golf Tournament to benefit the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. In the first five years, the event has raised over \$15,000 for cancer research. The four-person scramble event will take place on Monday, Sept. 18 at Wintonbury Hills Golf Course in Bloomfield, CT. The event will be an 11 a.m. shotgun start. There will be prizes up for grabs (Closest to Pin/Long Drive) along with a putting contest. Entry fee covers golf, lunch and dinner. Please contact ShootFOREtheStarstoCureCancer@gmail.com more information. We hope you can join us.



RACE from page 7

in it together when fighting through health issues.

“After winning at Monadnock in May and leading the Cup standings heading into Saturday, we really wanted to make this event happen,” team owner Tommy Baldwin Jr. said. “I’m thankful for everyone’s support through my announcement and treatments - it’s been incredible and our entire family couldn’t be more grateful. The team will be ready to roll into Monadnock to chase the Cup title, but also another win for Mayhew

Tools and everyone involved with Doug and our team.”

Coby has one goal in mind for Saturday: win.

“We had a great car last time at Monadnock, it was dominant all day,” Coby said. “This will be a little bit of a different race being at night compared to the day time back in May. As far as Tommy wanting to have a car prepared and go to the track, it’s good for him to be able to have something different to focus on and he said he feels good enough to make it happen, which is great to hear. With the race now 150 laps,

you will probably be able to go harder and really battle for spots earlier in the race. There will likely be some serious battling on restarts to keep or gain track position.”

Saturday’s event schedule at Monadnock Speedway includes NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour practice from 2:55-3:55 p.m., followed by qualifying at 5:30 p.m. The estimated green flag time for the Winchester Fair 150 is set for 8 p.m. Tickets for the race are available in advance at JDVProductions.com. The event will air live on FloRacing. TV for those who can’t make it to New Hampshire.

Paul, Hall team up to host tip-off event this fall

SPRINGFIELD – The Chris Paul Family Foundation and Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced the third annual circuit of two Historically Black College and University (HBCU) events, the HBCU Tip-Off and Challenge, presented by the AEA Foundation.

The HBCU Tip-Off will take place Nov. 18-19 at the Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville, Connecticut, and the HBCU Challenge will be held Dec. 16-17 at Michelob ULTRA Arena at Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino in Las Vegas.

“As an HBCU graduate himself, Chris Paul has long been a prominent voice for the empowerment of HBCU athletes,” said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. “The Hall of Fame is honored to work alongside Chris to create opportunities for these student-athletes, and we look forward to watching them play in two competitive weekends of basketball.”

Paul, an active philanthropist and entrepreneur, has actively supported HBCUs for years. He currently serves on President Joe Biden’s advisory board on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Paul executive produced Why Not Us: North Carolina Central Basketball,

Why Not Us: FAMU Football, and Why Not Us: Southern Dance on ESPN+. In addition, Paul partnered with Harvard Business School to bring its Entertainment, Media and Sports program to select HBCUs to develop a pipeline for students pursuing careers in those industries. He launched HBCU voting initiatives to encourage students to vote during the past election and partnered with Sour Patch Kids and the Thurgood Marshall College Fund to create The Mischief for Change Scholarship, a college scholarship fund with a \$1 million commitment over the next five years for students attending HBCUs. In 2022, Paul graduated with a degree from Winston-Salem State University.

“We are looking forward to the third year of our HBCU events,” said Paul. “These events present a unique opportunity for student athletes to play on a national stage. I’m excited to collaborate with the Basketball Hall of Fame, Mohegan Sun, and MGM Resorts and am grateful to all of our partners for their commitment to HBCU schools and athletes in partnership with this event.”

Tickets for the 2023 Chris Paul HBCU Tip-Off and HBCU Challenge will both go on sale on Friday, Sept. 8.

Trail grand opening and kiosk dedication tomorrow, Sept. 8

WARE – On Friday, Sept. 8 at 2 p.m., a grand opening celebration will be held at the Mass Central Rail Trail’s entrance at Gibbs Crossing, 35 Palmer Road.

There will also be a dedication

of a new kiosk constructed by Ware Scouts BSA Troop 7281, trail advocate Steven Hawk and a number of community volunteers.

All are welcome to attend and celebrate this vital recreational network.

QUABOAG from page 1

“wearables” or cell phone accessories, during class time.

“We don’t expect to see them in classrooms,” Handfield said of cell phones.

He said there are multiple layers of discipline for students who violate the cell phone policy.

Handfield said they are trying to be reasonable and responsible with their approach to cell phone use.

The School Committee approved the Middle High School student handbook for the 2023-2024 school year with these amendments.

Elementary student handbook

West Brookfield Elementary School Principal Melissa Provost and Warren Community Elementary School Principal Kevin Slattery presented changes to the student handbook for the 2023-2024 school year.

Provost said there are a lot of changes to language and formatting in the student handbook. She said language has been added about homeless students, as well as the code of conduct and progressive discipline per state laws.

Outdated language has been removed, and the handbook has been edited to be more “user friendly.”

The School Committee approved the elementary school student handbook with these amendments.

Free school meals

Duff said Gov. Maura Healey has made breakfast and lunch free for all students for the entire school year.

He said they are looking into having an additional freezer outside of the Middle School cafeteria due to the surplus of food.

Duff said thanks to District Nutrition Director Melissa Mansfield’s efforts, they are able to cover the cost of the freezer through the food service department’s budget.

