

WARE RIVER NEWS

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2023

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Vollheim appointed new Select Board chair

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

HARDWICK – Select Board members reorganized at their meeting Monday night, after Chair H. Robert Ruggles said he no longer had time to continue in his role as chair.

At the Oct. 30 meeting, Select Board Clerk Eric Vollheim nominated Vice-Chair Kelly Kemp, and she declined.

Kemp then nominated Vollheim to serve as chair, which he accepted and was approved. Kemp will remain vice-chair and Ruggles will be clerk.

Disclosure

Vollheim said in order to be paid \$2,200 to be the Emergency Management Director and \$1,600 to be a Select Board member, he needs to file a disclosure with the Town Clerk, and receive special employee exemption from the Select Board.

Please see **HARDWICK**, page 8

Halloween Spooktacular

Annual event delivers spooky family fun

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – One of the town's fastest growing traditions continued to do just that last Friday, as an endless stream of vehicles drove through Grenville Park for the Knights of Columbus' Halloween Spooktacular.

On Oct. 27, over 160 blow-up and live action displays were set up along the road that winds through the park and around the first baseball diamond, ranging from eerie and spooky to fun and whimsical.

Fairytale characters Belle and The Beast welcomed visitors into the Halloween Spooktacular, which is offered free to people of all ages thanks to the Knights of Columbus, volunteers and generous donors.

Please see **DRIVE-THRU**, page 23



Who's afraid of the big, bad Ware Wolf? Visitors to the Knights of Columbus' annual Halloween Spooktacular drive-thru event were greeted by this full-moon loving creature as they drove through Grenville Park this past Friday.

Grange hosts annual pumpkin carving and story time

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The Ware Grange hosted pumpkin carving for kids and their families and followed up with some spooky stories.

Families brought their own pumpkins to carve as the Grange helped set up the tables and provided some carving tools.

Running the event was Heidi Bara, who's worked with the Ware Grange for 12 years. Wanting to provide an early Halloween experience, Bara invited dozens of families to the Ware Grange for pumpkin carving.

Booklets were offered so the kids could pick their own designs. The Grange provided delicious treats including cupcakes, cookies, sodas, lemonade and candy.

Bara expected another great turnout as last year's pumpkin carving event brought in over 30 people. The Grange was flooded with kids, parents, and pumpkins for another fun year of pumpkin carving and Halloween cheer.

Joining the experience is storyteller and musician, John Porcino. Enjoying the small-town atmosphere, Porcino returned for his third year at Ware Grange for storytelling.

According to Porcino, this year had the best turnout in the last several years he's been to the Grange.

Porcino provides live music and storytelling for children and has been involved in his profession since 1983.

He got his inspiration from creating and participating in the zany and touching moments around a campfire. Life experiences seeing through a flickering fire light, sur-

Please see **GRANGE**, page 11



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

Maeve Stevens, Kazmiryr Lagimoniere and Reagan Jacobs cheered on the football team and cheerleaders at Ware High School's pep rally Friday night.

Pep rally pumps up spirit at Ware High School

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARE – Students and staff at Ware High School held a pep rally on the football field last Friday night, in preparation for the 97th rivalry football game against Palmer High School.

The Ware High Indian Choir opened the event by singing the National Anthem and Cheerleading Coach Caitlin Trzpit emceed the event and thanked everyone for supporting the teams.

"We're excited to have you here celebrating with us," she said.

Varsity Football Coach Mike Fazio said without support from fans, families, staff and administration, the football team wouldn't be

as successful.

"Our team would not be able to reach our goals," he said. "I'm really proud of this football team."

Football captains Kyle Gordon, Ayden "Big A" Young, Noah Fales, Kyle Safford and Talan Molina each addressed their fans, thanking them for being there throughout the season.

"We really just appreciate you guys," Gordon said. "It's going to be awesome," he said of the rivalry game.

Fales said this game has particular significance to him and other senior players, as it will be their last rivalry game against Palmer.

Ware High School's Cheerleaders performed an impressive routine to kick-off the pep rally fun, which also included rounding up blindfolded class advisors to participate in a TikTok challenge, followed by a powder puff football game.

Donations for the food pantry were collected at the pep rally.

THE HAUNTED HOUSE in Warren

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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WARREN – The bi-annual Haunted House event took place at the Shepherd Municipal Building in Warren this past weekend.

Thanks to the efforts of faithful volunteers and friends of the park, the Warren Parks and Recreation Commission put in a lot of time to make the spooky weekend possible for hundreds of visitors. About 30 volunteer actors put in their time to work all three days of the Haunted House.

The entire setup of the Haunted House was in

Please see **WARREN**, page 7



Submitted Photo by Warren Parks and Recreation

Over 30 volunteers and friends of the park helped the Warren Parks and Recreation Commission set up the entire Haunted House.

Funds presented to honor Revolutionary veterans

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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WARE – State Sen. Jake Oliveira, along with state Rep. Aaron Saunders (D-Belchertown), presented a check for \$5,000 to the Friends of Quabbin for the construction of a bronze plaque to honor the 41 Revolutionary War veterans buried in Quabbin Park Cemetery.

"This project is something that is really important to the American Revolution," Oliveira said. "This December we celebrate a milestone of the Revolution; the Boston Tea Party, 250 years ago."

Saunders thanked Oliveira for

his commitment to the towns of the Quabbin Watershed, in which many of the towns Saundser's represents are located.

"Not every state Rep. is as blessed to have a partner in the Senate," Saunders said.

Oliveira has special ties to the Quabbin Reservoir, as his grandfather worked to create it in the 1930s. Accompanying Oliveira to the ceremony on Oct. 27, was his mother – the daughter of the man who helped form one of the largest water supplies in the U.S.

Joining Oliveira and Saunders were Betty Allen Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution Regent Denise

Please see **FUNDS**, page 10



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

State Sen. Jake Oliveira, center, spoke about his grandfather's involvement in creating the Quabbin Reservoir.

Peter Durant
State Senate

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Country Bank reopens West Street branch
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COMMUNITY
Honoring those who serve
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Halliday and Brezniak perform at Stone Church on Nov. 5



Submitted Photo
Malcolm Halliday celebrates two historic keyboards with clarinetist Chester Brezniak at the Stone Church Cultural Center, 283 Main St., Gilbertville on Sunday, Nov. 5 at 2 p.m.

Concert is dedicated to the memory of FOSC co-founder Donald Boothman

HARDWICK – Organist and pianist Malcolm Halliday, with clarinetist Chester Brezniak, will perform music from many cultures, including Latino music of Spain, Portugal, Argentina and Mexico, to showcase two historic keyboard instruments at the Stone Church Cultural Center, 283 Main St., Gilbertville, at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 5.

A public reception will follow the concert. Tickets are \$25 at the door or through <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/friendsofthestonechurch/888269>. Youth under 18

and holders of the Mass Cultural Council “Card to Culture” are admitted at no charge.

The concert’s first half will showcase “the mighty” Johnson pipe organ, starting with two early works from the Iberian peninsula, followed by Mozart’s Church Sonata No. 17, arranged for organ and clarinet, and Mendelssohn’s Prelude and Fugue in c minor. The organ section will conclude with James Hewitt’s dramatic organ sonata “The Battle of Trenton,” composed in 1797, dedicated to George Washington, and arranged by the great 20th-century organist E. Power Biggs.

In the piano half of the program, Halliday moves forward in time, starting with “Barcarolle” by Amy Beach (1867-1944). An accomplished pianist in her youth, Beach switched to composing when her husband insisted that she restrict her public performances to two a year.

She was the first American woman to publish a symphony.

Composer and concert pianist Ricardo Castro (1864-1907) composed the first Mexican cello and piano concerto in 1903. His romantic Caprice-Valse, Op.1 evokes the lush sounds of Mexican guitars and requires considerable pianistic “chops” to play.

Brezniak will return in the second half for “Rositas Iglesias,” a charming work by Argentinian composer

Please see **CONCERT**, page 3

Are You Old News?

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

File Photo
Last week's photo from 1991 showed Armand Dimo, owner of A.J.S. Painting in Warren. If you recognize the folks in this week's photo, please send their names and your full name to pouimette@turley.com.

Hands on Nature comes to Hardwick on Nov. 4

HARDWICK – On Saturday, Nov. 4 at 1 p.m. at the Town House, 32 Common St., the Friends of the Paige Library will present Hands on Nature: Winter Hibernation.

Learn how animals survive the coldest months of New England, through hibernation, migration, and the amazing adaptations animals have for surviving our harshest temperatures.

Hands on Nature’s programs provide hands-on experiences to develop a sense of connection to the Earth, a respect for the beauty of the natural world, and a sense of our place in it. By nurturing a deeper relationship between children and the Earth, Hands on Nature strives to create future stewards of the land.

Bring a stuffed animal and create a cozy little hibernation den to take home. For more information call 413-477-6704 or email director.paigelibrary@gmail.com.

Voter registration deadline for STM is Nov. 17

WARE – The deadline to register to vote for participation in the Special Town Meeting on Monday, Nov. 27 will be Friday, Nov. 17.

