

WARE RIVER NEWS

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A message from the Turleys

Dear Reader,

Every week a team of reporters, editors and people who assemble the paper work hard to bring readers information they need to know about their community. It's hard work and we love it.

Our goal is to provide a clear reflection of the community, and share stories about issues and events in your town as well as those about your neighbors, family and friends; in essence, a clear reflection of the community. We provide news that is difficult to find anywhere else.

Turley Publications has been doing so for over 60 years now, and enjoys being an integral part of the community.

Every year we invite residents to join those who already subscribe to the *Ware River News*, so they too can be informed and join their neighbors in keeping up-to-date on so many aspects of the community. We do that by mailing an issue of the *Ware River News* to everyone, on us, so you can see for yourself what types of information we provide.

If you want to know when and why your taxes go up, who is running for election, what successes and challenges are in your school system, what others are doing to make your community a better place, and so much more, we hope you will consider subscribing.

We also value your opinions and ideas. Please let us know what's important to you by picking up the phone and calling us. Let us know if we're meeting your expectations.

You can also call us to let us know about an important event in your family's life. That's why we're here.

We love being a part of this community and maybe even, in a small way, a part of your family.

We hope to be arriving each week at your home holding up that mirror, the *Ware River News*.

Patrick Turley, CEO
Keith Turley,
President
Turley Publications



An eerie spirit seemed to emerge from flames.

A haunted tree had a sign welcoming visitors to Halloween Town.

Halloween Spooktacular



See more photos on Page 6.

This skeletal drive honked his horn.

Knights held another successful drive-thru event

WARE – Grenville Park was aglow with eerie lights that illuminated over 160 Halloween displays this past Friday night.

From inflatable characters and creatures, to live actors decked out in costumes, this year's event continued a Halloween tradition created by the Knights of Columbus during the pandemic. The Halloween Spooktacular offered thrill seekers of all ages an opportunity to enjoy some free festive fun in their community.

At the end of the drive-thru, each child was given a goody bag filled with candy, snacks, a glow stick and more. The Quaboag Connector provided rides for people without transportation.

Senior Center volunteers honored at dinner

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Almost 40 volunteers were honored for their time and service at the Ware Senior Center last Wednesday evening, with a dinner hosted by The Friends of Ware Seniors Inc.

The volunteers were treated to a full Italian dinner from Teresa's Restaurant,

complete with pasta, salad, and dessert.

County Bank donated two \$25 Big Y gift cards to give away as door prizes, in addition to a lush fern plant that was donated to the Ware Senior Center.

Ware Senior Center Executive Director John Zienowicz said there are

Please see **VOLUNTEERS**, page 11



The Friends of Ware Seniors Inc. presented a dinner last Wednesday to honor about 40 volunteers who have given their time at the Ware Senior Center.

Ware High welcomed new Asst. Principal

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Ware Jr./Sr. High School has welcomed longtime educator Ivy Peritz to its administrative team this school year, taking on the role of Assistant Principal.

Peritz, who is a resident of Ware, has over three decades of experience in education, starting out as a classroom teacher.

"This is my 32nd year in education," Peritz said.

Peritz said she wasn't always drawn to being an educator, and when she first started college, she had ambitions to be a lawyer.

"Then I started to think about where I could make the most difference and I looked to education and never looked back," she said.

Peritz said education is not what she does, but who she is.



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette
Ware Jr./Sr. High School's newest Assistant Principal Ivy Peritz is shown with her service dog, Bergy.

Peritz worked for the Palmer Public School

Please see **ASST. PRINCIPAL**, page 9

Main Street property deemed nuisance

Set for demolition

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – The Selectboard held a public hearing to deem the vacant property at 92-104 Main St. as a nuisance structure.

At the Oct. 21 meeting, Building Commissioner and Zoning Enforcement Officer Anna Marques gave a history of the property.

In February 2016, the property had a major fire

and the town took action to deal with the property as a nuisance in November of that year.

Marques said the property has changed ownership twice, with notices issued to the various owners to secure the building.

"The structural integrity of the building due to its age, the fire, subsequent deterioration and modifications made to it over the years warrants consideration for demolishing for safety reasons," she said.

At the 2024 fall town meeting, voters allocated

Please see **DEMO**, page 11

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Let there be light

Lamp post restored at Town Hall

WARE – “It may have been a cold, rainy spring and a hot, humid summer, but that didn’t slow down restoration work at the Ware Town Hall,” Pat Skutnik, Friends of Ware Town Hall President announced recently in a press release.

“We are so excited to have our latest project completed on the west side of the beautiful Town Hall building,” Skutnik said. “Thanks to a grant from the Edward and Barbara Urban Foundation, the original lamp post just outside the handicap ramp has been repainted, the brick foundation beneath the post has been repointed and a new light fixture has been set atop the beautifully detailed lamp post. The difference of the before and after on this project is amazing.”

The Edward and Barbara Urban Foundation was created by Edward Urban to be used upon his death in 1999 to promote the quality of life for the residents of the Ware community. The Urbans were lifelong residents of Ware and owners of American Athletic Shoe Co., Inc., a nationally recognized sporting goods manufacturer founded in 1959.

Their love for their home town is evident in several locations in town and with the creation of this foundation.

Speaking for the Friends of the Ware Town Hall, Skutnik thanked the Edward and Barbara Urban Foundation; Ken Higney, who spent countless hours on this project, and a few others who donated their time and talents to make completion



Ken Higney installed the new light fixture on the restored lamp post at the Town Hall. The lamp post was able to be restored thanks to a grant from the Edward and Barbara Urban Foundation.

of this restoration possible.

“We could never have done this without their help and we are very grateful,” she said.

Anyone wishing to support further restoration of the beautiful Town Hall can do so by sending a donation payable to the Friends of Ware Town Hall, P.O. Box 692, Ware, MA 01082.

Submitted Photos
The restored lamp post is illuminated in front of Town Hall, near the hand-capped access ramp.



Are You Old News?

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



File Photo
Last week's photo from 1989 showed John Smigiel and David Guzik holding an 87-pound Cod fish caught by Smigiel aboard an Al Garon charter boat in the gulf of Maine out of Hampton Beach, New Hampshire. Smigiel identified himself and Guzik in the photo and shared details about the impressive catch.

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

Ware Senior Center news

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

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

ACTIVITIES Monday, Nov. 3

9 a.m. Tai Chi
9 a.m. Foot Nurse Allison Williams. Call 413-967-9645 for an appointment.
10 a.m. Scat
11:30 a.m. Lunch
1 p.m. Chair Yoga with Lisa

Tuesday, Nov. 4

9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
9 a.m. Movin & Groovin to the Oldies with Lisa. \$3 per class.
9 a.m. Foot Nurse Allison Williams. Call 413-967-9645 for an appointment.
10 a.m. Scat
11:30 a.m. Lunch
1 p.m. Chair Yoga with Lori

Wednesday, Nov. 5

9 a.m. Tai Chi
9 a.m. Foot Nurse Allison Williams. Call 413-967-9645 for an appointment.
10 a.m. Scat
11:30 a.m. Lunch
1 p.m. Cornhole
2:30 p.m. Art Class

Thursday, Nov. 6

9 a.m. Walking Club. Participants should meet at the Senior Center.
9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
9:30 a.m. Line Dancing for Beginners
10 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Scat
11:30 a.m. Lunch
1 p.m. Cornhole
2:30 p.m. Art Class

Friday, Nov. 7

9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Scat
11:30 a.m. Lunch
1 p.m. Chair Yoga with Lori

3 to be put on the lunch list.
1 p.m. Cornhole
5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking.
\$3 per class
6 p.m. Pitch (Doors open at 5 p.m.)

Wednesday, Nov. 5

9 a.m. Tai Chi
9 a.m. Foot Nurse Allison Williams. Call 413-967-9645 for an appointment.
10 a.m. Scat
11:30 a.m. Lunch
1 p.m. Chair Yoga with Lori
12:30 p.m. Knit-Crochet-Laugh

Thursday, Nov. 6

9 a.m. Walking Club. Participants should meet at the Senior Center.
9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
9:30 a.m. Line Dancing for Beginners
10 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Scat
11:30 a.m. Lunch
1 p.m. Cornhole
2:30 p.m. Art Class

Friday, Nov. 7

9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Scat
11:30 a.m. Lunch
1 p.m. Chair Yoga with Lori

6 p.m. Pitch (Doors open at 5 p.m.)

LUNCHES DINE IN 11:30 a.m.

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

Monday, Nov. 3 Brunch

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

Tuesday, Nov. 4 Birthday Party

Roast Pork, Baked Potato, Veggie of the Day, Dessert of the Day, Music by Chet Kurr. Dessert and Entertainment provided by the Friends of Ware Seniors Inc.

Wednesday, Nov. 5

American Chop Suey, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day

Thursday, Nov. 6

Hot Dogs with Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Dessert of the Day

Friday, Nov. 7

Baked Fish, Au Gratin Potatoes, Veggie of the Day, Dessert of the Day


HAKIM MEDICAL
Michael H. Hakim, MD



Front row (Left to Right) Janet Stadnicki, FNP, Michael Hakim, MD, Angela Nurek, DNP, Back row (Left to Right) Charlene Gryszowka, Kirsten Apraham, Susan Piche, Caitlyn Garceau, RMA, Practice Manager, Crystal Best, RMA, Kalise Salzarulo, Dawn Greene, RMA

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W5	Town Farm Rd - 2.5± Acres - BUILDABLE*
W6	Crouch Rd - 4± Acres
W7	20 Chapel St - 5,227± SF Former House Lot
W8	Cuttler Rd - 24± Acres - BUILDABLE*
W9	High St - 1.2± Acres - BUILDABLE*
W10	Pleasant St - 6,098± SF Lot
W11	64 Richardson St - 1.7± Acres Former House Lot BUILDABLE*
W12	Southbridge Rd - 2.2± Acres - BUILDABLE*
W13	Southbridge Rd - 1± Acre - BUILDABLE*
W14	(near) Bemis Rd - 11.7± Acres

*Buildable lot per Zoning Bylaws Section 4. Due diligence required.

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TERMS: \$5,000 Deposit by bank check to "TOWN OF WARREN".
No personal checks accepted. 5% Buyer's Premium & balance due in 30 days. Properties sold "AS IS".



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette
Volunteers gathered in the All Saints Church basement to fill goody bags the night before the Knights of Columbus' annual Halloween Spooktacular drive-thru event.



Volunteers gathered the filled goody bags.



Each good bag was filled with candy, snacks, fruit, a glow stick and more.



Volunteers were in good spirits as they worked to fill hundreds of goody bags to be handed out to children at the drive-thru event.



Kim Mongeau, Communications Director for the Office of Sen. Peter J. Durant, worked to fill goody bags.

Giving back is 'sweet' with KofC

WARE – Dozens of volunteers joined the Knights of Columbus in the basement of All Saints Church last Thursday evening, filling hundreds and hundreds of goody bags with sweets and treats.

These good bags were handed out to children who attended Friday night's Halloween Spooktacular drive-thru that was held at Grenville Park.



State Rep. Todd Smola smiled as he helped volunteers fill goody bags.

Workshop13 presented 'Different Ships, Same Boat'

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – Workshop13 Cultural Arts & Learning Center proudly showcased "Different Ships, Same Boat" this past week.

This show is an interactive, multidisciplinary performance blending the spoken word, music, and song to explore many ways Americans live, love and laugh. The show is guided by Regie Gibson and composer Guy Mendilow, who created and directed this performance.

This performance came to Workshop13 thanks to a New England state's touring grant from the New England Foundation for the Arts. In collaboration with six other arts centers in New England, Workshop13 had the pleasure of hosting this great event, "Different Ships, Same Boat".

This show took the Workshop13 audience on a journey through humorous and poignant true stories set to an evocative score of blues, classical, and folk traditions.

Gibson, as the storyteller, describes this presentation as "a nation on a journey" and soon would be joined by Mendilow and other talented musicians, who provide the soundtrack to these inspiring stories.

The show consisted of five chapters with intriguing titles. The first was called "Sit Down, Children", and featured a combination of speech and song.

The poetic voice of Gibson grabbed the audience's attention as the background music was effective as Gibson continued to tell the tale. The audience participated in the show by clapping and singing along with Gibson.

Gibson is a poet, performer, and educator whose work consists of literature, music and social engagement. He is a National Poetry Slam Champion and inaugural Poet Laureate of Massachusetts.

Gibson has performed and lectured across the U.S., Cuba and Europe and has countless stage and musical works. He teaches at Berklee College of Music and Clark University. Gibson serves as the Co-Artistic Director of Arts for Social Cohesion.



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago
Workshop13 hosted the show "Different Ships, Same Boat", featuring the Guy Mendilow Ensemble. Mendilow was one of the hosts/narrators during the presentation.

Mendilow has been writing, directing, and performing in original, nationally touring productions since 1998. During the show, Mendilow played guitar, piano, and would sing and narrate.

The Guy Mendilow Ensemble creates original, multimedia performances and immersive residencies that blend music, story, and visual art to explore real life stories.

Gibson and Mendilow were joined by Courtney Swain, who played bass guitar and Chris Baum, a violinist. Each performer did their part to bring the entire show together.

Each chapter told a story, which came from real people who have faced the best and the worst of humanity.

The instrumental music was first class, and the stories were all inspiring. Baum had a spectacular violin solo during one of the chapters. The titles of each chapter really said it all and were incorporated into the speech and song by Gibson and Mendilow Ensemble.

The last chapter was called, "We All May Have Come on Different Ships, But We're in the Same Boat Now". This final chapter consisted of three different stories. Combined, the stories spanned nearly 300 years, from the 1700s to today.

These stories are from people who come from all over the world and are incorporated into speech and song.

As the nation commemorates the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, "Different Ships, Same Boat"



Regie Gibson is a poet, performer and educator, who began the show, "Different Ships, Same Boat".

invited audiences to celebrate not only America but also Americans. The show featured music and storytelling of stirring experiences of stories of some of the people who make America what it is, including those that often fly under the radar of history books.

It is a performance that celebrates all walks of life. The epilogue of the show was called "It's About Time" as the show concluded.

More information about Different Ships, Same Boat can be found at www.guy-mendilowensemble.com/different-ships-same-boat. The show was sponsored by New England Foundation for the Arts, Country Bank, Monson Savings Bank, BT Copy & Print Center and Hanna's On Main.

For more information about Workshop13, visit workshop13.org or contact them at 413-277-6072.

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LETTERS TO EDITOR

Resident questions status of MLH rezoning vote

Last April, the citizens of Ware united at a special town meeting. 74% of 450 voters approved the rezoning of the Mary Lane Hospital site for Healthcare purposes only.

I'm told that the meeting had one of the largest number of voters ever present at a Ware Town Meeting.

My husband, Bill, was President of Mary Lane Hospital for 20 years and my family has lived in town for over 50 years. Many residents ask me – What do I know about the hospital site? Where should they go for healthcare now? And what about the zoning change that so many people voted in favor of?

It seems that after the special town meeting vote – the information would have been sent to the Massachusetts Attorney General for final approval. I was told it might take up to six months to finalize the approval.

However, it's now been almost seven months and we have not been informed of any information received from the Attorney General's office. That leads to a question – was the town citizens' vote actually forwarded to the Attorney General for approval?

A recent article in the Ware River News, detailed the Hospital Review

Committee actions delayed public release of the minutes of critical meetings, some minutes were at least four years old. Committee Chairman Dr. Howard Trietsch, Town Manager Stuart Beckley, and Chair Nancy Talbot all participated in preventing the release of the meeting minutes. This is an obvious violation of state laws.

This raises concerns about the results of the rezoning vote at the special Town Meeting. Were the results forwarded to the Attorney General in a timely manner, as required, or did they meet a similar fate? We should be able to see a receipt or something from the Attorney General's office, indicating that the information on the Ware rezoning vote was received by them and on what date. They might even supply a projection of when the zoning change could be finalized.

This rezoning was an overwhelming vote of approval by the citizens of Ware and they deserve to have their wishes honored. This zoning change is an important step toward the return of health care to the Mary Lane site and the Ware community.

**Katharine Zwemke
Ware**

New resident commends community of Ware

To the Editor,
I have been a Ware resident for only six months. I moved here from Boston – what a difference, for the better!

Here, neighbors are not people who just live nearby. Let me share a few examples I have seen in just a half-year.