He said the school district also needs a state recognized point of sales system in order to be eligible for the Community Eligibility Provision. The school district is required to shift the point of sales vendors from Titan to SchoolCafé, which will cost about \$9,000.

“This is one of those unfunded mandates, where the state’s telling us that we have to use this specific vendor,” he said. Duff said it’s up to the school district to fund the added expense.

Communication with towns

Duff said he will attend monthly Board of Selectmen meetings and he is meeting with Warren Town Administrator James Ferrera every two weeks. He has been in contact with

West Brookfield Town Administrator Ron San Angelo as well.

“Part of my goals will be communication and collaboration within the towns to help facilitate the budget process,” Duff said. He will also communicate what is going on in each school to the town officials.

Green Communities projects

Duff said the Green Communities HVAC project at Warren Community Elementary School is about four to five weeks behind schedule.

He said the workers will continue work on the project on the second shift, starting at 4 p.m.

Duff said they are hoping to have the project done by the first week in October.

Duff said the town of West Brookfield is looking into a lighting upgrade project at West Brookfield Elementary School, using the Green Communities grant program.

Regional agreement

Schwenker gave an update on the Regional Agreement Amendment Committee.

He said West Brookfield’s legal counsel has reviewed changes made to the regional agreement between the towns of Warren and West Brookfield, to include North Brookfield. North Brookfield’s legal counsel will be reviewing the agreement next.

Sidewalks

Schwenker said both elementaries schools have had new sidewalks installed leading into the buildings.

New playground

Slattery thanked volunteers for installing new playground equipment over two Sundays at Warren Community Elementary School.

Correspondence

A Warren resident read a letter he submitted to the School Committee the previous month regarding a comment he made about the school district using one-time funds to cover normal budget expenses.

The resident apologized for his comment about the decision, and any personal offense that occurred because of it.

“It is not really my desire to be derogatory to any individual in a personal way,” he said.

He said he “will endeavor to express my thoughts in the future, especially when disputing, with a focus on the issue and not on any person or persons.”

The resident reminded those in public roles, that receiving criticism is expected, and can provide valuable input.

Stone Church opens concert season Sept. 17

HARDWICK – Friends of the Stone Church will present pianist Janice Weber with Sasha Callahan, violin and Leo Eguchi, cello, performing string trios by Haydn, Beethoven and Robert Schumann and Jhula Jhule by Reena Esmail at the Stone Church Cultural Center, 283 Main St., Gilbertville, at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 17.

This delightful program presents masterpieces for strings and piano and an intriguing compo-

sition based on traditional Indian songs. A public reception will follow the concert.

Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at <https://buytickets.at/friendsofthestonechurch/738389>. Youth under 18 and holders of the equivalent to Mass Cultural Council's Card to Culture are admitted free.

This concert is supported by grants from the Cultural Councils of Hardwick-New Braintree,

North Brookfield, Oakham and Petersham. Local Cultural Councils are supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

At home viewers may enjoy watching recordings of previous concerts through links on the Friends of the Stone Church website: FriendsoftheStoneChurch.org/music/.

BID from page 1

be completed by early October and the Senior Center would remain open during construction.

The Board accepted the lowest bid from 360 Building and Remodeling of Feeding Hills.

The project would be paid for using money allocated at town meeting for building maintenance combined with \$7,095 from American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Internet service

Board of Selectmen Chair David Dufresne said Board members met with representatives from Whip City Fiber and Westfield Gas and Electric.

He said Whip City Fiber could set up a fiber optic network in the town, and the town would establish the cost of service to residents for internet. The internet speed with the fiber optic network is substantially higher than most residents currently have.

Dufresne said it's set up similar to an enterprise fund, where the cost of the network is paid for by the user fees.

"Your fees would actually just be going back to the town...so you'd be reinvesting into your community to pay for this," Dufresne said.

Dufresne said there are discounts available to senior citizens and low-income residents.

He said the more people that sign up for the service, the lower the cost would be to residents and the sooner the bond would be paid off for the installation of the network.

"It's been pretty popular," Dufresne said of the network, in other communities including rural areas.

Dufresne said it could be a "great option" for the town.

"This is one of the many things that we could do to help improve our town," Dufresne said.

Ferrera said meeting with Whip City Fiber was a fact finding tour only, and no decisions have been made about the network.

The decision to create a public utility for internet service would have to be determined by a town meeting vote.

Special municipal employee status

Dufresne said at a previous meeting the Board voted to remove special municipal employee status from many of the towns boards and committees.

Town Administrator James Ferrera said the designation cannot be applied to full time employees of the town.

Ferrera said even if someone receives special municipal employee status, they still need to contact the state's Ethics Commission if they have a potential conflict of interest and get an opinion from the lawyer of the day.

Dufresne said it's important to have written documentation in matters that involve disclosure.

Ferrera said the Town Clerk has disclosure forms, which need to be submitted annually as long as the person holds the position, if there is a potential conflict.

The status was removed from the Plumbing and Gas Inspector, election officials and the Fire Department.

Retaining special municipal employee status are on call firefighters and on call EMTs.

Closeout letter

Ferrera said he was pleased to present a closeout letter to the Board from the Department of Labor and Workforce Development regarding corrective orders at the Police Department, which is located in the Town Hall.