A special voter registration session will be held on Friday in the Town Clerk’s Office from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. for those residents who currently are not registered to vote in the Town of Ware.

Voter registration is also available by mail in post cards (available at the Ware Post Office) or online at www.mass.gov – Elections and Voting.

Please contact the Town Clerk Nancy J. Talbot by calling 413-967-9648 extension 103 with any questions.

Military appreciation breakfast Nov. 11

WARE – HomeFront Strong will host a military appreciation breakfast on Saturday, Nov. 11 from 9-11 a.m. at the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins

Road. All servicemembers, veterans and their families are invited to attend this free breakfast. This year, HomeFront

Strong will be recognizing veterans in the community with a Quilts of Valor ceremony.

Please RSVP by calling 508-499-9589.

ACCURACY WATCH

The Ware River News will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 3. To request a correction, send information to ekennedy@turley.com, or call 967-3505. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Ware River News, Attn: Editor, 80 Main St., Ware, MA 01082.

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WARE RUNS ON DUNKIN'

GRAND RE-OPENING

Saturday November 4; 11 AM – 2 PM
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Coaches from Ware High School and Palmer High School displayed the coveted football trophy during a dinner between the two teams held at Teresa's Restaurant prior to this past Saturday's game.



Football players and their families enjoyed dinner at Teresa's Restaurant in Ware last Wednesday night.

Rivals enjoy camaraderie off the field



Football players enjoyed a sit-down meal before facing their competition on the field.

WARE – Football players, cheerleaders, coaches, school staff and family members all sat down for dinner at Teresa's Restaurant last Wednesday evening, to enjoy some food and fellowship before the most anticipated high school football game of the year.

Athletes from Ware and Palmer high schools, along with their coaches, put the almost 100-year old rivalry behind them for just as moment as they shared a meal and some laughs in preparation for this past Saturday's game.



A football shaped cake was a sweet reminder of the game to come.



Cheerleaders and families celebrated prior to the longstanding rivalry football game between Ware and Palmer high schools.



Cupcakes sported each team's school colors.



Ware High School staff showed school spirit at the dinner last week.



The trophy shows the results of the schools' almost century-long rivalry.

Ware Senior Center events

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

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

ACTIVITIES

Monday, Nov. 6

9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Scat
11:30 a.m. Lunch

Tuesday, Nov. 7

9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
9:30 a.m. Quilting Club
10 a.m. Scat
11:30 a.m. Lunch
5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking (\$3 per class; registration starts at 5 p.m.)
6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

Wednesday, Nov. 8

9 a.m. Tai-Chi
10 a.m. Scat
10-11:30 a.m. Kirsten Krieger, Quabbin Region DPH Nurse Officer Hours
11:30 a.m. Lunch

Thursday, Nov. 9

9 a.m. New Senior Walking Club
Meet at Senior Center and wear comfortable footwear. Bringing water, sunscreen, bug spray and energy snack are suggested.

9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
9:30 a.m. Line Dancing for Beginners
10 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Scat
11:30 a.m. Lunch
1 p.m. Knit-Crochet-Laugh

Friday, Nov. 10

9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Scat
11:30 a.m. Lunch
1 p.m. Chair Yoga
6 p.m. Pitch (doors open at 5 p.m.)

LUNCHESES DINE IN

All meals \$3.50 unless otherwise noted

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

Monday, Nov. 6

Brunch: Blueberry Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage Links, Dessert of the Day

Tuesday, Nov. 7

Shepherd's Pie, Cucumber Salad, Dessert of the Day

Wednesday, Nov. 8

BBQ Chicken, Baked Potato, Veggie of the Day, Dessert of the Day

Thursday, Nov. 9

Kentucky Stuffed Pepper, Taco Salad, Dessert of the Day

Friday, Nov. 10

Closed to observe Veterans Day

Live auction benefits Wings of Song

STURBRIDGE – The Wings of Song Community Chorus is offering its fifth, live fundraising auction to help support the financial needs of the chorus (formerly the Quinebaug Valley Singers) at the Federated Church of Sturbridge & Fiskdale, 8 Maple St., on Saturday, Nov. 4 at 7 p.m.

This is their first auction since 2019 and they are excited to be "live". Expect to arrive at 6:30 p.m. to look over items of the live auction and place your bids on the many items offered in the silent auction.

There will be musical entertainment, as well as light refreshments.

Donations keep arriving daily. Among present and past items are gift certificates, gift cards, donated home, repair and lawn care, specialized food

services, mountain bike, cross country skis and boots, ice skates, fly fishing gear, chest waders, saltwater rod and reel, fiberglass canoe with paddles and much more.

The chorus ended last season with a tribute to the planet titled "Blue Boat Home". This season, under the continuing expertise of Director, Nym Cooke, it is performing a collection of traditional and contemporary vocal music for the holidays titled Celtic Noël's, from the rich, cultural heritage of the Celts in Brittany.

If you are interested in donating an auction item or receiving updates on the event, follow Wings of Song at www.facebook.com/wingsofsong.org, or email Linda (lammfam151@gmail.com) or Carol (carolcurtin77@gmail.com).

Classic Christmas on the Common is Nov. 26

HARDWICK – Classic Christmas on the Common will be held Sunday, Nov. 26 from 3-7 p.m. on the town common.

There will be holiday fun with a visit from Santa, games and activities, 10+ vendors, annual tree lighting, touch a truck, hay rides, gingerbread

house competition, holiday parade, dinner and bonfire at Mimi's.

Purchase your Hardwick winter hat and 2024 calendar featuring photos taken by residents.

A cookie walk will be held in the Town House with proceeds to benefit Hardwick's Christmas for Kids.

Ware High School craft fair is Dec. 2

WARE – The Ware High School craft fair will be held Saturday, Dec. 2 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the gymnasium.

The fair benefits the freshman through senior classes at Ware High School.

There will be a 50/50 raffle and a lottery tree and a raffle table. A

concession stand will be run by the Student Council.

Crafters will have an assortment of wood crafts, jewelry, holiday items, pottery, chocolate, paintings, ornaments, candles, maple products, signs, jams and jellies, crochet items and much more.

CONCERT from page 2

Carlos Gustavo (1912-2000), followed by "Blue Jeans: an assortment of Blues and Things," by contemporary American composer William Thomas McKinley.

This concert is dedicated to the memory of Donald Boothman,

a Hardwick helped preserve and maintain the Johnson & Son organ. Calling himself "friend of the Gilbertville Organ," he produced organ concert seasons at the church from 1990 to 2011, building a local audience and contributing the proceeds toward the organ fund for its upkeep.

In 2015, he co-founded Friends

of the Stone Church, to preserve the regional landmark and re-open it for public benefits. Following Don's death in 2016, his widow Kaye Boothman donated the Steinway piano that will be heard in this concert.

This concert is supported in part by a grant from the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

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

About FOSC

Friends of the Stone Church, Inc. is a public charitable corpora-

tion and community group organized in 2015 and open to all. Its mission is to preserve and protect the Gilbertville Stone Church Cultural Center and to make it available as a place of community enrichment.

FOSC are currently in Phase 4 of stabilizing the stone tower, with major funding from the

Mass Cultural Council's Cultural Facilities Fund. Donations toward the ongoing preservation project can be made online at www.FriendsOfTheStoneChurch.org or by mail to FOSC, P.O. Box 347, Gilbertville, MA 01031.



Saturday, Nov. 4th ~ 7:30pm-10:30pm
Alley Kings

Wednesday Nights ~ 7pm-10pm
Mix Tape Music Bingo/Prizes!

Friday Nights ~ 8pm-11pm
Karaoke

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Upcoming Events

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Wednesday, Nov. 22nd

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My birthday is on the first of the month; when should I claim Social Security?

Dear Rusty:

I will be 62 on Nov. 1 and I have chosen to take my benefits early. I know that my benefit will be less than it would be if I waited and that does not concern me, but I don't want to be without income for a long period of time. I know that if my birthday is on the first or second of the month, then I can draw that month. Does that mean that when I turn 62 on Nov. 1 that I can receive my first check on the second Wednesday of November? And should I select November as the month I'd like my benefits to start? I also read that I would be paid the month following the month I select, hence my confusion.

Signed: Confused Senior

Dear Confused:

There are a few different Social Security rules, which come into play in your specific circumstance which are likely creating your confusion. First, since you will be 62 on Nov. 1, you will first become eligible for Social Security starting with the month of November.

Those born on the first or second of the month are eligible for benefits for that entire month, whereas those who turn 62 later in the month wouldn't be eligible for benefits until the following month. To claim benefits, you must be 62 for the entire month and, because your birthday is on the first, your first month being 62 for the entire month will be November and that is the month you should specify as your benefit-start month on your application.

The next thing to be aware of is that Social Security pays benefits in the month following the month those benefits are earned. That means that your November benefits will be paid in December. The exact payment date is determined by the recipient's birthday – born before the eleventh of the month, SS payments are made on the second Wednesday; born between the eleventh and twentieth of the month, payments are received on the third Wednesday of the month and for those born after the twentieth of the month, payment is received on the fourth Wednesday.