A neighbor's dog got hit by a car, within minutes, six of us came to try and aid the dog, while comforting its owner.

More personally, I am severely disabled. While navigating up West Street (an arduous task for me), young ladies come out of their home/yard to help, even telling me to ring their doorbell, if they don't see me!

While pushing myself on the sidewalk of busy West Street (Route 32) I have had to sit and rest. Three days, a different car stopped/pulled over to ask me if I needed an ambulance!

Once recently, on North Street, an off-duty nurse came over to me. She rec-

ognized my distress. She did not have her cell phone, and ran to Ware Police headquarters. Within seconds, police and ambulance were there for me.

Wing Hospital's extensive testing found I had a "mini-stroke." A big thanks to our first responders!

Boston drivers would have also responded – giving me "the finger."

That's Ware! I would be remiss if I did not mention the Ware Fireworks Spectacular (of which your paper was one sponsor). Coming from a place where 250,000 people show up for the nationally televised display, I thought I'd be sorely disappointed.

Instead, I was truly impressed by the showing, the music, the incredibly well behaved watchers, and again, with how aptly our police handled traffic and pedestrians alike.

In closing, I say, "Ware Don't Ever Change!"

**G. Leo Ready
Ware**

viewpoints

Pumpkins of lore and legend

I miss the days of carving pumpkins with the kids. Last year was the first year time got away from us and we just didn't get around to doing it.

I guess the rituals aren't quite as important as they used to be when the girls were younger. Alas, time marches on.

I still got a kick out of decorating the porch with pumpkins, big and small, orange and white. Not a Jack-o'-Lantern to be seen, just a pretty autumnal scene.

It is safe to say that we New Englanders have a fond affection for the pumpkin. And by the look of the neighborhood, we enjoy this fruit (yes, fruit) more on our doorsteps these days than we do in our kitchens.

This wasn't always the case; in fact, the pumpkin was a staple in the diets of Native Americans long before the pilgrims set foot on Plymouth Rock.

The pumpkin is thought to have originated in Mexico. Seeds found there of a distant Cucurbit relative were dated all the way back to 7000 to 5500 B.C.! In our more recent past, Native Americans taught colonists how to plant pumpkins; soon they became indispensable in their diets.

The hard outer skin of the pumpkin allowed it to be stored for a long period of time, sustaining the community throughout the winter months. It was also versatile, used in stews, bread baking, and even in desserts.

Historians speculate that the pumpkin pie may have evolved from the century's

long practice of removing the top of a pumpkin, straining out the seeds and more stringy flesh, adding milk, honey and spices and baking it for hours in hot coals.

Today, we continue to enjoy pumpkin pie, but mainly as a holiday treat.



When carving pumpkins became more and more trendy, breeders concentrated their efforts on large, elongated, hard-skinned and sturdy pumpkins, in other words, those that would lend themselves best to a spooky face. These, however, may not be the most satisfying to our taste buds.

The smaller, "sugar-type" pumpkin is more appetizing in texture and taste.

Many of you already know that pumpkins are good for you too! The dark orange color of the flesh is a giveaway that, just like carrots, yams and winter squash, the pumpkin is packed with beta carotene, the precursor to vitamin A.

Researchers have long been touting the benefits of beta carotene to ward off infection and some types of cancer. It may also slow the aging process.

Besides that, pumpkins contain a healthy dose of potassium and fiber, are low in sodium and are fat free.

Incidentally, pumpkin seeds when consumed regularly have shown to keep the prostate healthy.

They also contain a healthy dose of magnesium.

Did you ever wonder where the tradition of carving Jack-o'-Lanterns originated? It is thanks in part to an Irish folk tale of Stingy Jack, an unsavory figure who unwelcomed in Heaven, outsmarted the devil and was left to roam the earth with only a burning coal to light his way. According to the legend, Jack put the coal in a carved out turnip (which he was fond of stealing!) and has been roaming ever since.

"Jack of the Lantern" has become simply "Jack-o'-Lantern." In Scotland and Ireland people made their own Jack-o'-Lanterns out of turnips or potatoes. In England, large beets were used. The tradition came with the immigrants to America; here they found the pumpkin perfect for carving. And so it has continued! Maybe I will have to carve one myself, just for old time's sake.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 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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OPINION POLICY

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

Send opinions to:
Ware River News
Letter to the Editor
80 Main Street,
Ware, MA 01082
or via email to:
pouimette@turley.com

The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

Turley Election Policy

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

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



SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

Do I need to sign up for an Online Social Security Account?

Dear Rusty:

I recently heard the tail end of a radio program, which was discussing "signing up for my Social Security account."

I am now 76 years old and have been receiving my SSA monthly amount directly into a credit union account for years. Since the time when I applied to begin receiving Social Security, I have had no need to contact SSA again since everything is working fine. I do not like having to use the Internet. It seems the government is just giving me busy work and requiring me to remember usernames, passwords, etc. just when I am trying desperately to simplify my life. Can you shed any light on the need to sign up for an online SSA account by answering this:

1) What is the background regarding this "call" by the

2) Why is the SSA wanting us to have "accounts"? Mysteriously, no one I have asked is able to give me a reason why we should have "accounts" on-line.

3) What happens if I do not sign-up for an "account"?

4) Is there a window of time during which we must "sign up"?

Thanking you in advance for any light you can shed on this issue.

Signed: Concerned Senior

Dear Concerned:

While creating an online Social Security account is recommended by the Social Security Administration, doing so is more of a convenience than a necessity.

It is mainly a way to confirm your identity to Social Security in advance, in case

you need to contact them in the future to make changes to your SS account. If you don't plan to make any changes, then it is not mandatory for you to create an online "my Social Security" account. Nothing will change for you – you will continue to get your monthly benefits as you have been doing all these years.

Regarding your specific questions:

1. What is the background? Social Security has, for many years, been encouraging people to do business with them "online." This is, essentially, a way to improve the efficiency of a) getting your needs handled more quickly, and b) improving SSA's internal efficiency so as to handle more transactions with fewer staff.

2. Why does SSA want you to have an online account? SS fraud has become an

issue, with nefarious individuals constantly trying to get at a person's Social Security (and other) government benefits. As part of its process for online access, SSA has evolved to a quite secure online identification process, which includes modern security techniques. These include things like "Two-Factor Identification" and use of certain specific identification measures through two main programs for access to government systems (known as LOGIN.gov and ID.me). These create a single pre-verified way to access multiple government systems (such as SSA, IRS, VA, etc.). It means that only one ID and password are required to access numerous government systems and ensures that those who access the account are the correct person. It is primarily a way to protect your benefits from others and prevent fraud.

not sign-up for an "account"?

Nothing will happen, unless you have a need to change something with Social Security. For example, if you for some reason wanted to change the financial account to which your SS benefits are deposited. With a secure LOGIN.gov account you could make that change quickly using your online account. Without a secure online account, you would, instead, need to make an appointment to visit your local Social Security office to make the change and provide proof of who you are. Again, this is to reduce fraud.

4. Is there a window of time during which we must "sign up"?

As indicated above, there is no time in which you must "sign up." If you do not sign up for online access, and don't need to change anything with respect to your

Please see SSI, page 5

Wishing Well Charities to host Fall Fundraiser Nov. 1

WARE – Wishing Well Charities Inc. will hold its 5th annual Fall Fundraiser on Saturday, Nov. 1 from 3-8 p.m. at Teresa's Restaurant, 305 Palmer Road.

Nonrefundable tickets are \$45 and includes a delicious family style dinner and dancing fun with

the live band JP & Friends. There will be a cash bar, cocktail hour, raffles and silent auction.

For tickets, call or text 413-204-0009 or 413-330-4013. For more information about Wishing Well Charities Inc. please visit its Facebook page.

School Committee discussed MassCore standards

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – The School Committee had discussion with interim Superintendent Michael Wood about adopting MassCore standards for the Ware Jr./Sr. High School in order to promote the school and encourage students to stay in district.

Originally adopted by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in 2007, MassCore is a state-recommended program of study intended to align high school coursework with college and workforce expectations, according to the Department of Education's website.

At the Oct. 22 meeting, Wood said the high school would need to expand its foreign language offerings in order to meet the MassCore standards. He said they could achieve this by phasing in additional staff, including part-time staff.

Currently the high school offers Spanish as a foreign language, but had also offered French in the past.

Wood said the high school could also expand upon the success of its Certified Nursing Assistant program and add other healthcare related offerings.

School Committee member Melissa Whitham said the school district could also look into getting an "early college high school" designation to provide opportunities to students looking to continue their education after high school.

Whitham also suggested offering American Sign Language classes or creative movement classes such as dance. She said they could look to their current staff to see if there is a particular area of study that they would

be interested in teaching.

"This is the perfect opportunity to re-brand our school as this really cool place where awesome learning happens," Whitham said.

Student handbook

Wood said the student handbook has been reviewed multiple times and the only thing that has been added since the School Committee's last meeting is in regard to the cafeteria policy.

He said language has been added to state that no students can charge a lunch or an a la carte item. He said meals are free to students at this time, and the cafeterias are not equipped to take money.

When discussing the student handbook, Whitham expressed concern about the accessibility of the 92-page student handbook.

"It is very much a litigious waiver," she said. "If the goal is to effectively communicate to students and families, the procedures, policies and expectations that we have of students and families as a school district, we have missed the mark."

She suggested an appendix, or a summary of the handbook, be added to the handbook to make it easier for families to find the information they are looking for.

Wood said it would be possible to compile a one-page summary of the student handbook to make available to families.

The School Committee voted to accept the student handbook.

Athletic handbook

The committee continued its review of the athletic handbook and discussed the student athlete attendance policy.

The policy states that

daily attendance will be submitted to each coach between 1-3:30 p.m. during regular school days, or just prior to dismissal on half days. Wood said electronic communication would be sent by the school's administration to the coaches.

Language has also been amended that student athletes "are expected to be on time for school and present for the entire day in order to participate in athletics." Excused absences are still allowed if they meet the criteria outlined in the athletic handbook.

Whitham said language has also been added regarding admission fees to home games. Season passes will be offered to individual family members of student athletes for home games.

Wood said this is currently offered now to families, but the language has been included in the handbook.

The committee voted to accept the athletic handbook.

Superintendent's report

Wood said he has met with all principals and directors to set their annual goals and to set up evaluations for the school year.

"The principals evaluate all their teachers and staff, including their assistant principals," he said.

Wood said there is a vacancy for a computer science teacher at the high school, and they continue to look for candidates.

Wood said there are some anticipated leaves of absence in the special education department, and they will reach out to a company who provides placement for special education staff.

Wood said this service is expensive, but they need to have teachers in these positions.

"They can certainly help

us in that regard," he said. "They're proactive in terms of trying to make placements...we need to fill these positions."

Wood said the one special education leave of absence would be a short-term placement and the other a long-term placement.

Building projects

Wood said the ventilator project at the Ware Middle School is expected to be completed that coming week-end.

Wood said an warrant article regarding the high school's HVAC project to replace the chillers has been moved from the town's Nov. 17 Special Town Meeting to another town meeting to be held in January 2026 when free cash is certified.

Kidstop lease

Wood said he met with the Behavioral Health Network, who organizes Kidstop, to discuss the lease agreement. He said the previous lease expired a couple of years ago.

He said a current lease has not been signed yet, but it has been drafted to cover the remainder of this year. He said another lease would need to be agreed upon for the following year.

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Medicare 101 Educational Event offered at Senior Center

BARRE – The Barre Hardwick Senior Center will be hosting an educational presentation on Tuesday, Nov. 4, at 11 a.m. at the senior center located at 557 South Barre Road for current beneficiaries and for those who will soon be eligible for Medicare.

The information is specific to Massachusetts. The session will run from 1 to 1.5 hours, including time for questions.

The presentation will be conducted by Ed Spater, a licensed Insurance agent,

who will explain the basics of Medicare including: why it's important to evaluate your current Medicare coverage each year; the pros and cons of each of your Medicare coverage options; what to consider when deciding which Medicare coverage option is right for you; and ways to save money and get better Medicare coverage in 2024.

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

SSI from page 4

SS benefits, then you do not need to create an online account.

So, while creating an online SSA account is highly recommended, it is not mandatory for those who have no need to interact directly with the Social Security Administration.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental

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

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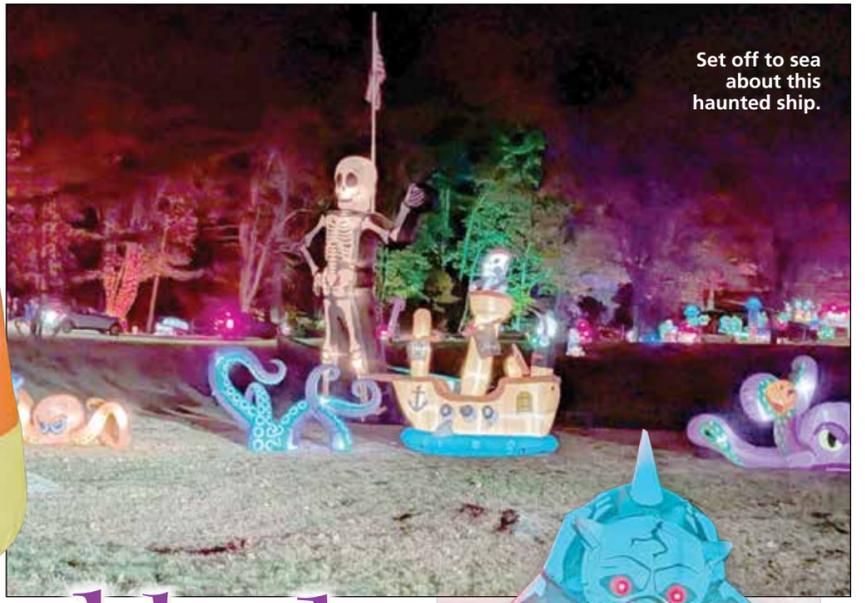
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Candy corn was a sweet treat for visitors to the park.



Set off to sea about this haunted ship.

These skeletons danced around barrels of glowing ooze during the Knights of Columbus' annual Halloween Spooktacular drive-thru event held last Friday evening at Grenville Park

Halloween Spooktacular



Visitors to the Halloween Spooktacular made their way past this guard dog.



Jack-O-Lanterns and ghosts glowed from the branches of this tree.



A ghost waved to visitors as they drove through Grenville Park.



All about the terror train - if you dare.



Black cats bared their teeth and claws.

Turley Staff Photos

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There was no clowning around in this room of the Haunted House held at the Shepard Building Gym in Warren.

A hockey mask-wearing goon was waiting by the door to greet you as you left.

Haunted House returned to Shepard building

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – This past weekend, the most haunted house in Warren was open for spooks and screams.

The Warren Parks & Recreation Department had the Haunted House set up inside the Shepard Building Gym. Guests who were ready for a scare approached the spooky Shepard building and were greeted by a scary skeleton DJ. A glow in the dark DJ jamming to spooky music as guests walked down a dark and gloomy stairwell.

Guests would then reach the various dimensions of the Haunted House. One of the spookiest is the clown club with scary smiles all around the room. One clown sent a message to the visitors, "Enter at your own risk."

There was also a class

in session, but the students were not responding, except the dead one. There was also a dimension where spiders dropped on you and led you into a room of skeletons. You will also come across some horror legends, who might scare you out of the house.

As you exit the haunted house, just when you thought you were out of the scary zone, the haunts don't end.

The sound of chainsaws began to rise as a familiar Haunted House feature returned to Warren. The dreaded Pig Man returned for this year's Haunted House.

For several nights, the Pig Man would linger around the house and scare away patrons with a loud chainsaw in hand. It didn't just stop there, the Pig Man also crept around the parking lot near the Shepard Building, giving guests a little spook before their walk in the Haunted House.



A skeleton was the main DJ as you entered the building.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago



Enter if you dare! There were horrors all around you as you entered Warren's Haunted House.



A creepy clown greeted guests in the line that took you into the haunted house.



A picture stand was available for guests as they waited in line to enter the Haunted House.



A spooky welcome waited for you as you went down the staircase of the Haunted House.



Skeletons, spiderwebs, and creepy lights were bone chilling at the Haunted House in Warren.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Supt. gave update on tuition agreement

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARREN – Superintendent Stephen Duff gave the Quaboag Regional School Committee an update about his efforts to enter into a tuition agreement between the school district and the town of North Brookfield.