"Back in June, we had received an order to correct...now the eight items that were listed on the closeout letter have been resolved by the Department of Labor," he said.

Dufresne said "very good progress" had been made to address needs in the Police Department.

Town Administrator's report

Ferrera said the town has been receiving resumes for the Building and Planning secretary position. Interested applicants can still submit resumes by Sept. 15.

He said the town is also receiving resumes for the full time police officer position.

Ferrera said the town's invitation for bid for highway and road materials was recently updated. He said that invitation for bid, along with

one for the sludge hauling contract for the sewer plant, should be going out within a week.

Ferrera said the town continues to work with Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission for the Economic Development Administration grant. He said the project will go out again for a request for proposal.

Ferrera said the project was supposed to be completed in June 2024, but that is now projected for December 2024.

Conduct concerns

Board of Health member Joseph Kondrat shared concerns with the Board after witnessing a hostile interaction between a resident and his staff.

Selectmen said they would show the Board of Health members how to use Red Dot, an emergency alert system used by the town.

Dufresne said those that do not abide by the code of conduct will be asked to leave the building, and removed if they don't comply.

Hinges on doors

Dufresne said the hinges on some of the office doors in the Shepard Municipal Building should be replaced with security hinges, using building improvement funds.

Correspondence

Ferrera said he received correspondence from a resident about planting a tree in the empty square in front of Mason's Grille.

Board members suggested talking with Tree Warden Jeremy Olson about planting a tree in the spring.

Trick or Treat hours

Trick or Treat will be held on Halloween night, Tuesday, Oct. 31. Exact hours of Trick or Treat will be confirmed soon.

Voluntary toll

The Board approved the annual voluntary toll fundraiser for Warren and West Brookfield Football and Cheer.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is Thursday, Sept. 14 at 6 p.m.

2022 DATA from page 1

Iwasinski said they also need to celebrate accomplishments of the students, even the small things.

Middle School Principal Kimberly Thompson said she and Iwasinski are addressing chronic absenteeism for grades kindergarten through grade six.

She said over 350 students in the school district missed more than 18 days of school and 98 students missed 36 days.

"We want to instill really good attendance habits as kids move through the district," Thompson said.

Thompson said when a student misses four school days a month, that adds up to 40 days a school year.

"By the time they get to graduation, they will have missed two years of school," she said.

Thompson and Iwasinski will increase outreach to families of absent students, offering assistance and guidance.

"The more we reach out to families, the more we're going to have students walking through our doors," Thompson said.

To encourage reading, the students are developing their own personal library, Thompson said.

Interim High School Principal Scott Slattery said the staff have been "amazing" in helping him transition into this role.

He said the High School is off to a great start this school year.

"Good things are happening in this building," he said.

Slattery said he challenged staff to be team players and post positive messages in the hallways.

"I can see our staff and our teachers are working hard," Slattery said. "The students

are engaged, they're in class. They're doing their jobs...I see kids learning."

Slattery said staff and students are excited to be in school.

Director of Student Services Dr. Ginger Coleman said the school district's environment has been so welcoming to her.

"You have some really amazing kids here, and I'm so proud and happy to be a part of it," she said.

Coleman shared her excitement for this school year, and said she has talked with class advisors about participating in the Special Olympics.

She said the school district was rated at "needs assistance" by the state for performance, earning 21.5 out of 30 points.

"There are specific indicators that we are definitely going to want to look at and target," Coleman said, including graduation rates.

School Committee Chair Christopher Desjardins said it was good that they were seeing this data, so they knew what needed to be done.

Vice-Chair Brian Winslow said this creates a baseline for them to work from, post pandemic.

School Committee members thanked Lovato and his team for sharing the data and asked to have it regularly included in meetings.

Lovato said the next set of data will be available at the end of September.

ADA audit

Lovato said the school district is compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, but has some opportunities for improvements to make the schools more accessible through the town's ADA Commission.

Lovato said he met with the ADA Commission and discussed a grant the town has applied for to make improvements to town buildings.

Improvements to the school include creating handicapped and wheelchair seating in the high school auditorium.

"They're going to work with our maintenance department for what that looks like for seating, specifically at the high school first," Lovato said. He said signage also needs to be raised for visually impaired students.

Lovato said some of the doors will be replaced.

These improvements will be paid for through grants, Lovato said.

Lovato said the ADA Commission identified a need for sidewalks to Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School and the Ware Middle School.

Budget update

Andy Paquette of TMS, Inc. gave a brief budget update for the school district. He said there may be a need for an additional appropriation for special education transportation.

Paquette said they have less of a cushion this year with school choice funds, as many large building and maintenance projects were completed last fiscal year, adding it was "money well spent."

Use of facilities

Desjardins said the School Committee received a use of facilities request from the Board of Health for Sept. 27, Oct. 3, 4, 10 and 12 from 7-10 p.m. each day for public hearings. The School Committee approved the use of the high school auditorium for these dates and waived the fees.

Robots battle at Pathfinder's summer program

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – Pathfinder's Summer Youth Enrichment Program held a tournament for its Robotics class last week, which saw students pit robots against each other in a brawl that served as a testament to a week of engineering practice.

"The Robotics Battleshop has been a successful and engaging program with the Summer Youth Enrichment Program for five years now," said Kyle Lussier. "It immerses students into a STEM-based environment of team-oriented competition, coupled with design, assembly, imagination, and strategy skills."