Thus, since you were born on the first of the month and are claiming benefits to start in November, your first Social Security payment will be deposited in your bank account on the second Wednesday of December and all subsequent Social Security payments will be made on that same second-Wednesday schedule.

You can apply for your Social Security benefits up to 4 months prior to the month you wish them to start, and SS recommends you apply at least 2 months prior to allow time for processing your application. On the application, they will ask which month you wish your benefits to begin, and you can indicate November to get your earliest possible payment in December.

Actually, you can simply select the following option on the Social Security benefit application: "I want benefits beginning with the earliest possible month and will accept an age-related reduction," which will accomplish the same thing.

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.



What I did (wrong) last summer

I always joke that gardeners are an optimistic lot.

We no sooner pick that last fruit and we are already thinking about next year's garden. Our goal may be to improve on our mistakes or simply try something new.

Mistakes do happen. Oftentimes it's because we run out of time to do everything we should, or we do this or that to simply "get it done."

Sometimes we underestimate or overestimate. Sometimes we are hopeful but not practical.

Read on to learn about my imperfectness this past summer.

Right now, I have 50, three-inch apples staring at me when I walk to my car. Had I thinned said apples I would have had 10-15 five-inch apples.

What's the big deal? It's likely I'd fill a basket to the same height, be it with three-inch or five-inch fruit.

Of course, we all like bigger apples, but it goes well beyond that. I learned that seed production really tires out the tree, so fewer apples would mean fewer seeds and a happier tree.

I'll have to be observant come spring. Will my tree be too tired to bloom next year or bloom well?

If I'm lucky enough to have fruit clusters, I will indeed thin out all but one fruit per cluster. Ordinarily you would save the biggest one, but if it has any insect damage, it's best to take off that fruitlet and save another.

Thinning is especially important in young trees. While it's hard to wait for trees to bear, it's best to leave only a few fruit early on so that energy can go to strong roots and developing a healthy scaffold of branches.

As I stare out the window just now, I'm reminded of another misstep. I did not dead-head my spent lilac blooms.

Not only do the blackish seed heads look ugly, I fear that I will lose some flowers because of it. Seed production comes into play here too in terms of the plant expending energy and then being too depleted to perform well the next year.

Pruning or deadheading lilacs can take place any time before July 1, not to sacrifice flowers for the following spring.

My winter squash production was abysmal this summer. I had soil tests done last fall and did I follow the recommendations to the T? No.

I was told that my nitrogen and phosphorus were low. While I amended the rows for individual crops like tomatoes and green beans, I neglected to amend the larger area within my garden in which I grew my cucumbers and squash.

Being frugal I added a little compost to the rows (I was trying the row method and not the hill method this year) and called it done. The vines grew for a while, set a few fruit, then turned yellow.

Squash bugs overran.

I think I have three edible squash (actually I just checked and it's officially two!) from a

200 square foot area. The same area in year one, with fresh soil and no bugs yielded 50 fruit.

I was short on time and energy. Next year I will amend the soil per the test results.

The squash vine that has engulfed the chicken coop (not planted on purpose, mind you) is still lush and green, growing in all that nitrogen rich chicken fertilized soil. I only hope the two beautiful butternuts have a chance to fully ripen.

Another area in which I was lax was removing volunteer plants. I was so proud of my new perennial border, only to have many Cosmos seed themselves.

The bed was pretty enough but the tall cosmos through the whole design off. The Goldfinches were happy so that was a consolation, but next year they will have to be happy in another part of the garden where the Cosmos will be planted on purpose.

A long time ago someone told me the real definition of a weed: "a plant that grows where it is not supposed to regardless of whether it is a dandelion or a rose!"

I did do a few things correctly.

Planting a bed of carrots after the garlic was harvested was smart. They are ready for harvest and boy are they sweet now that cold-temperatures have set in.

The succession of lettuce transplants I put in after the peas are also going strong. I am dreaming about next year already, despite my failures and I hope you are too!!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Adopting a senior pet proves love is ageless

Save a life and make your own better by giving an older pet a home during national "Adopt a Senior Pet Month" this November.

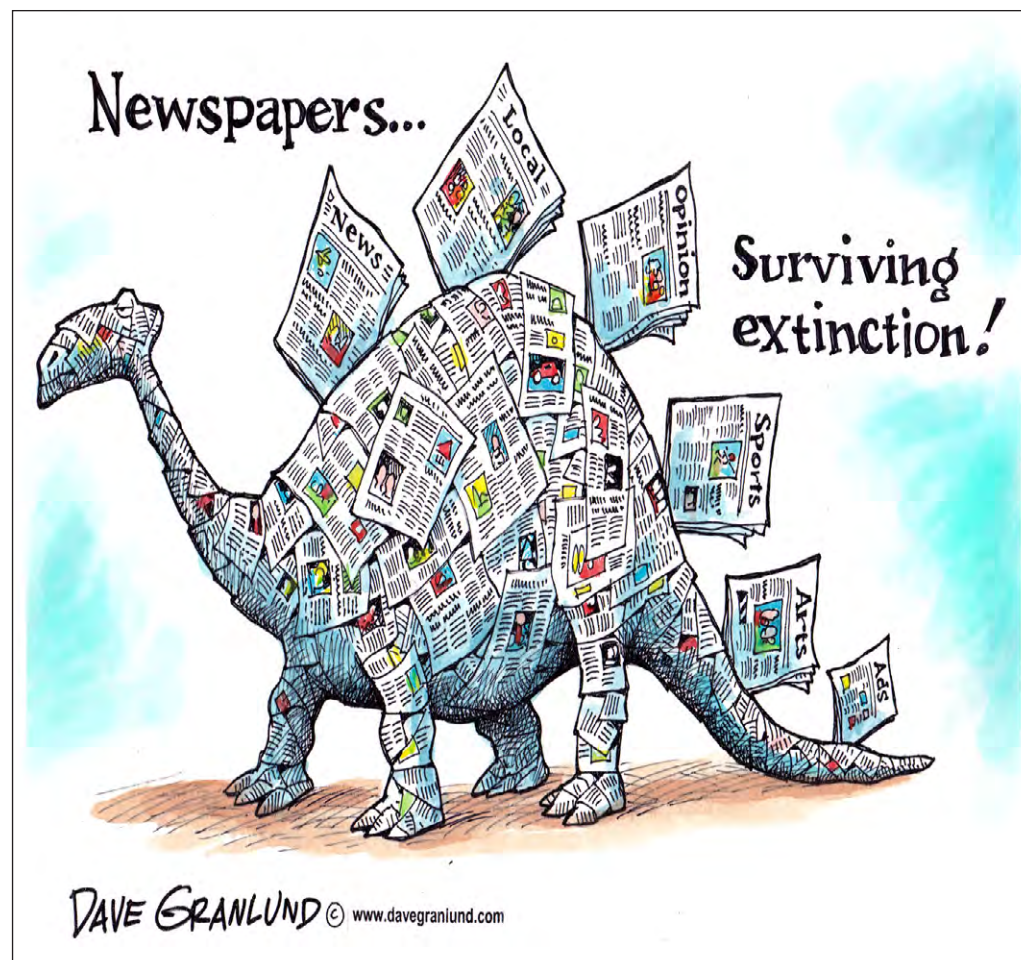
Senior pets have so much love to give, are easier than puppies or kittens, and are usually housetrained. Yet, they are often overlooked.

To find your new best friend, come visit the Second Chance Adoption Center in East Brookfield at 111 Young Road or search online at secondchanceanimals.org/adopt, petfinder.com or adoptapet.com.

According to The Grey Muzzle Organization, people who have adopted a senior dog say they would do it again in a heartbeat. If you're among them, please share your dog's photo and story on social media using the hashtag #GreyMuzzleGratitude.

You can be a hero by giving a senior pet a second chance. In return, you'll receive the unconditional love and companionship of a very grateful old dog.

Lindsay Doray
Second Chance Animal Services
East Brookfield



Neal submits testimony to DPH to reopen regional hospital

Congressman Richard E. Neal submitted the following written testimony to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health on Oct. 25 in support of Berkshire Health Systems' proposed reopening of the North Adams Regional Hospital.

Thank you to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for the opportunity to submit testimony for today's proceedings regarding Berkshire Health Systems' proposed new hospital facility.

I strongly support Berkshire Health System's application to reopen a hospital in North Adams after closing more than a decade ago. The facility will include inpatient beds and, with its critical access hospital designation, will bring a much-needed healthcare access point and create job opportunities in Berkshire County.

The potential reopening of North Adams Regional Hospital is a pivotal step to ensure equitable access throughout the Commonwealth, addressing health disparities in the more rural regions of western Massachusetts. Federal support plays a crucial role in the strength and vitality of our local institutions.

With Medicare's critical access hospital designation, North Adams Regional Hospital will be able to reopen with additional funding so it can resume serving its community.

Our rural residents in western Massachusetts face unique challenges that are not apparent in other parts of the state. The single-lane highways, which are particularly treacherous during the winter months, underscore the urgency of having accessible healthcare within close proximity.

It is not just about convenience; it is about safety, timely care, and the overall well-being of our residents.