"We've been working with North Brookfield, as have other districts, looking at the potential of tuitioning North Brookfield in," Duff said at the Oct. 20 meeting.

With a tuition agreement, the school district would provide educational services to high school students in North Brookfield with an agreed upon price per student.

Duff said he and Finance Director Nicole Goncalves will be presenting about the Quaboag Regional School District to the North Brookfield School Committee in the next month or two.

Duff said he will continue to push for an agreement with the town.

"I think that it would certainly provide some level of sustainability for the district," he said.

Duff said preliminary budget meetings show at least a 20% increase in the cost for health insurance for the school district's staff. He said a tuition agreement with North Brookfield would help offset that expense without having to ask voters in Warren and West Brookfield for a significant above minimum contribution for next year's budget.

"North Brookfield is going to be very important to our district," Duff said.

Duff said if North Brookfield selects the Quaboag Regional School District for a tuition agreement, it would still need to be approved by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Green Communities grant

Duff said the town of Warren is seeking a Green Communities grant for the building envelope project at Warren Community Elementary School. He said once this project is

completed, they can apply for funding for heat pumps.

Duff said Director of Facilities Marc Astrella has worked with Warren Town Administrator James Ferrera and West Brookfield Town Administrator Theresa Cofske to save over \$1 million to complete projects across the school district using Green Communities funding. He thanked both Ferrera and Cofske for working with the school district.

"Quaboag is far beyond any other districts with energy efficiencies," he said.

Stadium lighting

Duff said Goncalves met with Warren's capital committee to discuss the creation of a capital improvement plan to replace the lighting at the stadium field. Duff said the current halogen lights are running at 60% efficiency.

"The lighting between the school and the field, and the lighting in the end zones at the field, just are not adequate," Duff said. "It's a safety issue."

Duff said the projected cost for the town of Warren would be roughly \$60,000 and for West Brookfield, about \$40,000. He said this would be the estimated cost if the project was completed in its entirety.

Duff said they also discussed installing lighting at the tennis courts.

Concession stand opens

Duff said the concession stand was able to open thanks to a \$100,000 earmark from state Rep. Todd Smola. This earmark was used to install a foundation, septic system, three bathrooms, a storage area, a mechanical room and the concession stand.

"It's been a very welcome addition," he said.

Duff thanked Fountain & Sons for completing the project, adding that they did a "remarkable job."

WCES principal position

Duff said Warren Community Elementary School Principal Eugene Rich has accepted a position in another school district.

Please see **TUITION**, page 11

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Selectmen appoint Chief Plant Operator

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – The Board of Selectmen met at the Warren Senior Center for their Oct. 23 meeting and approved the appointment of Scott Urban as the Chief Plant Operation at the town’s wastewater treatment plant.

Town Administrator James Ferrera said he and the Sewer Commission Chair interviewed Urban a week prior to the meeting and were impressed by his credentials.

Urban currently works at the Holyoke wastewater treatment plant and is looking to get into municipality work. Urban has eight years of experience in the wastewater treatment field and has a college background in studying environmental science.

“We’re excited to have Scott here,” Ferrera said, claiming he will bring a lot of good energy to the town.

Ferrera was seeking the board’s vote to authorize the wage Urban at a Grade A, Step 7.

“This is something a lot of communities are looking to have,” said Selectmen David Dufresne, commenting on town’s trying to fill positions and hire people seeking careers in wastewater treatment.

Dufresne feels it’s good to find people who are aiming to fill these jobs.

Library anniversary celebration

A presentation was given by Barbara Larkin about the Warren Public Library’s 150 years of service celebration to the Warren community. There will be a kickoff celebration party on Jan. 17, 2026, from 4-6 p.m.

Larkin is on the board of trustees for the library and wanted to publicly invite members of the community to this exciting celebration.

“This is the day when Warren Library was incorporated 150 years ago,” Larkin said.

The library has quite a few speakers lined up for events in addition to family fun events throughout the year. These events will happen on a monthly basis, starting in January. One of the events mentioned is a presentation on General Joseph Warren.

A lot of historical related events as well as family events will be happening at the Warren Public Library, starting in January 2026. Larkin hopes many residents and community members will attend and has also invited State Representatives and Senators for the event.

Selectmen Chair Richard Eichacker wanted the library to inform the board ahead of time when events are, so they can mention them during their meetings.

The library is viewed as a great resource for the town, and the board was excited to hear about these exciting programs the library is offering.

MIIA renewal

The board discussed about a memo that they received from the Town Treasurer about renewing the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association Medex 2 with PDP product for the town’s retirees. This was up for renewal and the contract renews on Jan. 1, 2026. There was an 11.73% increase over the current rates.

The Selectmen asked if the town is looking at other options in the future. With rates continuing to climb, Ferrera said an announcement will be made about forming a task force at the Annual Town Meeting to look at other options and alternatives.

“Insurance costs have gone up for everybody and they’re going to continue to go up,” Ferrera said.

The board approved the MIIA renewal, but hope to find options that will help with savings.

Continued STM articles discussion

The board revisited their discussion on articles for the upcoming Fall Special Town Meeting on Nov. 20. Ferrera provided a third updated draft of the warrant with articles listed.

There are some recommended deposits into stabilization and capital stabilization. The articles are still being reviewed by the Finance Committee.

One article that is still unsure is the stadium field lights at Quaboag Regional Middle High School. The board is still unsure on the status of West Brookfield if they are contributing, since the school district is regional. Electricity costs are still unknown when it comes to running the lights or periodically shutting them off.

The Finance Committee will meet at the end of October for a final review of the warrant.

Appointment of Coppola & Coppola

The Board appointed Coppola & Coppola as special town counsel for tax title properties. Ferrera said the town has been engaged with this organization for quite some time and is waiting for approval by the Selectmen.

Coppola & Coppola has experience in working with tax title properties and is well equipped to handle the Town of Warren’s foreclosed and tax title properties.

The board approved and appointed Coppola & Coppola as special town counsel.

Town Administrator report

Ferrera shared his report with the Board of Selectmen and talked about the Fire Department ambulance having some in-service work done. Ferrera wanted to keep the public informed that there is nothing happening to the ambulance and there is just mechanical work that needs to be done.

The department made arrangements to borrow a

backup ambulance that was provided by the Sturbridge Fire Department. Ferrera thanked Sturbridge Fire for loaning their ambulance to Warren’s Fire Department.

Ferrera also announced that free cash has been verified by the Department of Revenue. The town has been certified for \$1,080,621 in free cash for fiscal year 2025. Ferrera wanted to thank everyone in various departments for their hard work in getting reports submitted to finally get free cash certified.

Ferrera did mention that the town did not receive Chapter 90 reimbursement paperwork by the highway department, which does impact free cash. Chapter 90 is a state grant for reimbursements and for helping with the maintaining of the roads in town.

The required deadline for this paperwork is on Sept. 30, and the Town Administrator has not received that paperwork. A total of \$314,985 in free cash was not certified due to a negative balance in chapter 90 funds.

Once receiving this paperwork, Ferrera will have to petition the State to relook at the free cash certification but can’t do anything until paperwork is submitted.

The Board of Selectmen hope to hear more information on when that paperwork will be submitted.

Ferrera also announced that the town was successful in receiving Community Development Block Grant funding. \$1,050,000 was the total award, but a portion of that is going to Millbury because of the town’s partnership with them in getting this funding.

Warren will be getting around \$950,000. These funds will help with the Hillside Avenue project, doing work such as water, sewage, drainage, street and sidewalk improvements.

The town is also preparing for the upcoming auction on Nov. 18 at 2 p.m. at the Shepard Building.

Public meeting held for Cutter Park Project

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARREN – A public meeting was held this past week to discuss the Cutter Park Improvement Project.

Residents of Warren and abutters of Cutter Park attended the first of three public meetings. This meeting was held at the Warren Senior Center in West Warren and there was a Zoom attendance option as well.

A consultant from GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. out of Springfield, Anja Ryan Duffy, attended the first meeting and provided basic concepts around how the park can be improved considering its current existing layout.

A public survey has been posted on the town website, www.warren-ma.gov, and is listed as “Cutter Park Survey.” The Town of Warren is seeking community input regarding future improvements to Cutter Park.

Cutter Park consists of a 1.6-acre park located on Main Street west of the town center within walking distance for many nearby residents, making it a small but vital recreational area within the town center. The park contains a baseball/softball field, playground equipment (climbers, slides, swings and a merry-go-round) and picnic/gathering space.

The town is currently developing a master plan for Cutter Park, which will provide a vision for the park and identify future improvements for recreation, landscape aesthetics, and accessible amenities to expand user engagement.

Sue Ramsey of Warren Parks & Recreation shared some of the ideas that were shared by residents and abutters to the park property. So far, the desired

improvements to Cutter Park include better play equipment for all ages. A splash pad was brought up or some water feature that can be enjoyed during the summer months. A picnic area with a restroom or a pavilion space was also shared.

Ramsey said there was brief discussion about adding pickleball, but there will be further discussion on the idea considering noise and neighboring residences. Further studies will be done to see if pickleball is a good option.

Parking conditions for the park were also addressed. Warren Parks & Recreation would like to have more land and provide parking for patrons. The consultant will provide ideas and plans on where amenities can be. Residents and neighbors gave the consultant some ideas to start in the planning process.

Many people who are neighbors to Cutter Park attended the meeting and love having a small town park in the area. Many also expressed seeing upgrades to the park. This is just a planning phase at the moment as there are a couple more meetings that will occur in the coming months.

“We are developing a master plan for cutter park which will provide a vision so we can identify improvements for recreation, landscape, and accessible amenities,” Ramsey said.

John O’Leary of the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission said this meeting was the first of three public meetings and the goal is to inform residents that this Cutter Park Project is underway.

“This one was to inform residents that this project is underway and is ongoing,”

Please see **CUTTER PARK**, page 11

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NEW PATIENTS & WALK INS WELCOME

Quaboag students named as Project 351 Ambassadors

WARREN – Quaboag Regional Middle High School announced that the two eighth grade students selected for Project 351 are Farrah Piermarini and Jariella Male. Farrah is the daughter of Phoebe Lehman and Garrett Piermarini of West Brookfield. Jariella is the daughter of Jessica Carrachino and



Submitted Photo
Eighth grade students Farrah Piermarini of West Brookfield and Jariella Male of Warren have been named Project 351 Ambassadors from the Quaboag Regional School District.

Israel Male of Warren. Farrah and Jariella were selected by their eighth grade teachers to be Quaboag's Project 351 Ambassadors for 2026 because they demonstrate the values of being helpful, friendly, and kind with a willingness to volunteer. Project 351 began in 2011 as an initiative of Governor Deval Patrick and founded by Carolyn Casey, to have an eighth grader from every Massachusetts town (hence the name Project 351) come to Boston for a day of leadership train-

ing on community involvement and service. Students then bring these lessons back to their own communities as an ambassador of goodwill and service. Farrah and Jariella will attend a day of service and leadership training in Boston in January with other eighth grade ambassadors from around the state and then implement their own service learning projects back in their communities. They'll also have opportunities to attend several Project 351 events throughout the year at Gillette Stadium and in Boston.

ASST. PRINCIPAL

from page 1
District for 27 years, working as a classroom teacher and a literacy specialist. She then went on to serve as an Assistant Principal in Belchertown for the past four years.

Peritz has also been a member of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Assessment Development Committee for 20 years, working with educators from around the state and the country.

Peritz said she decided to take the position at Ware Jr./Sr. High School because she wanted to bring attention to all the good things the school district has to offer to its students and families.

"I think the Ware high school has so many things going for it and we need to showcase all the positive things happening," she said.

Peritz said these positive things include the high school's dedicated staff members.

"We have an amazing staff," she said.

While in her first month as Assistant Principal, Peritz said all of the staff in the building have been supportive, encouraging and helpful. The students have also been welcoming, with many stopping by to say "hello" throughout the school day.

Peritz said one of the main things that drew her to Ware Jr./Sr. High School was the school district's tremendous school spirit and pride. She said it is also a place where the students have a strong voice in their education.

Peritz said the high school has established relationships with local colleges, and offers a lot of Advanced Placement classes, which allow students to earn college credits before graduating.

She said the high school has a strong academic program, particularly in the subject of math. The high school's Certified Nursing Assistant Program also provides training and certifica-

tion for students to become CNAs, allowing them a direct pathway to employment following graduation.

The high school also has an active athletics program, one-to-one technology (allowing each student to have access to a Chromebook), and a thriving volunteer base of students who are active in both their school and community.

The high school also offers afterschool activities that are primarily geared toward students in the seventh and eighth grades through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant program. Students in the afterschool program have enjoyed gardening, fitness, art, music, drama, Dungeons & Dragons and more.

Peritz said these programs are all important to keeping students engaged and invested in their education.

"We have to keep kids connected," Peritz said. "They have to feel a connection to the building."

Peritz said the goals of the administrative team are to communicate with staff as well as families, and be present and visible in the building.

"The kids have to see you...not just in the office," she said. "I try to be proactive, not reactive. You have to build relationships."

Peritz said the team is always working to provide a positive and safe atmosphere where the students can grow.

"It takes all of us," she said in order to achieve student success. "We all need to work on this...we need everybody's support. We have to be in it together – for the positives and the challenges."

More about Peritz

Peritz is the mother of one son, Evan Smith, who is currently finishing his M.S. in Sports Management in upstate New York. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, sports, hiking and spending time with family and friends.



Turley Staff Photo

CIVIC LEADERS ACCEPT ICE CREAM CHALLENGE

Matt Lemieux, President of the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce, accepted a friendly challenge from Dan Flynn, President of the Ware Business & Civic Association & Beyond, on the upcoming Annual Palmer Ware Football rivalry game. The losing team's respective president will scoop ice cream at Rondeau's Dairy Bar on Sunday, Nov. 2.

Postcard show takes place Nov. 1

BARRE – The Central Mass. Postcard Club and St. Joseph's Catholic Church are co-sponsoring a postcard show at the church, located on 29 South St. on Saturday, Nov. 1 from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

This is the 41st annual postcard show. Ten deal-

ers from three states will offer old picture postcards for sale featuring local town views and numerous topics. Admission is \$3 and the church will sell lunch food from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. People may email show manager J.R. Greene at jrg01331@webtv.net for more information.

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WARE RIVER NEWS

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**Paula Ouimette
Editor
WRN 10/31/25**

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Trunk or Treat to be held at Quaboag on Oct. 30

WARREN – Trunk or Treat will be presented by the Warren Community Elementary School PTO, West Brookfield Elementary School PTO, Quaboag Regional Middle High School National Honor Society and the Student Council on Thursday, Oct. 30 from 6-8 p.m. in the parking lot at the middle/high school, 284 Old West Brookfield

Road.

Please bring a bag of candy to donate and don't forget your costume. All are welcome to attend this community event.

Haunted Hallways will also be presented by the National Honor Society and the Student Council will have food available for purchase. DJ Tabby Leblanc will provide music.

Country Bank is sponsoring a pumpkin carving contest. Bring your pumpkin to the cafeteria at the start of the event. Winners will be announced at 7:30 p.m.

Set up for Trunk or Treat is from 4-5:30 p.m. To enter a trunk please email wcesp@quaboagrds.org or wbrookfieldpto@gmail.com.

Mary Lane Hospital Memorial Plaques

Memorial and donation plaques were recovered from Mary Lane and moved to the Ware Center Meeting House. Recovered plaques are listed here. Not all plaques were recovered. Residents or families who would like to claim a plaque that memorializes a family, friend or company donation may contact Julie Bullock at jbullock49@verizon.net or 413-967-6616.

