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WARE RIVER NEWS

SERVING THE WARE REGION FOR 129 YEARS

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2026

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www.wareriver news.turley.com

The Joy of Reading



Eagle Hill School teacher Amanda Damon used American Sign Language while reading "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?" by Bill Martin Jr. and Eric Carle at the Gilbertville Public Library last Friday.

Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

Eagle Hill School hosts story times with sign language

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

HARDWICK – Eagle Hill School teachers Amanda Damon and Jane Alwis, along with several students, visited the Gilbertville Public Library for a Joy of Reading story time, inspired by the late Dolly Parton.

Parton was an advocate for early literacy, and formed the Imagination Library over 30 years ago, a nonprofit organization that gives free books to children from birth to age 5 in the U.S., Canada, U.K., Australia and Ireland.

According to the Imagination Library website, Parton said she formed the organization to give all children the tools they need to pursue their dreams, just like she did.

"The seeds of these dreams are often found in books and the seeds you help plant in your community can grow across the world," Parton said.

Please see **READING**, page 13

Detective receives commendation

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Police Chief Shawn Crevier presented Detective Ryan Downing with a commendation at the Selectboard meeting, to recognize his exemplary work and dedication to the position.

At the Sept. 22 meeting, Crevier said, "Your recent investigations have set a new standard for professionalism and effectiveness within our department. Your attention to detail, perseverance and analytical skills were instrumental in resolving the cases you have been handling."

Crevier said this includes the recent case involving Angel Ramos, who received a 20-25 year prison sentence

Please see **WARE BOS**, page 6

Submitted Photo

Detective Ryan Downing received a commendation from Police Chief Shawn Crevier and the Selectboard at its Sept. 22 meeting.

Capital Planning Committee review

Requests prioritized

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

WARE – The Capital Planning Committee started the process of reviewing and prioritizing departmental requests for capital projects to potentially be placed on the warrant of the Nov. 16 special town meeting.

The town's definition of a capital project is something that has an expected lifespan of at least three years and costs no less than $25,000. Anything below that, according to committee member Ken Willette, should be accounted for in the yearly operational budget.

Please see **CAPITAL PLANNING**, page 2

SC honors longtime member

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARREN – The Quaboag Regional School Committee recognized longtime member Andrew Schwenker, who served for 17 years, 10 of which as the chair.

At the Sept. 21 meeting, Schwenker talked about his decision to serve on School Committee back in 2009. He estimated that he attended about 240 School Committee meetings and close to 1,000 subcommittee meetings.

He said one of the best things he accomplished during his time on the School Committee happened when he attended a youth soccer

Please see **MEMBER HONORED**, page 7

Pathfinder celebrates expansion with ribbon cutting



Submitted Photo

Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School leaders celebrated a major accomplishment with local officials.

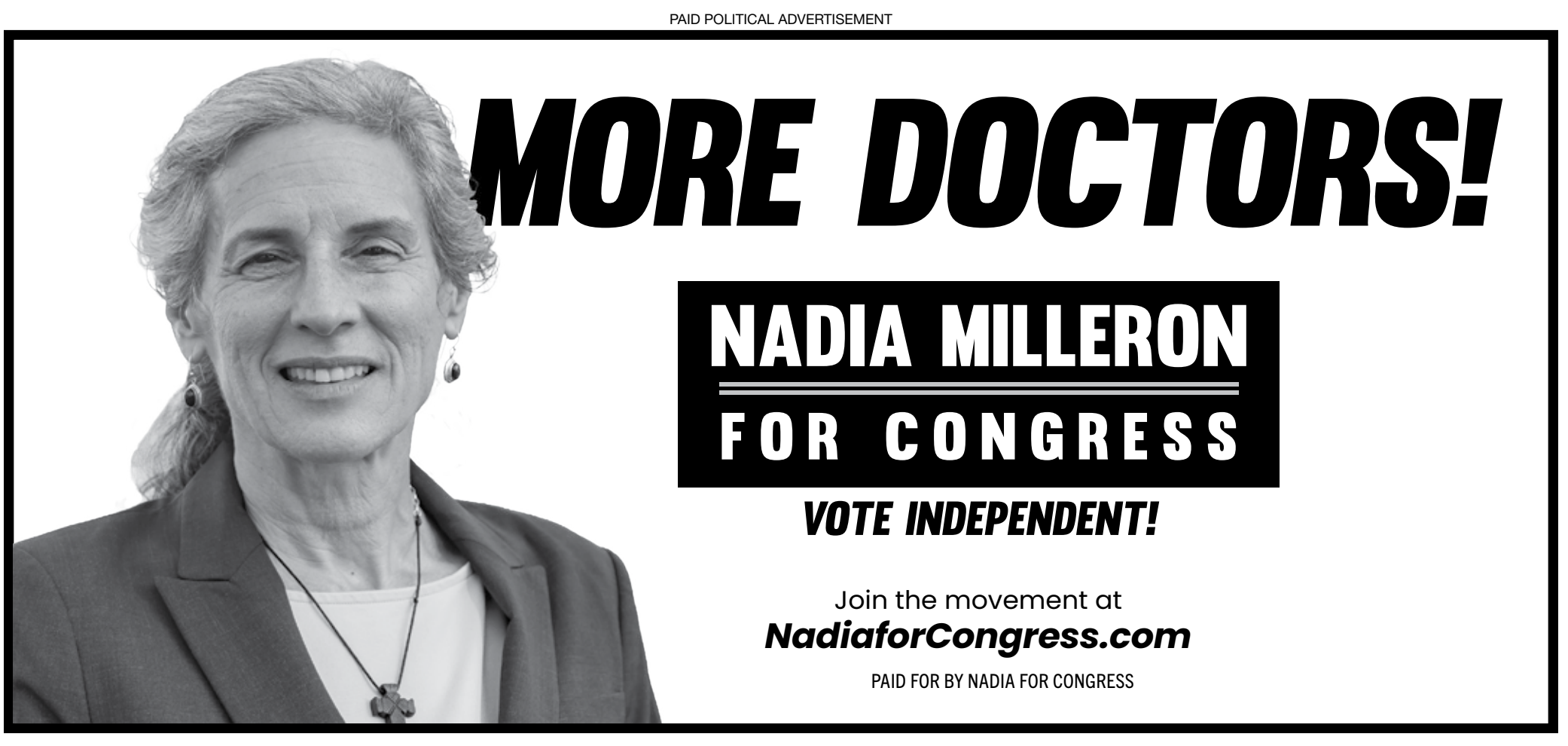
By Kevin Flanders
Staff Writer
kflanders@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – The Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School celebrated a major milestone, with a ribbon cutting ceremony at the district's new extension campus.

On Sept. 18, local officials joined school leaders at the ribbon cutting for Pathfinder Tech at Cold Spring, the district's new extension campus located at 57 South Main St.

Please see **EXPANSION**, page 8

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT



CNEER fall fundraiser benefit dinner is Oct. 24

HARDWICK – Central New England Equine Rescue, Inc. will hold a fall fundraiser benefit dinner at Hardwick Crossing Country Club, 262 Lower Road, on Saturday, Oct. 24.

Doors open at 5 p.m. and a buffet dinner will be served at 6 p.m.

Tickets are $100 each or bundle two tickets for $175. Payment must be received by Oct. 10.

To purchase tickets online, use the QR code or visit www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/fall-fundraiser-banquet. Checks made payable to CNEER can also be mailed to 96 New Braintree Road, West Brookfield, MA 01585.

About CNEER

CNEER is a grassroots rescue located in West Brookfield. Its mission is to rescue, heal and restore the spirit of the horse when it has been damaged through abuse, neglect and abandonment.

CNEER is committed to making a difference – one horse at a time.

For more information about CNEER, people may visit CNEER.com or follow the rescue on Facebook.

Ware Senior Center NEWS

WARE – The Ware Senior Center, 413-967-9645, located at 1 Robbins Road, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

The thrift store is open each of those days from 9 a.m.-noon. Donations to the store are only accepted by Sue LaBarge, who can be reached by calling 413-544-1574.

ACTIVITIES

Monday, Oct. 5
- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Foot Nurse Allison Williams. Call 413-967-9645 for an appointment.
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch

Tuesday, Oct. 6
- 9 a.m. Exercise Class at Valley View Housing
- 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Foot Nurse Allison Williams. Call 413-967-9645 for an appointment.
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. Knit-Crochet-Laugh
- 5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking. $3 per class.
- 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

Wednesday, Oct. 7
- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Foot Nurse Allison Williams. Call 413-967-9645 for an appointment.
- 9:30 a.m. Quilting Club
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. Chair Yoga with Lori

Thursday, Oct. 8
- 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
- 9 a.m. Walking Club (weather permitting)
- 9:30 a.m. Line Dancing for Beginners
- 10 a.m. Line Dancing
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 12:15 p.m. Art Class

Friday, Oct. 9
- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 10 a.m. Scat
- 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Food Bank of Western MA Brown Bag Program
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. Chair Yoga with Lori
- 6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

LUNCHES DINE IN
11:30 a.m.
All meals $3.50 unless otherwise noted

Required: call 413-967-9645 by noon on the business day before, to put you name on the lunch list.

Monday, Oct. 5

Steak and Cheese Sub, Onion Rings, Dessert of the Day

Tuesday, Oct. 6

Baked Ziti, Chef Salad, Dessert of the Day

Wednesday, Oct. 7

BBQ Pork, Potatoes, Veggie of the Day, Dessert of the Day

Thursday, Oct. 8

Sloppy Joe Sandwich, Tossed Salad, Potato Chips, Dessert of the Day

Friday, Oct. 9

Mac and Cheese, Stewed Tomatoes, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day

Are You Old News?



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

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



File Photo
Last week's photo from 2022 showed (seated) Kathy Hoisington and Holly Hoisington, and (standing) Roger Morrissette and Jeff Kularski. Morrissette presented a check from Janine's Frostee Annual Car Show to Kularksi to benefit the Bobby Hoisington Memorial Fund.

Workshop13 seeks photos for 'Americana: Pictures of Our Community' upcoming exhibit

WARE – Workshop13 Cultural Arts Center and ArtWorks Gallery are calling for photo entries for their upcoming community exhibition, "Americana: Pictures of Our Community."

As the U.S. celebrates its 250th Anniversary, all residents of Ware and surrounding areas – from amateur photography enthusiasts to professional photographers – are invited to submit original photographs that capture the unique spirit, landscapes, events, and everyday life of their local communities.

Participants are encouraged to get out into their communities with whatever camera they have available, from smartphone cameras to polaroids to DSLRs and beyond.

The deadline for submitting photographs is Sunday, Oct. 11, by midnight. There is no entry fee, and this exhibition is open to people of all skill levels.

Submissions can be mailed along with an entry form to ArtWorks Gallery at 69 Main St, Ware, MA, 01082 or dropped off in person at the same address. If the gallery is closed, submissions can be delivered through the mail slot in the front door; a box will be beneath the door to collect them.

Visit https://workshop13.org/exhibitions/americana/ for

Please see **EXHIBIT**, page 7

Recycling Center offers bulk waste day Oct. 24

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Recycling Center, 2011 Barre Road, will hold a Bulk Waste Collection Event on Saturday, Oct. 24 from 8 a.m.-noon.

This event is open to the residents of Hardwick and surrounding towns. A recycling center sticker is not required.

Please note, there are fees per item charged to cover the cost of hauling and processing. Cash or check payment to "Town of Hardwick" accepted.

Prices are available on the town's website, www.hardwick-ma.gov. The staff and volunteers reserve the right to price or reject other items not listed accordingly on site.

Dirty or soiled mattresses or box springs have a fee of $125.

For more information, people can email recycling@hardwick-ma.gov or stop by the Hardwick Recycling Center during open hours. Volunteers are also needed during the Bulk Waste Collection Event.

CAPITAL PLANNING

from page 1

According to Town Manager Stuart Beckley, the Fire Department has not yet submitted requests, but they have needs for a vehicle, truck and an ambulance coming up.

He said the Infrastructure Asset Improvement Committee will have an article related to the removal of a cistern in the water system.

Beckley said some other expectations from departments are a preliminary design for a roof at one of the schools and engineering for the water system.

At the Sept. 28 meeting, the committee looked at requests submitted by the Council on Aging, including a roof replacement for the Senior Center at about $130,000. Notes read from the request include some leaking on the portico.

The request included comparisons for the cost of a metal roof versus asphalt shingles and life expectancy among other aspects. The committee graded this a priority two because it is a high use building.

Another request from the COA is for work to be done on the rear parking lot, mainly for staff parking and vendor access, with estimates for hard pack and asphalt. The lot is currently just rough gravel.

Committee members agreed that they would use a hard pack, and graded this the lowest priority, a three. A third request did not meet the requirements of capital, as it was $11,000 for exterior painting, which was graded a priority three and referred to free cash.

A request for a director's vehicle came from the Department of Public Works, and the committee graded this a priority two since the town only has an interim DPW director at this time.

A request for a $310,000 sweeper came in, which the committee graded top priority. The committee also graded a road resurfacing request of just under $600,000 top priority, but noted the town has a pavement management plan in place.

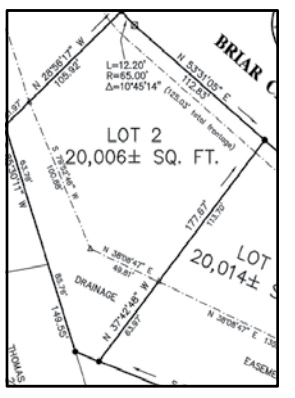
The committee graded a sewer replacement project on Clifford Avenue a top priority for $37,500. They also graded hydrant and meter replacements as a top priority, but Willette noted that the Sewer Department actually graded those the lowest priority.

A camera system for the Police Department was graded a top priority since the current cameras cannot view the entire property, which will cost $37,000.