Recognizing these challenges, I have worked with the Biden Administration to advocate for rule changes relative to the Critical Access Hospital designation. These changes are what paved the way for the project that Berkshire Health Systems is presenting to you this evening.

I am proud that this designation allows for the additional resources that made this reopening possible, and I strongly support Berkshire Health Systems and their efforts to provide much-needed healthcare services to the people of North County. Thank you.

Congressman Richard E. Neal
Springfield



I received an email from a Brimfield resident recently reporting the return of the dark-eyed juncos and the sighting of one ruby crowned kinglet.

The ruby crowned kinglet is a small bird of 4 1/4 inches. It is grayish green above with a white eye ring and two white wing bars.

As the name implies, the male has a red patch on its head, which is usually concealed. The female lacks the red patch.

Kinglets feed on tips of branches by hovering and gleaning from leaves. They flick wings and chatter as they move.

They eat insects, spiders and some fruit and



Ruby crowned kinglet

seeds. They also drink tree sap. Kinglets summer in the coniferous woods of Canada and winter in the northeast and south in woods and brush edges.

The female kinglet lays five to 11 creamy white colored eggs with brown marks in a nest of mosses, twigs and lichens lined with fur and other fine materials.

In winter, kinglets are found in mixed flocks chickadees, titmice, woodpeckers, warblers and golden crowned kinglets. Their song

is a series of descending high notes with three repeated phrases like "see see see you you look-at-me look-at-me look-at-me."

The Brimfield resident said he had a flock of 10 turkeys that show up occasionally. They were

in the yard recently and became nervous by one of the gray fox kits.

The fox ignored the turkeys as it looked for something to eat under the sunflower/suet feeder.

Feeding the birds not bears

The Brimfield resident said he tries to put out feeders all year, taking them down each night. He said if a bear shows up during the daytime, then he takes the feeders down for a week or so.

I was putting out my suet cake feeder during the day and taking it down before dark. It worked for awhile, but a bear came during the day and not only took the suet feeder down, but walked away with it.

I am not putting out suet and will wait for the bears to hibernate. I bought another suet

feeder to replace the one grabbed by the bear.

I do put a small amount of seeds in a tray feeder and another small cup feeder, which I used for mealworms during the day. I noticed the birds clean the feeders out quickly especially since I have bluejays coming to the feeder.

Lots of wild turkeys

It seems almost everywhere I go I see wild turkeys often small flocks of Tom turkeys either along the side of the road, in a field or on someone's lawn. Several times I had to stop my car and wait for them to cross the road.

Wren

I spotted a house wren in my yard recently. It had its tail cocked in the air as wrens typically do. I was foraging in the leaves.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowne@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

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

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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.

Mustangs on the Mountain



The fall foliage matched the color of these Ford Mustangs.



Sarat Ford customers brought their Ford Mustangs, spanning all decades.



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette
Central New England Equine Rescue volunteers Lynn and Jerry Doble represented the organization at the Mustangs on the Mountain event.

Sarat family holds annual costumers appreciation event

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

PALMER – The Sarat family invited customers of their three car dealerships to Palmer Motorsports Park for the third annual Mustangs on the Mountain event this past Sunday.

Mustangs on the Mountain is a celebration of one of most popular high-powered workhorses in the auto industry – the Ford Mustang.

Despite the return of rainy weather, about 175 Mustangs traveled to the Whiskey Hill track for a chance to take parade laps around the most breathtaking views the region has to offer.

For many car owners, this was the first time their Mustang had ever seen rain; and it was worth it.

Jack Sarat, Dealer Principal of Sarat Ford Lincoln said one customer from Boston contacted him the day of the event and said, “I don’t care if it’s raining or not.”

Jack left his Mustang back home, a 2005 50th anniversary model that has 50 miles on it. Only 1,965 of these cars were made.

Founded in 1929, Sarat Ford Lincoln is overseen by Jack and his sons Jeff, Chris and Scott. The Sarat family also owns Family Ford of Enfield and Ford of Northampton

Mustangs on the Mountain is a customer appreciation event, Chris said.

“We invited all of our Mustang costumers,” he said. “People come from all over...one guy said this is the first time his car has ever seen the rain.”

The Sarat family brought several Ford vehicles with them, including a Mach E, an all-electric crossover; a 2024 Mustang and a 2023 Bronco.

Chris said the Mach E came out in 2021 and can be all-wheel drive or rear-wheel drive. The Bronco



Three generations of the Sarat family, owners of Sarat Ford Lincoln, hosted the Mustangs on the Mountain customer appreciation event at Palmer Motorsports Park this past Sunday. Shown in the back row from left are Jeff Sarat, Jack Sarat and Chris Sarat.



This vibrant yellow Ford Mustang was one of the pace cars on the track.



This sleek gray Ford Mustang was also used as a pace car.

returned to production after a hiatus since the mid-1990s.

Mustangs continue to be a popular purchase at the Sarat family’s dealerships, Chris said, with the GT and the Shelby being top picks for motorists.

Mustangs on the Mountain is an event that the Sarat family and their customers look forward to each year.

“It means a lot, we’re just happy to be here with our cars,” Jack said. “They’re all Mustang enthusiasts.”

While many of the participants at Mustangs on the Mountain have been longtime customers of the Sarat family, some are new to the Ford family, including Patrick Zambri of Portland, Connecticut who just bought his 2019 Ford Mustang Bullitt three weeks ago.

“It’s a special edition, based on the Steve McQueen movie ‘Bullitt,’” Zambri said.

Painted Dark Highland Green,

Zambri’s six-speed manual only has 2,800 miles on it.

“We got three laps in already,” Zambri said. When asked if he planned to return for next year’s event, he said, “absolutely.”

John Blessis of Granby, Connecticut brought his 2015 Ford Mustang GT, as he has for all three years the event has been held.

The GT is his primary car, and he drives it all year round, even through the winter.

“Just put some snows on it and it goes...you’ve got to drive it in the snow,” Blessis said.

For the second year in a row, proceeds from the Mustangs on the Mountain event helped benefit a local nonprofit organization, Central New England Equine Rescue in West Brookfield.

CNEER has been rescuing horses, ponies and donkeys since 2003, having helped hundreds of animals in need.


Volunteers from the organization were on hand to share information about their work, the horses on the farm, and also sell merchandise.

For more information about CNEER, visit centralnewengland-equinerescue.com or find them on Facebook.

Providing food during the event was Dunkin’ and North Elm Butcher Block out of Westfield.

About Palmer Motorsports Park has been rated “One of the top 10 road courses in North America” by Road & Track Magazine. Its unique setting and challenging road course draw club members and visitors from New England and beyond for racing, research, recreational, and business-related activities.

For more information, visit palmermotorsportspark.com or find them on Facebook.



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Volunteers help KofC prepare for Halloween



Nick Bousquet has a bag filled with candy.



Members of Ware High School's golf team continue to help the Knights of Columbus fill goody bags for the Halloween Spooktacular drive-thru event year after year. From left are Colin Pennington, Jason Malin, Josh Mulligan and Philip Orszulak.



Theo Girard completes a goody bag.



Paul Bousquet collects good bags from the Rheaume family.

WARE – About 30 volunteers from the Knights of Columbus, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Ware High School golf team and Scouts from Troops 281, 7218 and Pack 520 worked to fill almost 1,000 good bags to the visitors to last Friday's Halloween Spooktacular drive-thru event.



Barbara and Henry Deslauriers ready bags to be filled.



Phil Hamel and state Rep. Todd Smola make sure each bag has enough treats.



Young volunteers from Ware High School's golf team, Ware Scouts BSA Troop 721, Ware Scouts BSA Troop 281, Ware Family Pack 520 and children and grandchildren of Knights of Columbus members helped fill close to 1,000 goody bags to hand out to children.



Volunteers walked through an assembly line to fill the goody bags.



Three generations of the Harper family worked to make Halloween special for area children. From left are Mason, Joe and Paul.



Donnie Dunbar puts treats in Morgan Girard's bag.



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette
Volunteers made quick work of filling the good bags.

Don't Leave Your IRA To The IRS

If you've invested in an IRA for many decades, it may well turn into a key source of income for your retirement. Still, you might not deplete your IRA in your lifetime, especially if you also have a pension or a 401(k) and other investment income. So, if your IRA still has sizable assets after your passing, it would likely end up in your estate plan. If you leave your IRA to grown children or other family members, could they be hit with a big tax bill?

Here's a little background: Up until the Secure Act of 2019, those who inherited traditional IRAs could extend their required withdrawals over their lifetimes, which stretched out the annual taxes due on these withdrawals. But the Secure Act changed the provisions for non-spouse beneficiaries who inherited an IRA after 2019, meaning that beneficiaries of inherited IRAs had only 10 years (beginning the year after death) to withdraw the entire balance. For some beneficiaries, this could potentially create a tax burden. (Inheritors of Roth IRAs are also required to follow the 10-year distribution rule but are not subject to income taxes on account earnings if the Roth IRA's five-year holding period has been met).