The class was split into two sides, the Blue Team and the Red Team, with two students from each team competing against each other for each elimination round. The final match came down to Ethan Bunnell and Caiden White on the Blue Team, against Louis Beauregard and Noah Hansen on the Red Team, with the Blue Team taking home the grand prize.

Lussier said that one good thing about the course is seeing the younger students learn from their older classmates, including students with engineering experience, often able to defeat them by the end of the week.

"Each student starts off with learning basic hands-on skills to assemble a modest, unadorned robot," Lussier said. "Once complete, they learn how to effectively drive their robot, along with learning driving strategies to improve success. As the week progresses, these students are encouraged to make modifications to their design based on conclusions they have made from their peers' driving styles and self-perceived strategies. Nearing the end of the week, students are teamed up and pitted against other teams through random match alignment."

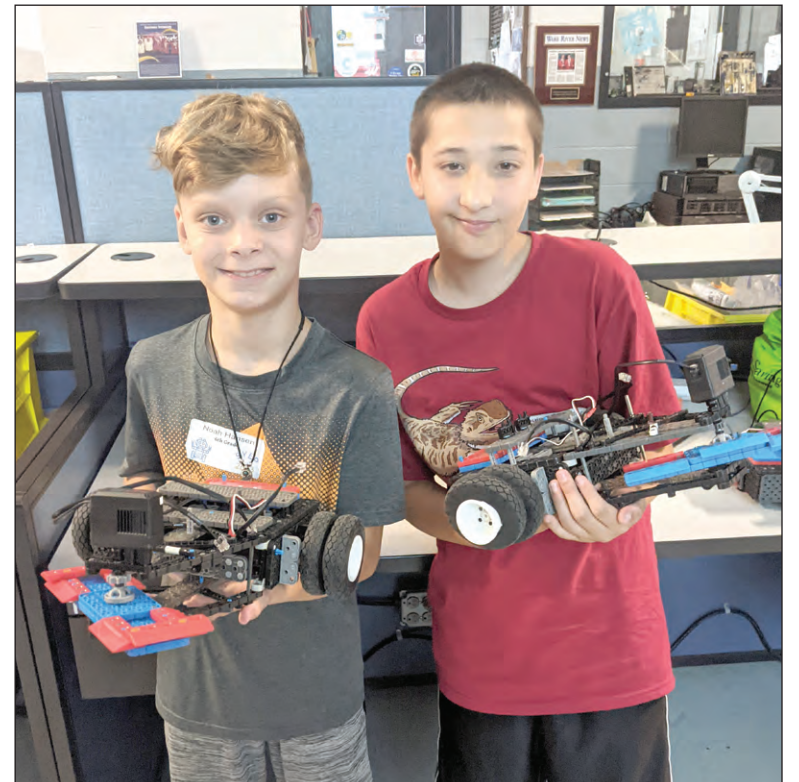
Liam Sasur, one of the students competing, shared how his design for a ramp on the front of the robot caught on with the other students.

"My brother suggested it," Sasur said, and demonstrated how the ramp would slip under oncoming robots to push them back.

The tournament was put on with the help of Rebecca Eckert and Cody Scrivener, who are



First place winners (from left) Ethan Bunnell and Caiden White show off the remains of their robots.



Finalists (from left) Noah Hansen and Louis Beauregard hold the robots they used in the finals.

seniors in Pathfinder's Electronics Technology program, as well as Ethan Griswold, a Pathfinder graduate who was called in after one student could not make the tournament.

"He's off college, so he figured, 'What do I want to do on my day off? Come hang out here,'" laughed Lussier.

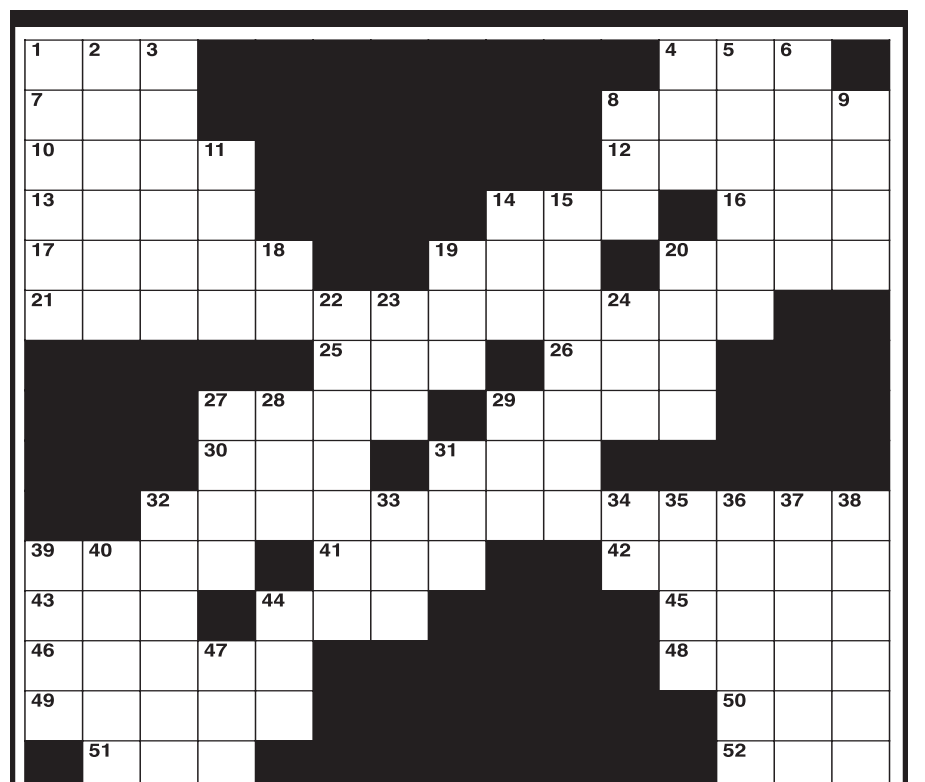
"[Eckert and Scrivener's] dedication, motivation, and drive are what help make this not only possible but exciting and engaging for all ages," Lussier said.