The board delayed a prioritization of a $75,000 mower for the Parks and Recreation Department until they have time to research the possibility of a Green Communities grant for electric equipment. The board will meet next Monday to continue the review of requests.

ACCURACY WATCH

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



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Avery Quinn performed a lot of physical comedy on the Urban Hall stage.



Hilary Price of Hadley performed during the Ware Comedy Show. This was her first time performing in Ware.



Dan Boulger returned as host of this year's Ware Comedy Show after being last year's headliner.

Ware Comedy Show returns to Workshop13

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago
Comedian Jake Silberman was the headliner for this year's Ware Comedy Show.

WARE – The annual Ware Comedy Show presented by Colorblindguy Comedy returned to Workshop13 for an evening of laughter.

Four stand-up comedians took to the stage at Urban Hall on Sept. 26, including the headliner from the first comedy show last year.

Chris Murphy of Colorblindguy Comedy has been involved in stand-up comedy for 14 years and wanted to bring comedy back to town.

"It's such a talent," Murphy said.

Murphy's journey in comedy began by attending open mics in the Boston area and in upstate New York. He has always been a Johnny Carson fan and loves comedy for the originality and cleverness of the comedians.

Both last year and this year's comedy show had a sold-out crowd at Workshop13. The comedy show is supported by a grant from the Ware Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Murphy welcomed back last year's headliner comedian Dan Boulger as this year's host to kick off the Ware Comedy Show. Murphy opened the show by cracking a few jokes before introducing Boulger.

Many jokes throughout the show had ties to Ware, which gave the audience something to relate to.

Boulger has been performing in comedy for over 20 years and enjoyed listening to comedians such as Mitch Hedberg and Steven Wright. He started by writing jokes in high school for his friends and then began attending open mics in Boston while he attended college.

The first performer was Hilary Price of Hadley who has been a comedian for the last few years. Price's involvement with stand-up comedy began with her work as a cartoonist for newspapers.

She is the creator of the comic strip "Rhymes with Orange".

Price performed in local venues in the Northampton area and was attending her first comedy show in Ware. Her material is in family and observational comedy.

Her comedy is inspired by notable comedians such as Wanda Sykes, Maria Bamford and Mike Birbiglia. Her performance kicked off with several of her favorite jokes to tell, including a drink joke.

Avery Quinn of Plainville, Connecticut has been a stand-up comedian for eight years and was performing in his first show in Ware.

His exposure to comedy began with reading a book by Demetri Martin. Quinn performs comedy shows throughout the northeast, from Maryland to Maine.

Quinn loves to perform physical comedy which he feels is not seen as much anymore. He describes his comedy as "cleanish."

"Not swearing, not too crazy topics," he said.

Quinn's jokes revolve around ordinary day-to-day life and his family.

The headliner for this year's show was Jake Silberman of New York City. Silberman has been performing stand-up comedy for 13 years and has traveled all over the U.S. for shows.

Please see **COMEDY**, page 5

WPS Superintendent Search Subcommittee invitation

WARE – The Ware Public Schools Superintendent Search Subcommittee will take on the incredibly important task of selecting the school district's new superintendent and it is looking for members.

This decision will have an impact on students, families, teachers, staff and larger community for the foreseeable future, so committee members do not take this on lightly.

The committee members hope people will submit their names for consideration to join this group by Friday, Oct. 9.

Outline for subcommittee

The Superintendent Search Subcommittee will have two School Committee members (Mel Whitham and Kevin Slattery); three teachers, two administrators (one central office and one school); three staff members (paraprofessionals, custodians and/or secretaries); three parents (one from each school); three citizens at large (these citizens will not have any relation to current staff, School Committee members or students); and two current students (grades nine-12)

This outline is not completely rigid, but the committee members will strive to stay as close to it as possible when selecting members

Subcommittee meetings

This subcommittee will start meeting in the middle of October and work through November. The first meeting will take place on Wednesday, Oct. 14 at 6 p.m. in the Ware Junior Senior High School library.

Future meetings are anticipated to take place on Tuesdays or Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. the weeks the School Committee doesn't meet.

Subcommittee responsibilities

Subcommittee members must protect all manners of privacy throughout this process. No discussions or comments can be made outside of subcommittee meetings

Subcommittee members also determine the matrix for evaluation and voting on candidates.

Members will participate in productive conversations/debates about the candidates in a respectful manner and refrain from posting on social media in violation of state privacy laws.

The subcommittee will draft questions for candidates to answer during first round of interviews and final interviews to be voted on by the School Committee.

The subcommittee members will participate in first round of interviews, take notes, and discuss with fellow subcommittee members afterward at posted meetings. All meetings are to be held in executive sessions and are not open to the public.

The subcommittee will select the final candidates to submit to the School Committee for final consideration.

How to apply

Submit your interest in joining the subcommittee by Friday, Oct. 9 by completing the

Superintendent Search Subcommittee Interest Form online at www.wareps.org/superintendent/search.

Friends of Ware Seniors, Inc. list fall events

WARE – September is the time of year to start thinking of the fall season and the last days of summer.

Lotto calendars

The friends November lotto calendars will be on sale now until Oct. 30 for $10 each.

Joint health presentation

Friday, Oct. 16 there will be a very informative presentation joint health from Ortho MA Orthopedic Urgent Care in Wilbraham regarding joint pain and arthritis and what can be done to protect your joints, manage everyday aches and when to seek orthopedic care.

RMV training

Thursday, Nov. 5 MassDOT will do a presentation on RMV training on how to make that "driving decision." Discussion will be on topics relating to age concerns, Massachusetts license policies, ID cards, license surrender and local transportation options.

Holiday craft fair

Start your Christmas shopping early on Saturday, Nov. 14 the Friends are having a holiday craft fair at the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins road from 9 a.m.-noon. The Friends will have a 50/50 raffle and a raffle table of gift baskets.

To reserve a table, you must call Sue LaBarge 413-544-1574. Deadline to register for a table is Nov. 10.

All the above are open to the public.

Bargain clothing sale this Saturday

MONSON – A bargain clothing sale will take place on Saturday, Oct. 3, at Monson-Glendale United Methodist Church,162 Main St.

The sale will run from 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. Clothing is $1 per bag.

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viewpoints

Guest Column

Plastics and our health

By Louisa Knowles

Now that we are aware that microplastics are in the air we breathe, the water we drink and the food we eat, there is a growing concern about how plastics affect our health and that of the all life.



Scientists, doctors, our government agencies and individual citizens are growing increasingly concerned.

In 2026, the National Institute of Health has made microplastics a major federal health priority. The Department of Health and Human Services has been funded to assess the effects of microplastics in the body and possible ways to remove them.

The Environmental Protection Agency has also been funded to study, track and ultimately mitigate the damage caused by microplastics in the human body and the environment.

NIH has found in animal models that microplastics cause endocrine disruption, leading to hormone imbalances and fertility issues. They also cause nerve damage and oxidative stress.

At the University of California San Francisco, research in both humans and animals found that exposure to microplastics could harm reproductive, digestive and respiratory health and there is a suggested link to colon and lung cancers.

Yet, In Massachusetts, only 1%-4% of #4 plastic is recycled. This includes shopping bags, bread bags and plastic film like dry cleaning film.

They end up in our landfills, our oceans, or are incinerated (which causes hazardous pollutants, an increase risk of cancer, respiratory disease and hormone disruption.) A big reason for this is the fact that Massachusetts does not have the recycling infrastructure to process these plastics.

It is estimated that 42-48 million tons of plastic waste are produced per year in the U.S. It is projected that over 200 million metric tons will be produced in the next four to five years.

As many of you are aware, Community Resilience had arranged with Higgins Energy Alternatives in Barre to have space to collect #4 plastics. A volunteer took them to Home Depot who had agreed to recycle them.

After a few months, a manager at Home Depot said that they were throwing away our recycling. So, collection stopped.

Two stores that I have researched who do take #4 plastic are all Big Y's and all Market Basket's in our state, if there is a recycle bin to receive them at the store location.

They take grocery retail and produce bags, bread bags, films such as dry-cleaning bags, case overwraps (as on paper towels,) wood pellet bags and bubble wrap. It is essential that the plastic be clean and free of debris.

The markets then send the plastic to TREX where they are used in the manufacture of deck boards, railings and deck furniture.

Citizens need to advocate for putting a cap on plastic production and major investment in research for safe plastic replacements. We can support this by joining groups like Beyond Plastics of Greater Boston, MASSPIRG and the Sierra Club, as well as others.

On an individual level, we can limit, as much as possible, single use plastics. We can drink from glass or steel containers when we are out and about, cook with wood or metal implements and use cookware made from stainless steel or cast iron.

We can also buy clothes made from natural fibers, rather than from synthetic fibers such as polyester or nylon.

An excellent resource is the book, "How to Give Up Plastic", by William McCallum. The Barre Library now has this book.

Two good movies are "The Plastic Detox" available on Netflix, and "Plastic People" on Amazon Prime. An interesting and timely website is PlasticFreeJuly.org.

If you are interested in working on the plastic issue, please feel free to contact me, Louisa Knowles at: communityresiliencebarre.org

Garden scurrying

in the Garden
by Roberta McQuaid



The forecast of a September nor'easter certainly had everyone scurrying about.

Instead of running to the grocery store for necessities, I headed straight to the garden to tidy up a few things. With visions of air-borne pots, soggy containers of compost and ruined produce dancing in my head I got right to work.

First to check off my list was digging up the potatoes. The stems had died down on two of my three rows over two weeks ago and I didn't want the spuds sitting in impending mud when they could be curing somewhere safe and sound.

Speaking of curing, it is important to be intentional with this step, so that your potatoes will be edible well into the winter months. Curing potatoes properly will help to prevent rot, premature sprouting, and toxic greening of the skin and flesh.

By waiting a week or more after the plant has died before digging up the tubers, the skins will thicken and be less prone to injury during harvest. Once they are dug, a week spent in a cool and totally dark space will further firm their skin and change sugars to starch, completing the ripening process.

Never wash potatoes prior to storage! Gently brush off dirt and store in a single layer in the darkness at 55-60 degrees.

Darkness will prevent greening, which renders potatoes inedible. Use any pitch-forked or shovel-marked spuds first, as damage to the skin will invite rot.

Once the potatoes were out of the ground, I applied a two-three inch layer of composted manure and lime to the plot, then worked it in to the soil.

I won't be planting potatoes there next year other wise I would have stayed away from both amendments.

After that, I got to task number two, planting a cover crop in the empty ground. I figured with rain coming over the course of three days it would be off to a great start. In the big garden, where I can use my tiller, I sow winter rye.

It will start growing now, hold the soil in place over the winter, then, as spring ensues, it will grow tall and go to seed. Typically you mow it down or incorporate it into the soil before it gets too big.

Winter rye adds so much organic matter to the garden. Be sure to give the grass time to break down before planting into it; chopping it up/in about three weeks to a month before planting is a good plan.

Another thing that occurred to me while I was sowing the rye was seed saving. I purposely left what was left of my first sowing of green beans to go to seed.

I harvested all of the dried pods and will shuck them later, once I am sure that they are fully dry.

Finally, a bit of housekeeping to finish out my scurrying around. I collected my black plastic mulch, row covers and insects netting. I will hose off the black plastic, cinch up holes in the netting, and assess what I can salvage of my aging row covers .

I've smartened up and finally labeled what I use for what crop. For example, my number of cantaloupe/watermelon hills will likely remain the same, so reusing the same plastic mulch in that spot next year is a good plan.

With the storm behind us now, I can go back to a less frantic approach to garden clean up. Enjoy the fall foliage as you embark on your own work.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



WARE RIVER NEWS

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The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

Turley Election Policy

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

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

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

Letter to Editor

Resident credits town administrator for response to concern

Dear Editor,

I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to our Town Administrator, Jim Ferrera, for his prompt response to our streetlighting concern on Reed Street.

Jim went out of his way to make sure lighting improvements were made on our street and because of these enhancements we already noticed a difference in both safety and visibility on our street. Walking and driving at night now feel much more secure and the lights provide a more welcoming street.

I appreciate Jim's efforts and the dedication he has in making our town better.

Sincerely,

Karen Rucci
Warren

Reclaiming peace in the forest

By Julie Midura

I recently went on a solo backpacking trip.

Not by choice. Not to face my fears or challenge my courage.

Rather, because my favorite hiking partner is temporarily sidelined due to a torn rotator cuff. And with several grandchildren going through significant health challenges, the worry, helplessness, and endless stream of uncertainty was beginning to feel heavier than my heart could carry.

I found myself needing the quiet that only an overnight stay in the forest can provide. I needed the fresh air. The company of trees. The steady rhythm of my feet hitting dirt.

So in spite of my hesitation at spending a night alone in the woods, I packed up the gear that Tom and I would normally split between the two of us, and I drove to the Berkshires.

When I arrived at the trailhead on the Appalachian Trail, I shouldered my heavy backpack and began walking.

For seven hours I moved with purpose. With the urgency of someone trying to outrun something.

And perhaps I was.

Each step was taking me further from the noise of the world and inviting me into a place where harmony reigns.

A place where the air feels lighter and the earth feels softer. A place where nature holds me as surely as the heavens hold the sun in its rightful place in the sky.

I chose to do this trip solo not to feel strong or capable. Rather, to give myself space to breathe… and maybe even to heal some of the parts of me that feel broken.

For the short time I am here, I will allow nature to carry the things I can no longer bear.

At 5:30 p.m. – after hiking 12 miles – I stopped and pitched my tent. Filtered water. Sat beneath the trees with my feet immersed in a cold stream and watched the water curl around my toes.

I ducked into my tent just as the skies opened up in a deluge. I read a book while droplets of water exploded on the rain fly.

When darkness settled in, I prayed for my family. I wept. Then I fell asleep from exhaustion.