However, not all beneficiaries were affected by the new rules. Spouses can stretch their inherited IRA distributions over their lifetimes and exceptions exist for certain non-spouse beneficiaries. Minor children of the IRA owner (until the age of majority), chronically ill or disabled individuals, and beneficiaries who are no more than 10 years younger than the IRA owner may opt to stretch their distributions.

The new 10-year requirement applies to IRAs inherited on or after Jan. 1, 2020. But due to confusion over changes to required minimum distribution (RMD) rules for some beneficiaries of inherited IRAs, the IRS waived penalties for individuals who failed to take RMDs in 2021 and 2022 and extended the RMD penalty waiver for 2023.

Although these rulings give beneficiaries — those not eligible for the exemptions listed above — more time to plan, they will eventually need to start taking RMDs, which could affect their tax situations. To help protect your heirs, consider these suggestions:

Using permanent life insurance. A properly structured permanent life insurance policy could help you replace the assets your family might lose to the taxes resulting from an inherited IRA. You might even consider naming a charity as the beneficiary of an IRA, rather than your family members. The charity would receive the IRA proceeds tax free, and the life insurance could then provide tax-free benefits to your heirs.

Leaving taxable investment accounts to your heirs. Apart from your tax-deferred IRA, you may own other, fully taxable accounts containing investments such as stocks or bonds. Typically, these investments receive what's known as a "step-up" in their cost basis once they are inherited. This means your heirs will essentially inherit all the gains your investments earned by the time of your passing — but they won't be taxed on these gains if they sell the assets immediately. This type of sale could help offset the taxes your heirs will incur from the inherited IRA.

The tax and investment issues surrounding inherited IRAs can be complex, so consult with your tax and financial advisors before making any moves. And, as with many areas relating to inheritances, the sooner you start planning, the better.

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THE HAUNTED HOUSE

in Warren



Spooky figures lurked at every twist and turn.



The Pigman is a regular feature to appear in the haunted house.

WARREN from page 1

the gymnasium of the Shephard Municipal Building in Warren. It took nearly a month to set everything up, but the Parks and Rec. made it all possible through adult volunteers, student volunteers, and generous donations.

Custom Pallets Inc. out of Brookfield was one of the generous donors to the setup of the Haunted House. The company donated pallets to help setup certain props in certain parts of the haunted house tour.

One unique prop made out of the pallets was a cage structure that is implanted into the scenery of the haunting tour.

Along with the students from public schools volunteering, their families also put in time to help with the setup. The Haunted House features many spooky worlds that visitors will make their way into, and many patrons have dared to enter.

A regular feature of the Haunted House returned for another year in the form of Pigman. Being a part of the huge group of volunteer actors, Pigman has been scaring patrons of the Haunted House in Warren for about 10 years.

His scare tactics include wearing a pig mask and using jump scares with the sounds of a chainsaw. Nobody knows the secret identity of Pigman, but he has every intention to return for another year of haunting at the Haunted House.

Despite the scare factor, dozens of children, teens, and parents kept coming back to walk through the haunted house several times. The next Haunted House will be around Halloween time in 2025.



Enter the Warren Parks and Recreation's Haunted House if you dare.



A room full of clowns was a fright to see during the walkthrough of the Haunted House.



A ghost floats through the air.



Creepy displays illuminated the way through the Haunted House.

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Scarecrows

built at Grenville Park

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The Young Men's Library Association and the Ware Family Center invited children and their families to build scarecrows at Grenville Park.

The Parks and Recreation department helped set up a big pile of leaves to help the kids build their scarecrows and Children's Librarian, Cathy Goulet started off the day by reading a story to the kids called "The Scarecrow" by Beth Ferry.

This fall book for kids follows an old scarecrow saving a baby crow and soon a loving bond grows between the two unlikely friends as they work through the changing of the seasons.

After story time was over, a total of six kids and their families got to building their own kid sized scarecrows.

With the right tools and instructions, building a scarecrow takes about 10-15 minutes. However, the kids were encouraged to take their time, have fun, and be creative.

The library provided all the parts for the scarecrows including paper bags, hay, clothes, coloring utensils, and picnic blankets.

The scarecrow project was fun



The kids enjoyed getting creative in building their own scarecrows at Grenville Park.

for the kids who attended and took pictures with their scarecrows after they were complete. When the day was over, the kids got to bring their scarecrows home.

Several parents said they were excited to hang up their kids' scarecrows in their yards.

The scarecrow activity at Grenville Park also became a scarecrow picnic as many scarecrows laid down on blankets with their creators. Adults got involved building scarecrows of their own.

The kids ended the day by racing through the pile of leaves

before taking their scarecrows home.

The Young Men's Library Association will be offering Kid's Bingo on the last Thursday of the month at 4:30 p.m. Prizes and snacks will be available.

The next building activity for kids will be on Saturday, Nov. 25, for birdhouse painting. The event will be in the children's room at the library.

For any questions, email Miss Cathy at gouletc@cwmar.org or call 413-967-9691.



The parts for the scarecrows were provided by the Young Men's Library Association, including paper bags where the kids can make the scarecrow faces.



The kids got to take their scarecrows home after they were done.

Knights kick off annual Coats for Kids drive

WARE – The Knight of Columbus has also kicked off the annual Coats for Kids drive, as of Nov. 1.

Drop-off locations are at all three Ware Public Schools, St. Aloysius Catholic School in Gilbertville, All Saints and St. Mary's churches, Nat Falk, Limelight Dance Studio, the Sharpest Edge Barber Shop, Live Sharp Hair Salon and the Country Bank branch on West Street.

Donations of new (or gen-

tly worn and clean) coats, hats, gloves and mittens will be accepted.

Monetary donations can be made to Ware Knights of Columbus Council 183, P.O. Box 88, Ware, MA 01082. Please put "Coats for Kids" in the check memo.

On Saturday, Nov. 11, from 9 a.m.-noon, Bruce Marshall of 97.7 FM will be hosting a live broadcast for Coats for Kids from Nat Falk, and anyone that donates

during that time will receive 10% off their purchase at the store.

Nat Falk owner Charlie Lask has also committed to donating 10% of that day's total sales to the Coats for Kids drive.

Families in need of coats for their children can contact the School Superintendent's office at Ware Public Schools. Any extra coats received during Coats for Kids will be distributed to the town's food pantries.

Historical Society hosts talk on Bathsheba Spooner

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Historical Society invites all to join them for "Bathsheba Spooner: A Revolutionary Murder Conspiracy" with author Andrew

Noone at the Hardwick Town House, 32 Common St. on Sunday, Nov. 5 at 3 p.m.

Noone will speak of the life and trial of Bathsheba Spooner, daugh-

ter of the legendary Brigadier General Timothy D. Ruggles.

Refreshments will be served, and the Town House is handicapped accessible.

HARDWICK from page 1

Vollheim has already filed his disclosure.

Vollheim recused himself from the discussion, and both Ruggles and Kemp voted to grant the exemption.

Sewer report

Water Pollution Control Facilities Superintendent Scott Potter said construction of the new pump station on Hardwick Road has started. The ledge has been dug out to install the wet well.

Potter said everything went well with the tie-in.

Waterline Industries Corporation was the lowest bidder for the Wheelwright WPCF upgrades project in the amount of \$7,344,677. This bid does not include the Wheelwright pump station, which is failing.

The Select Board will discuss with the U.S. Department of Agriculture if the town can use sewer retained earnings to cover the cost of the pump station.

Potter said he received an odor complaint at the force main in Gilbertville, so he increased odor control chemicals.

He said he also received sewer calls that were on personal property, and he said the residents are responsible for any repairs to address the issues.

The Select Board approved an abatement for a sewer user that

had been charged for two equivalency dwelling units instead of one.

Town counsel request

Board of Health Chair Judy Kohn made a second request to meet with KP Law about the Board's role in the Casella landfill proposal.

"We want to be ready, if indeed we are called upon to rule on the site assignment," she said.

Town Administrator Nicole Parker said she and Kohn spoke with Attorney Jeff Blake from KP Law and asked about the process of granting site assignment.

Parker said Blake cautioned the Board of Health against taking a stance against the project or taking any action before the applicant has even applied.

Vollheim said they can approach KP Law with clear questions.

The Physicians Advisory Group, comprised of several residents with medical backgrounds, recommended the Board of Health seek legal counsel before an application for site assignment is received.

Ruggles asked who would pay for the cost of legal counsel, adding that boards and committees are governed by bylaws.

"The information is out there," he said.

Vollheim said he would like a list of questions first, before seeking advice from town counsel.

Visitor comments

Upper Church Street resident Jeffery Smith questioned why meeting minutes have not been posted after approval.

Parker said the meeting minutes are done and they have been posted. Smith said he cannot find the meeting minutes on the town website or mytowngovernment.com.

Another resident said the Select Board's meeting minutes are on the town's website, but in a different location than other meeting minutes.

Smith also questioned why Ruggles didn't file a conflict of interest form regarding his former employment with Roach Brothers.

Ruggles said he has personal ties, but not financial ties to Roach or Casella.

"At this point, they have not applied for anything," Ruggles said, referring to Casella. "They have given us a draft of a host community agreement...they have had a presentation."