"It takes a lot to put on a really exciting show for the kids, but all these guys are outstanding,"

Lussier said. "I just love how I've had a lot of students from the past come back and say, 'hey, I've got nothing going on, can I just come here, hang around, and help out?' Like, absolutely, come on in. The more the merrier!"

Lussier himself provided commentary on matches, as well as musical accompaniment that included classics like Journey, with Europe's "Final Countdown" playing on a loop for the final match.

For more information about Pathfinder's Robotics and Engineering programs, visit their website at pathfindertech.org.



CLUES ACROSS

- Second sight
- Standard electrode potential
- Type of gibbon
- John Joseph ___: American industrialist
- Manning and Whitney are two
- Abrupt
- Baroque musical instrument
- Post-burning residue
- When you hope to arrive
- Sign up (Brit. Eng.)
- Sun up in New York
- Employee stock ownership plan
- Where people live
- Method to record

an electrogram

- Angry
- No longer living
- Simple
- Swiss river
- Portion of a play
- It's under the tree
- Wood sorrels
- No (Scottish)
- Dialect of English
- Former Steelers' QB
- Popular beer
- It can make you sick
- Tropical tree and fruit
- Company officer
- Contact lens term
- Your consciousness of your own identity
- "Ghetto Superstar" singer
- Piece of turf

CLUES DOWN

- Number of players on each side in a football game
- Containing salt
- Reasoning or knowledge: a ___
- Car mechanics group
- Leave a place
- Southern Colombian capital
- Old English letter
- Tide
- Walk heavily
- Chemical compound (abbr.)
- Artificial openings
- Luteinizing hormone
- Unit of energy
- Circular movement of

water

- A way of holding words (abbr.)
- Popular book of words (abbr.)
- States' group
- Dashes
- Body part
- Electronic countermeasures
- Consumed
- Small bird
- Unhappy
- Football's big game (abbr.)
- Valued object offered in good faith
- Wild goats
- Precede in place
- Small edible fish
- Notice of death
- Body cavity of a metazoan
- Partner to cheese
- Not around

Sophie (Kozik) Pzedpelski

Sophie passed away on July 14, 2023, at the age of 91.
Born in Ware on February 7, 1909.

Sophie lived all of her life in Ware and she took pride in her work with the Ware Shoe Company until her retirement. In her leisure time, she enjoyed playing cards, cooking, gardening and bowling.

Sophie was predeceased by her husband, John Pzedpelski.

Her memory will be forever cherished by her daughter, Sandra Piechota and son-in-law Mathew, Patricia and Robert Emerson and her grandsons, Kyle and Brett Emerson, and James Piechota.

In lieu of flowers, donations made in Sophie's name to St. Mary's Church, 60 South Street, Ware, MA, 01082.

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Monday through Thursday schedule with occasional evening meetings. The successful candidate will perform clerical duties and provide excellent customer service in the Town's Planning and Building Department. The pay scale ranges from \$18.36 to \$24.67/hour based on relative work experience and educational background. For a full job description please visit the Town's website www.warren-ma.gov.

Please submit your resume and cover letter to Jim Ferrera, Town Administrator, townadministrator@warren-ma.gov.

Resumes will be accepted until Friday, September 15, 2023.

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Turley Publications is looking for a "hands on" energetic candidate who loves telling stories to be the editor for two weekly publications. This position will include managing and coaching a small news staff that will provide the community with a great local newspaper.

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- Management experience and/or experience managing content for a print publication.

Please send resume and writing examples to: Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 or email directly to ekennedy@turley.com

Phantoms by Firelight returns to Old Sturbridge Village

STURBRIDGE - Halloween programming returns to Old Sturbridge Village on weekend evenings in October. Phantoms by Firelight returns to Old Sturbridge Village for 12 nights this fall. Ticket sales for the popular Halloween program are on sale now with special early access and a discounted rate for Old Sturbridge Village and Coggeshall Farm Museum Members.

For more details on the event or to purchase tickets visit: www.osv.org/phantoms.

New 2023 featured performances

For 2023 there will be four completely new acts added to each nightly show. These include:

Hand balancing and Cyr wheel performances by circus artist Joel Herzfeld. Kyle Breen will be spinning and dancing with fire. Kayla Ernst-Alper will perform high above the crowds with mesmerizing aerial silks on a Lyra (aerial hoop). Andre Sguerra will be entertaining crowds on stilts and the unicycle.

Returning acts from 2022

Classic ballet dancers turned circus performers, Richard Hanks and Ashlee Montague have performed in Cirque du Soleil's Broadway Show Paramour among other accolades and will be returning for this year's performances. Bryce Crumlish will bring back an even spookier performance. Crumlish will be joined by Jade Genga. These two experienced Ringmasters will entertain visitors each step of the way throughout the evening performances.