It's now 6:30 a.m. I'm lying on my back in my orange two-person tent. A crow is screeching overhead.

Morning light is filtering through the swaying canopy of trees above me, causing leaf-shaped shadows to dance on the fabric of my tent.

I lie still in the warmth of my bright green, down sleeping bag. Outside of my tent, the forest is alive and breathing.

Unconcerned. Unhurried. Unworried. Simply existing.

For a moment, I close my eyes and allow myself the freedom to do the same.



I know that my wet and muddy tent will be heavier on the hike out. But my heart already feels lighter.

Sometimes being strong for everyone else means recognizing when you need to step away for a little while and take care of your own heart, too. Because you can't pour from an empty cup.

I've taken these days for myself not because I don't care, but because I care so

Please see PEACE, page 5

Walk audit highlights needs of pedestrians

Staff Report

WARE – Healthy Quaboag led a walk last Friday on Main Street to audit the conditions that pedestrians face in Ware's downtown area.

Healthy Quaboag is a regional initiative working to enhance residents' well-being.

Walk audit leader Sawyer Blake said, "Our goal for these walks is to empower residents to speak up about improvements they see as necessary to make their towns more inclusive and walkable. "

Nine community members joined the walk on Sept. 25. The route followed West Main Street to Main Street and concluded at the Millyard on East Main Street

Improvements that were identified by the group included the need for additional crosswalks and wider sidewalks.

"Wider sidewalks will help slow traffic, "said participant Jen Healy.

Michael D'ambrosio, who works for the microtransit service Quaboag Connector commented on the long curb cuts in front of West Street businesses. He said this creates confusion on the location of the pedestrian way.

Resident Cynthia Allen Bourcier brought her bike on the walk to demonstrate difficulties with riding along Main Street. Bourcier pointed out the need for additional speed limit signs and crosswalks in order to increase safety.



Sawyer Blake and Arianna Palano of Healthy Quaboag led a walk audit of the downtown area.



Submitted Photos

Healthy Quaboag's Sawyer Blake talked with community members during a walk audit of the Main Street area last Friday.



Community members started the walk audit on West Main Street.

The group also suggested improvements to public transit along the walking route. Bus shelters and signage for bus stops are needed for the Connector routes within town as well as for Pioneer Valley Transit Authority buses which connect Ware to Holyoke, Worcester and Amherst.

Leaders were impressed that the walkers shared observations about things that are going well on Main Street as well as pedestrian issues that need improvement

The walk in Ware and a similar one in Monson are part of a statewide pedestrian data collection.

Blake said, "Healthy Quaboag has created walk audit instructions and routes for 18 towns in the region. "

Residents interested in conducting their own walk audit make contact Healthy Quaboag at community-health@townofware.com.

New Braintree marks 275th with Olde Home Day celebration this Saturday

NEW BRAINTREE – A cherished autumn celebration will take place on Saturday, Oct. 3, as New Braintree hosts its 275th anniversary celebration, Olde Home Day. Designed to highlight the town's unique heritage and vibrant character, the day-long festival features a jam-packed schedule of activities for all ages.

The festivities kick off at 1 p.m. with a traditional town parade, leading into a diverse afternoon lineup along the town grounds. Highlights include line dancing demonstrations led by J.P. Ellory – with plenty of audience participation – alongside performances by the Next Step dance group and a wandering clown to entertain younger guests.

Families can also explore a "Touch a Truck" exhibit, traditional children's lawn games, children's obstacle course, as well as a children's scooter/bicycle obstacle course.

You can take a chance with the New Braintree Fire Association's Duck Race as they travel the "river" down Utley Road. A bustling Farmers Market will be on the grounds showcasing local growers and artisans.

Food and drink offerings will highlight local favorites. Attendees can visit the Beer & Wine tent featuring selections from Lost Towns Brewing and Agronomy, or grab lunch from local food trucks Savage Wraps, and Off the Hook as well as some sweet treats from local bakers

Music and classic festival competitions anchor the afternoon. The band Over the Hump takes the stage from 2:30-3:30 p.m., coinciding with the popular pie-eating contest for children and adults.

Local bakers are also invited to enter their homemade creations into the Apple Pie Making Contest to compete for town honors. Bring your pies to the New Braintree Town Hall from 2-3 p.m. Judging will begin at 3:30 p.m.

Check the New Braintree website at www.newbraintreema.us for the contest rules.

As evening approaches, the energy picks up with a performance by Disco Lemonade from 5:30-7:30 p.m., culminating in a spectacular evening bonfire.

Organizers are encouraging community members to get involved to help make the event a success. For volunteer opportunities, contest entry forms, sponsorship opportunities or general information, contact event organizers at newbraintree275@gmail.com or call 413-537-4813.

PEACE from page 4

deeply that I needed somewhere to put all of these emotions for a little while.

Be assured, going into the woods doesn't erase every burden. But it does reframe them.

I will most assuredly come home with the same circumstances I left with. But perhaps I will carry them differently.

Perhaps my thoughts will be clearer and a bit less crowded.

At the very least, maybe I will return home with a little more peace, a little more strength, and a heart that feels somewhat more prepared to face whatever comes next.

Onward!

Follow Tom and Julie's hiking adventures on Instagram @morethanthemountain.

COMEDY from page 3

His comedy work began by listening to comedy podcasts and learning about other comedians and their lives.

After trying out stand-up during an open mic, Silberman was hooked and kept with it. In addition to performing all over the country, Silberman has also done shows in Europe.

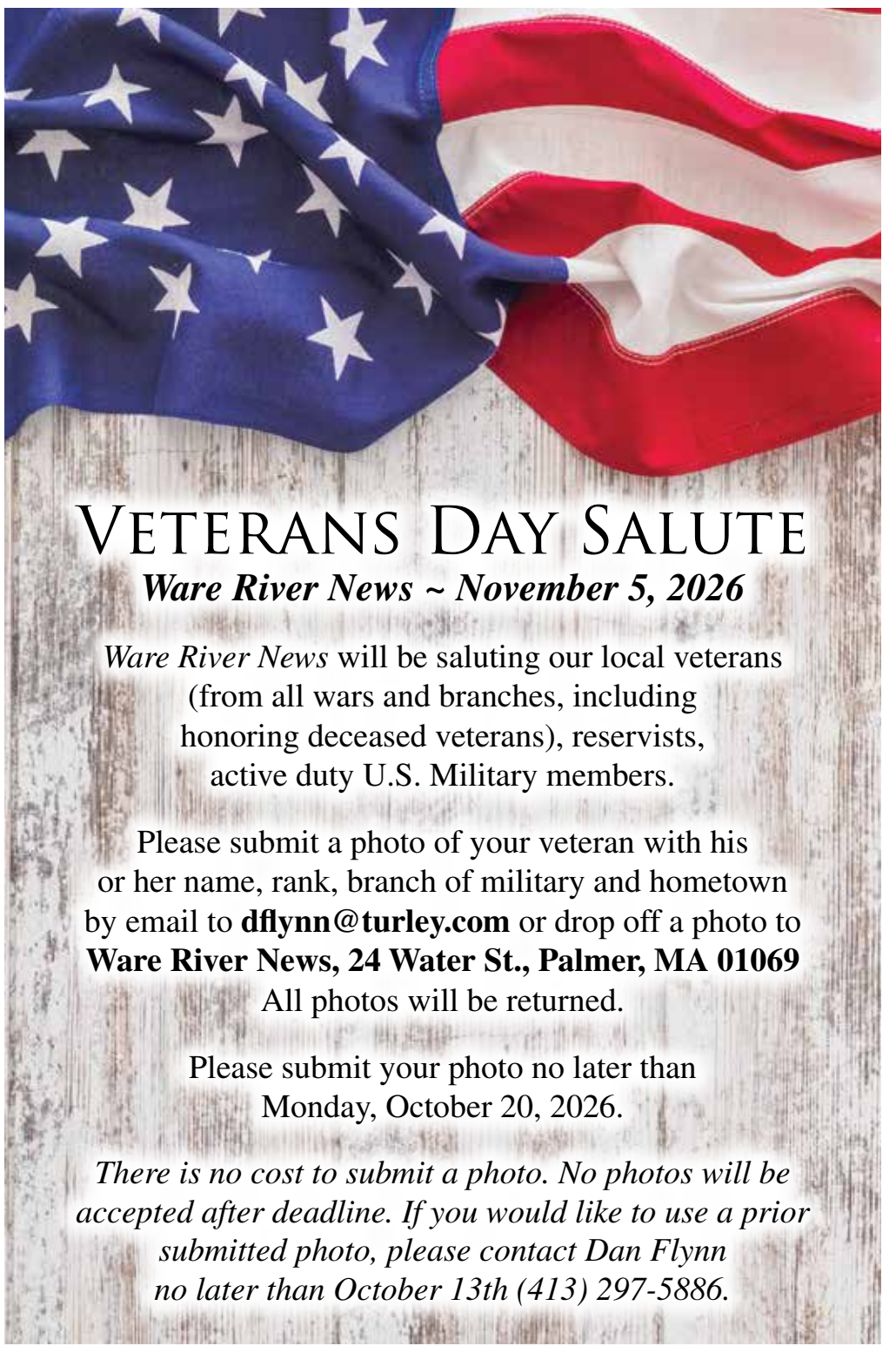
When it comes to performing in front of an audience, Silberman always tries to stay loose and have a good time because the audience notices when a comedian is enjoying their time on stage.

Silberman told the audience that he was excited to be in Ware for the first time and thought of it as a town where everybody knew everybody. Living in New York, Silberman said he doesn't know all of his neighbors.

Silberman shared that he has a documentary out on Prime Video. After the show, he greeted guests and had some T-shirts available.

The Ware Comedy Show was a hit at Workshop13 and will return next year with more laughs.

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Board closes hearing for Babe's Lawn Care

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Planning Board continued its public hearing for Babe's Lawn Care, Inc. which is seeking a special permit and site plan review to bring a landscaping and construction business and equipment storage to property off Brimfield Road.

At the Sept. 28 meeting, Eric Morris of Morris Engineering and Construction represented the applicant, Chris Predella of Babe's Lawn Care, to answer any questions the board members had.

Planning Board Vice-Chair Richard Eichacker asked if the business would have any hazardous materials on site and Morris said no.

In the plans, the applicant listed an oil and water separator and Eichacker asked if there was an operational manual included. Morris said he didn't have one at the moment, but could put one together and give the board a copy.

Morris can also provide a copy of the manual to the Board of Health in addition to the Planning Board.

"It would be part of the special conditions to maintain the oil and water separator," Eichacker said. "Make sure nothing is getting into the sewer system."

Planning Board Chair Derick Veliz talked about putting in a condition that makes sure any potential flooding caused by unpredictable rainfall is handled.

Predella said his intended hours of operation would be 6 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday, for mowing. The site would also be open half-days on Saturdays if needed.

The Planning Board voted to close the public hearing and will now work on setting a list of conditions for the applicant. A decision will be made at the Planning Board's Oct. 19 meeting.

Training opportunity

Eichacker informed the Planning Board about possible training they can do with the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources.

These trainings could be done in town and covers all forms of renewable energy such as solar, wind and battery arrays.

Donation of land

Administrative Assistant Laura Sherris informed the Planning Board about a possible donation of land off Brimfield Road. The land is located near a swamp right after the underpass above the Massachusetts Turnpike on Route 19.

Multiple departments are being contacted to see if they have any use for the land. If the board members are interested in the land, Sherris can submit information to Town Administrator James Ferrera.

Quaboag's 'Fight Like a Kid' game benefits local student

WARREN – Quaboag Regional Middle High School, 284 Old West Brookfield Road, has teamed up with Fight Like a Kid for a special fundraiser home football game versus Worcester Tech on Friday, Oct. 2 at 7 p.m.

Proceeds from the game will benefit Olivia, a local child impacted by pediatric cancer. Donations can be made by scanning the QR code.

Game attendees are encouraged to "dress to impress" for Olivia at this Disney-themed game.

Items wanted for time capsule

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

Residents interested in placing something in the time capsule can reach out to the Warren Parks Department or visit the table set up during the Farmers Market on Saturdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on the common. The deadline for submitting a contribution to the time capsule is Sept. 27.

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

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

Visit us at www.turley.com

Back Roads Studio Tour is Oct. 3-4

The Back Roads Studio Tour will be held Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 3 and 4 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and includes studios in Barre, Gilbertville, North Brookfield, Petersham, Spencer and Ware.

Studios include Pieceful Primitives, Lou Meyerdierks, 36 Donnelly Cross Road, Spencer; Buck Hill Studio, Russell Buzzell, 25 Tucker Road, North Brookfield; Brookfield Paperworks, Elisabeth Hyder, 23 High St., North Brookfield; Jeff Palmer Designs, 14 Mill Road, North Brookfield; John Collins Studio, 29 Beach Road, Ware; Dragonbelly Ceramics, Lisa Cohen, 183 Mechanic St., Gilbertville; Sheldon Farm Baskets, Sue Morello, 587 Sheldon Road, Barre; and Petersham Leathers, Sylvia Brown, 202 Popple Camp Road, Petersham.

For more information about the Back Roads Studio Tour and the featured artists and crafters, visit backroadsstudiotour.org.

Corvette Club hosts All Makes & Models Car Show

CHICOPEE – The annual All Makes & Models Car Show will be presented by the Corvette Club of Western MA on Saturday, Oct. 3 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Chicopee Moose Club, 244 Fuller Road.

There will be food, beverages, raffles, trophies and live music provided by The Blue Groove Band. There is a $20 car entry fee and spectators are free.

WARE BOS from page 1

for 28 counts of rape and sexual abuse of a child.

"In my opinion, you have not only demonstrated outstanding detective abilities, but you've also served as a role model for your colleagues," Crevier said to Downing. "Your continued efforts will have a lasting positive impact on our department and the community you serve."