Wood Framed

In Memory of J. Cates from Shirley C. Batsie Intensive Care Unit in Memory of Albert and Nellie Siarkiewicz from Their Children
 Mary Lane Auxiliary honoring Eleanor Wilson for Dedicated Service and Generous Donations
 Mr. George T. Storrs Mary Lane Capital Fund 1988
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 Radiology Suite Generously supported by our Friends at Country Bank Emergency Department by Kanzaki Specialty Paper 1993
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 Gift of Robert W. Champigny
 Gift of Torbin Iversen, MD
 Gift of North Brookfield Savings
 Gift of Richard Romano, MD and Lisa J. Nash, MD in memory of Frances Bullen Gift of Paul and Debi Engel on behalf of Employees of Quabbin Wire and Cable, Co.
 Gift of Harrison and Diane Quirk
 Gift of Harshad Sanghvi MD and Chetna Sanghvi
 Gift of David Andrews MD and Fiona Andrews
 Gift of Gerardo Paulino, Jr. MD
 Gift of Mary Lane Hospital Auxiliary
 Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Thampi Verghese in Memory of Lilly Alexander

Baystate Mary Lane Donor Plaques

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 In Memory of Herbert P Cummings given by HP Cummings Construction Company In Memory of Richard L. Gavitt Given By the Gavitt Manufacturing Company Furnished by Mr. and Mrs. Alfred H Richardson, Gilbertville 1924
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 The Carrie Hames Storrs Room Furnished by George D. Storrs 1924
 Maternity Ward Furnished by Ruth Baker Pratt 1924
 The Addison Sanford Room Furnished by Mary Elizabeth Sanford 1912
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 Furnished by The Ware Woolen Company 1924
 Furnished by HP Cummings Construction Company 1924
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 In Memory of George E. & Elizabeth Hawes Tucker
 In Memory of First President of Poland Gabryel Narutowicz Given by Gabryel Narutowicz Inc.
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Halloween Happenings

• Friday, Oct. 31 •

HARDWICK

Trick or Treat will be held town wide from 5-8 p.m. The Trail of Treats will be held throughout the villages at the same time and will feature haunted walks, spooky candy stops, obstacle course, trunk or treating, trick or treating and fun.

WARE

Trick or Treat will be held town wide from 5-8 p.m.

WARREN

Trick or Treat will be held town wide from 5-6:30 p.m. A costume parade by the Fire and

Police departments will begin at 6:30 p.m., lining up on North Street and proceeding to Fire Station B on Albany Street. During the parade (for about 15 minutes), Main Street from North to Central streets will be closed. Candy will be handed out at Fire Station B and costume judging will take place.





Submitted Photo

The Center at Eagle Hill will present "FRANKENSTEIN: A Living Comic Book", on Saturday, Nov. 8 at 5 p.m.

'Frankenstein' comes alive in Hardwick

HARDWICK – A sci-fi classic comes to life on stage in Hardwick on Saturday, Nov. 8.

The Center at Eagle Hill will present "FRANKENSTEIN: A Living Comic Book", a modern adaptation of Mary Shelley's 1818 novel Frankenstein.

"Frankenstein is the original science fiction novel, and we were amazed that it was created by a young woman of 18," said Craig Francis, co-writer and co-director of the show. "It's such an integral part of pop culture that it was irresistible to do our own take on it, through comics and cartoons, which were my own introduction to sci-fi and horror. The comic book effects bring it instantly up to date, stylize the horror, and make it

a ton of spooky fun! Besides, the idea of 'bringing something to life' is what theatre is best at."

In this adaptation, a young artist named Mary discovers the journal of Dr. Victor Frankenstein in the Arctic. As she's drawn into his uncanny tale of secret experiments, Mary discovers that we all need to face the monsters of our own making...before they face us!

This electrifying show blends immersive comic book design and playful theatrical techniques to reanimate the sci-fi classic for a new generation with a family-friendly spin (recommended for ages 7+).

The Center at Eagle Hill presents "FRANKENSTEIN: A Living Comic Book" on

Saturday, Nov. 8 at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors, and \$15 for students. The Center also offers discounted \$10 tickets to EBT cardholders through Massachusetts' Card to Culture Program.

For tickets and information, visit www.thecenterateaglehill.org or call the Box Office at 413-477-6746.

About The Center

The Center at Eagle Hill is a performance venue in central Massachusetts presenting world class music, dance, theatre, and comedy.

For more information about this, and other events please visit our website at www.thecenterateaglehill.org. The Center at Eagle Hill is located at 242 Old Petersham Road.

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Sue LaBarge, president of The Friends of Ware Seniors Inc. thanked the volunteers for their service.



Ware Senior Center's Executive Director John Zienowicz spoke about the positive impact the volunteers have had on the senior center.



Ware Senior Center volunteer Irene stood next to a fern plant she won as a door prize at the volunteer appreciation dinner.

VOLUNTEER from page 1

only five people who are paid to be in the building, and that the rest are volunteers. It's these volunteers who help to make all of the program and activities possible at the senior center.

The 9,130 hours the dozens of volunteers have committed to the senior center over the past 15 months is the cost equivalent of \$259,157.50 in salaries.

"This place does not exist without volunteers," Zienowicz said. "When you think of all the things that happen here day to day, month to month, year to year...that is done by volunteers."

Zienowicz said three volunteers at the Ware Senior Center have logged more than 5,000 hours of service each, and have been awarded the RSVP Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award – a rare and distinct honor.

Zienowicz said the Ware Senior Center added 130 new members last year, and that 522 people logged 9,741 visits on My Senior Center.

As the population at the senior center continues to grow, so does the need to improve the building and its access to technology.

Zienowicz said the foundation and exterior wall of the building will be repaired soon, and mini-splits will be installed in the spring to help with noise control.

The Ware Senior Center received a \$98,000 grant to address digital literacy concerns that were identified by



Sue LaBarge drew winners for several door prizes.

Ware senior citizens in addition to \$25,000 to upgrade the access to technology in the building itself.

Zienowicz said the senior center has a new computer lab with a printer, and a fully equipped teleconference room for meetings, trainings, webinars and even court appearances. The Ware Senior Center has also partnered with Bridge Social to create an artificial intelligence texting system for anyone who is seeking information about the senior center and social services.

Zienowicz also recognized the members of The Friends of Ware Seniors Inc. for their efforts to raise vital funding to contribute to the Meal Assistance Program to help cover the cost of meals for senior citizens who cannot afford to pay full price

for lunches.

"No senior gets turned away," Zienowicz said.

Since 2024, the Friends have given \$8,756.25 to the Meal Assistance Program, which includes the cost of the volunteer dinner.

The Friends of Ware Seniors Inc. also host monthly parties and operate a Thrift Store within the senior center.

President of The Friends of Ware Seniors Inc. Sue LaBarge thanked everyone who was able to attend the dinner, and she said how important the volunteers are for ensuring the success of the Ware Senior Center.

"If it weren't for you folks there wouldn't be a senior center here," she said.

Volunteers are "what keeps this place going," she said.

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

Enjoy spooky stories with the Paige Memorial Library

HARDWICK – Tis the season for spooky stories at the Paige Memorial Library.

The library will present Sarah Hodge-Wetherbe on Tuesday, Nov. 4 at 6 p.m. Come to the Town House for "Mysterious Massachusetts".

Prepare for legends that would make even the bravest ghost hunters check their flashlight twice, mysterious happenings swirling around Quabbin Reservoir and the towns that populate the area, tales of restless spirits, supernatural leg-

ends, glowing lights, odd occurrences, and strange entities

Register to hold your place by emailing Director. paigelibrary@gmail.com or calling 413-477-6704.

Meet at the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road on Wednesdays for Story Time at 10:30 a.m. to play and then enjoy stories at 11 a.m. with art and science projects to follow. Registration is not mandatory but it's extremely helpful in our planning and providing adequate materials.

Holly Berry Bazaar to be held Nov. 15

PALMER – The Third Annual Holly Berry Bazaar will be held Saturday, Nov. 15, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. Paul's Church, 1060 Central St.

There will be arts and crafts, handmade gifts, giant raffle, themed gift baskets, and St. Paul's famous bake sale. The Christmas Kitchen will be open from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

The Christmas Kid's Corner has the North Pole Post for letters to Santa, free sweet-treat bags, and photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

TUITION from page 7

tract and his projected last day is Oct. 30. He said 12 candidates have applied for the position and a search committee has been formed.

Student Advisory Council update

Student Advisory Council members Evie Iwaniec and Mia Letendre provided an update about school happenings to the School Committee.

Students enjoyed homecoming activities and senior nights were held for the various fall sports.

Iwaniec said the students in the Journey's Transitions Program have been volunteering at Second Chance Animal Services' location in Southbridge. She said they are supporting the pet food pantry by filling bags to be distributed to pet owners in need.

"This is an exciting

opportunity for our students," she said.

Letendre said a financial aid presentation will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium with Richard O'Connor, Director of Financial Aid at Elms College. This presentation is available to juniors and seniors.

The School Store will be open every Thursday after school from 2:15-3:30 p.m.

The 21st Century after-school programs are also underway, including clubs such as Dungeons & Dragons, creative writing, middle school E-sports and cooking.

Iwaniec said 99 students from eighth and ninth grades will be attending the Washington, D.C. trip March 17-20, 2026.

Letendre said the senior class will hold a Halloween walk-through on Friday, Oct. 31. She said they also have an ongoing raffle cal-

endar fundraiser.

Iwaniec said the junior class has been manning the snack shack during home night games.

The sophomore class is planning a bake sale during the first week of November. The week of Thanksgiving, the class will host a coffee and muffin morning for teachers.

Letendre said the sophomores also won the annual Powder Puff game.

The freshmen class is organizing its annual breakfast to be held in December.

In the middle school, seventh and eighth grade students in Project Lead the Way's Medical Detectives class dissected and labeled parts of a sheep's brain.

Two eighth grade students have been selected as Project 351 Ambassadors, Farrah Piermarini of West Brookfield and Jariella Male of Warren.

CUTTER PARK from page 8

O'Leary said.

The town wanted to make sure abutters were aware and this first meeting on Oct. 22 at the Senior Center was well advertised and gave people awareness that the project is underway. The geography and soil on

the site were addressed in addition to the current layout of Cutter Park.

Many attendees shared childhood memories of going to Cutter Park during this opening meeting. The consultant will go over ideas and come up with conceptual designs.

Next meeting will take

place in either December of January. The consultant will get feedback after presenting preliminary concepts.

After all meetings are held, there will be a final conceptual design and proposal. Ideas will be presented at the next meeting for the Cutter Park Planning Project.

DEMO from page 1

the funding for demolition in the event the owner does not comply with the request for demolition.

Marques said this past weekend, some of the securement of the boarded up window facing Main Street, fell to the public way below.

"The situation has become more of a nuisance due to its increasing level of unsafe conditions," she said.

Fire Chief Jim Martinez said the property was a "considerable concern" several years ago and agreed with Marques' determination regarding the property's safety.

"Demolition is the best course of action for that property," he said.

Once deemed a nuisance, the property would need to be demolished within 30 days.

After closing the public hearing, the Selectboard voted unanimously to deem the property a nuisance and issued an order to notify the owner that it needs to be demolished by Dec. 1.

Reduction of quorum for STM

The Selectboard members discussed reducing the quorum for the Monday, Nov. 17 Special Town Meeting from 100 voters to 80.

Vice-Chair Josh Kusnierz, who is also chair of the Charter Review Committee, suggested reducing it to 80 voters. He said that Charter Review Committee has discussed a permanent reduction in the quorum to that number.

A motion made by Selectboard Clerk John Desmond to temporarily

reduce the quorum to 80 was not seconded and failed to pass.

Selectboard member Jack Cascio said the board needs to work with various organizations and schools to teach the importance of voting to younger people. He said they should be able to have 100 voters participate through outreach.

Desmond said there have been many town meetings that have needed to be rescheduled due to lack of quorum. He said that 80 was a reasonable number of voters.

Kusnierz agreed that education about voting is important for the future, but said the Selectboard has a responsibility to ensure that town business is taken care of now.

"We have done a great deal of review on numbers...I don't know if the 100's going to be there," he said. "I think this is something that we need to reduce in order to get the town business to go forward."

Selectboard member Ken Willette said he is "troubled" by the decision to reduce the quorum, but he agreed to temporarily reduce the quorum for this Special Town Meeting and asked the board members to reconsider the previous motion, which was seconded.

The Selectboard voted in favor of reducing the quorum, with Cascio voting against it.

Special Town Meeting will be held in the auditorium of Ware Jr./Sr. High School on Monday, Nov. 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Land inquiry on Monroe Street

Town Manager Stuart Beckley presented the Selectboard with a land inquiry letter for a parcel of land next to 25 Monroe St. He said the property owner at 25 Monroe St. would like to purchase it from the town.

He said the parcel would need to be declared surplus at town meeting in order for a sale to move forward. He said the sale would still need to go through the procurement process.

The parcel of land has been maintained by the owners of 25 Monroe St. for over 85 years. This parcel was a right of way originally purchased by the former Ware

Gas Co.

The property owner of 25 Monroe St., said the soil has already been tested for contaminants.

The town has owned the parcel for at least 12 years, in addition to the rest of the Ware Gas Co.'s property.

The Selectboard agreed to place an article on the Special Town Meeting warrant deeming the parcel as surplus and selling it. If the article passes, the procurement process for the sale will begin.

Comments and concerns

Hardwick resident Stephen Granlund spoke

about the delay in posting meeting minutes from the Hospital Review Committee. He said some of the minutes recently approved by the committee were four years old.

Granlund said the minutes were "grossly late" and that this was disappointing and unfair to the residents and those served by the former Mary Lane Hospital

Granlund also brought up that members of the committee were not current with their conflict of interest certifications until he brought it up.

He said it would be necessary to have an investigation

into this matter and the people involved.

"It's a serious matter," he said.

Granlund said without the certification on file, there is not a valid quorum and that any vote taken by the committee should be rescinded.

Vote to dissolve committee

The Selectboard approved a request from the Hospital Review Committee to dissolve the committee.

Appointment

The Selectboard appointed Gerard Ready to the Americans with Disabilities Act Commission.



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Submitted photo
Neil Diamond (Lask) and Mariah Carey (Amanda Meli) are shown on stage together during a duet.



Left to right stands Nicole Fuller as Lady Gaga, Amanda Meli as Mariah Carey, Lisa Carter as Cher and Charlie Lask as Neil Diamond during a tribute show to benefit Tony Valley.

Tribute show fundraiser benefitted Tony Valley

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – Workshop13 hosted a tribute concert this past week to benefit a friend of the music community, Tony Valley.

The show was called “A Night for Tony Valley: A Tribute Concert Like No Other” and featured four tribute artists with an unforgettable tribute to music’s greatest icons. The concert was to benefit Valley, who is going through cancer treatments.

One of Valley’s friends in the music community, Amanada Meli said everyone at the show has a lot of hope and have come together to support a dear friend, who has done so much for other musicians and artists in the area.

“He was always here for the entire community,” Meli said about Valley and the impact he has made on so many lives.

Valley is more than just a

performer; he is a mentor and a big supporter of the music industry and those who were a part of it.

The idea of a tribute concert came from Charlie Lask, a singer-songwriter who is also a tribute artist for songs from legendary artists, Neil Diamond, Johnny Cash and Elvis. Soon the artists got a hold of Workshop13, and they were on board to host this tribute show to help support Valley and his fight.

Lask is known for doing Neil Diamond tribute shows and went as Diamond for the tribute

Please see **TRIBUTE SHOW**, page 13



Nicole Fuller as Lady Gaga is shown during the Tribute Show.



Charlie Lask as Neil Diamond performed at Workshop13 during the tribute show.



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago
Charlie Lask as Neil Diamond got the audience to sing and dance to “Sweet Caroline”.

Friends of Ware Senior Center announce fundraisers

WARE – The Friends of the Ware Senior Center will be offering a raffle of a Philips 65-inch flat screen TV, (4K UHD), with tickets available at the Thrift Store in the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-noon.

Raffle tickets are \$5 per ticket and the drawing will be held on Dec. 15.

The Friends are also selling their lotto calen-

dars now until Oct. 31. Tickets are \$10 per lotto calendar and people have a chance to win every day in November.

Lotto calendars can be acquired at the Ware Senior Center, Nat Falk, Crystal Springs, Ware Library and the Ware branch of the North Brookfield Savings Bank. Ticket stubs and payment need to be placed in the drop off box at the Ware Senior Center.

Local students earn Dean’s List at WSU

WORCESTER – Worcester State University recognized students who earned the rank of Dean’s List for the spring semester.

Local students include Isabelle Clements, Communication and Liliana Montalban, Nursing, both of Ware; and Kassidy Neilsen, Elementary Education, of Warren.

To qualify for the

Dean’s List, full- and part-time students must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or better for the semester. Courses taken on a pass/fail basis are excluded from the GPA calculation.

Full-time students must be enrolled for a minimum of 12 graded credits. Part-time day and evening students must have an academic load of a minimum of six graded credit hours.