At Phantoms by Firelight visitors can also: Learn about the history of Halloween traditions, as well as coffin making, dis-

eases and cures, funeral practices, and more. Play classic outdoor games like cornhole or attempt stilt walking. Listen to haunting ghost stories by the bonfire. Meet author of "A Guide to Haunted New England", Thomas D'Agostino on select nights. Come dressed in costume and participate in the Village's version of trick-or-treat, Clues & Candy. Create photo opportunities and join a Spooky Selfie contest. Enjoy a seasonal menu of hot and cold and savory and sweet items as well as on-theme adult and non-alcoholic beverages. Shop in Miner Grant and the Ox & Yoke Mercantile for all your seasonal and holiday home décor.

Phantoms by Firelight Schedule Phantoms by Firelight will be held Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, Oct. Please see **OSV**, page 11

Submitted Photo
Phantoms by Firelight returns to Old Sturbridge Village Oct. 6-29.



Ware Police Log

During the week of Aug. 9-Sept. 5, the Ware Police Department responded to 34 miscellaneous calls, 30 administrative calls, eight traffic violations, 17 emergency 911 calls, five animal calls, three harassments, one theft/larceny, three assist other agencies, three motor vehicle accidents, two frauds, two trespasses, two damage/vandalisms, one breaking and entering/burglary and 21 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

Tuesday, Aug. 29
 9:14 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, South Street, Services Rendered
 1:30 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Cummings Street, Dispatch Handled
 3:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 4:21 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Palmer Road, Services Rendered
 7:06 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Palmer Road, Dispatch Handled
 7:10 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Palmer Road, Investigated
 7:59 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Spring Street, Dispatch Handled
 11:34 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Walnut Street, Dispatch Handled

Wednesday, Aug. 30
 7:31 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Robbins Road, Vehicle Towed
 7:55 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Street, Report Made
 8:30 a.m. Damage/Vandalism/Mischief, East Street, Advised

10:20 a.m. Assault Past, Eagle Street, Report Made
 2:58 p.m. Fraud/Deception, North Street, Services Rendered
 6:53 p.m. DUI/Impaired, West Street, Could Not Locate
 8:50 pm. DUI/Impaired, Upper Church Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 9:30 p.m. Traffic Violation/Hazard, Palmer Road, Criminal Complaint Request
 Summons: Italo Passos, 22, Ware
 Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle; Disorderly Conduct

Thursday, Aug. 31
 9:08 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Milner Street, Arrest Made
 Arrest: Matthew R. Peterson, 37, Ware
 WMS Warrant
 10:24 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 Summons: Jason E. Loadholt, 43, Ware
 Drug, Possess Class B
 Summons: Anthony F. Candelario, 37, Chicopee
 Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle; RMV Document, Forge/Misuse
 10:55 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Dispatch Handled
 11 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, East Street, Dispatch Handled
 1:27 p.m. Fraud/Deception, Fisherdick Road, Investigated
 2:33 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call,

Monson Turnpike Road, Dispatch Handled
 4:43 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, South Street, Dispatch Handled
 9:02 p.m. Warrant Service, Church Street, Arrest Made
 Arrest: Kayla M. Nietzel, 35, Other
 WMS Warrant; WMS Warrant; WMS Warrant

Friday, Sept. 1
 9:24 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, River Road, No Action Required
 5:12 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Hillside Village, Advised
 6:25 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Services Rendered
 9:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation/Warning Issued

Saturday, Sept. 2
 2:24 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Hillside Village, Assist Given
 3:21 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Highland Village, Dispatch Handled
 8:06 p.m. Breaking and Entering/Burglary, North Street, Arrest Made
 Arrest: Leroy J. Houghton, 36, Ware
 Disorderly Conduct; Abuse Prevention Order, Violate

Sunday, Sept. 3
 10:27 a.m. Damage/Vandalism/Mischief, Third Avenue, Advised
 3:10 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call,

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.

East Street, Dispatch Handled

Monday, Sept. 4
 11:12 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Gould Road, Investigated
 5:54 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Monson Turnpike Road, Advised
 6:11 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Advised
 6:35 p.m. DUI/Impaired, Palmer Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Tuesday, Sept. 5
 12:34 a.m. Assist Other Agency, West Main Street, Services Rendered
 2:55 a.m. Assist Other Agency, North Street, Transport Complete
 2:55 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Palmer Road, Dispatch Handled
 7:55 a.m. Traffic Violation/Hazard, Townwide, Citation/Warning Issued

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Aug. 28-Sept. 4, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 81 building/property checks, 38 directed/area patrols, 11 traffic controls, six emergency 911 calls, 13 radar assignments, one harassment, one property damage, three complaints, one motor vehicle investigation, one motor vehicle accident, two animal calls and 12 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, Aug. 28
 2:06 p.m. 911 Welfare Check, Petersham Road, Checked/Secured
 4:51 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Pine Street, Transported to Hospital
 7:33 p.m. Harassment, Prospect Street, Officer Handled

Tuesday, Aug. 29
 10:34 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Written Warning
 10:46 a.m. Medical Alarm, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital
 3:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Citation Issued
 5:50 p.m. Complaint, Railroad Lane, Spoken To