New police hire

Crevier recommended the board appoint Jayson Alvarez to a full-time police officer position.

Alvarez is an active member of the U.S. Army Reserve and is finishing up a degree in criminal justice at Westfield State University.

"He was an excellent candidate, he shined," Crevier said.

The board unanimously voted to appoint Alvarez to the position.

E-bike concerns

Resident Jack Cascio shared concerns about the use of e-bikes on sidewalks.

He said he recently clocked one e-bike user going over 20 mph on the sidewalk. On other occasions, he has witnessed e-bike users traveling the wrong way at a high speed in Grenville Park.

"Once again, I'll voice my concerns that there's going to be a problem and that I think it's just something that's waiting to happen," he said.

Selectboard Chair Josh Kusnierz said he has shared similar concerns with the police chief.

"It is horrendous," he said. "The problem is everywhere and it's not going to get any better any time soon. Children have died on these things."

Kusnierz said the use of e-bikes by children has become problematic, with many exhibiting reckless driving behavior. He cited recent accidents that have occurred between e-bike users and motorists.



Submitted photo
Police Chief Shawn Crevier is shown with new Police Officer Jayson Alvarez.

"There's no good in this," he said. "The people that are going to be severely effected are the people that are driving on the road that are licensed, insured…there's got to be rules and regulations."

Crevier said people need to report incidents with e-bikes to the police when they occur.

"The public needs to call us right away, we'll take action," Crevier said.

He said the Police Department has towed about a dozen e-bikes in the past month for improper use.

Crevier said e-bikes that look like dirt bikes are illegal to operate on the street, but the law becomes more complicated for e-bikes with pedals.

"They shouldn't be on the sidewalks," he said of e-bikes.

Crevier said parents looking to purchase e-bikes for their children need to research laws regarding them. He encouraged those with questions to reach out to the Police Department.

Snow's Pond dam

Angela Pannaccione, a representative from Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, appeared before the board to give an update about the dam at Snow's Pond and request the board's support to apply for a grant to conduct a study. The board approved the request.

The dam was constructed in the early 1800s to provide power to a mill operated by the Snow family.

"We're not asking to remove the dam," Pannaccione said. "All we are asking is to conduct a preliminary study to see what kind of opportunities, restraints and challenges there are for potential dam removal."

Pannaccione said they have explored potentially resuming recreational use at the pond, but due to "the vast amount of aquatic invasive species" and its proximity to the public water supply, it is unlikely. One of the only option to resume recreational activities at the pond is dredging.

Pannaccione said the cost to bring the pond back to recreational use would be prohibitive.

She said the dam is not in poor or unsafe condition right now, but it would be a "significant hazard" if the dam were to fail. Because of this, it is listed as a significant hazard dam.

Pannaccione said this project is located in an Environmental Justice area and community engagement has already begun.

"Because there's already been some community engagement, it highers the score of potentially receiving this," she said of the grant for the study.

Town Hall public hours

Town Manager Stuart Beckley provided the board with data regarding the number of visitors to Town Hall, which is currently closed on Wednesdays except by appointment.

He said some departments benefit from having one day a week open by appointment only, including the Treasurer/Collector, Town Clerk and Assessors.

Selectboard Clerk John Desmond suggested moving the appointment-only day to Mondays instead of Wednesdays, as many holidays occur on Mondays. He said this could have less of an impact on residents.

Selectboard member Steven Hawk said people have reached out to him about being "frustrated" by needing appointments at Town Hall on Wednesdays.

"It's really putting a burden on so many residents," Hawk said. "I don't see the benefit of having the Town Hall closed on a Wednesday."

Hawk said employees can catch up on work at the Town Hall on weekends, or stay later during the work week.

Beckley said there are a lot of employees working extra hours to get things done for the town.

Selectboard Vice-Chair Ken Willette said he is also concerned with the Town Hall being closed the entire day on Wednesdays. He said opening an hour later, or closing an hour earlier, could help staff catch up on work.

Selectboard member Valerie Granger said she agreed that the Town Hall should be open more hours for the public.

Beckley said if the board members voted to reopen the Town Hall on Wednesdays, that they consider allowing accommodations for certain departments, such as the Treasurer/Collector department.

Willette made a motion to have Beckley present an alternative schedule of Town Hall hours to the board, which include it being open five days a week. He said the alternative schedule would include times that departments could block out to catch up on work.

Beckley will present an alternative schedule of Town Hall hours to the board at the Oct. 6 meeting.

Police Chief's contract

The Selectboard voted to approve the Police Chief's contract effective July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2029.

Appointments

The Selectboard appointed Catherine Buelow-Cascio, Cynthia Allen Bourcier and Sawyer Blake to the Healthcare Advisory Committee.

Beckley said the town received two additional applications as well.

Church Street sidewalks

Desmond talked about the grant the town received for new sidewalks along Church Street spanning from Pleasant Street to Walnut Street. He said there are old water lines that should be replaced before the sidewalks are installed.

Desmond also said the bid for the project came in higher than anticipated.

"How do we get these sidewalks in without having to dig them up two or three years from now to put these service lines in," he said.

Kusnierz asked Desmond to request to have this topic added to a future agenda.

Bulky Waste Day

Bulky Waste Day will be held on Saturday, Oct. 17 from 7 a.m.-noon at ReSource Waste Services of Ware, 198 East St., for Ware residents only.

Items to be accepted at no cost include love seats, couches, box springs, chairs, mattress and power equipment that has been drained of all fluids. No food waste, liquids/fluids, paints, oils, hazardous waste or yard waste.

Items accepted with a fee include tires, Freon units (air conditions and refrigerators), televisions and computer monitors.

No trailer loads of household clean-outs or construction debris will be accepted.

KofC events

The Selectboard approved a toll road fundraiser for the Knights of Columbus on Saturday, Oct. 10 from 8 a.m.-noon.

The board also approved the annual Halloween in the Park drive-thru event hosted by the Knights of Columbus on Friday, Oct. 30 from 6-8 p.m. at Grenville Park.

Abatements

The board approved a sewer abatement request for 28-30 Vigeant St. and tabled a request for 22-28 Otis Avenue.

Celebrations committee

The board voted to change the name of the 250th US Celebration Committee to the Celebrations Committee.

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Paige library offers October activities

HARDWICK – The Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, presents "Ghosts of New England" with Jonah Knight at the Town House, 40 Common St., on Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 6 p.m.

This program of history and unusual tales is brought to you by the Hardwick-New Braintree Cultural Council.

Knight presents real unexplainable phenomena with a sprinkle of interactive fun, historical details, and magical effects to enhance the funny, spooky, and emotional stories. New England Ghosts explores local history through the lens of spirits and unexplained phenomena.

Make sure to attend if you are fascinated by ghost stories and history.

Costume swap

A Halloween costume swap will be held on Saturdays, Oct. 10 and 17 from 11 a.m.-noon. Bring in a costume and take home a costume.

Jewelry making

Think Pink on Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 6 p.m. with jewelry making in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Grouch Day

Grouch day will be held on Thursday, Oct. 15 from 2-7 p.m. Come moan, sulk, and complain among friends and leave a vinegar message for all to read.

Ed the Wizard

Ed the Wizard presents magic and fun on Saturday, Oct. 17 at 2:30 p.m. brought to you by the Hardwick-New Braintree Cultural Council and the Libraries of Hardwick at the Town House, 40 Common St.

Needle felting

Needle felt a mushroom on Tuesday, Oct. 20 at 6 p.m.

Halloween tattoos

Come in for a Halloween tattoo during library hours on Oct. 27, 28 and 29.

Face painting

Face painting will be held at the library on Saturday, Oct. 31 from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. A donation will help cover material costs.

Sign up for a spot ahead of time by emailing or calling. Appointments every 10 minutes.

Trail of Treats

Trail of Treats will be held on the Common on Saturday, Oct. 31 starting at 5:30 p.m.

Ongoing programs

Join the Paige Memorial Library for Wednesday morning Story Hour and activities beginning with "getting to know you time" at 10:30 a.m. and story and activities at 11 a.m. Homeschoolers are welcome and can access books and materials through our library and through Interlibrary Loan.

The Friends' Book Sale is ongoing. The Book Club and the Cookbook Club meet monthly.

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

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

Share ideas for books, the library of things, programs, speakers, or more. Please email, call or stop in.

For more information, visit www.paigelibrary.com, find the Paige Memorial Library on Facebook, email paigelibrary.hardwick@gmail.com or call 413-477-6704. See the full calendar of activities at www.paigelibrary.com/calendar-of-events/.

Grange hosts garlic planting workshop on Oct. 5

WARE – Ware Grange's last gardening workshop for this season, "Garlic Culture and Tasting," will be held on Monday, Oct. 5 at 7 p.m. at the Grange Hall at 297 Belchertown Road.

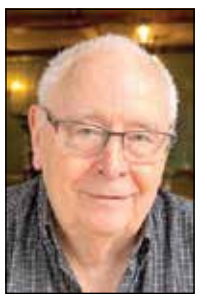
The presenter will be Roberta McQuaid, author of the weekly "In the Garden" column for Turley Publications.

Now is the best time to plant garlic cloves. Learn about how to prepare your soil, plant the cloves, mulch and overwinter, then what to do in the spring to ensure a robust harvest. Attendees will get to sample different garlic varieties to experience the variation in taste.

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

obituaries

Theodore A. Gagnon



WEST WARREN – Theodore A. "Ted" Gagnon, 89, passed away on Sept. 23, 2026.

He was born in Spencer, on Nov. 11, 1936, to the late Armand and Marie (Lacasse) Gagnon.

Shortly after graduating from high school, Ted honorably served in the United States Air Force. Following his military service, he began a long and dedicated career in the telecommunications industry, working for Bell Telephone, New England Telephone, AT&T and Lucent Technologies, from which he eventually retired.

Ted married his beloved wife, Evelyn (Misiaszek) Gagnon, and together they shared 50 years of marriage. They made their home in West Warren, where they raised their family and created many cherished memories.

Ted was a talented and creative man who enjoyed building model remote-control airplanes and taking them out to fly. He also had a passion for creating model trains, putting his time and creativity into building them.

Ted was predeceased by his parents, Armand and Marie Gagnon and his brother, Norbert Gagnon.

He leaves behind his loving wife, Evelyn Gagnon; his children, Mary Harder and her partner Ed O'Donnell, Michael Gagnon and his wife Trish and Christopher Gagnon and his wife Deb; his stepsons, Edward Kosmider and his wife Sandra and Daniel Kosmider; his grandchildren, Lindsey Robillard and her husband Michael, Wyatt Gagnon, Emerson Gagnon and Dillon Herrin; his step-grandchildren, Joseph Gratton and his wife Shannon and Randy Gratton and his wife Taylor; as well as nine great-grandchildren.

Services will be held privately. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Ted's memory to the American Diabetes Association or the American Heart Association.

Death notices

Gagnon, Theodore A. "Ted"
Died Sept. 23, 2026

Wright, Ursula
Died July 14, 2026
Celebration of Life to be held at Salem Cross Inn in West Brookfield on Sunday, Oct. 11 from 1-3 p.m.

Ware River News
Obituary Policy

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

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

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

EXHIBIT from page 2

the entry form and full submission guidelines.

Currently on display through Oct. 17 at ArtWorks Gallery is "The Unexpected Portrait."

"Americana: Pictures of Our Community" will be on display in the gallery from Oct. 24 to Nov. 15. Gallery hours are Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m.

About Workshop13 & ArtWorks Gallery

Workshop13 is a non-profit cultural arts center dedicated to increasing the availability and accessibility of the arts through education, production, and exhibition opportunities. ArtWorks Gallery serves as a vibrant space for regional artists and community cultural events.

MEMBER from page 1

game at Warren Community Elementary School and struck up conversation with the person next to him. This person was Stephen Duff, and Schwenker convinced him to join the school district.

"15 years later, he's still here," Schwenker said of the now Superintendent.

Schwenker talked about some of the challenges the School Committee faced, including getting through the COVID pandemic.

He said seeing what the students are capable of "is amazing" and was one of the most rewarding aspects of the position.

Duff thanked Schwenker for his service to the school district, its families and the communities of Warren and West Brookfield.

"Even through all the difficult times, there was always a silver lining," Duff said. "Every year, under your leadership, we were able to figure out some of the areas that we could work on and how to turn a negative into a positive…a lot of that is through your mentorship."

Recognition

Duff recognized Food Service Director Missy Mansfield for the things that she does to save money for the school district, as well as to benefit the students through the nutrition program.

"Missy was absolutely instrumental in making sure that Warren was capable of providing the number lunches and breakfasts that go out every day," Duff said.

Duff said Mansfield applied for grants over the summer, and the school district was able to receive a $24,000 credit for trading in old equipment in order to purchase new equipment.

"What Missy does for this district and more importantly for the students…your efforts are far beyond anything that I think anybody here could ever have expected," he said.

Duff said Mansfield not only creates her signature recipes from scratch, she has also implemented a salad bar in the high school. She will launch a soup bar during the winter months.

Those attending the School Committee meeting were able to sample one of the soups.

"There's so much work that goes in behind it," Duff said of Mansfield's efforts and her staff.

New staff

Middle High School Principal John Diorio introduced new staff members to the School Committee,

Science teacher Nick Henderson has been with the school district in different roles for a total of 16 years, Diorio said, having previously been a paraprofessional and a substitute teacher. Now, he is a full-time member of the staff.

"He's done a fantastic job in the classroom," Diorio said. "I can't tell you how excited we are to have Nick on our staff."

Diorio also introduced Isabella Ameen, the new art teacher. Ameen is a recent graduate of UMass and teaches sculpture and photography for grades seven and eight.