Appointment

The Select Board appointed Jacqueline Cole Goddard to serve on the Hardwick-New Braintree Cultural Council for a one-year term.

Tax classification

The tax classification hearing will be held Monday, Nov. 13 at 6:30 p.m.

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Favorite things to do when not at work: Spending time outside and with my family

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Fun facts about you that many of our customers don't know about you: I love animals and I am a Veteran
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Author Ed Londergan holds talk and book signing

WARREN – On Thursday, Nov. 2 at 6:30 p.m., local author Ed Londergan will have a talk and book signing about his novel, “Unlike Any Other” at the Warren Senior Center, sponsored by the Warren Public Library.

“Unlike Any Other” is a novel based on the story of Bathsbea Spooner, a real-life resident of 18th century Brookfield.

Join the Warren Public Library and Londergan for a presentation as he discusses his latest book and the research that went into telling Spooner’s story.

The lecture follows a reception with light refreshments, and the talk will be followed by a book signing. The event is free.

STM is Nov. 16

WARREN – A special town meeting will be held on Thursday, Nov. 16 at 7 p.m. in the Quaboag Regional Middle High School auditorium, 284 Old West Brookfield Road.

The last day to register to vote in the special town meeting is Monday, Nov. 6 from 9-5 p.m.

Free flu/COVID vaccines offered for Ware seniors

WARE – The Ware Senior Center and the Quabbin Health District were awarded a sizable grant from the National Council on Aging to provide flu and/or COVID vaccines to the seniors of Ware.

Clinics will be held on Nov. 3 and 17, from 1-4 p.m. at the Ware Senior Center.

Big Y will be providing the vaccinations. Please sign up at the Front Desk at the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road or call 413-967-9645

Ware Triad hosts potato bar Nov. 15

WARE – Ware Triad will host a potato bar dinner at the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road on Wednesday, Nov. 15 from 5-7 p.m.

Tickets are \$8 per person and the meal included a make-your-own loaded potato with many toppings to choose from. There will be raffles and prizes.

Program for fathers/male caregivers

WARE – Nurturing Fathers at Behavioral Health Network’s Family Resource Center, 82 Main St., is held on Tuesdays from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

This is an empowering program for fathers and male caregivers.

For more information or to register contact the Family Resource Center by calling 413-277-6601 or emailing bhncf@bhinc.org.

Students enjoy combined class trip to Ecology School

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARREN – Sixth grade students from Warren Community Elementary School and West Brookfield Elementary School updated the Quaboag Regional School Committee about their recent trip to the Ecology School at Ferry Beach in Maine.

Each year students from the two school join together for the almost weeklong trip that is enriched with learning and team-building.

At the Oct. 23 meeting, students shared a slideshow highlighting some of their favorite parts of the trip, including the skits during recreation time and a football game that even included the Ecology School’s chef.

The students conducted experiments and were always outside or learning in a yurt.

The tide pools near the ocean were a popular lesson for students to learn, as well as the night lessons. There were a lot of shells scattered around the tide pools, as well as crabs and periwinkle snails.

While exploring the woods, the students saw a deer and even found a skeleton.

Knowledgeable educators taught the students about the diversity of life at the Ecology School.

“We got to learn a lot...the lessons were just more fun. You got to spend time with all of your friends and the other school,” a sixth grader said.

One School Committee member shared that his son, a recent Quaboag graduate, can still list a number of facts he learned about tide pools during his stay at the Ecology School many years ago.

For many sixth grade students, this was their first big trip away from home and their first time experiencing dorm life. Each dorm room had three-to-four students bunking in it.

The entire campus of the Ecology School was filled with just students from the Quaboag Regional School District.

“The food was really good,” one student said. “It’s family style.”

Students were responsible for the set up and clean up at each meal. Students also learned about food waste and how to minimize their trash output.

Their record low for waste thrown out was one pound.

Superintendent’s report

Superintendent Stephen Duff said the school district’s Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System scores continue to keep the schools on the “not needs assistance” list with the state.

Duff said he attended a Warren Board of Selectmen’s meeting and gave an update on the

HVAC project at WCES, which is about 90% completed.

Duff credited Facilities Director Marc Astrella for doing an “outstanding job” keeping the overdue project in line. Duff said the project was originally scheduled to be completed in August and there are now additional costs to be factored in.

Duff announced the resignation of Christopher Desjardins from the school district’s financial management firm, TMS, Inc. Desjardins will finish his work with the company on Oct. 30.

Duff said a new business manager has been hired by the school district and she is working alongside TMS, Inc. to get up to speed. Duff said there was a “lot of difficulty” with the rollover from the fiscal year 2023 budget to the FY 24 due to extended grants and other factors.

Duff recommended the School Committee vote to freeze the budget until January 2024 to help the new business manager transition into her role.

“I want her to have a solid foundation of what’s going on in the budget,” Duff said.

The School Committee unanimously approved a motion to freeze the budget until Jan. 1, 2024, at which time they will reevaluate the school district’s spending.

The next Budget Subcommittee meeting will be held on Nov. 13.

Driver’s education

Duff said he has been seeing a “significant need” for a school-based driver’s education program at the High School, as they had in the past.

He said a retired State Trooper has offered to teach the class and the school district would need to work with the Registry of Motor Vehicles and a local car dealership to get the program up and running again.

“I get numerous phone calls from parents about driver’s ed,” Duff said. “Road time is hard to get.”

Duff said the driver’s education program could potentially also include students from other school districts to boost revenue.

RAAC update

Regional Agreement Amendment Committee Chair Andrew Schwenker said the revised draft to the regional school district’s agreement is going back and forth between town attorneys.

The Committee has been working to draft an amendment to the agreement to include the town of North Brookfield, as well as update the 30-year old agreement between Warren and West

Please see **QUABOAG**, page 10

Polling place B location moved

Shepard building new voting location

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARREN – Board of Selectmen Chair David Dufresne said the Town Clerk asked the Board of Selectmen to change the polling location from the Senior Center to the Shepard Municipal Building.

At the Oct. 26 meeting, Town Clerk Laura Stockley said she is seeking approval to move polling place B to the Shepard Municipal Building’s basement, the same location as polling place A.

“Many towns who have multiple precincts, they all vote in one location...they just have different tables, different voting machines, different areas, different check-in lines,” Stockley said.

She said the town is required to have 6,200 or more residents to have two polling locations. The town currently has 4,613 residents and 3,800 registered voters.

Stockley said the town was allowed to have two polling locations due to an exemption granted by the state 30 years ago.

She said there are more expenses involved with voting now, including mail-in ballots. She said having one polling location would help to save the town money.

Having one location would also reduce the need for two police officers during polling hours. Police Chief Gerald Millette said having to staff officers at the two polling locations is difficult for him to do.

“I won’t need as many staff because we will all be in the same room,” Stockley said.

The town also has new voting machines, which staff may need help to use. Having all poll workers in the same location would allow Stockley to offer assistance as needed.

Stockley said a shuttle van could be provided by the Elderbus and Senior Center van.

Senior Center Director Sharon Meli said Elderbus has offered many times to give rides to assist seniors with voting.

Changing the location of polling place B would also eliminate disruptions to Senior Center programming.

The Board voted to approve changing the location of polling place B to the basement of the Shepard Municipal Building.

STM articles

The Board continued to review articles on the special town meeting warrant they had tabled at a previous meeting.

Article 10 addressed transferring \$18,900 from free cash for 28-weeks of cleaning services for the Shepard Municipal Building, Police Station, Fire Station, Senior Center and Highway garage. The transfer is recommended by the Finance Committee.

Town Administrator James Ferrera said the transfer would cover services until May, and if the town’s custodian returns prior to that date, any remaining free cash will be returned.

Article 11, presented by the Board of Selectmen, was not recommended by the Finance Committee. This article asks voters to approve the purchase of three electronic speed monitoring signs instead of one.

Dufresne said having three signs would target the areas of the most concern for speeding and motor vehicle accidents.

Finance Committee member Ray ?? said he understands the Board’s concern for safety, but questioned if the town needed more signs at this time. He said if there is a need to collect traffic data at various locations in towns, the existing signs can be moved to do so.

He said the town already has five signs and while studies have proven the signs effectiveness in transition areas where speed limits reduce from faster limits, he believes the \$9,000 from free cash could be better used elsewhere.

Millette said the newer signs are easier to retrieve traffic data from using an app, compared to the older ones that need a cord to collect data manually. He said the signs do help reduce speeding in problem areas.

Board members said they still saw a need for three more signs, and supported the article.

Dufresne said the Finance Committee also didn’t support funding up to \$30,000 for a management assessment study of the Quaboag Regional School District as outlined in article 12.

“I still support it, because I think it’s important for us to identify issues that we have over there,” Dufresne said. “The only way we can have that is to have a third party go in and investigate it and do the footwork.”

He said the \$30,000 requested does not necessarily reflect the total cost of the study, it’s just the limit to the amount the town is willing to spend.

Ferrera said the Finance Committee wasn’t necessarily opposed to the study, but didn’t feel this would be a good time to conduct it. He said waiting until the annual town meeting would give time for the town and school district to agree on a scope of services.