Wednesday, Aug. 30
 9:48 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Main Street, Report Taken
 11:43 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Street, Transported to Hospital

Thursday, Aug. 31
 11:15 a.m. Property Damage, Hardwick Road, Spoken To
 5:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Lower Road, Spoken To
 7:01 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Upper Church Street, Transported to Hospital

Friday, Sept. 1
 3:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Summons Road

Saturday, Sept. 2
 9:49 p.m. Complaint, North Street, Negative Contact
 10:48 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Mechanic Street, Transported to Hospital
 11:28 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Collins Road, Services Rendered

Sunday, Sept. 3
 8:54 p.m. Complaint, Broad Street, Spoken To

Weir River Concert Band begin rehearsals Sept. 6

The Weir River Concert Band will begin rehearsals for its 19th season on Sept. 6 at the Stone Church Cultural Center in Gilbertville.

The band rehearses from 7-8:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings from September through June. The band performs two concerts each season; a Christmas concert in December and a concert of traditional, pop and marches for concert band in June.

The band also provides live music for the Memorial Day and Veterans Day parades in Ware.

The band was created to give musicians of all ages and abilities a place to learn and grow as musicians. The band has included members from the ages of 11-90 over the years.

The Weir River Concert Band has been fortunate to join forces and collaborate with the Stone Church Cultural Center. After the COVID outbreak, the band was not able to use the Ware High School as a rehearsal/concert venue.

The Stone Church graciously provided the band with a place to rehearse and hold performances. They have also taken on much of the responsibility of making the concert happen.

The Weir River Concert Band would like to extend an invitation to musicians in the area to come join the fun. The only requirements are that you have your own instrument, you are able to read music (at any level), are willing to attend rehearsals on a regular basis (the band understands that things can sometimes interfere, and that's okay), and want to have some fun while improving your musical abilities.

If you would like to join, please contact Joanne Meegan by email at jomeegan@comcast.net.

Explore Quabbin's Gate 33 with DCR on Sept. 9

BELCHERTOWN – Join Department of Conservation and Recreation staff to explore the North Side of the Quabbin Watershed via Gate 33 on a 3.2-mile moderate hike on Saturday, Sept. 9 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

This out and back hike is on Quabbin's north side of the watershed. Participants will be walking down to the water on a dirt road through the forest.

The hike begins at Quabbin Reservoir's Gate 33. The parking area for Gate 33 is located on Route 122 in the town of New Salem (<https://goo.gl/maps/2N6meq5mz7hfVM3k7>).

All ages are welcome to these events. Email QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov with questions or to be added to the mailing list

Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring water and snacks. Dogs are not allowed anywhere on the Quabbin Watershed.

Space is limited.

To register for any of these events, visit www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events.

OSV from page 10

6-29 from 4:30-9 p.m.
 Ticket sales began Aug. 25 for members only and opened to the general public on Sept. 9.
 Membership to Old Sturbridge Village includes perks like 10% off on food, beverage, and retail items in our shops plus additional discounts for Christmas by Candlelight 2023.
 Learn more about all the membership benefits online at www.osv.org/membership/become-a-member/. For more details on the event or to purchase tickets visit: www.osv.org/phantoms.

Town of Hardwick Conservation Commission Request for Determination of Applicability

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act that a Public Meeting will be held for a Request for Determination of Applicability on **Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at 6:30 pm** at the **Municipal Office Building, 307 Main Street, Gilbertville**. All interested parties are urged to attend.

Applicant: Alfred Howell
 Description of Proposed Work: Septic System repair
 Location: 850 North Road
 Town: **Hardwick**

Interested parties may also view this Legal Notice at <http://masspublicnotices.org>.
 09/07/2023

(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 23 SM 003263 ORDER OF NOTICE TO:
Isis Anadon,
 and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 et seq.

AmeriHome Mortgage Company, LLC claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Ware, numbered 89 Church Street, given by Isis Anadon to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), as mortgagee, as nominee for Mortgage Network, Inc. its successors and assigns, dated May 18, 2021, and recorded or filed in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 14105, Page 323, and now held by Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **10/09/2023** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, **GORDON H. PIPER**, Chief Justice of this Court on 8/24/2023.
 Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson

Recorder 08/24, 08/31, 09/07/2023

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION CARE AND PROTECTION TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS DOCKET NUMBER: 21CP0233SA

Trial Court of Massachusetts Juvenile Court Department, COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS Essex County Juvenile Court 56 Federal Street Room 2001 Salem, MA 01970 (978)745-9660
TO: Adam E. Inman:
 A petition has been presented to this court by DCF Lowell, seeking, as to the following child, **Ariel L. Coelho**, that said child be found in need of care and protection and committed to the Department of Children and Families. The court may dispense the rights of the person named herein to receive notice of or to consent to any legal proceeding affecting the adoption, custody, or guardianship or any other disposition of the child named herein, if it finds that the child is in need of care and protection and that the best interests of the child would be served by said disposition.

You are hereby ORDERED to appear in this court, at the court address set forth above, on the following date and time: **10/12/2023 at 09:00 AM Hearing on Merits (CR/CV)**

You may bring an attorney with you. If you have a right to an attorney and if the court determines that you are indigent, the court will appoint an attorney to represent you.

If you fail to appear, the court may proceed on that date and any date thereafter to a trial on the merits and adjudication of this matter.

For further information call the Office of the Clerk-Magistrate at (978)745-9660.