Update from elementary school

Sixth grade students Lily Beall, Bennett Skowyra, Lilian Benkert and Fallyn Pervier gave an update about happenings at Warren Community Elementary School since the school year started. This year the school is serving all students in kindergarten through grade six, district-wide, due to the closure of West Brookfield Elementary School.

Open houses and the PTO carnival were held before the first day of school to welcome students to the school. Students also enjoyed ice cream and freeze pops handed out by Police Chief Gerald Millette and school district administrators.

Kindergarten students started their educational journey on Sept. 10.

Students are participating in math challenge, with a prize awarded to the first class to reach 10% puzzle progress by October.

In social studies, students have completed a project on grade six culture. In science, the students completed a study on the phases of the moon.

In reading and writing, students are learning about figurative language, character traits and themes.

Sixth grade students are also preparing for the Ecology Trip in Saco, Maine from Oct. 13-16.

The Worcester County District Attorney's office will visit the school to present an anti-bullying and cyber bullying program to students in October as well.

Update from middle/high school

Students Lyndie Miller, Mallory Piazzo and Brielle Gerulaitis gave an update from Quaboag Regional Middle High School.

Fall sports have resumed and the student-athletes enjoyed a Fall Sports Night with a meal provided by the booster club, as well as raffle prizes. This year's fall sports offering includes girls soccer, boys soccer, field hockey, cross country, golf and football.

Grade seven students participated in A.L.I.C.E. training where they learned about awareness, communication and response options during a lockdown.

Members of the EMT and Fire Academy held a remembrance ceremony for the 25th anniversary of 9/11.

The theater and performing arts department will be holding auditions for "Frozen" the musical and students in the music program recently performed "God Bless America" during the town of Warren's dedication of its veterans honor roll wall.

National Honor Society candidates are working on their applications for the induction to be held on Oct. 26 at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

Grade eight students will continue the Thanksgiving tradition of the relay race with staff.

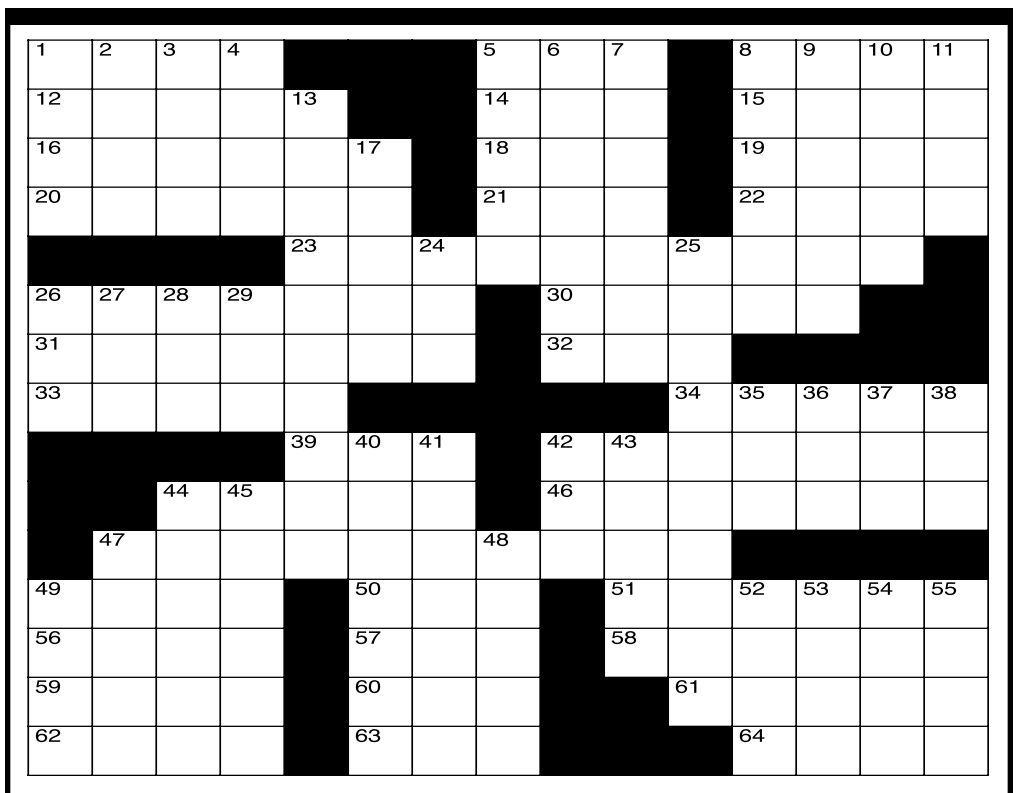
Grade 10 students are forming a prom committee, as well as planning the winter breakfast with Santa. Grade 11 students are also planning for prom.

Grade 12 students were able to purchase parking spots to decorate at the start of their final high school year, and they also enjoyed Senior Sunrise. The seniors will staff the snack shack during the fall sports season to raise money for the class.

Cell phone policy

Diorio said the students have been following the new cell phone policy and there have been no issues with its implementation. He said students have been talking with each other more and collaborating.

"It's really been great," he said.



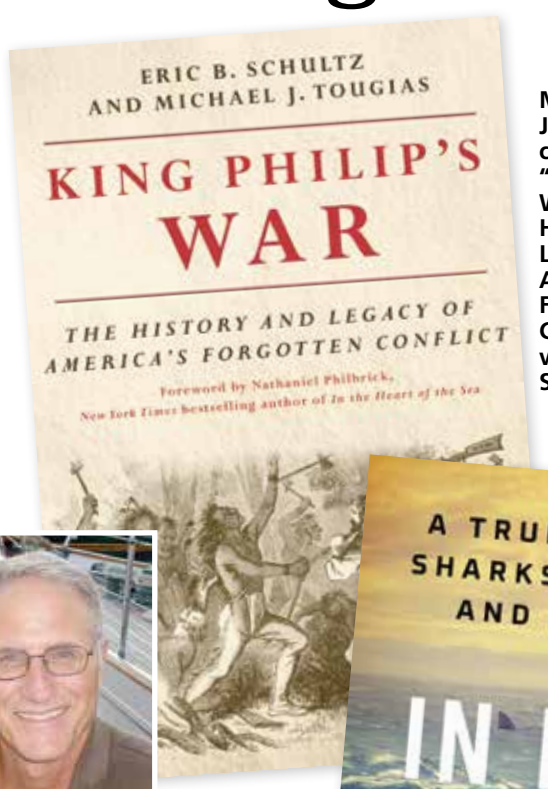
CLUES ACROSS
1. "Wicker Man" actor Nic
5. Protection
8. Cloth worn over a shoulder
12. Ceramic jars
14. Midway between northeast and east
15. South American hummingbird
16. Platforms
18. Taxi
19. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
20. A citizen of Yemen
21. Military mailbox
22. Nuclear near reach weapon
23. Clears
26. Broken
30. Actress Lathan
31. Avid fan
32. One and only
33. Proceeding
34. River in Portugal and Spain
39. Doctor of Education
42. Defeat handily
44. Less complicated
46. Handyman tools
47. Written works
49. Castle dweller's safety net
50. Honorable title (Turkish)
51. Greatest
56. Can do
57. A place to sleep on the road
58. Member of U.S. Navy
59. 24-hour units of time
60. Actor Horsley
61. In a way, sounds off
62. Formerly (archaic)
63. Eye infection
64. Plundered

CLUES DOWN
1. William __, Buffalo Bill
2. Wings
3. Candle or lantern
4. Freedom from difficulty
5. A type of pie
6. Metrical foot
7. __ Kerr, actress
8. Nap
9. Popular singer Bocelli
10. Immune responses
11. "Mad Men" leading man
13. A citizen of Senegal
17. Philly basketball player
24. Not even
25. Measures wind speed
26. Insecticide
27. Jordan glided through it
28. Bird-like dinosaur genus
29. Expression of satisfaction
35. Big Blue
36. One point east (clockwise) of due north
37. Of she
38. Oral rehydration solution
40. Knocks off course
41. Popular cop show of yesteryear
42. Zhou dynasty state
43. Genus of gulls
44. Onion flatbreads
45. Declare as true
47. Of a lobe
48. Missouri county
49. Produced
52. Volcanic crater
53. Off-Broadway theater award
54. KU hoops coach Bill
55. Check for

America's Forgotten Conflict

Renowned author presents lecture on King Philip's War

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com



Michael J. Tougias co-authored "King Philip's War: The History and Legacy of America's Forgotten Conflict", with Eric Schultz.

WEST BROOKFIELD – New York Times Bestselling Author Michael J. Tougias will present a free slide lecture about King Philip's War at the West Brookfield Senior Center, 73 Central St., on Sunday, Oct. 4 at 1 p.m.



Author Michael J. Tougias

This lecture is sponsored by the Quaboag Historical Society.

Named after "King Philip," who was also known as Metacom, a Wampanoag chief, the war was fought between the colonies and many of the Native American tribes from 1675-1676.

"Per capita basis, it had the highest casualty rate of any war America was involved in," Tougias said. "It was a major, major event."

One of the most brutal battles that occurred during King Philip's War took place at a Native American village along the Ware River, in the area now known as the Winnimusset Wildlife Management Area, near the Hardwick/New Braintree line.

"The action there is known as Wheeler's Surprise," Tougias said.

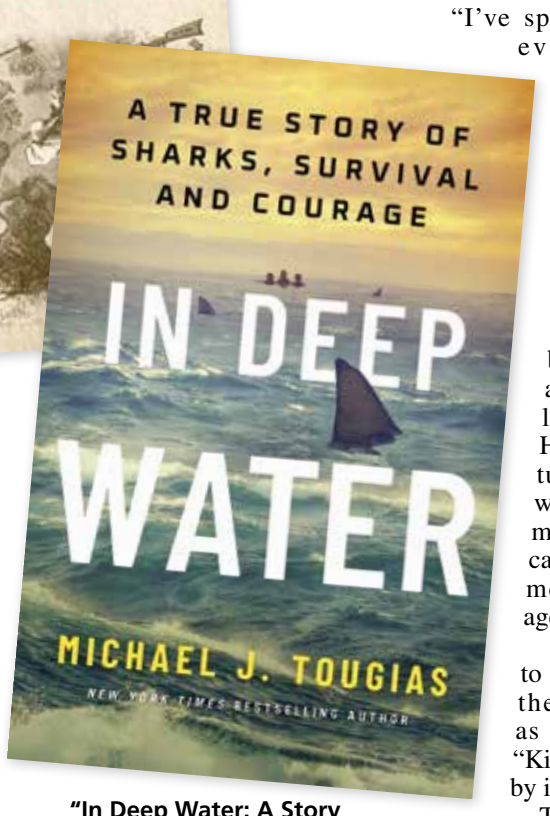
Captain Thomas Wheeler was instructed to go and meet with the local Nipmuck tribe and force them to sign a peace treaty, where he was met with an ambush.

"Wheeler was shot off his horse, but rescued by his son and taken back to the garrison at Foster Hill Road in West Brookfield," he said. "He survived and wrote an account of it."

Tougias said after the ambush, the Native Americans followed Wheeler and his men back to the garrison and burned all of Brookfield down. He said they could not get the garrison to burn, because as noted in Wheeler's memoir, "God made it rain," and it wouldn't ignite.

Wheeler later died as a result of his injuries received during the battle of Brookfield.

Tougias has written two books about King Philip's War; "Until I Have No Country" and "King Philip's War: The History and Legacy of America's Forgotten Conflict", which he co-authored with Eric Schultz.



"In Deep Water: A Story of Sharks, Survival, and Courage" is the latest book by author Michael J. Tougias.

Growing up in Longmeadow, Tougias developed an interest in King Philip's War, and he learned a lot about it from his father, who was a history buff.

"Where I grew up there's a King Philip's stockade," he said. "Once you know a little bit, you just start craving more and more."

Tougias said meeting fellow author Schultz was a blessing and that they shared the same passion.

"He went to all the sites across New England," Tougias said.

King Philip's War is known as America's Forgotten Conflict, as it is something that few people know about.

"I've spoken at almost every town in Massachusetts. People don't know much about this war," Tougias said.

During the lecture on Oct. 4, Tougias will share maps and show where the battles happened, and what they look like today. He said his lecture will be like watching a documentary and will captivate audience members of any age; even children.

"If people want to bring their kids, they're welcome as well," he said. "Kids are fascinated by it all."

Tougias has authored a total of 38 books over the course of his career, including "The Finest Hours", which was made into a Disney movie starring Chris Pine and Casey Affleck.

His latest book, "In Deep Water: A Story of Sharks, Survival, and Courage" tells the story of three recreation fishermen whose boat sinks off New Orleans in the Gulf of Mexico.

"The Coast Guard gave them a 1% chance of ever

Please see **TOUGIAS**, page 10

EQLT to host talk and presentation on invasive insects on Oct. 4

HARDWICK – The East Quabbin Land Trust will host an informational talk and presentation on invasive insects on Sunday, Oct. 4 at 1 p.m. at EQLT's office located at 120 Ridge Road.



Elizabeth Barnes, Ph.D., Forest Pest Outreach Coordinator, Crop & Pest Services at the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, will be the guest speaker and will share information on monitoring, managing, removing, and projected impacts of, existing and emerging invasive insects in Central Massachusetts, including spotted lanternfly, emerald ash borer, and wooly adelgid, among others. Barnes will discuss the conditions under which these invasive insects have arrived in Massachusetts, the crops, trees, vegetation and other conditions that are enabling them to thrive in this region, the impacts that they can have on farming, native landscapes and wildlife, and human systems. Barnes will share what steps homeowners, municipalities and organizations can take to help control or mitigate their impact and spread.

This educational public awareness event is open to everyone, though due to space limitations, RSVPs are required. Please email Amy Trevvett at atrevvett@eqlt.org by Oct. 1 to RSVP.