New Braintree welcomes the holiday season

NEW BRAINTREE – New Braintree is kicking off the holiday season with its “Christmas in New Braintree” on Saturday, Dec. 6.

The event will include a craft fair hosted by the Tri Parish Community Church from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the New Braintree Grade School and Town Hall, both located on Memorial Drive, photos with Santa from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and crafts for children.

The New Braintree Congregational Church will be holding its traditional

cookie sale and cafe during the craft fair.

The New Braintree Historical Society will be hosting a Holiday Open House at the museum at 10 Utley Road from 4:30-6:30 p.m., and there will be a town tree lighting ceremony at the town hall to bring an end to the festivities. All are welcome.

Anyone who would like to participate as a vendor or volunteer please contact Bonnie St. Cyr at 443-835-7530 or bonniestcyr@yahoo.com.

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Schools in the Age of Digital Distraction

11th Safe and Healthy School Summit held at GCC

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

GREENFIELD – Greenfield Community College hosted the 11th Safe and Healthy School Summit this past week.

This year's topic focused on schools in the age of digital distraction. The Northwestern District Attorney's Office welcomed teachers, school administrators, coalitions and workers in youth services from various counties in western Massachusetts to focus on social media and its impact on kids and their developing brains.

Various speakers and panels arrived to share various studies found in surveys and see what schools have found in the current distractions caused by social media and artificial intelligence. District Attorney David E. Sullivan said this year's Safe and Healthy School Summit is focused on social media. This summit is a resourceful professional development to give school leaders some idea on how to work with parents and the community as they handle the large distractions of cell phone use and social media in schools and how they can minimize those distractions.

Sullivan sees this topic as an educational opportunity to explore the good information within social media and how we see the world in many eyes, but still know the dangers on the internet. As part of the introduction, Executive Director of the Children's Advocacy Center of Hampshire County, Kara McElhone, spoke first on how this summit will run and hopes to try to minimize online dangers that kids can be exposed to while having access to the internet and social media.

McElhone believes there are "smart mentors for online safety" and the goal is to help educate students about the dangers of the digital world.

"We're building on that progress," McElhone said as that is what this year's school summit is about.

Executive Director of the Children's Advocacy Center of Franklin County and North Quabbin, Carol Conragan came up to speak next and talked about the increase in photos being shared on social media. There is also an effective source known as "Handle with Care (HWC)", a school-community response to help ensure that children exposed to trauma in their home, school, or community receive appropriate support.

Sullivan came up to speak prior to the keynote speaker's presentation and said, "I encourage schools to find that healthy alternative." This is in response to helping kids and keeping them away from

dangers of the digital age.

The keynote speaker for this year's School Summit was Dr. Michael Rich, who is a pediatrician and the Founder & Director of the Digital Wellness Lab and the founder/co-director of the Clinic for Interactive Media and Internet Disorders. Both are based out of the Boston Children's Hospital.

The Digital Wellness Lab works to promote positive and healthy digital media experiences for people from birth to young adulthood. The Clinic for Interactive Media and Internet Disorders is the first evidence-based clinical program addressing the problematic interactive media use in children, adolescents, and young adults.

Rich shared that he has been working well with various tech companies to help release findings in these studies on how kids are "lost in a sea of screens they are living in." This work was supported by various companies including YouTube, TikTok, Roblox, Google, and Microsoft. Rich says there are various headlines of kids being addicted to screens and based of examples has identified the effects of excessive screen use.

Some kids have lost interest in school and sports due to having a lot of screen time. Nowadays, the age of kids beginning to use digital gadgets has gotten younger, as young as the age of 9. In Rich's studies, 73% of parents are using devices while eating during family meals.

Rich sees constant screen

using as "the next normal" and the change is a moving target. Rich wants parents, educators and students to recognize those moving targets.

"We are all in a screen saturated world," Rich said.

According to reports, teenagers are averaging about 8.5 hours per day being on screen. There is a 17% increase in screen use during the COVID-19 pandemic. A lot of younger people are engaged in digital and physical worlds, according to Rich.

For screen use or social media, 84% of kids check their phones hourly and 16% more frequently every five minutes.

In these findings, Rich talked about a feeling called "FOBLO", which stands for Fear of being left out. Wondering why kids are so attracted to these sources, Rich explained that interactive media provides a fertile environment for key tasks for adolescent development.

There is also Problematic Interactive Media Use, the inability to regulate use of interactive media which displaces key elements of health and development. These include sleep, nutrition, academic performance, social life, relationships and mental health.

Another study Rich shared is Growing Up Digital, seeing if users are distracted or addicted. 30% of parents feel "addicted" to their own technologies with social media. 22% of parents feel their children



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago
Shown from left to right, Northwestern District Attorney David E. Sullivan, Dr. Michael Rich, Executive Director of Children's Advocacy Center of Hampshire County, Kara McElhone, and Executive Director of Children's Advocacy Center of Franklin County and North Quabbin, Carol Conragan at the 11th Safe and Healthy School Summit.

are "addicted" to technology with the areas of greatest dependence being watching videos and video games. Even grandparents were studied for GUD. 36% of grandparents believe their grandchildren are "addicted" to technology. Rich mentioned psychological conditions predisposed to PIMU: ADHD, social anxiety, ASD and depression.

Rich would then move on to the "hot topic", smartphones in schools. There was a middle school class experiment a teacher did in a 45-minute period. The sheet listed various social media platforms, phone calls, texts, email, and other screen related platforms. The teacher had over 1,100 tallies from students who admitted to how much they use their smartphone.

Rich described a cell phone as a "24/7 mom and dad in your pocket."

In Alberta, there was research conducted based on feedback from over 2,800 Alberta K-12 teachers and school leaders. This research was on a cellphone ban that was put in place recently. 74% of teachers say everyday classroom interruptions are down with the cellphone ban. 66% of teachers reported that there is better student mental health since the ban. 57% of teachers already notice improvement of student academic performance.

To wrap up, Rich mentioned the five M's of digital wellness, Model, Mentor, Monitor, Memories, and Mastery. Rich says we

Please see **DISTRACTION**, page 21

TRIBUTE from page 12

concert at Workshop13. The last song of the evening was Diamond's "Sweet Caroline", which got the audience to stand and wave their hands and sing along during this good time.

Lisa Carter performed as Cher and has been performing as a tribute artist for the last 16 years. Carter got her start from dancing.

"That was my stage," she said, and during one show the director wanted her to sing.

After that one show, Carter began singing more often and began to realize her voice sounded like a lot of various artists. While performing at music events Carter soon found Cher and her music as part of her act. Carter as Cher has done

many tribute shows with dancers, musicians, and various costumes.

Soon, Carter thought Cher was a part of her and her passion. Her favorite Cher song to sing is "I Found Someone", and she feels singing that song feels like she becomes Cher.

Carter was excited to be a part of this concert and showcased the passion they have in performing.

"We love what we do," Carter said. "We're here for Tony Valley."

Nicole Fuller was Lady Gaga and has been performing and doing tribute shows for 10 years. Fuller's journey began with a talent show she did at her work.

Since that talent show, Fuller never stopped performing. She would do

shows for friends and that soon directed towards booking gigs.

Fuller's favorite song by Lady Gaga is "Bad Romance" and she is also very talented on the keyboard.

"We all love music," Fuller said as she brought Gaga to the stage at Workshop13.

Meli was Mariah Carey, who brought high notes and holiday vibes. Meli as Carey came out to perform alongside Lask (Diamond) for a duet. Every performer came out at the same time for a final curtain call.

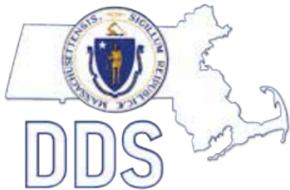
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PALMER vs. WARE



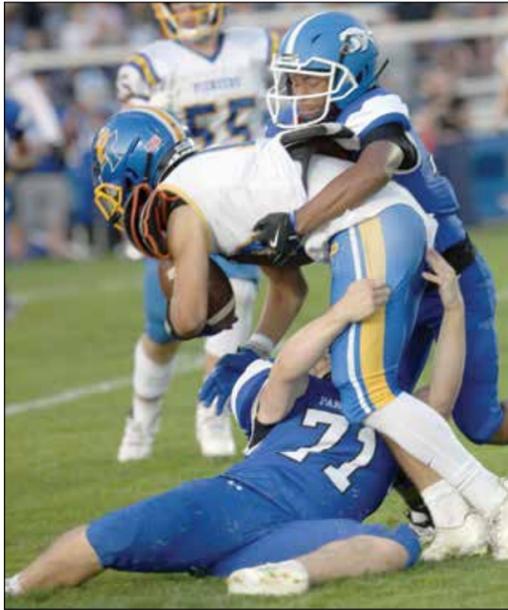
Matthew Santos scrambles around during early season action. Turley photos by David Henry



Jaiden Berthiaume heads toward the right side earlier this season.



Jimmy Sem heads to the side.



Landon Couture and Kenith Brown combine for a tackle.



Troy Jurczyk takes the snap. Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Alex Orszulak rushes for the Indians.

Panthers looking to score upset of rival Indians

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER – The Palmer and Ware football game is something that people from both communities look forward to attending every fall. While it's a very import-

ant game, Palmer head coach Matt Marciniac tries to treat the game like any other on his team's schedule. "The game does have a lot of tradition," said Marciniac, who has been the Panthers varsity football coach since 2019. "Once the

game starts, you always try your best to make it as normal as possible. The players always look forward to playing Ware, especially the seniors." The 99th meeting on Please see **PALMER**, page 16

Ware football team looks for 51st win over Palmer

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARE – It has been ten years since Ware High School has suffered a loss on the gridiron to archival Palmer. The members of the 2025 Indians varsity football

team will be looking to keep the Palmer-Ware trophy, which is shaped like a football, for another 365 days. "We've been fortunate to keep the trophy here at Ware High School for the past nine years," said Ware varsity football coach Mike Fazio. "We have our work

cut out for us this year. I've already watched a couple of Palmer football games on video. They do have a couple of stud athletes. Coach (Matt) Marciniac always puts together good game plans against us. We just need to be Please see **WARE**, page 17

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PHS Football 2025-2026 Roster

No.	Name	Position	Grade
1	Matthew Santos	QB/DB	12
3	Dylan Doherty	RB/LB	12
5	Hunter Baird	WR/LB	11
7	Jimmy Sem	RB/LB	9
8	Dakota Natalino	TE/LB	11
9	Griffin Nawrocki	RB/CB	11
10	Tarillo Smola	TE/LB	8
11	Adrian Hernandez	RB/LB	11
12	Hunter White	RB/LB	12
14	Kenith Brown	WR/CB	8
18	Kayden Harvey	WR/CB	10
21	Dylan Holbrook	WR/DB	11
22	Daimyon Marrero	WR/DB	10
24	Emilio Argueta	WR/DB	9
56	Dimitri Nava	C, DT	9
61	Kodah Laviolette-Gonzalez	C, DT	12
63	Maxx Garcia	C, DT	8
66	Kaleb Hayes	OG, LB	12
70	Jared Perry	OT, DE	12
71	Landon Couture	OG, LB	12
77	Gavin Smola	OT, DE	12
78	Dustin Moulton	OT, DT	9
90	Jayden Ryan	OT, DT	11

Palmer Football (3-4)

Week 1 – Friday, Sept. 12 – Palmer 7, Pathfinder 6
 Week 2 – Friday, Sept. 19 – David Prouty 28, Palmer 19
 Week 3 – Friday, Sept. 26 – Chicopee 12, Palmer 7
 Week 4 – Friday, Oct. 3 – Greenfield 26, Palmer 6
 Week 5 – Friday, Oct. 10 – Palmer 30, Athol 0
 Week 6 – Friday, Oct. 17 – Franklin Tech 49, Palmer 0
 Week 7 – Thursday, Oct. 23 – Palmer 41, Mahar 6
 Week 8 – Saturday, Nov. 1 – at Ware 1 p.m.
 Week 9 – Nov. 7/8 – TBD
 Week 10 – Nov. 14/15 – TBD
 Thanksgiving – Thursday, Nov. 27 – vs. Ludlow 10 a.m.

PALMER from page 15

the gridiron between the two neighboring high schools is scheduled to take place at historic Veterans' Field in Ware at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 1. The admission price for the football game is \$5 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens 65 and older. The ticket price for students in grades 7-12 is also \$3. Only cash will be accepted at the gate. No credit cards or on-line ticketing. Ware enters this year's contest with a 50-43-5 overall lead in the rivalry series which began in 1925. The two teams didn't face each other in 2020 due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

The last time that the Panthers, who have been coached by Marciniac since 2019, defeated the Indians was in 2015 by the final score of 14-6 at Legion Field. Marciniac was an assistant football coach in 2015 under legendary head coach Peter Farr. "I do recall the names of my former players, but I don't remember specific games very well," Marciniac said. "The only thing that I remember about last year's game against Ware was the final score was 7-6. We haven't won the Ware game in a few years." The Panthers' starting quarterback in the 2015 vic-



Turley's Amanda Munson asked the captains...

"What do you like most about being part of Palmer football?"

"The connections that you make with your teammates, like we are more than a team, we are more of a family. We are a tight-knit group is what we like to say, we are really close. When we go to practice, it feels like we are hanging out with friends, but we get the work in."
 – Gavin Smola, OT/DE



"My favorite part about playing with this team for four years is our positive energy during our games, around the school, and everywhere around Palmer."
 – Dylan Doherty, RB/DB

"Experiencing the hardships with the team, being able to build as a team and play together. Every game takes everybody, it's not just one person."
 – Kodah Laviolette-Gonzalez, C/DT



"The people, I really enjoy my teammates and seeing them every day. I really enjoy football."
 – Jared Perry, OT/DE



"The culture that is set here, with the coaching staff, we keep a tight ship. Everyone knows everyone, we work really hard together."
 – Matthew Santos, QB/DB

tory against Ware was Ryan McCarthy, who was inducted into the Palmer Athletic Hall of Fame on October 18. McCarthy rushed for a total of 194 yards and scored a pair of rushing touchdowns in that contest. The Panthers currently have a 2-4 overall record and a 1-2 record against Inter-county North opponents. They began the 2025 regular season by squeaking out a 7-6 win over cross-town rival Pathfinder Tech at historic Legion Field. They also posted a 30-0 win at Athol High School on October 10, which snapped a three game losing streak. Palmer lost at Franklin County Tech, 49-0, in week 6, which pretty much eliminates them from finishing first in the league standings. The seniors listed on

the Panthers 2025 varsity football roster are Matt Santos, Dylan Doherty, Hunter White, Kodah Laviolette, Kaleb Hayes, Jared Perry, Gavin Smola, and Landon Couture. "The seniors have played a huge role in our program," Marciniac said. "It would be special if they can win this year's game against Ware. They're working hard to accomplish it." The Panthers annual senior night game will be against Mahar Regional on Thursday night. Santos is the Panthers starting quarterback this fall. "Matt has been our starting quarterback since his freshman year and he knows the offense very well," Marciniac said. "He has grown a lot during the past couple of years. One area where he

has improved is his passing game. He's the leader of our offense." Doherty, who's a running back, rushed for more than 1,000 yards as a junior. He didn't play in the first six games of this season due to an injury. "I'm not really sure if Dylan will be playing in the Ware game," Marciniac said. "He's one of the toughest players that I've ever coached. We've missed him this year. He has the ability to take over a game." The duo of Santos and Doherty, along with Perry, Smola, and Laviolette are the Panthers captains. White is a running back. Another running back is freshman Jimmy Sem. Junior Dylan Holbrook is a wide receiver and T.J. Smola, who's an eighth grad-

er, is listed as a tight end. Holbrook also handles the place kicking duties. T.J.'s older brother, Gavin, is both an offensive lineman and defensive end. Laviolette is the starting center and Couture, who had previously been a tight end, will switch to a guard position. Perry is a tackle. Hayes, who a first-year member of the football team, is also a lineman. Perry and Couture, along with sophomore Kayden Harvey, and freshman Dustin Moulton, attend Monson High School. They're able to play football for the Panthers as part of a co-op. Perry, Gavin Smola, and White are three of the Panthers key defensive players. Eighth grader K.J. Brown has also seen some playing time on defense.