WITNESS: Hon. Kerry A. Ahern, FIRST JUSTICE. DATE ISSUED 08/03/2023
 Judith M. Brennan, Clerk Magistrate

Recorder 08/24, 08/31, 09/07/2023

SECTION 00100 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The Town of Hardwick, MA, here-in after called Owner, is accepting sealed bids for the following project:

PROJECT NO. 2A- Wheelwright WPCF Upgrades Project

The work at the WPCF consists of a new headworks building with influent screening system and washer-compactor, replacement of existing influent pumping system, replacement of existing SBR decanter mechanism and aeration/mixing system, new mixing/aeration system in existing sludge holding tank, new disc-filter effluent filtration unit and UV disinfection system in new building, replacement of plant water system, existing building architectural upgrades, instrumentation and control/SCADA system modifications, electrical upgrades and modifications to the existing main electrical gear, site restoration and paving. The work also includes conversion of an existing remote ejector station into a submersible pump station.

Copies of the Bid Documents may be obtained by emailing DPC Engineering, LLC, at bidting@dpcengineering.com. Questions should also be directed to this location. Bid Document packages will be emailed to vendors upon request. Addenda will be emailed to registered plan holders. Failure to not acknowledge addenda may result in a bid rejection.

A non-mandatory in-person pre-bid conference will be held at **9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 19, 2023**. To ensure fairness in the bidding process, no verbal questions received during the conference will be answered and all inquiries must be submitted in writing via email. The pre-bid conference will begin at the following location:

WHEELWRIGHT WPCF 151 MAPLE STREET, GILBERTVILLE, MA 01031
 Bids should be

labeled **'Project No. 2A - Wheelwright WPCF Upgrades Project'**, followed by the bidder's company name, address and contact name. Bids should be delivered to:

TOWN OF HARDWICK TOWN HALL 307 MAIN STREET, GILBERTVILLE, MA 01031 ATTN: BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Bids will be received until the bid deadline of **9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 18, 2023**. Late bids will be rejected. Immediately following the bid deadline, bids will be publicly opened in the same building. All bidders shall furnish with their bid a mandatory bid guarantee in the form of a bid bond, certified check, treasurer's check or cashier's check issued by a responsible bank or trust company in the amount of 5% of the total amount of the bid made payable to the Owner. Performance and Payment Bonds, in the full amount of the Contract price, will be required of the Successful Bidder.

Sealed Bids from Subcontractors addressed as referenced above will be received until 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday October 4, 2023 and then publicly opened. Sub-Bids with the required Bid deposit will be received for the following items of work:

- Subtrades
- Electrical
- Painting
- Masonry
- Roofing and Flashing
- Heating, Ventilation & Air-Conditioning

The time period for holding Bids, where Federal approval is not required is 30 days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded, after opening of Bids.

Minimum Wage Rates as determined by the Commissioner of Department of Workforce Development under the provision of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 149, Section 26 to 27D, as amended, apply to this project. It is the responsibility of the Contractor,

before Bid opening, to request if necessary, any additional information on Minimum Wage Rates for those trades people who may be employed for the proposed Work under this Contract.

All Bids for this project are subject to and will be evaluated and awarded in accordance the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 149, Section 44A - 44J inclusive, as amended. The Awarding Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive informalities, and to award the contract in the best interest of the Owner.

In accordance with Section 44D of Chapter 149 of the General Laws of Massachusetts as amended, the prospective General Bidders and Filed Sub-Bidders shall submit with their Bid, a certificate of eligibility issued by the Division of Capital Asset Management (DCAMM), showing that the Bidder has been approved to bid on projects of the size and nature as advertised herein. Prospective General Bidders and Filed Sub-Bidders shall also submit an updated statement summarizing their record for the period between the latest DCAMM certificate and the date of the Bid submittal. The DCAMM certificate of eligibility to be submitted by the General Bidder shall be in one of the categories of work noted below. The DCAMM certificate of eligibility to be submitted by the Filed Sub-Bidder shall be for the categories of work for which they are submitting. The Filed Sub-Bid categories for this project are noted in the table below. If no Filed Sub-Bid categories are noted in the table below the value of any subtrade from the Engineers Opinion of Probable Costs fell below the statutory limit outlined in Section 44D of Chapter 149 of the General Laws of Massachusetts as amended.

DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility Requirements

General Bidder
 Sewage and Water Treatment Plants
Filed Sub-Bidder

Electrical, HVAC, Painting, Masonry, Roofing and Flashing

Owner reserves the right to waive any informality in or to reject any or all Bids, or to accept any Bid which in their opinion, is in the public interest to do so.

This project is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development. Section 00800 contains the funding program construction contract requirements, all of which shall be applicable to this Contract.

Section 746 of Title VII of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017 (Division A - Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017) and subsequent statutes mandating domestic preference applies an American Iron and Steel requirement to this project. All listed iron and steel products used in this project must be produced in the United States. The term "iron and steel products" means the following products made primarily of iron or steel: lined or unlined pipes and fittings, manhole covers and other municipal castings, hydrants, tanks, flanges, pipe clamps and restraints, valves, structural steel, reinforced precast concrete, and construction materials. The deminimis and minor components waiver apply to this contract.

TOWN OF HARDWICK, MASSACHUSETTS
 Consulting Engineer:
 DPC Engineering, LLC
 09/07/2023

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.

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