About EQLT

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

EQLT was formed in 1994 out of concern for the loss of farmland and wildlife habitat in and around Hardwick. Since 1998, EQLT has expanded its land protection efforts to include Barre, Petersham, New Braintree, North Brookfield, West Brookfield, Hubbardston, Ware and other nearby towns.

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

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

EXPANSION from page 1

Massachusetts Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education Pedro Martinez joined Pathfinder Tech Superintendent Eric Duda and local legislators at the ceremony. Additional guests included state Sen. Jake Oliveira and state Reps. Aaron Saunders and Todd Smola.

"Pathfinder Tech is turning opportunity into action," Smola told Turley Publications. "This expansion means more students can get the practical education they need to build careers, meet critical workforce needs, and give back to their communities."

Martinez praised the collaboration among school leaders necessary to convert the former elementary school into a vocational technical campus in only two months.

The result is an expansion of Career Technical Education opportunities for students throughout the region.

"This is a tremendous day for Pathfinder Tech, for our nine member communities, and, most importantly, for the students who want access to high-quality Career Technical Education," Duda said. "What was accomplished here demonstrates what is possible when people come together around a common goal. We took an elementary school that was still serving students in June and, in just eight weeks, transformed it into a fully operational vocational technical campus that welcomed Pathfinder Tech students on Sept. 1."

The former Cold Spring School remained an active Belchertown elementary school through June 2026. The building was turned over to Pathfinder Tech on July 1, leaving district officials with a short window to repurpose the facility.

The project included extensive renovations and modernization upgrades throughout the building. Pathfinder Tech instructors, staff members, and students joined forces with contractors and community partners to renovate classrooms, establish technical learning spaces, move equipment and materials, and prepare the facility for its September opening.

Despite the scope and accelerated timeline of the project, the transformation was completed on time and significantly under budget.

"This extension campus is an investment in students – and in the future workforce of our region," Duda said. "For years, demand for Career Technical Education has exceeded the number of seats we have available. This project is about creating opportunities."

Pathfinder Tech at Cold Spring currently serves approximately 100 students and offers five CTE programs: Health Assisting, Medical Assisting, CAD/Pre-Engineering, Electronics Technology and Hospitality Management.

The Cold Spring extension will ultimately increase Pathfinder Tech's district-wide capacity by 150 student seats, representing the largest expansion in the district's history.

"When we invest in career and technical education, we are building a stronger workforce, creating new pathways for students, and strengthening Massachusetts for the future," Smola added. "Pathfinder Tech is giving students the tools to succeed and Massachusetts a workforce ready to lead."

The project was made possible by a $3.5 million CTE Capacity Expansion Grant awarded through the Healey-Driscoll Administration. The funding supported modernization of the Cold Spring facility, equipment and furnishings, the launch of the Medical Assisting program and additional improvements across the district.

Officials commended school leaders for accomplishing the expansion without seeking a debt exclusion or capital infrastructure requests from member towns.

"We did not go back to our nine communities and ask them to take on debt to make this happen," Duda said. "This is an example of responsible planning, collaboration, and taking advantage of opportunities when they become available. We found a way to substantially expand opportunities for students while protecting our member communities from a major capital expense."

The repurposing of the Cold Spring facility also created employment opportunities across the region.

New and expanded positions associated with the campus include a building administrator, school nurse, school resource officer through the Town of Belchertown, cafeteria employees, additional teaching and support staff and other positions necessary to operate the campus and support students.

Duda also recognized Belchertown Public Schools Superintendent Brian Cameron for his partnership throughout the transition. Cameron was an early supporter of exploring the reuse of the Cold Spring building and worked collaboratively with Pathfinder Tech officials throughout the process.

"This could not have happened without the Town of Belchertown and the Belchertown Public Schools," Duda said. "Superintendent Cameron, Town Manager Steve Williams and the Belchertown Select Board understood very early what this building could become and what it could mean for students throughout the region."

Additionally, Duda thanked the Pathfinder Tech School Committee for its support throughout the project.

"I am incredibly fortunate to have a forward-thinking and supportive School Committee," Duda said. "They understood the vision, they understood the need, and they were steadfast in their support as we worked through an ambitious timeline."

The ceremony concluded with the cutting of the ribbon in front of Pathfinder Tech at Cold Spring. Officials were surrounded by current Pathfinder Tech students who will benefit from the repurposed facility.

The entire building acquisition process, grant program and renovation project took less than a year to complete. Pathfinder Tech officials first announced plans for the expansion in October 2025, then finalized an agreement with the Town of Belchertown in January 2026.

The state grant was awarded in April, just before Pathfinder officials took possession of the building on July 1.

"This building represents much more than renovated classrooms and technical labs," Duda said. "It represents opportunity. It represents partnership. Most importantly, it represents what can happen when state government, local communities, educators, elected officials, students, and staff work together with a shared purpose."

The Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School District serves students from Belchertown, Granby, Hardwick, Monson, New Braintree, Oakham, Palmer, Ware and Warren.

The district provides academic and CTE opportunities to students in grades nine-12.

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Troy Jurczyk gets the snap.

Indians hold off Bulldogs





Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Hunter Briand keeps an opponent away from his quarterback.

The Ware defense goes for the ball.

SPRINGFIELD – An onsides kick late in the second quarter helped Ware build a 22-6 league, and the Indians staved off a comeback from SICS to pick up its first win of this season 22-20 last Thursday night. Ware improved to 1-2 on the season after suffering a tough pair of losses in Weeks 1 and 2. Coming up, the Indians will enter their league schedule, facing Franklin Tech this Friday night, Oct. 2 at 7 p.m.



Ian Hogan pushes an opponent away.



Zachary Safford makes a block.



Dalton Marquis holds tight to the ball while being taken down.

Panthers field hockey continues to win

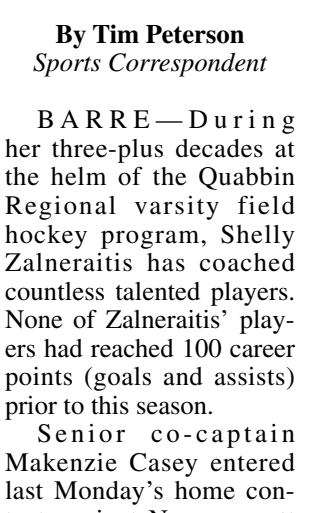
By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BARRE—During her three-plus decades at the helm of the Quabbin Regional varsity field hockey program, Shelly Zalneraitis has coached countless talented players. None of Zalneraitis' players had reached 100 career points (goals and assists) prior to this season.

Senior co-captain Makenzie Casey entered last Monday's home contest against Narragansett Regional with 96 career points. She came agonizingly close to reaching the elite milestone in front of her home supporters.

Casey recorded her second hat trick of the 2026 regular season, which helped the Lady Panthers remain undefeated with a

Please see **FIELD HOCKEY**, page 10



Turley photo by Jeffrey Haynes

Kailynn Schuster gains a step in the race for the ball.

Pioneers take down Ware

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARE— Three of the previous four meetings between the Pathfinder Tech and Ware boys' soccer teams ended in draws. Unlike their recent clashes, the first meeting of the 2026 campaign between the Bi-County East foes was far less suspenseful.

The Pathfinder Tech Pioneers held a 7-0 halftime lead and cruised to a 10-0 victory over the Ware Indians on a cool night at Veteran's Field in Ware, last Tuesday.

"We're hoping to challenge for the league title this year, so this is a very big-league win for us," said Pathfinder Tech head coach David Wilson. "Winning the league title is our first goal. We also want to qualify for both the Western Mass. and state tournaments."

Pathfinder Tech entered this week's action with a 5-1-1 overall record and a 3-0-1 mark against league opponents. The last time they

Please see **PIONEERS**, page 11



LEFT: Joseph Cook steels himself as he makes the block.



RIGHT: Greyson Mullins battles for possession.



Brent Benoit fends off the opponent as he works the ball upfield.

Matthew Labrousse boots the ball forward.



Goalie Silas Stukuls Barrieau makes a diving effort to stop the shot.

Quabbin boys fall to Clinton

BARRE – Last Thursday afternoon, Quabbin Regional High School boys soccer was defeated for just the second time this season, losing to Clinton 4-0.

The Panthers are 3-2-1 on the season, having shown some good offense in their first three wins this year.

Coming up, the Panthers will travel out to Tahanto Regional High School on Thursday, Oct. 1 at 4 p.m.

They are back home on Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 3:30 p.m. against West Boylston.

sports



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Madison Boulrice punts the ball away.



Ellyana Lavalley sends a shot away.

Pioneers split another pair

PALMER – The Pathfinder Regional High School girls soccer team remains at .500 after scoring a win and a loss during the past week. Last Monday afternoon on the grass behind Pathfinder, the Pioneers edged Putnam 2-1. Lee would defeat Pathfinder last Tuesday 4-0 for a 2-2 overall record.

The Pioneers will travel to Gateway for a Friday evening game on Oct. 3 at 6 p.m. The Pioneers are back home to face Commerce at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 6.



Josephine Boyko chases down a loose ball.



Evelyn Wood looks to cut the ball off on defense.

Owls edge rival Worcester State

WESTFIELD — Westfield State controlled the ball with the ground game and got several key defensive stands as the Owls rallied, then held on for a 24-21 over Worcester State to wash out the Lancers' homecoming in inclement weather at Coughlin Field in Worcester on Saturday.

Westfield fell behind 14-0 midway through the second quarter, as the Lancers scored their second TD of the day with a short drive after the Worcester's Gio Roman scooped up a fumble and returned it 41 yards to the Westfield 5-yard line, with Gavin Hatfield carrying it in from a yard out three plays later.

The Lancers had a golden opportunity when the Owls fumbled again on the next play from scrimmage, setting Worcester up 1st and 10 at the Westfield 24-yard line. But the Westfield State defense promptly forced a 4-and out scenario, with Chase Goldberg sacking Worcester State's MJ Bakaysa to end the threat.

Buoyed by the defensive stop, Westfield's offense marched 73 yards on 13 plays. Quinn Sumner completed a 25-yard pass to Malachi Hymes on third down to keep the drive alive, and Manny Mengata battered his way into the endzone from two yards out to cap the drive and trim the lead to 14-7 after Andrew Currier's extra point, and the teams went to the half with that score.

Worcester received the ball to start the second half, but the Owls defense forced a three and out inside the Lancers' own 10-yard line, and a short punt gave the Owls the ball on the Worcester State 19-yard line. Four plays later, Mengata again scored from two yards out and tied the game at 14-all.

Westfield grabbed a 21-14 lead before the third quarter was out, using a 12-play, 67-yard drive over 6:18 that Mengata capped with an 8-yard touchdown run.

The Owls added a 21-yard field goal from Currier midway through the fourth quarter that would prove valuable insurance.

Worcester immediately answered with a 67-yard TD toss from Bakaysa to Jack Poirer, finding Poirer wide open deep down the left sideline for the score, trimming the lead back to 24-21.

Westfield's defense needed one more stand late, as the Lancers got to the Owls 33-yard line in the final minute, but three straight incompletions included passes broken up by Westfield's Tedi Hunt on second down and then Tom Cascio on the final hail mary to seal the win for Westfield, which improves to 2-2 on the season and 2-1 in MASCAC play. Worcester slips to 1-3 overall and 1-1 in the MASCAC.

Westfield was led by 125 yards rushing and three TD's from Mengata on 25 carries, with Cole Ingham adding 57 yards on the ground. Sumner completed 4-10 passes for 65 yards on a tough passing day, as a nor'easter rolled through southern New England with alternately heavy winds and rain. Westfield controlled the time of possession battle with nearly 36 minutes to Worcester's 24.

Nick Gauger led the Owls with eight tackles, with Mark Wright-Woodhouse adding seven. Goldberg and Preston Jacoski each had a sack.

Worcester was led by 95 yards on the ground from Gavin Hatfield. Bakaysa finished 15-30 passing for 204 yards.

Westfield will have its bye weekend next, before returning to action with a non-conference game against Mass Maritime on Oct. 10 at Alumni Field.

TOUGIAS from page 8

being found," Tougias said. "All they had time to grab is a couple coolers to hang on to. They make a vow to stay together and not talk about why the boat sank."

Tougias said the fishermen thought they would be rescued within a few hours, but there were no other boats on the water.

"Instead of just surviving three hours, they have to survive 28 hours treading water through the night," he said.

The fishermen faced the elements, dehydration, jellyfish stings and a shark attack.

"They wanted the story to be told," Tougias said. "It's an absolute off-the-charts survival story and rescue too. They should not be alive."

For more information about Tougias and his books, visit www.michaeltougias.com.

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FIELD HOCKEY from page 9

commanding 5-0 victory over the Lady Warriors.

"I really wish I could've accomplished the milestone on my home field," said Casey, who has been a member of the varsity field hockey team since the seventh grade. "We're going to be playing a night game at Oakmont on Wednesday. I'm hoping to do it there because they're one of our biggest rivals. We've always had competitive games with them, so I'm really looking forward to it."

Casey did put her name in the history books by scoring a goal and adding an assist in the Lady Panthers' 3-0 shutout victory at Oakmont in a Mid-Wach B match-up.

"Makenzie is the first player that I've coached to reach 100 career points, which is very special," Zalneraitis said. "Only two other Quabbin field hockey players have accomplished the milestone."

The other two Lady Panthers field hockey players who reached the 100 point plateau are Lisa Valardi in 1982, and Christine Hardaker in 1991. They're also members of the Quabbin Athletic Hall of Fame.

One of Casey's teammates during the first three seasons that she played for the varsity field hockey team was her older sister, Kylie, who played college field hockey at Worcester State University.

Makenzie Casey, who has helped the Lady Panthers win more than 60 games during the past six seasons, is also planning to play college field hockey. She has verbally committed to join the field hockey team at Franklin Pierce University, which is in Rindge New Hampshire.