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"The tradition and the culture is amazing, Coach Fazio has done an amazing job creating the culture. Year in and year out, he gets kids to try out the sport and they love it. Most people realize it's their favorite sport."
 - Alex Orszulak, TE/LB

"Everything honestly - I love football, I've loved football from a very young age. Going to high school, it's a lot different than the youth program we have. It's a lot tougher, coach makes show up everyday and plays our hearts out. We work for everything we do and that's what led us to being successful."
 - Sean Bernier, WR/DB



"The culture, every day you show up and have to work hard. To win, you all have to buy in and that's what this team is about. Everybody is bought in and we are a big family."
 - Troy Dufresne, WR/DB

"I love the traditions that we all do, it's been going on since the beginning of Ware High School football and it's a great thing we always do."
 - Jadrien Berthiaume, RB/LB



"The family mentality we have here, when we make a play, we celebrate with all of our teammates."
 - Marek Luongo, OL/DL



Turley's Amanda Munson asked the captains...

"What do you like most about being part of Ware football?"

WHS Football 2025-2026 Roster

No.	Name	Position	Grade
1	Troy Jurczyk	QB/DB	11
2	Sean Bernier	WR/DB	12
3	Mekhai Johnson	WR/DB	11
4	Ian Hogan	WR/LB	10
5	Dalton Marquis	RB/DB	10
6	Jadrien Berthiaume	RB/LB	12
7	Troy Dufresne	WR/DB	12
8	Zachary Safford	RB/LB	10
9	Liam Trench Catala	RB/LB	9
10	Brayden Compton	WR/DB	12
11	Enrique Martinez, Jr.	TE/DL	12
12	Daniel McDonald-Flowers	RB/LB	8
13	Rhys Clark	QB/DB	7
14	Caleb Gorman	WR/LB	10
17	Nathaniel Dionne	WR/DB	7
18	Mason Lugo	WR/DB	8
20	Mason Kalafarski	RB/LB	9
21	Sebastian Schmidt	RB/LB	11
22	Robert Wood	OL/DL	12
24	Dane Dulak	RB/DB	9
54	Cam Grushey	OL/DL	11
55	Jacob McNamee	LB/OL	11
56	Clayten Cortright	OL/DL	10
60	Ethan Corder	OL/DL	12
61	Santino Mirabile	OL/DL	7
62	Philip Dupell	OL/DL	12
63	Joshua King	OL/DL	7
64	Kahmari Crump	OL/DL	11
65	Enrique Burton	OL/DL	11
68	Jayden Diaz	OL/DL	11
70	Jeremiah Simmons	OL/DL	9
71	Jacoby Heredia	OL/DL	12
73	Andrew Bonilla	OL/DL	11
74	Cameron Hickey	OL/DL	7
75	Hunter Briand	OL/DL	11
76	Marek Luongo	OL/DL	12
77	Nathan Kelly	OL/DL	8
78	Sincere McLaurin	OL/DL	9
84	Alex Orszulak	TE/LB	12

Ware Football Schedule (5-2)

- Week 1 - Friday, Sept. 12 - Ware 12, Easthampton 8
- Week 2 - Friday, Sept. 19 - Belchertown 21, Ware 20
- Week 3 - Friday, Sept. 26 - SICS 20, Ware 19
- Week 4 - Friday, Oct. 3 - Ware 27, Franklin Tech 14
- Week 5 - Friday, Oct. 10 - Ware 48, Mahar 6
- Week 6 - Friday, Oct. 17 - Ware 26, Athol 0
- Week 7 - Friday, Oct. 24 - Ware 14, Greenfield 0
- Week 8 - Saturday, Nov. 1 - vs. Palmer 1 p.m.
- Week 9 - Nov. 7/8 - TBD
- Week 10 - Nov. 14/15 - TBD
- Thanksgiving - Wednesday, Nov. 26 - at Quaboag 6 p.m.

WARE from page 15

ready for everything that they might do against us. I have a lot of respect for coach Marciniac."

The 99th meeting on the gridiron between the two neighboring high schools is scheduled to take place at Veterans' Field in Ware on Saturday, Nov. 1. Kickoff will be at 1 p.m.

The admission price for the rivalry football game is \$5 for adults, and \$3 for senior citizens 65 and older. The price for students in grades 7-12 is also \$3. Cash will only be accepted at the gate. No credit cards or on-line ticketing.

A year ago, the Indians squeaked out an exciting 7-6 victory over the Panthers at Legion Field in Palmer.

"It's an old fashion rivalry game and you can throw the records out the window," Fazio said. "Whichever team makes the fewest mistakes usually wins the game."

There are several events that take place leading up to the game on Saturday afternoon.

It's more than just a football game," Fazio said. "The Palmer and Ware senior banquet is an amazing thing. Nobody else does anything like

that. There are also pep rallies and bonfires. I think it's a cool memory for the kids, especially whenever you're playing the game at home."

Prior to last season, Ware had outscored Palmer, 112-28, in their previous three meetings.

The Indians, who have won the last eight games coached by Marciniac since 2019, defeated the Indians in 2015 by the final score of 14-6 at Legion Field.

The Indians, who are members of the Intercountry North Division, have also captured the league title the past eight years.

"If we can win another league title, it would be a great way for the seniors to wrap up their high school career," Fazio said. "It'll also help us set the tone for next year. Winning the league title is always one of our goals every year."

The Ware seniors are Sean Bernier, Jadrien Berthiaume, Troy Dufresne, Brayden Compton, Enrique

Martinez, Robert Wood, Ethan Corder, Phillip Dupell, Jacoby Heredia, Marek Luongo, and Alex Orszulak.

"The seniors are very good football players and they're even better kids," Fazio said. "They're fully invested and are committed to our football program."

Berthiaume, Luongo, Bernier, Dufresne, and Orszulak are the Indians captains. Ware has a 4-2 overall record and a 3-0 league record.

Following back-to-back one point losses against Belchertown and the Springfield International Charter School, the Indians have reeled off three straight wins against Franklin County Tech (27-14), Mahar Regional (48-6), and Athol (26-0).

Before the Indians can start preparing for the annual rivalry game, they're scheduled to play a road game against league rival Greenfield on Friday night. Ware has won the last five games in that series.

Junior Troy Jurczyk will be the Indians starting quarterback against Palmer for the first time.

"Troy has grown immensely since week one," Fazio said. "He's been doing everything a little bit better each week. He has done a

very good job so far this season."

Two of the Indians offensive threats are Berthiaume, who's a running back, and Orszulak, who's a fullback this season after being a tight-end last year.

"I met Alex for the first time during the summer before his seventh grade year," Fazio said. "I've watched him grow up and he's now a stud. He's planning to play college football next year. Al and Jadrien wouldn't be very successful without having a strong offensive line."

Berthiaume did have a very memorable game against Palmer two years ago. He scored three rushing touchdowns during the first half leading the Indians to 49-7 home victory.

The Indians tight-end this fall is junior Dalton Marquis.

The members of the offensive line are junior Cam Grushey, junior Hunter Briand, junior Jayden Diaz, Martinez, and Heredia.

Dufresne and Bernier are the wide receivers.

The Indians leading players defensively are Berthiaume, Dufresne, Orszulak, Bernier, Dupell, sophomore Ian Hogan, and junior Enrique Burton.



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A look at last year's game



After a rout for the Ware Indians in the 2023 game, Ware won by the narrowest of margins in 2024, with just an extra point helping the Indians grab the win 7-6 over Palmer. Jadrien Berthiaume carried the ball five times during the Indians first offensive series for a total of 15 yards. Brady Dyer also completed a 23-yard pass to junior Alex Orszulak. Orszulak took the snap from center

before throwing a high pass which was caught by Dyer over a Palmer defender with one-hand before he dashed into the end zone with 5:50 left in the first quarter. Dyer also made the extra point attempt.

Following an interception, Palmer took possession of the ball in the second half. On the second play of the series, Matt Santos completed a 24-yard pass to Jones placing

the ball at the Indians 42. Following three Dylan Doherty runs, Santos connected with Doherty for a 31-yard reception at the four yard line. Then Doherty, who left the game briefly in the third quarter with an injury, completed the eight play scoring drive with a four yard TD run with 10:56 left in regulation. The two-point conversion failed and that was all the scoring in the game.



Taydem Haley emerges from the crowd on a run.

Turley photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com

Above, Jadrien Berthiaume heads toward the right side on a run. Right, Quarterback Brady Dyer makes a pass attempt.



Troy Dufresne and Alex Orszulak go for a tackle.



Matthew Santos flips a shovel pass away.



Troy Dufresne looks to make a tackle.

Palmer vs. Ware - Past results

With their 2024 win, their 10th in the last 11 years, Ware now leads all-time series 50-43-5.

1925	Palmer 0	Ware 0	1959	Ware 24	Palmer 14	1992	Ware 46	Palmer 0
1926	Ware 13	Palmer 7	1960	Palmer 14	Ware 0	1993	Ware 34	Palmer 27
1927	Palmer 13	Ware 7	1961	Palmer 22	Ware 14	1994	Ware 14	Palmer 7
1928	Palmer 13	Ware 6	1962	Palmer 14	Ware 0	1995	Ware 8	Palmer 6
1929	Ware 13	Palmer 2	1963	Palmer 28	Ware 14	1996	Palmer 21	Ware 12
1930	Ware 13	Palmer 6	1964	Palmer 28	Ware 6	1997	Ware 28	Palmer 6
1931	Palmer 6	Ware 0	1965	Palmer 28	Ware 0	1998	Ware 30	Palmer 0
1932	Palmer 34	Ware 0	1966	Palmer 34	Ware 6	1999	Ware 42	Palmer 0
1933	Palmer 32	Ware 0	1967	Palmer 13	Ware 6	2000	Ware 34	Palmer 0
1934	Palmer 14	Ware 13	1968	Ware 18	Palmer 6	2001	Ware 28	Palmer 0
1935	Palmer 14	Ware 13	<i>(snowstorm moved game to Nov. 23)</i>			2002	Ware 20	Palmer 6
1936	Ware 12	Palmer 6	1969	Palmer 42	Ware 6	2003	Ware 20	Palmer 14
1937	Palmer 0	Ware 0	1970	Ware 12	Palmer 6	2004	Ware 43	Palmer 6
1938	Ware 26	Palmer 6	1971	Ware 6	Palmer 2	2005	Palmer 12	Ware 0
1939	Ware 13	Palmer 0	1972	Palmer 26	Ware 9	2006	Ware 8	Palmer 6
1940	Ware 6	Palmer 0	1973	Palmer 14	Ware 12	2007	Palmer 26	Ware 6
1941	Palmer 0	Ware 0	1974	Ware 14	Palmer 6	2008	Palmer 33	Ware 0
1942	Palmer 39	Ware 0	1975	Ware 18	Palmer 6	2009	Ware 16	Palmer 6
1943	Palmer 62	Ware 0	1976	Palmer 8	Ware 0	2010	Palmer 33	Ware 0
1944	<i>No game</i>		1977	Ware 20	Palmer 0	2011	Palmer 21	Ware 0
1945	Palmer 15	Ware 0	1978	Ware 6	Palmer 0	2012	Ware 29	Palmer 20
1946	Palmer 0	Ware 0	1979	Ware 38	Palmer 12	2013	Ware 20	Palmer 0
1947	Palmer 13	Ware 6	1980	Ware 21	Palmer 0	2014	Ware 14	Palmer 0
1948	Ware 14	Palmer 7	1981	Ware 27	Palmer 0	2015	Palmer 14	Ware 6
1949	Palmer 24	Ware 0	1982	Palmer 12	Ware 6	2016	Ware 26	Palmer 6
1950	Palmer 51	Ware 6	1983	Ware 10	Palmer 6	2017	Ware 41	Palmer 6
1951	Palmer 25	Ware 14	1984	Ware 7	Palmer 0	2018	Ware 19	Palmer 6
1952	Palmer 32	Ware 13	1985	Palmer 26	Ware 6	2019	Ware 34	Palmer 28
1953	Palmer 32	Ware 13	1986	Palmer 34	Ware 14	2020	<i>No game played - COVID</i>	
1954	Palmer 34	Ware 13	1987	Palmer 16	Ware 0	2021	Ware 42	Palmer 21
1955	Palmer 6	Ware 0	1988	Palmer 14	Ware 12	2022	Ware 21	Palmer 0
1956	Palmer 13	Ware 6	1989	Ware 21	Palmer 7	2023	Ware 49	Palmer 7
1957	Ware 54	Palmer 13	1990	Ware 28	Palmer 6	2024	Ware 7	Palmer 6
1958	Ware 10	Palmer 0	1991	Ware 14	Palmer 14	2025	at WHS on Nov. 1 at 1 p.m.	

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Troy Dufresne stiff arms an Athol defender as he grabs some yardage.



Turley photos by Jack Cascio NEAPsmugmug.com
Zachary Safford stretches for extra yardage.



The storied 'Indian Defense' laid it all out the entire game.

Indians riding win streak heading into key game

WARE – Following wins over Athol and Greenfield during the past two weeks, the Ware High School football team is feeling good. The Indians, which are looking to once again make the Division 8 State Tournament for the fourth time in five years, are 5-2 heading into their conference finale against rival Palmer. Ware scored its fifth win of the season with a big defensive effort, shutting out Greenfield 14-0. The Indians have not lost a conference game this season. Both Palmer and Ware are members of the Intercounty North this year.



Alex Orszulak powers through the Athol defense.

Panthers suffer loss at Clinton

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

CLINTON—Falling behind early in the opening half is something that the Quabbin girls' varsity soccer team can't afford to do during the upcoming Division 3 state tournament.

The Lady Panthers, who conceded a pair of goals during the first ten minutes of last Tuesday night's road match against Mid-Wach D rival Clinton, suffered a 3-0 loss, which ended their three game winning streak.

"It was a little bit disappointing giving up the two goals at the start of the game," said Quabbin head coach John Gillis. "We played a little bit better as the first half went on and a lot better during the second half. They were able to put the ball into the net, and we couldn't in tonight's game."

Quabbin (8-5-1), who were shutout, 2-0, by the Lady Gaels at home on September 25, has already

Please see **PANTHERS**, page 20



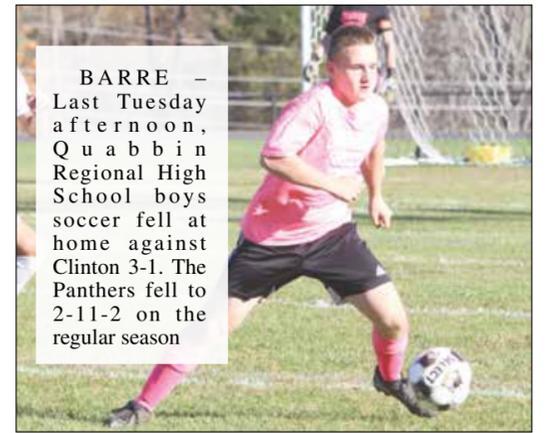
Jenna McKinney goes after the loose ball.



Megan Clark advances past midfield.

Quabbin boys soccer falls against Clinton

BARRE – Last Tuesday afternoon, Quabbin Regional High School boys soccer fell at home against Clinton 3-1. The Panthers fell to 2-11-2 on the regular season



Logan Bruley makes a play on defense.

Pioneers fall at home against Athol

PALMER – In its final game of the regular season, Pathfinder girls soccer was defeated by Athol High School. Athol took advantage of a depleted Pathfinder team that did not have a lot of depth on the bench. Athol would finish the game with a 5-0 win as Pathfinder fell to 4-9-2.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Angelina Miller wins the race to the ball.



Matthew Labrousse makes his way through the middle of the field.



Hannah Mellor winds up to clear the ball away.



Evelyn Wood makes her way up the field.



Amber Roman chases down a ball on defense.



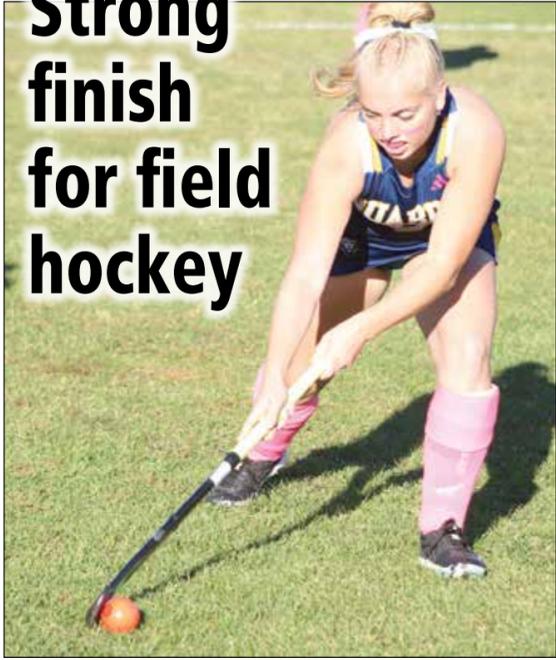
Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Alijah Flint sends a punt away.