Dufresne disagreed and said waiting for the annual town meeting would allow too much time to pass.

He said the study was time sensitive, especially if the towns decided to include North Brookfield in the regional agreement for the school district.

“I’d like to have the money there available so if we can get the study going, at least we have the money to move forward with that,” Dufresne said.

Board of Selectmen Vice-Chair Richard Eichacker said if voters choose to approve funding for the study at special town meeting, it shows that they agree with the Board about the need to have this done. Eichacker said a lot of positive things can come out of a study like this.

The Board said they would still support and move forward with article 12.

Article 14 would ask voters to pay outstanding bills from previous years for the replacement of the Town Hall windows. Ferrera said the invoices are for design services.

Dufresne said he doesn’t think the town owes the architectural firm any money for this project.

Ferrera said he contacted the firm and verified the money is owed. He said the town’s accountant said the invoices were never paid.

Dufresne said there were a lot of issues with the project, and he wanted to investigate the charges further.

The Finance Committee supported paying the bills, as there is no evidence that the town doesn’t owe the money to the architectural firm.

The Board will continue to investigate these bills before supporting the article.

The Board and Finance Committee both supported article 20 to trade in a Police Interceptor vehicle (valued at \$3,500) toward a new Police Interceptor. The original article amount was reduced by the trade in amount.

Both the Board and Finance Committee also supported article 24 to transfer funds in order to purchase a new Engine 1 for the Fire Department.

Article 34 asked voters to waive dog registration fees for residents aged 70 and older. The Town Clerk requested the article be added to the warrant.

Ferrera said the article is still being reviewed by town counsel.

The Board supported the article, noting that it will help save the town’s senior citizens money.

Articles on the special town meeting will have another review before final approval.

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Let's talk town hall

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

The towns of Hardwick, Ware and Warren are each facing challenges many mill towns in rural areas are up against every day; from aging buildings and infrastructure to the rising cost of living.

Through the efforts of various departments, boards and committees, these towns continue to find ways to move forward while preserving and honoring the past.

Making sure these day-to-day efforts run smoothly while still keeping an eye on the future are town administrators and managers, who are tasked as being the face of town hall.



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette
Nicole Parker

Hardwick

Nicole Parker

Nicole Parker got her start

in municipal government when she took a job in the Planning Department of her hometown.

As time went on and opportunities arose, Parker went for promotions, working her way up as the executive assistant to the Town Manager in the town of Palmer.

Parker knew she eventually wanted her own town to manage, and when she saw the Town Administrator job posted in Hardwick, she knew she had to apply.

Parker has been Town Administrator in Hardwick since July 2021, coming in on the tails of the town losing a record amount of U.S. Department of Agriculture funding for a massive wastewater system upgrade.

"We had just lost about \$30 million the day before I started," Parker said. "We couldn't pay for it [the project] and we didn't even have the capacity to borrow."

Restoring that funding became Parker's top priority over the next year to come.

"It was crucial to the town's survival...it was in a dire position," she said.

Parker said the Select Board worked "tremendously" together in order to get the money back and stop the tens of thousands of dollars a day in corrective orders due to the wastewater treatment plants being out of compliance.

Now that the funding has been restored, the town is moving forward with the wastewater upgrade project, which involves adding a pump station on Hardwick Road and upgrading both the Gilbertville and

Wheelwright water pollution control facilities.

While working toward restoring the funding for this project, Parker was also focusing on creating an efficient structure in the Myron E. Richardson Municipal Building, with office hours that would work for departments and residents.

This includes having regular hours Monday through Thursday, with extended evening hours until 6:30 p.m. on Monday nights.

Being close to an hour from major cities, Hardwick has little representation from cable television channels, with the closest news coming out of Boston-based stations.

During negotiations with the town's cable provider, Parker advocated for the town to have its own local channel, but was unsuccessful. However, she was able to create HardwickTV, a YouTube channel that streams Select Board meetings live for residents to watch from the comfort of their own homes.

These recorded meetings have helped to strengthen transparency and communication between the town's government and residents.

"There were a lot of steps to go through...getting YouTube was huge," Parker said.

Parker was also instrumental with getting the town's website updated and moved from a ".com" to a more secure ".gov."

The updated website makes it easy for residents to find important information, as well as read Parker's Town Administrator's

Please see **TOWN HALL**, page 21

QUABOAG from page 9

Brookfield.

After the Committee approves the draft, it will be presented to each of the three towns to be voted on at town meeting. All of the towns would have to vote in favor of including North Brookfield in the Quaboag Regional School District for it to pass.

Schwenker said even if voters decide against including North

Brookfield in the school district, the regional agreement still needs to be updated.

Student Council update

Student Advisory Council representatives Hanna Nemeroff and Kendal LaRiviere gave an update on student life in the Middle and High School.

Homecoming was held and students enjoyed the powder puff game, as well as spirit week and a pep rally. The football team

faced a hard loss to David Prouty High School.

Field hockey, boys and girls soccer are poised to make play-offs this season.

The Student Advisory Council participated in another successful Haunted Hallways at the Trunk or Treat event, teaming up again with WCES and WBES parent/teacher organizations.

Students also participated in the annual psychology fair and a college information night.



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

State Sen. Jake Oliveira presented a check for \$5,000, secured through the fiscal year 2024 budget, which will be used to purchase a bronze plaque to commemorate and recognize the 41 veterans of the Revolutionary War buried at Quabbin Park Cemetery.

FUNDS from page 1

Kindschi Gosselin and Chair of the America 250! Chapter Committee Cher A. Nicholas.

Saunders said its important that the region's public representation is taken care of for the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, and he thanked the DAR for helping them achieve this goal.

"We couldn't do it without you," Saunders said.

Oliveira thanked state Reps. Todd Smola and Donnie Berthiaume, along with state Sen. Jo Comerford, for their support, as well as former senator Anne Gobi.

Oliveira said he and Gobi had always worked to ensure that each community in the district had what it needed.

"In the FY 24 budget, we worked together to secure dollars for things," Oliveira said. "Small dollars for the State can go a long way."

Friends of Quabbin President Gene Theroux is "no stranger" to cemeteries Oliveira said, noting Theroux's work to repair and restore cemeteries across the commonwealth, including the Quabbin Park Cemetery.

Theroux has secured grant funding, including Community Preservation Act funds, for his hometown of Westfield and he has worked throughout the years to honor the final resting place for members of the "Lost Towns" of the Quabbin Reservoir; hailing from Dana, Enfield, Greenwich and Prescott.

"Gene, you're always there to tell us where we need to support



Friends of Quabbin President Gene Theroux shows how the patina on this plaque makes it difficult to read.

you," Oliveira said.

Theroux said 108 of his relatives have been laid to rest in the Quabbin Park Cemetery. Both of his grandfathers served in France during World War I, and both originated from Enfield.

One of his grandfathers never got over the loss of his beloved town when it was disincorporated to create the Quabbin Reservoir.

"I think he was bitter until the day he died," Theroux said.

Theroux pointed to the patina on the monument, noting that it was nearly impossible to read the names on it. The new bronze plaque will remain clear and strong for generations to come, withstanding New

England's weather extremes.

Friends of Quabbin Treasurer Paul Godfrey was with Theroux to accept the check, and Theroux said Godfrey has worked with him "every inch and every trench."

Theroux also thanked the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Dan Clark and former senator Stephen Brewer. Clark has been a good partner, working with the Friends of Quabbin, Theroux said.

Accepting the check along with Theroux and Godfrey were Ware Town Manager Stuart Beckley, Ware Selectboard member Josh Kusnierz and Belchertown Select Board Clerk Peg Louraine.

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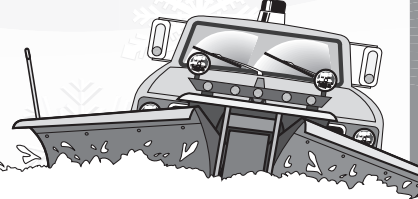
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Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Children and families enjoyed carving pumpkins at the Ware Grange.



Young pump carvers had help from their adults.

GRANGE from page 1 rounded by the magnificent beauty of the natural world.

Porcino performs storytelling all seasons of the year, but Halloween is a holiday famously known for telling stories. Those stories are predominantly scary, but Porcino adds a kid friendly element to his Halloween stories.

Not too scary for his younger audience, Porcino tells stories that can be meaningful and helpful for kids who might experience different fears.

“With my stories, I am helping them face their nightmares,” said Porcino. “Helping us face those fears and find the courage to progress in life”.

With over 20 Halloween stories implemented in his act, one of the most special stories that Porcino has told for many years is a story about courage.

It begins with a piece of orange paper. The paper represents a leaf that is made into a house by a small woman who is no taller than the size of a thumb. Her cat goes missing and the woman finds her courage venturing out to a forest at night.

As he tells the story to his audience, Porcino takes a pair of scissors to cut pieces of the orange paper off to craft parts of the house that ultimately looks like a jack-o'-lantern.

It is a unique Halloween story that speaks about the courage that people must use sometimes. Porcino also tells more chilling stories but never horrid. Being a musician, Porcino adds music to his stories.