"Franklin Pierce is a beautiful school and it's only 40 minutes from my house," said Casey, who lives in Hubbardston. "When I spoke with the Franklin Pierce field hockey coach (Marissa Butler), she told me that I would fit in very well. I felt very good after she told me that and I'm very excited about going there."



Turley photos by Jeffrey Haynes

Makenzie Casey takes a shot on goal through traffic.



Ellie Poulin races down the sideline.



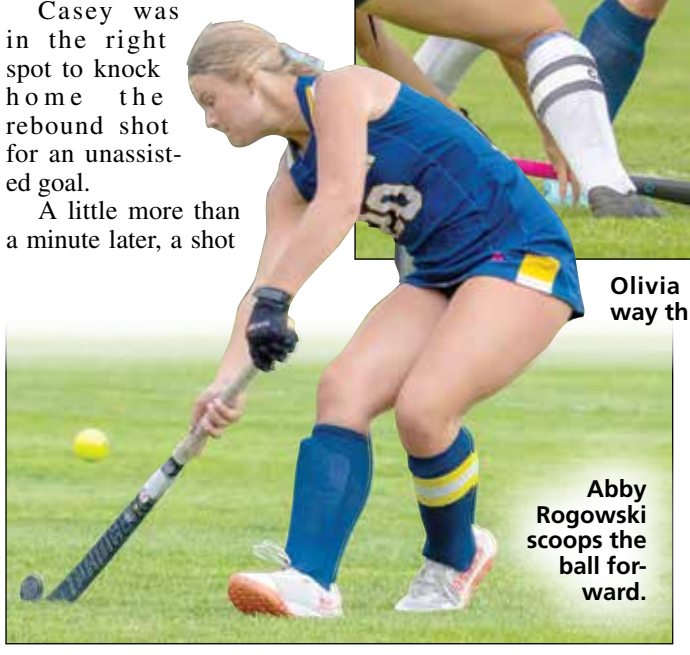
Olivia Vanhoudenhove fights her way through white jerseys.

During last Monday's home game, it took the Lady Panthers 12 minutes to score their first goal.

With three minutes remaining in the opening quarter, a shot attempt from Quabbin freshman Olivia Vanhoudenhove deflected off the pads of Narragansett freshman goalie Savanah Orcutt (10 saves).

Casey was in the right spot to knock home the rebound shot for an unassisted goal.

A little more than a minute later, a shot attempt taken by Quabbin 8th grader Charley Chauvin rolled into the cage for her first varsity goal, which was also unassisted.



Abby Rogowski scoops the ball forward.



Violet Kelly takes the ball away from the opponent.

Casey scored her second goal on her team's first penalty corner 38 seconds into the second quarter. The ball was inserted from the left side of the cage by junior co-captain Ellie Poulin to Casey.

The Lady Panthers' other co-captains are seniors Violet Kelley and Abby Rogowski.

Kailynn Schuster and Aubrey Thorpe, who's the Lady Panthers starting goalie, are the other seniors listed on the Lady Panthers roster.

"Our five seniors are all great kids, and they always work very hard," Zalneraitis said. "They're our leaders and they work very well with our younger players."

Thorpe, who finished the home game against the Lady Warriors (2-2-1) with three saves, received plenty of support from her defense, which is led by sophomore Addison Surprenant, junior Kayla Curran, and Kelley.

Quabbin held a 3-0 halftime lead.

The Lady Panthers had five penalty corners during the third quarter, but the score was still 3-0 entering the final quarter.

Rogowski netted an unassisted goal less than two minutes into the final quarter.

With 2:52 left on the scoreboard clock, Rogowski delivered a pass to Casey, who capped off the scoring in the game with her third goal.

"On my last goal, Abby shot the ball from outside of the circle and I deflected it in," said Casey, who also posted a hat-trick in a 5-0 home win over North Middlesex on September 14. "It was my third goal of the game, and it got me a little bit closer to 100."

The Lady Panthers ended last week with a perfect 7-0 overall record, and they improved to 4-0 against Mid-Wach B foes after pulling out a 2-1 home win versus Marlborough last Friday afternoon. Vanhoudenhove and Casey scored the Lady Panthers goals during the second half.

Quabbin entered this week's action having outscored their opponents, 24-3, in the first seven regular season games.

Ware Police Log

During the week of Sept. 15-22, the Ware Police Department responded to 23 miscellaneous calls, 30 administrative calls, 18 traffic violations, 18 emergency 911 calls, two disturbances/nuisances, four suspicious/wanted, two thefts/larcenies, one assist other agency, one trespass, one fraud, four harassment/stalk/threats, one safety hazard, two motor vehicle accidents, eight animal calls and 32 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

Tuesday, Sept. 15

12:32 a.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Otis Avenue, Investigated

1:50 a.m. Suspicious/Wanted, West Street, Services Rendered

4:01 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, South Street, Investigated

7:14 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation/Warning Issued

11:31 a.m. Breaking and Entering/Burglary, Juniper Hill Road, Investigated

3:14 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Hardwick Pond Road, Could Not Locate

6:59 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Hillside Village, Services Rendered

7:39 p.m. Theft/Larceny, West Street, Services Rendered

11:58 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, South Street, Could Not Locate

Wednesday, Sept. 16

4:33 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Williston Drive, Services Rendered

5:02 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, South Street, Appears Secure After Check

10:54 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Beaver Road, Unfounded

11 a.m. Drugs, West Street, Report Made

11:59 a.m. Disturbance/Nuisance, Monson Turnpike Road, Criminal Complaint Request

Thursday, Sept. 17

11:29 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, South Street, Appears Secure After Check

1:02 p.m. Suspicious/Wanted, West Street, Investigated

4:53 p.m. Drugs, Otis Avenue, Advised

7:23 p.m. Fraud/Deception, North Street, Advised

8:55 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Pleasant Street, Services Rendered

Friday, Sept. 18

12:36 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, North Street, Could Not Locate

12:45 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, South Street, No Action Required

4:06 p.m. Theft/Larceny, West Street, Services Rendered

6:32 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Belchertown Road, Advised

10:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, Monson Turnpike Road, Arrest Made

Arrest: Jodie E. Seguin, 44, Palmer

OUI-Liquor or .08%

Saturday, Sept. 19

2:50 a.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, Otis Avenue, Investigated

8 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Hillside Village, Advised

10:18 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Church Street, Investigated

11:24 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Services Rendered

3:26 p.m. Assault, West Street, Services Rendered

4:59 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Fisherdick Road, Services Rendered

5:58 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Church Street, Investigated

Sunday, Sept. 20

11:50 a.m. Traffic Collision, Eagle Street, Unfounded

1:15 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Fisherdick Road, No Action Required

4:36 p.m. Drugs, Otis Avenue, Advised

Monday, Sept. 21

3:47 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Union Street, Citation/Warning Issued

8:07 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, South Street, Investigated

8:32 a.m. Safety Hazard, Elm Street, Services Rendered

2:41 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, West Street, Advised

4:58 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Church Street, Investigated

Tuesday, Sept. 22

7 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Fisherdick Road, Dispatch Handled

9:01 a.m. Suspicious/Wanted, Prospect Street, Services Rendered

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.

Fire Department holds open house on Oct. 4

WARE – The Ware Fire Department, located at 200 West St., will have an open house on Sunday, Oct. 4 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

This fun and educational event will include station tours, apparatus tours, gear demonstration, handouts and information and arts and crafts. Lowe's will be there supplying free CO detectors, and Walmart will be there as well.

All are welcome to attend.

The Ware Fire Department is committed to helping the community and this year is accepting donations for the food pantry at All Saints Church. People are encouraged to donate nonperishable food items during the open house.

Free premiere of 'The American Constitution' film

Includes Q&A with writer/director and legal expert

NEW BRAINTREE – Explore the origin story of the American system of government at a free public screening of the new documentary film, "The American Constitution", on Sunday, Oct. 25, 2-4 p.m. at New Braintree Town Hall, 20 Memorial Drive.

The film, from award-winning filmmaker David Garrigus, dramatizes the creation of one of history's most influential documents. Using only the Framers' own words drawn directly from the historical record, an impressive cast portrays the impassioned debates between figures like George Washington, James Madison and Benjamin Franklin.

Following the screening, attendees will have the special opportunity to participate in a live Q&A session with the film's writer and director, and a legal expert.

The event is free and open to all. For more information, visit ConstitutionMovie.com.

Warren Police Log

During the week of Aug. 30-Sept. 5, the Warren Police Department responded to 99 building/property checks, eight community policings, 14 emergency 911 calls, one suspicious activity, one theft/larceny, one threat, one missing person, two safety concerns, one complaint, one fraud or forgery, one burglary, four motor vehicle accidents, one animal call and four motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Sunday, Aug. 30

7:03 a.m. Overdose/Poisoning, Southbridge Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Monday, Aug. 31

9:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Tuesday, Sept. 1

6:51 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned

8:40 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Southbridge Road, Report Filed

12:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

12:45 p.m. Stroke (CVA), Chapel Street, Transported to Hospital

10:42 p.m. Stroke (CVA), Old West Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital

10:54 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Presidential Circle, Mutual Aid Transport

Wednesday, Sept. 2

7:09 a.m. Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Keys Road, Report Filed

9:25 a.m. Sick/Unknown, School House Drive, Transported to Hospital

9:50 a.m. Fall, Bemis Road, Mutual Aid Transport

2:32 p.m. Burglary/Breaking and Entering, Old West Warren Road, Report Filed

4:01 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Milton O. Fountain Way, Report Filed

4:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, Report Filed

9:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Cross Street, Transported to Hospital

Thursday, Sept. 3

8:29 a.m. Unwanted Party, Main Street, Report Filed

2 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Old West Brookfield Road, Report Filed

2:19 p.m. Abdominal/Back Pain, Little Rest Road, Transported to Hospital

3:44 p.m. Safety Concern, Coy Hill Road, Dispatch Handled

6:39 p.m. Safety Concern, Old West Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital

8:38 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Hillside Avenue, Report Filed

Friday, Sept. 4

4:36 a.m. Unwanted Party, Cronin Road, Removed to Court/Lockup

7:52 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Southbridge Road, Report Filed

3:12 p.m. Complaint, Southbridge Road, Information Given

4:47 p.m. Missing Person, Comins Pond Road, Investigated

9:10 p.m. Threats, Prospect Street, Officer/Chief Advised

Saturday, Sept. 5

7:44 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party

8:33 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, West Brookfield, Mutual Aid Assist

10:21 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Bacon Street, Transported to Hospital

12:17 p.m. Parking Issues, Southbridge Road, Gone on Arrival

1:23 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Southbridge Road, Unfounded

2:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Southbridge Road, Investigated

5:27 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Bacon Street, Officer Spoke to Party

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Sept. 21-28, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 59 building/property checks, 15 directed/area patrols, 10 radar assignments, six traffic controls, 12 emergency 911 calls, six citizen assists, two assist other agencies, one complaint, one stolen motor vehicle, one vandalism, one disturbance, 10 safety hazards, one utility issue, two animal calls and six motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, Sept. 21

8:15 a.m. Assist Citizen, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered

2:47 p.m. Assist Citizen, Summit Road, Officer Handled

3:11 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled

4:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Vehicle Towed

5:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Citation Issued

7:17 p.m. Medical Alarm, Delargy Road, Call Canceled

8:42 p.m. Medical Alarm, Church Lane, Services Rendered

Tuesday, Sept. 22

5:09 p.m. Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

5:37 p.m. Stolen Motor Vehicle, High Street, Officer Handled

6:43 p.m. Medical Emergency, East Street, Transported to Hospital

8:51 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Hardwick Road, Merge

Wednesday, Sept. 23

10:02 p.m. Assist Citizen, Hardwick Road, Spoken To

11:57 p.m. 911 Vandalism, Hardwick Pond Road, Negative Contact

Thursday, Sept. 24

7:54 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Services Rendered

8:28 p.m. Medical Emergency, Main Street, Patient Refusal

9:01 p.m. Fire/Alarm, Lower Road, Investigated

9:47 p.m. Complaint, Patrill Hollow Road, Officer Handled

Friday, Sept. 25

4:25 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Officer Handled

Saturday, Sept. 26

11:51 a.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Barre Road, Removed Hazard

12:17 p.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Barre Road, Removed Hazard

12:17 p.m. 911 Utility Issues, Sessions Road, Referred to Other Agency

12:18 p.m. Safety Hazard, Creamery Road, Services Rendered

2:36 p.m. Safety Hazard, Greenwich Road, Referred to Other Agency

3 p.m. Safety Hazard, Greenwich Road, Referred to Other Agency

4:14 p.m. Safety Hazard, Greenwich Road, Services Rendered

4:17 p.m. Safety Hazard, Collins Road, Referred to Other Agency

5:46 p.m. Disturbance, Main Street, Transported to Hospital

Sunday, Sept. 27

12:15 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Petersham Road, Transported to Hospital

6:06 a.m. Safety Hazard, Lower Road, Officer Handled

7:10 a.m. Safety Hazard, Lower Road, Removed Hazard

2:53 p.m. Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital

5:51 p.m. Assist Citizen, Hardwick Road, No Action Required

Monday, Sept. 28

6:50 a.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Petersham Road, Removed Hazard

PIONEERS from page 9

captured the league title was in 2022.

The first meeting of last season between the two squads ended in a 2-2 draw.

It was their first meeting on the soccer pitch since playing a pair of ties in 2022.

Pathfinder Tech, who posted a 4-0 home shutout victory over Ware in the second meeting of last season, was scheduled to host Southwick at Legion Field on Monday night. The winner of that contest took over sole possession of first place in the Bi-County East standings.

The Indians had a 1-4 overall record and a 1-3 league record following last Tuesday's home loss.

"We're a young team this year," said Ware head coach Charlene Vallee. "I just want my players to keep getting better in every game that we play."