Joseph Cook tries to make a pass ahead of an oncoming opponent.

sports

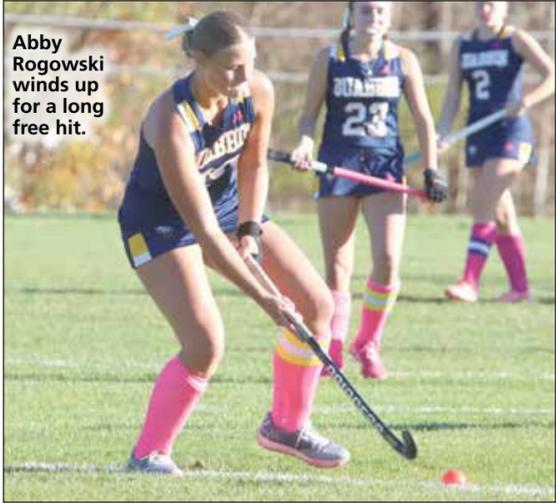
Strong finish for field hockey



Alyssa Ebert keeps the ball from going over the sideline.



Veanna Salvadore tries to keep the ball away from the opposition.



Abby Rogowski winds up for a long free hit.

BARRE – Last week, Quabbin Regional High School field hockey finished up its regular season with two wins in its final three games. The Panthers defeated Clinton 3-0 and Marlborough 2-0 to go with against Leominster. The regular season ends with a 14-3-1 regular season record. Quabbin awaits its seeding in the Division 4 state tournament. They are currently ranked No. 7 in the division, though play has to complete this week for that or another seed to lock in.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Maddy Stauder sends a pass up the right sideline.



Makenzie Casey looks to make a play on the ball.



Ellie Poulin makes a stop on defense.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Bondsville League

WARE – After eight weeks of league candlepin bowling, there is a new first place team in the west division.

Cannonballs are now in first place with a record of 35-21. Just two points behind in the west division is Sandri, 33-23. In the east division, Fire Mountain leads with a record of 39-17.

During week eight, Spare Parts bowled against Ironmen. In game one, Spare Parts won by a score of 475-436. Filling in for Spare Parts is Steven Fennyery, who began the match with a 110.

In game two, Spare Parts won again by a score of 480-447. Fennyery pulled through for the team again by scoring 120 in game two.

In game three, Spare Parts defeated Ironmen 523-435 for a 7-0 point sweep. Fennyery finished with a 104 and a series of 334. John Jebb of Spare Parts bowled well over his league average (90) with a 106. Filling in for Spare Parts was Scott Radisic, who bowled a 125 in the final game.

The final score was 1478-1318 in favor of Spare Parts, who move to a record of 32-24.

The Flaming Bowling Balls bowled against the #1 team in the east division, Fire Mountain. In game one, Fire Mountain won a close game by a score of 490-487. Rick Trott of Fire Mountain began the match with a 114.

In game two, Fire Mountain won again by a score of 484-437. In game three, Fire Mountain takes the third game by a score of 469-465. Scott Brewster of Fire Mountain ended the match by scoring 121.

The final score was 1443-1389 in favor of Fire

Mountain.

The Snappers bowled against Night Hawks in week eight. In game one, Night Hawks won the game by a score of 492-436. Gavin Sinclair of Night Hawks lead the team to victory by scoring 137.

In game two, Night Hawks won again by a score of 453-446. Sinclair bowled well again with a score of 128.

In game three, Night Hawks won by a score of 488-455 and won seven points against Snappers. Lee Robinson of Night Hawks ended the match with a 132. Sinclair had the highest series of the week with a 361.

The final score was 1433-1337 in favor of Night Hawks.

Sandri bowled against Team UMass in week eight. In game one, Sandri defeated Team UMass by a score of 478-446. Rich Picotte of Sandri bowled the best game with a 116.

In game two, Team UMass pulled off the win by a score of 453-422. In game three, Sandri won the last game by a score of 491-457. Picotte ended the match with a 136 and a series of 345.

The final score was 1391-1356 in favor of Sandri.

Newly named team, P&J Meats, bowled against the Cannonballs in week eight. In game one, Cannonballs won by a score of 497-443. Sally Czarnecki of Cannonballs bowled well with a 122.

In game two, Cannonballs won again by a score of 518-474. Suzie Czarnecki of Cannonballs bowled a good game with a 116. Sally followed up with a 105 in game two.

In game three, Cannonballs won by a score of 514-443. Micah Hinkley of Cannonballs ended the match with a 117. The final score was 1529-1360 in favor of Cannonballs, who move to first place in west division.

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PANTHERS from page 19

qualified for the Division 3 state tournament because they'll finish the regular season with a .500 record.

The Lady Panthers, who were ranked 53rd in the Division 3 power rankings, will be making an appearance in the postseason appearance for the first time since 2019. The state tournament is slated to begin on November 3.

"None of these players have ever played in the post-season tournament," Gillis said. "This was a big game for us, but we just came out flat at the start of the game. We struggled scoring goals last year, but we've scored more than 30 goals so far this season."

The trio of senior Abi Falconi, junior Ailey Majoy, and freshman Allie Lipiec

have combined to score 17 goals of the Lady Panthers goals in the first 15 regular season matches.

The Lady Gaels (10-3-2), who celebrated their senior night, took a 1-0 lead during the third minute of the opening half when junior Molly Schoolcraft lined a shot from the top of the box over the head of Quabbin senior goalie Kelsey Allen (8 saves) into the back of the net.

A couple of minutes later, senior Sofia Curley netted the Lady Gaels second goal following a corner kick.

Despite falling behind by two goals, Gillis thought his team still had a chance to make a comeback.

"A 2-0 lead is the worst score in soccer," Gillis said. "If the trailing team scores a goal, the momentum usually changes very quickly. We did

have a couple of chances."

With about ten minutes left in the first half, a shot attempt taken by Quabbin senior Bianca Wilder was deflected over the endline by Clinton senior goalie Reese Taylor resulting in a corner kick. Another shot by Falconi was saved by the Lady Gaels keeper.

The Lady Panthers' other two seniors are Anna Labrousse and Elizabeth Matheson.

"We graduated 12 seniors last year, but the five seniors on this year's team have been doing a very good job," Gillis said. "Not many people thought we would qualify for the state tournament, but everyone has picked up the slack. I'm hoping that our program continues to grow next year."



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Frank J. Gromelski Jr., 81

BARRE – Frank J. he served with fairness and compassion for many years. “Gromo” Gromelski, Jr., 81, of Barre, passed away peacefully on Monday, Oct. 20, 2025.



He was born in Webster on Nov. 25, 1943, to his beloved parents Frank (Francis) Sr. and Emily (Mozdzierz) Gromelski. During his early childhood, the family moved to South Barre, where they operated a bar and social club fondly known to locals as Gromo’s.

Frank attended Barre High School, graduating with the Class of 1961. A standout athlete, he played center and served as co-captain of the 1961 Tri-State Champion, Barre High Hornets basketball team.

He went on to attend Worcester Junior College and later transferred to the University of Cincinnati, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

After college, Frank entered public service, joining the staff of the late State Senator Robert D. Wetmore, who represented the Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin district. There he helped to champion landmark conservation initiatives and pass key environmental legislation - work Frank remained deeply proud of throughout his life.

In 1997, Frank was appointed an Administrative Judge for the Department of Industrial Accidents, where

he served with fairness and compassion for many years.

Before retiring in 2014, he also directed Community Transit Service in Athol, a program under the Community Transportation Association of America. This initiative bridged two regional transit authorities to better serve the transportation needs of elderly, disabled, and low-income residents.

A lifelong and devoted civil servant, Frank served his hometown of Barre faithfully for decades-holding positions on the Barre Board of Selectmen, the Quabbin Regional School District Committee, and several other local boards and planning committees, including planning for Barre’s bicentennial celebration.

Though a self-proclaimed bachelor, Frank fell for the love of his life, Nancy, and they married in 1984. Together, they welcomed a son, Adam, and he lovingly embraced the role of stepfather to Marty and Hallie.

Frank’s faith in Christ guided every aspect of his life. He was a founding member of New Life Assembly of God in Barre, where he served on the church board and took part in the physical construction of the church building itself - a labor of love, devotion, and church fellowship. His faith-driven leadership, generosity, and steadfast presence touched many lives both within the congregation and

throughout the community.

For all his many accomplishments, Gromo may be remembered most for his larger-than-life personality and unmistakable presence. You always knew when he entered the room-his booming voice, towering frame, and shock of dark hair and beard, made him impossible to miss.

He seemed to know everyone in town, always greeting people by their nickname. His family often marveled at how, no matter where they went in New England, he would inevitably bump into someone he knew-and that person always remembered him, too.

Frank leaves behind his cherished wife, Nancy (Woodland); his children: Marty Anderson (Marie), Hallie Kozlowski (Matthew), and Adam Gromelski; and his treasured grandchildren: Brent Leclerc (Natasha), Brandon Leclerc (Mishayla), and Daniel Anderson (Selathea), along with 11 beautiful great-grandchildren. Frank was pre-deceased by his brother, Bradford Gromelski.

Friends and family are invited to attend the funeral for Frank on Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2025 at 11 a.m. in Pillsbury Funeral Home 96 South Barre Road, Barre. Burial will follow in St. Joseph’s Cemetery in Barre.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to New Life Church, 60 Main St., South Barre, MA 01074 or the Tunnels to Towers Foundation.

Barbara Ann Jones, 76

WARE – Barbara A. Jones, 76, of Ware passed away suddenly at Baystate Medical Center surrounded by family on Oct. 24, 2025.

Barbara was born in Ware on May 14, 1949, daughter of the late Anthony and Cecelia (Zuchara) Balon. She graduated from Ware High School in 1967 and went on to Worcester State College to pursue a 4-year bachelor’s degree in education. Barbara started in the Ware public school system and later worked as a Quality Control Inspector at Sanderson Macleod in Palmer until she retired at age 65. Barbara enjoyed spending time with her family, especially weekly dinners with her granddaughter, vacations in Maine, and casino trips with her daughter.

Later in life, Barbara developed a love for reading fictional novels and could often be found sitting in her rocking chair with a good book and a glass of wine.

Barbara will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her, including her husband Wayne of 53 years; her daughter Robin; her son Joshua and his wife Nicole; and her granddaughter Emily. Barbara also leaves behind two sisters, Annia Sauter and her husband, Jim of Enfield, Connecticut; Tina Kaczuzka and her partner Ray of Warren; nieces and nephews; many extended fami-

ly members, and long-time friend Suzanne (Letourneau) Higney.



Funeral services will be held on Saturday, Nov. 8, at St. Mary’s Church in Ware, with a Funeral Mass at 10 a.m. A guest book to sign and memorial photos will be available for viewing prior to the mass at 9:30 a.m. The family will also host a reception immediately following.

Funeral Services are under the direction of Cebula Funeral Home. For more information and an online guest book, please visit: www.cebulafuneralhome.com.

Norma P. (Jalbert) Russo, 92

PALMER – Norma P. (Jalbert) Russo, 92, passed away peacefully at her son’s home. Born in Farmington, Maine on March 5, 1933, she was the son of Rene and Tola (Whitman) Jalbert.



Norma and her family moved to West Brookfield and lived on Ragged Hill Road for a number of years before moving to Breckenridge Street in Palmer.

She worked as a nurse’s aid and as a secretary at the Springfield Armory and she was a devoted mother and wife. She was a member of the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witness in Brimfield.

Norma’s green thumb kept her flower gardens beautiful and she also enjoyed nature while watching birds

at her bird feeders. Through the years, she also collected beautiful colored bottles.

In 2020, she was predeceased by her husband, Adney A. Russo. Norma is survived by her four sons, Tony Russo of Tennessee, Timmy Russo of Monson, Thomas Russo of Colrain, and Todd Russo of Ware along with 14 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witness at 133 Old Palmer Road, in Brimfield will be held Saturday, Nov. 15 at 2 p.m. All other arrangements are private and Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home has been entrusted with the details.

For those wishing, donations may be made to JW.Org.

Eva Sullivan, 89

WARE – Eva (Bastein) Sullivan, 89, of Ware, passed away peacefully at home Oct. 20, 2025, surrounded by her loving family.



Born in Shirley, Aug. 17, 1936, Eva grew up in Ware with her four foster siblings and remained a lifelong resident of Ware.

She was predeceased by her husband, Eugene M. Sullivan.

She is survived by her children Margaret and Daniel; grandchildren Daniel, Megan, Jamie (and his wife Aimee) and their father Michael Kohn; and her great-grandchild

dren Haily, Emilia, Zoey and Rylee. She also leaves behind many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and beloved friends.

Eva retired from Fredrics Knitted Fabrics of Ware to care for her husband.

She enjoyed puzzles, word games, and watching Jeopardy and The Wheel. She will be remembered for her caring nature and devotion to all she loved.

There will be a graveside service at New St William’s Cemetery, Route 9 in Ware, with a celebration of life to follow at St. Stan’s, 2114 Main St. in Three Rivers.

Grassroots Central MA hosts film series

STURBRIDGE – A free community film series “Regenerating Life: How to Cool the Planet, Feed the World, and Live Happily Ever After,” a movie by John Feldman, will be presented in three parts by Grassroots Central MA at the Joshua Hyde Public Library, 306 Main St.

The first is on Saturday, Nov. 8 from 3-4:30 p.m. and introduces concepts of our ecological situation, providing a solid understanding of the

social and environmental crises that confront us.

Parts two and three will be presented Dec. 6, and Jan. 10, 2026. These two parts continue the examination of the prevailing climate change story and offer new, attainable solutions.

The film covers our understanding of how life regulates the climate through photosynthesis, the carbon cycle, the water cycle, the dung cycle, and the interconnected soil network of fungi, microorganisms and plant roots. The photogra-

Death notices

Gromelski Jr., Frank J.
Died Oct. 20, 2025
Services Oct. 29, 2025

Jones, Barbara Ann
Died Oct. 24, 2025
Services Nov. 8, 2025

Russo, Norma P. (Jalbert)
Services Nov. 15, 2025

Sullivan, Eva (Bastein)
Died Oct. 20, 2025

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 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.

DISTRACTION

from page 13

should “be the change we want to see in our kids”. The Digital Wellness Lab seeks to understand social media effects and use them to empower wellness. Though there are benefits to the use of social media and digital gadgets, but educators and parents want to keep kids informed on the negatives and non-benefits.

For more information visit digitalwellnesslab.org. Rich has conducted research on digital distractions since 1994. Rich has interviewed tens of thousands of kids during his research across various subjects. Copies of Rich’s book, “The Mediatrician’s Guide: A Joyful Approach to Raising Healthy, Smart, Kind Kids in a Screen-Saturated World” were given out to guests at the School Summit and Rich signed copies during the lunch period.

Rich encouraged parents to follow each stage in their children’s lives and wants more engagement from parents and educators to better understand the topic of social media and promote parental engagement tools.

Social media and digital

distractions are a broad subject that continues to grow, and Rich thinks its best for educators, school leaders, parents and children to learn together.

“Let’s learn this together,” Rich said.

Next was a panel discussion highlighting the perspectives from young people. The interviews for this panel were Lexi Polokoff of SPIFFY Coalition, Naomi Bledsoe of Communities that Care Coalition, and Susan Reynolds of the Look Up Foundation.

The panel features high school students from various western Massachusetts schools to share their insight on social media use. The students were Silas Giguere of Franklin County Technical School, Nathan Woodard of Greenfield High School, and Anna Tunstall and Kerin Guimond of Smith Academy.

Woodard explained that him and his fellow students are involved in student council and the council does have an Instagram page for contact and connecting. These students took questions from the audience about handling school in the age of digital distraction and how they manage their cell-phone use and time outside

of school.

All the students on the panel shared their own codes of conduct and how they avoid being on their cell phones constantly. Woodard mentioned he has standards in place on how much phone and television time he has at home and instead of using his cell phone, he bought an old school alarm clock to use instead to limit cell phone use.