The last time that the Indians defeated the Pioneers on the soccer pitch was a 4-3 win during the 2015 regular season.

Two of the players listed on the Pathfinder Tech soccer roster are from Ware. They are freshman Noah Lane and junior Ian LaPete. The duo are reserve defenders, and they saw some action during the second half.

"This was a home coming game for both Noah and Ian," Wilson said. "They enjoyed playing in front of their family and friends."

The Pathfinder Tech boys' soccer team has maintained a co-op with Palmer High School for the past several years. The three players from Palmer High are sophomore Abees Castillo-Clotter, senior captain Owen Pear, and senior Dylan Holbrook, who's a first-year member of the team.

During the past three years, Holbrook was a member of the Palmer football team.

The Panthers football team celebrated a 21-6 home victory over Ware last year.

Because the Panthers only fielded a j.v. football team this fall, Holbrook decided to join the soccer team.

"I was disappointed when I found out that we weren't going to have a varsity football team this year," said Holbrook, who's a starting defender. "I decided to try something new, and these guys have welcomed me in. It feels very nice to win another game against Ware."

Holbrook also plays basketball and baseball for Palmer High School.

"It's going to be a lot of fun playing basketball and baseball against Pathfinder," Holbrook said. "I'm really looking forward to it."

During the fourth minute of last Tuesday's match, the Pioneers scored a free kick goal.

The kick was taken from the right sideline by Pear and Holbrook headed the ball into the left corner of the net past Ware freshman goalie Mason Gagne (23 saves).

It was Holbrook's first goal of the season.

"Dylan is a very coachable kid," Wilson said. "He plays defense, which seems to be a good fit for him. He's back there with his buddy Owen Pear."

The other two Pioneers starting defenders are senior captain Ian Sauri-Nieves and senior William 'Carl' Wright.

Pathfinder Tech sophomore goalie Elijah Hodge made eight saves in posting his third consecutive shutout.

The visitors from Palmer took a 2-0 lead five minutes later when senior captain Cayden Bousquet bounced a shot into the left corner for an unassisted goal.

Bousquet, who lives in Belchertown, has accounted for 16 of the Pioneers' first 25 goals this season.

He scored two more goals during the first half and recorded his fourth hat-trick.

"We've been playing very well as a team so far this year," said Bousquet, who finished the match with a season-high five goals. "I've been on a roll offensively and I'm hoping to keep it going. We've never lost against Ware."

The Indians closed out the opening half with two goals by Pear and another one from sophomore Weston Letendre.

Bousquet added two second half goals before a goal from Christian Ribeiro in the 72nd minute gave the Pioneers a double digit lead.

The two rivals are scheduled to play another night game at historic Legion Field in Palmer on October 15.

WHS Class of 1976 plans 50th reunion

Contact info for classmates needed

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

Class alumni have reached out to many, but are still in need of contact information for many other classmates.

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

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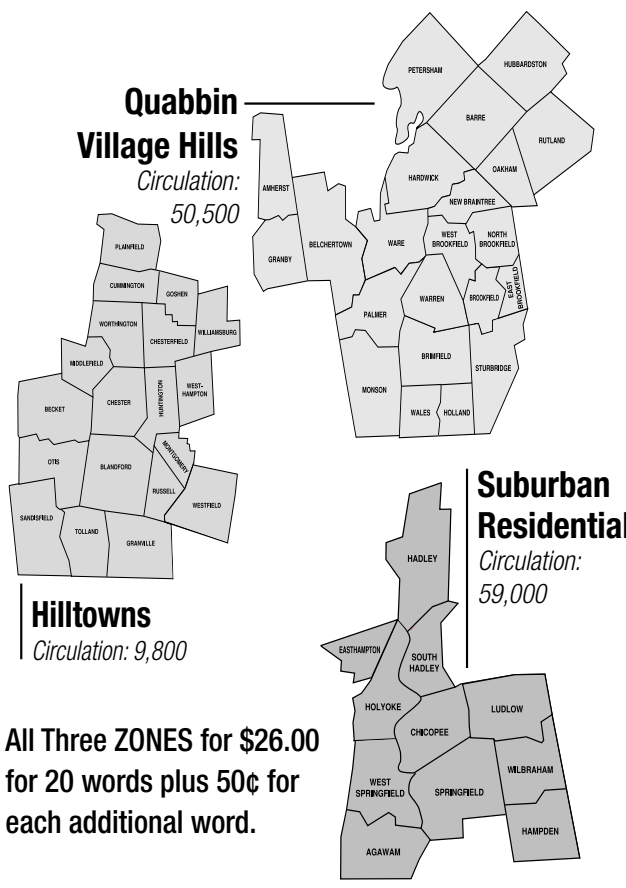
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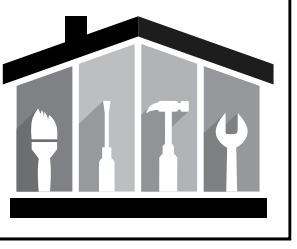
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Eagle Hill School teacher Amanda Damon signed to the audience.



Amanda Damon wears a hair scrunchie on her dominant hand while signing one-handed signs.



Facial expressions are an important part of sign language.

READING from page 1

Held on Sept. 25 (or 9/25 in reference to Parton's hit song, "9 to 5"), the Joy of Reading story time included lessons in American Sign Language, puppet play, as well as fresh baked cookies from the school and hot chocolate.

Damon and students from her American Sign Language I and II classes signed while reading classic books, including "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?" by Bill Martin Jr. and Eric Carle. They also taught people in the audience how to sign for the different words in the books, so they could join in.

Damon gave some background on American Sign Language, and explained some of the differences between it and British, Australian and New Zealand Sign Language. One being that American Sign Language has a one-handed alphabet, meaning all of the letters are formed using one hand instead of two.

The signer's dominant hand (the hand they typically write with), is used for one-handed signs, and for making motions for two-handed signs.

"Your dominant hand is your moving hand," Damon said.

Damon said she wears a hair scrunchie on the wrist of her dominant hand to help her communicate clearly with her students.

American Sign Language also relies on facial expressions to communicate, which Damon and the students demonstrated while signing.

"It's not just hands," Damon said. "It's a lot of facial expressions."

After story time, the students and audience members created and acted out an improvised story using the library's impressive collection of animal puppets.

Alwis also shared books she brought from her home country of Australia.

The Joy of Reading story time was also held at the Paige Memorial Library on Sept. 29.

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette
Quinn practiced signing "bear" during the story time.



public notices

Ware
Conservation Commission
Notice of Public Hearing

The Ware Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday October 14, 2026, at 6:30 PM** pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. 131 c40. The hearing will include consideration of a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) by Robin Luberoff for work by the shore of Beaver Lake at 28 Shoreline Drive. Said hearing will be held in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Hall, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082. To view application and related materials, contact the Conservation office at 413-967-9648.

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 4, Section 13, a copy of this legal notice can be found on the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association's (MNPA) website: http://masspublicnotices.org.
10/01/2026

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TRIAL COURT
DEPARTMENT
WORCESTER, SS
WINCHENDON
DISTRICT COURT
DOCKET NO. 2663CV000204

TO:
EDDIE CABRERA

WHEREAS a civil action has been filed against you in our District Court by DNCS, Inc., Plaintiff, wherein said Plaintiffs demand judgment enter against you for breach of contract and numerous other counts arising from the lease of a vehicle and subsequent motor vehicle accident of said vehicle, in an amount to be determined at trial. All that is set forth in the Plaintiffs Complaint filed in said Court on May 20, 2026.

Accordingly, we COMMAND YOU if you intend to make any claim or defense, that on or before **November 4, 2026** or within twenty (20) days from said day, to file your written appearance and written answer and other lawful pleadings to be served upon John M. Dombrowski, Esq., Dombrowski, Aveni & Bunnell, P.C., 6 Grove Avenue, Leominster, MA 01453, and also file your written appearance and written answer and other lawful pleadings in the Office of the Clerk of Court at Gardner District Court, 105 Matthews Street, Gardner, MA 01440 and further that you defend against the suit according to law if you intend any defense, and that you do and receive what the Court shall order and adjudge therein.

Hereof fail not, at your peril, or as otherwise said suit may be adjudged and orders entered in your absence.

It appearing to this Court that no personal service of the Complaint has been made on the Defendant, Eddie Cabrera, after diligent search to lawfully make service, it is ORDERED that notice of this suit be given to you by publication of an attested copy hereof in the WARE RIVER NEWS, a newspaper published in Worcester County, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, once a week for three successive weeks, the last publication to be at least twenty days before said return date of **November 4, 2026**

Hon. Mark A. Goldstein
Justice
Gardner District Court
Entered: 9/10/26
10/01, 10/08, 10/15/2026

MORTGAGEE'S
SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by **For My Littles LLC** to **Manomednet LLC,** dated **11/30/2022**, and recorded with the **Hampshire County Registry of Deeds** in **Book 14747, Page 9** of which mortgage the undersigned is the present for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, will be sold at **Public Auction** at **11 A.M.** on the **12th day of November 2026**, on the mortgaged premises located at **23-27 West St., Ware, MA** the premises described in said mortgage:

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The land in said Ware, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, on the Northerly side of West Street, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pin set in the Northerly line of said West St., said pin being at the southeasterly corner of land now or formerly of Mary M. Madigan and at the southwesterly corner of the premises herein conveyed;

Thence North 15 degrees, 30 minutes, 27 seconds West along the Easterly line of land of said Madigan one hundred and seventy and 94/100 (170.94) feet, partly along a stone wall, to an iron rod at the intersection of stone walls;

Thence North 86 degrees, 32 minutes, 39 seconds East along land now or formerly of Martha and Isabelle Bothwell and Thomas D. Moriarty, et ux, seventy and 27/100 (70.27) feet, partly along a stone wall and partly along a concrete retaining wall to a drill hole at the southwesterly corner of land now or formerly of George W. Christman, et ux;

Thence South 8 degrees, 31 minutes, 28 seconds East thirty-seven and 93/100 (37.93) feet along a stone wall and land now or formerly of Wilfred Briere, et ux, to an iron pin at a corner of stone wall;

Thence, South 80 degrees, 47 minutes, 11 seconds East along a stone wall and land of said Briere eight and 3/100 (8.03) feet to land now or formerly of Henry D. Jock, et ux;

Thence South 18 degrees, 51 minutes, 25 seconds East along said land now or formerly of said Jock one hundred and six and 71/100 (106.71) feet, following a fence, to a point in the Northerly line of West St;

Thence South 58 degrees, 4 minutes, 28 seconds along the Northerly line of West St. seventy-eight and 13/100 (78.13) feet to the point of beginning.

Containing 11,510 square feet.

Subject to any conditions, covenants, and restrictions of record insofar as the same are in force and applicable.

Being the same premises conveyed to the mortgagor by deed dated **11/30/2022** and recorded in Book **14747**, Page **5**.

TERMS OF SALE

1. **Deposit Required:** A deposit of **$10,000.00** by certified check, bank treasurer's check, or cashier's check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale.

2. **Balance of Purchase Price:** The balance of the purchase price is to be paid by certified or bank check within **thirty (30) days** from the date of sale at the offices of the Mortgagee's attorney, **Kevin Walkowski, 3333 Boston Road, Wilbraham, MA 01095**, upon delivery of the Mortgagee's Deed.

3. **Encumbrances:** The premises will be sold subject to and with the benefit of all unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens, water and sewer charges, betterment assessments, and any prior liens, easements, or encumbrances having priority over the mortgage being foreclosed.

4. **Reservations:** Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

MANOMEDNET LLC
Present Holder of Said Mortgage
By its Attorney:
KEVIN WALKOWSKI, ESQ.
3333 Boston Rd., Wilbraham, MA 01095
508-901-1208
10/01, 10/08, 10/15/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Probate and Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton, MA 01060
(413)586-8500
Docket No. HS26P0616EA
Estate of:
Joseph Alan Poor
Also known as:
Joe Poor
Date of Death: 08/08/2026
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

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

The Petitioner requests that **Hannah M. Poor of Ware, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Corporate Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/22/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Diana S. Velez Harris**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 21, 2026
Mark S Ames,
Register of Probate
10/01/2026

NOTICE OF
MORTGAGEE'S
SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Elizabeth Ann Sanborn, John Allen Sanborn to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Northpoint Mortgage, Inc., dated August 3, 2022 and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 14637, Page 46, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Northpoint Mortgage, Inc., its successors and assigns to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, recorded on January 27, 2023, in Book No. 14790, at Page 101 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 2:00 PM on October 15, 2026, on the mortgaged premises located at 207 Osborne Road, Ware, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT: The land in Ware, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, being a certain parcel shown on a plan entitled "Plan of Land in Ware Owned by James Mosher, Lot 2, Osborne Road, Ware, Mass.", said plan being recorded with Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 154, Page 72, to which Plan reference may be had for a more particular description. For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 14637, Page 43. These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Ten Thousand ($10,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

NEWREZ LLC
Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500 28976
09/17, 09/24, 10/01/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Probate and Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton, MA 01060
(413)586-8500
Docket No. HS26A0034AD
In the matter of:
Vincent Tundra Walters
n/k/a Brody Andrew Sylvester
CITATION
G.L. c. 210, §6

TO:
Chelsea Caitly Sylvester
Mathew Walters, and
any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented to said court by:

Carl Gifford Sylvester of Ware, MA

Shari Ann Sylvester of Ware, MA

requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to

Brody Andrew Sylvester

If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person.

An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3:10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT **Northampton** ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: **12/09/2026**.

WITNESS, **Hon. Diana S. Velez Harris,** First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 10, 2026
Mark S. Ames,
Register of Probate
09/17, 09/24, 10/01/2026



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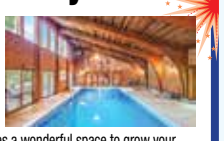
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LISA CARON REAL ESTATE



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