When asked how parents can be supportive on when addressing social media use, Tunstall said parents could limit their own phone use. Students sometimes sense teachers using their phones during school and think that could send a poor message.

When addressing the new cellphone bans, Guimond thinks that it can be addressed better for students and parents.

“Address the cell phone ban better and why it is important,” Guimond said.

The students shared various hobbies they have that help them avoid constant screen time. When asked about ways to combat negative social media posts, several students say they have them blocked and keep trusted adults informed. These students also encourage oth-

ers to do more outdoor gatherings and have adults recognize the responsibility level in kids as the research on social media use continues.

The next presentation was about data around social media, cellphones, youth in schools and implications for policy. This discussion talked more about the cellphone ban policies, including the Bell-to-Bell policy. 2,300 students in Hampshire County did this survey and 24% of schools that participated in the PNAS had bell-to-bell policies in place during the 2024-2025 school year.

Bell-to-Bell includes any policy where students store their phones in pouches or lockers that locked at the beginning of the day and then unlocked at the end of the day, so that students aren’t seeing their phones from the first bell of the day until dismissal. The survey proves that a school cell phone policy is effective and works more positively than when a student gets their phone taken away.

Kids are less distracted and with a policy in place school leaders hope to see an increase in school engagement. The survey also proved that fewer phone distractions are associated with better



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago
Dr. Michael Rich was the keynote speaker in this year’s Safe and Healthy School Summit at Greenfield Community College.

mental health.

When studying phones in schools, students get in average of 237 notifications a day. 25% of which happen during the school day. Two out of three students report being distracted by their own devices. Over 50% of students report being distracted by other students’ devices. 35% of students report cheating with their phones.

With much confidence, these researchers believe that the state will likely pass phone free school policies. Although it will still be difficult to fully eliminate technology use in schools and outside of school.

“It’s hard to take these technologies away,” said Kat Allen of Communities that Care Coalition.

It will take a commitment from school administrators, teachers, and staff to implement these policies, which are viewed as a positive source for not only the school environment, but also for the students.

The School Summit also featured a panel discussion with perspectives from educators. School administrators from all over Pioneer Valley and western Massachusetts shared experiences and advice on how they handle schools during the age of digital distraction.

Reynolds of the Look Up Foundation gave a talk on mindfulness and youth generated approaches to digital pitfalls. It was an insightful topic as the Safe and Healthy School Summit featured dedicated professionals wanting to handle the use of social media and digital distractions.

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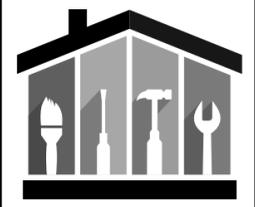
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public notices

Town of Ware Conservation Commission Notice of Public Hearing

The Ware Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.** pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act, MGL 131 c40. The hearing will include consideration of a **Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA)** by Joseph Sidur, for the removal of one tree at his property located at 141 Gilbertville Rd. Ware, MA 01082. Assessors Map ID 36-0-26. Said hearing will be held in the Selectboard Meeting Room, Town Hall, 126 Main St. Ware, MA 01082. To view application and related plans, contact the Conservation office at 413-967-9648.

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 4, Section 13, a copy of this legal notice can be found on the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association's (MNPA) website: <http://masspublicnotices.org> 10/30/2025

TOWN OF WARREN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 166 Section 22, a public hearing will take place for consent to install 1 JO Poles on Bemis Rd beginning at a point approximately 900 feet northwest of the centerline of the intersection of Bemis Rd and Heritage Dr. Install new utility Pole 27-50 Bemis Rd. Install EMR at P27-50 Bemis Rd. **This hearing will be on Thursday, November 6th, 2025, Warren Senior Center, 2252 Main Street, West Warren, MA, at 6:00PM.**

Richard Eichacker, Chairman
Board of Selectmen
10/23, 10/30/2025

TOWN OF WARREN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 166 Section 22, a public hearing will take place for consent to install 1 JO Poles on Brookfield Rd beginning at a point approximately 575 feet south of the centerline of the intersection of Southbridge Rd Ext. Install PL # 13-84 approximately 575' south of the centerline of Southbridge Rd Ext. **This hearing will be on Thursday, November 6th, 2025, Warren Senior Center, 2252 Main Street, West Warren, MA, at 6:00PM.**

Richard Eichacker, Chairman
Board of Selectmen
10/23, 10/30/2025

TOWN OF WARE Legal Notice Invitation for Bids Demolition Services

92-104 Main Street, Ware, MA TWN-25-05
The Town of Ware is accepting sealed bids for demolition services located at 92-104 Main Street, Ware, MA. Specifications and Bid Forms are available at the Town of Ware, Town Manager's Office, 126 Main Street, Ware, Massachusetts 01082 during normal business hours or online at www.townofware.com/bids_procurements/2025. Bids shall be submitted and addressed to the Town of Ware and marked **"TWN-25-05 BID OPENING FOR 92-104 MAIN STREET."**

Bids will be received at the Town Manager's office **until 11:00 a.m. on November 25, 2025**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read.

The Town of Ware reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and call for new bids. Bids shall be evaluated based on responsiveness to the criteria, terms and conditions contained in this IFB and its attachments. Failure to follow the instructions, meet the criteria, or agree to the terms and conditions contained in this IFS may be cause for rejection of the bid as non-responsive.

Contractors are required to comply with the Commonwealth of Mass. Department of Labor and Industries Prevailing Wage Rates in accordance with Mass. General Laws, Chapter 149, Sections 26 and 270.

The Town of Ware is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Late bids will not be considered.

The Town reserves the right to waive minor informalities.

Stuart Beckley
Town Manager
10/30/2025

Town of Ware LEGAL NOTICE 73 Church Street RDA Application Septic and Restroom

NOTICE is hereby given that the Ware Conservation Commission hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 6:30pm** pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act M.G.L. 131 c40. The hearing will include consideration of a **Request for Determination Applicability (RDA)** by the Town of Ware for installation of a prefabricated building and septic system at Grenville Park, 73 Church St., Ware MA 01082. A portion of the work shall take place within the Buffer Zone of the Ware River. Said hearing will be held in the Selectboard Meeting Room, Town Hall, 126 Main St., Ware MA 01082. To view the application and related plans, contact the Conservation Office at (413) 967-9648, ext. 120. 10/30/2025

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by EDWIN M. KROL and EVELYN E. KROL a/k/a EVELYN KROL to COUNTRY BANK FOR SAVINGS, dated July 30, 2004, and recorded with the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 7933, Page 55, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at **11:00 a.m. on the 9th day of December, 2025**, on the mortgaged premises believed to be known as 7 Dugan Road, Ware, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

"Property Address: 7 Dugan Road, Ware, MA 01082

A certain tract or parcel of land together with the buildings thereon situated on the easterly side of Dugan Road, so-called, otherwise known as Topor Road in said Ware, being bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pin driven in the ground on the easterly side of Dugan Road, said pin being North 15° East six hundred eighteen and five tenths (618.5) feet from the intersection of the northerly line of the Ware-Palmer Road and the easterly line of said Dugan Road;

Thence North 15° East one hundred (100) feet along the easterly line of Dugan Road to an iron pin driven in the ground;

Thence South 84° East two hundred five (205) feet along the southerly line of Lot #4 on plan hereinafter referred to an iron pin driven in the ground;

Thence South 15° West one hundred (100) feet along land of one Dugan to a stake in the ground;

Thence North 84° West two hundred five (205) feet along the northerly line of Lot #2 on said plan to an iron pin driven in the ground on the easterly line of Dugan Road and the place of beginning;

Being Lot #3 on Plan of Dugan Acres, Ware, Massachusetts, September 16, 1952, J.W. Reilly, C.E.

The said premises are conveyed subject to the following restrictions:

that the grantees, their successors and assigns, shall or will not at any time hereafter build, erect, maintain, or keep or permit to be built, erected, maintained, or kept on said premises any trailers, barns, stables, cow shed, pig pens, henhouses, horses, cattle, hens, duck, geese, pigs, warehouse, store, shop or any business or business structure or enclosure of any kind whatsoever, excepting one and one-half story dwelling house and private garage and dog house. The front of any house erected shall be placed and set back not less than thirty (30) feet from the easterly line of Dugan Road providing that steps, windows, porticos, and other projections appurtenant thereto may be allowed in said reserved space of thirty (30) feet; that any fireplace or dog house constructed shall be set back not less than five (5) feet from the side or back lines of the conveyed premises. any dog house placed upon the premises to be neat and suitable construction."

The premises will be sold subject to any and all restrictions, easements, improvements, cov-

enants, outstanding tax titles, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens or claims in the nature of liens, and existing encumbrances of record superior to the Mortgage, if any. Said premises will also be sold subject to all leases and tenancies having priority over said Mortgage, to tenancies or occupation by persons on the premises now and at the time of said auction which tenancies or occupation are subject to said Mortgage, to rights or claims in personal property installed by tenants or former tenants now located on the premises, also to all laws and ordinances including, but not limited to, all building and zoning laws and ordinances. It shall be the purchaser's sole responsibility to ascertain all items described in this paragraph and no representations are made concerning compliance with applicable zoning, building, sanitary or other state and/or municipal regulations.

TERMS OF SALE: SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 (\$7,500.00) DOLLARS will be required to be paid in cash, or by certified or bank cashier's check by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance of the purchase price in connection with the sale shall be paid in cash, or by certified or bank cashier's check within thirty (30) days of the date of the sale and the Deed transferred contemporaneously therewith. A buyer's premium equal to five percent (5%) of the successful bid will be paid by the successful bidder and incorporated within the purchase price. The purchaser at the sale shall be required to sign a Memorandum of terms of sale containing the above terms at the Auction sale. The purchaser will be responsible for all closing costs, Massachusetts deed excise stamps and all recording fees.

The sale may be postponed or adjourned from time to time, if necessary, by the attorney for the mortgagee at the scheduled time and place of sale. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

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

Country Bank for Savings,
Present Holder of said Mortgage
By:
/s/Jonathan C. Sapirstein
Jonathan C. Sapirstein

SAPIRSTEIN & SAPIRSTEIN,
P.C.
1500 Main Street, Suite 2504
P.O. Box 15408
Springfield, MA 01115-5408
Tel.: (413) 827-7500
Its Attorneys

Date: October 22, 2025
10/30, 11/06, 11/13/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampshire Division Docket No. HS25P0661EA Estate of:

Mary Louise Meshlovitz Also Known As: Mary Lou Meshlovitz Mary Louise Sinkoski Date of Death: April 29, 2025 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Jacob P Meshlovitz of Ware, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Jacob P Meshlovitz of Ware, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 10/30/2025

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 **Vikki E. Patrakis** to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), as Mortgagee, as Nominee for CrossCountry Mortgage, LLC, its successors and assigns dated June 26, 2020, recorded at the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 13678, Page 33; said mortgage was then assigned to CrossCountry Mortgage, LLC by virtue of an assignment dated April 23, 2025, and recorded in Book 15403, Page 99; of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at PUBLIC AUCTION at 11:00 AM on **November 13, 2025**, on the mortgaged premises. This property has the address of 11-13 Webb Court, Ware, MA 01082. The entire mortgaged premises, all and singular, the premises as described in said mortgage:

The following described land, situate, lying and being in County of Hampshire, State of Massachusetts:

A certain tract or parcel of land situated in said Ware on the Westerly side of a way leading Southerly from Water Street and known as Webb Court, bounded and described as follows:

Commencing on the Westerly side way at the Southeastly corner of land formerly of Mary Barrett, deceased;

Thence southerly on the westerly side of said way about seventy-eight and one-half (78.5) feet to a point at the Northeastly corner of land of John T. Connell and Johanne Connell;

Thence westerly on land of said Connell about seventy-five (75) feet to a corner;

Thence northerly of land said Connell and land of Packard & Lawton about seventy-five (75) feet to land formerly of said Barrett;

Thence easterly on land formerly of said Barrett about sixty-nine (69) feet to the place of beginning.

Containing more or less with the buildings thereon, together with a right of way over said Webb Court to water Street, same to be used in common with others having rights therein.

More commonly known as: 11-13 Webb Court, Ware, MA 01082

Tax ID: 56-0-66
Subject to and with the benefit of easements, reservation, re-

strictions, and taking of record, if any, insofar as the same are now in force and applicable. In the event of any typographical error set forth herein in the legal description of the premises, the description as set forth and contained in the mortgage shall control by reference. Together with all the improvements now or hereafter erected on the property and all easements, rights, appurtenances, rents, royalties, mineral, oil and gas rights and profits, water rights and stock and all fixtures now or hereafter a part of the property. All replacements and additions shall also be covered by this sale.

Terms of Sale: Said premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and assessments, tax sales, tax titles and other municipal liens and water or sewer liens and State or County transfer fees, if any there are, and TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) in cashier's or certified check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of the sale as a deposit and the balance in cashier's or certified check will be due in thirty (30) days, at the offices of Doonan, Graves & Longoria, LLC ("DG&L"), time being of the essence. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

Dated: September 17, 2025
CrossCountry Mortgage, LLC
By its Attorney

DOONAN, GRAVES & LONGORIA, LLC,
100 Cummings Center,
Suite 303C,
Beverly, MA 01915
(978) 921-2670
www.dgandl.com 57988
(PATRAKIS A/K/A VIKKI PATRAKIS)

10/16, 10/23, 10/30/2025

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts General Law 105A, for the purpose of satisfying the liens of Sunny Side Storage LLC, in order to satisfy past due rents and other expenses, the contents of the following storage units will be sold for non-payment on **Saturday, November 8, 2025 at 9 a.m.** on the premises of Sunny Side Storage LLC, 319 Palmer Rd., Ware, MA (413)967-5888.

Maciej Janusz D-27
Brittany Hutchins F-22
Beth Makara C-46
Tammy George C-38
Elvin Jose Sanchez Pagen D-20
10/30, 11/06/2025

Storage Auction

In accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts General Law 105A, in order to satisfy past due rents and other expenses, the contents of Carrie McCorkindale, William Maren-go Jr, Michael Boivin, and Jason Kline will be auctioned off at Secure Storage, 31 Southbridge Rd., Warren, MA on **11/22/25 at 9:15 AM.**

The contents of Jason Strniste will be auctioned off at Secure Storage, 70 Boston Post Rd., Warren, MA on **11/22/25 at 9:00 AM.**

The contents of Jessalyn Hughes, William Backus, and Nikole Roldan will be auctioned off at Secure Storage, 167 West S.,t Ware, MA on **11/22/25 at 10:00 AM.**

Any questions or inquiries call 413-800-6278.
10/30, 11/06/2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN ON THE APPLICATION OF TOMBSTONE TRADING COMPANY, INC.

OF 126 W. MAIN STREET WARE, MASSACHUSETTS, HAMPSHIRE COUNTY

TO BE A PUBLIC WAREHOUSE WITHIN AND FOR THE

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY WARE, MASSACHUSETTS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF

CONDUCTING A GENERAL WAREHOUSE BUSINESS AS PROVIDED IN

CHAPTER 105 OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAWS

10/23, 10/30/2025

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



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NO ENTRANCE FEE
 Mobile Home located in Waterwheel Village at 31 Edward Lane, Barre, MA 01005. This is a 55 and better community. This home includes a wonderful floor plan with very spacious rooms. Master bedroom includes a walk-in closet. Two full bathrooms. A four-season sunroom is off the kitchen. Includes two large woodsheds and a metal garage you can park under to fend off winter weather. **Asking \$295,000.** See listing on MLS # 73433198



NO ENTRANCE FEE
 Brand New Mobile Home located in Waterwheel Village at 37 Gauthier Rd., Barre. This is a 55 and better community. This home features an open kitchen/living room concept, perfect for family gatherings. Two large bedrooms on opposite ends of the home. Master bedroom has a walk-in closet and large attached bathroom. Just off the kitchen is a laundry area with door leading to back deck and yard. There is a monthly HOA fee of \$675 per month which includes water, sewage, rubbish removal, and taxes. All exterior and interior doorways are 36" wide. **Asking \$225,000.** See listing on MLS # 73397436



NO ENTRANCE FEE
 Mobile Home located in Waterwheel Village at 32 Edward Lane, Barre, MA 01005. This is a 55 and better community. Includes large carport and two large garden sheds. Approx. living area 1,000 SqFt. **Asking \$144,900.** See listing on MLS # 73398863.

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