Porcino collects instruments from all over the world and a lot of them play the role of sound effects in his Halloween stories. Some unique instruments Porcino brought included a rain stick, thunder tube, and an Australian wind instrument called a didgeridoo.

Porcino also plays guitar, cello and fiddle, which he also played through college. His music and stories are always playful, clear, and hands on journeys from which participants leave with real skills and enthusiasm for bringing the work into their life.

Prior to story time, kids and parents carved pumpkins together. When completed, Bara organized some tables near the front stage of Ware Grange to place the pumpkins up front alongside Porcino.

Dozens of pumpkins were now jack-o'-lanterns as Bara lit the pumpkins up and would be displayed in the background as Porcino performed for the kids.

All the children sat up front and got to enjoy the stories by Porcino as their jack-o'-lanterns were part of the show.



Families worked together to clean out their pumpkins before carving.



ABOVE: Families got to work carving faces on their jack-o'-lanterns.

RIGHT: Participants made a variety of spooky designs.



Jack-o'-lanterns came in all shapes, sizes and designs.





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

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Country Bank unveils renovated flagship office

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Country Bank welcomed the community to its newly renovated West Street Banking Center for a grand reopening last week.

At the celebration on Oct. 26, Assistant Vice President of Retail Banking Blair Robidoux said the renovation shows how invested Country Bank is in serving the community.

“We’re really proud of it,” Robidoux said. “We’re really invested in supporting the Ware community.”

Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving central and western Massachusetts. Its West Street location has been renovated to offer its customers a modernized banking experience.

Joining Country Bank staff were mascot Buck and WooSox mascot Smiley Ball. Both Buck and Smiley Ball welcomed customers to the branch and offered top-notch customer service.

DonutNV, a food truck offering specialized donuts, apple cider and lemonade, gave out complimentary refreshments. Giveaways and a drawing for tickets to Old Sturbridge Village’s Christmas by Candlelight event were also held.

Senior Vice President of Customer Experience and Retail Banking Russ Fontaine said Country Bank is excited to introduce the new and modern design within its full-service Banking Center,



Assistant Vice President of Retail Banking Blair Robidoux cuts the ribbon while Senior Vice President of Marketing & Public Relations Shelley Regin and WooSox mascot Smiley Ball help, during Country Bank’s grand reopening of its West Street location last Thursday.



Inside Country Bank’s West Street location, customers can enjoy a comfortable lounge while enjoying a hot drink of their choice from the self-serve beverage station.

These banking centers are designed to expand Country Bank’s ability to consistently provide sales and service solutions for customers while supporting Country Bank’s promise to make a difference in delivering a world-class customer experience.

“Investing in this location is very important to us, not just because it is our flagship office, but because it will provide an enhanced banking experience for our customers while also reinforcing our commitment locally within the Town of Ware and surrounding communities,” Fontaine said in a press release.



DonutNV offered free mini donuts and cool drinks from the parking lot.



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette
WooSox mascot Smiley Ball held the door open for a customer.

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Ware football captures another win over Palmer this year.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Football seeds released

Belchertown, Chaug, Ware, South Hadley head for tournament

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

It has not been easygoing for teams from the West and Central region of the state to make the 16-team state tournament since its inception in 2021.

For the third straight year, only a small handful of Western Mass. teams will make the eight 16-teams fields.

Among those heading for the tournament will be Minnechaug, Belchertown, Ware, and South Hadley.

For the third time, Minnechaug qualified for the Division 3 tournament. The Falcons went 5-2 on the regular season. Minnechaug qualified as the No. 14 team, but could have done better had it not lost a game on its schedule early in the season. The Falcons were scheduled to play West Springfield in Week 1, but severe thunderstorms on Sept. 8 forced the cancellation of the game. Attempts were made to make up the game as late as Monday, Sept. 11, but more severe weather nipped that plan, and the Falcons only played seven games in the regular season. Minnechaug will be traveling to No. 3 Milton for the first round.

Belchertown is a first-time qualifier to the state tournament. Belchertown received the No. 14 seed in Division 5 with a 7-1 record. The Orioles travel to No. 3 Shawsheen Valley Tech on Nov. 3 at 7 p.m.

In Division 7, South Hadley qualified at No. 14 with a 7-1 record. The Tigers made the state tournament for the second time and head for West Bridgewater, the third-seeded team.

Ware makes the state tournament in Division 8 for the third time. Ware was a perfect 8-0 and they will hold the No. 5 seed and host No. 12 Randolph on Friday, Nov. 3 at 7 p.m.

Not making tournament despite positive records are Agawam and Pathfinder. Chicopee, Palmer, Ludlow, Chicopee Comprehensive, and Holyoke join them and will be in nonplayoff games for Week 9 and 10.

Early turnover starts Ware to win, league title

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARE—The next man up is the motto of the Ware football team. Ware senior running back Talan Molina didn't play in the 97th meeting against archrival Palmer because of an injury, which occurred during pregame warm-ups. Molina was replaced in the backfield by sophomore Jadrien Berthiaume, who was slated to start last Saturday's contest at wide receiver.

Berthiaume made the most of his opportunity by scoring three rushing touchdowns in the first half. Senior fullback Kyle Safford also performed very well offensively, as the Indians rolled to a 49-7 victory over the Panthers before a large crowd at Veteran's Field, which is located behind Ware High School.

"Jadrien is only a sophomore, and he got his first real playing experience in a varsity football game today. He just stepped up and did a great job at running back," said Ware head coach Mike Fazio. "I also thought our offensive line did a very good job of blocking. Our whole team did a very good job in today's game."

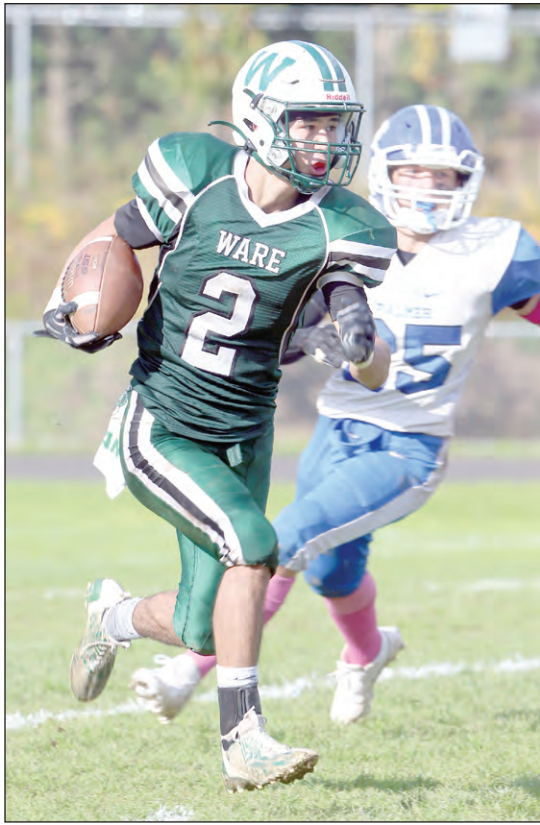
Ware, who completed the regular season with a perfect 8-0 record, has a 49-43-5 overall lead in the rivalry series, which began in 1925. The Indians, who also captured the Intercounty North title, have won the last seven games and ten of the past eleven against the Panthers (1-7).

Safford and Molina, along with classmates Noah Fales, Dominic Guardino, Ayden Young, Kyle Gordon, and Jacob Witt didn't lose a game to Palmer during their high school football careers.

"Winning every football game that we've played against Palmer is definitely a great feeling," said Safford while holding onto the Palmer-Ware trophy, which is shaped like a football. "Winning this trophy again really means a lot to us. Hopefully, we can continue winning this game in the following years."

Safford contributed with two rushing touchdowns, and he also caught two TD passes from junior quarterback Brady Dyer, who started his first game against Palmer. "

Please see **WARE**, page 14



Gavin Sawabi creates separation from the Palmer defense.



Troy Jurczyk sprints down the field.



Owen McKeever sends a pass away.



Justin Grout grabs possession of the ball.



Connor Moody takes over possession and heads for the ball.

Pathfinder boys soccer falls in opening round to Mahar

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—For the third consecutive year, the Pathfinder Tech boys' varsity soccer team qualified for the Western Mass. tournament, the small school's vocational tournament, and the Division 5 state tournament.

The postseason tournament didn't start out very well for the fourth-seeded Pioneers,

who suffered a 4-0 home loss to fifth-seeded Mahar Regional of Orange in a Class C quarterfinal home match, last Thursday afternoon.

"We really deserve to be in all three tournaments," said Pathfinder Tech head coach David Wilson. "We didn't show up in today's game. I knew that

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Indians breeze to Western Mass. finals

WARE – The Ware boys soccer team was headed for the Western Mass. Class C championship following a pair of wins in the quarter and semi-finals during the past week. They were scheduled to face

Mt. Greylock in the finals held Wednesday night at Agawam High School. Ware, which has not lost a game all season, won two games against Hampden Charter and Mahar, respectively, by a combined

score of 16-2. The Indians will next move on to the state tournament. Seeds were announced earlier this week. Ware's undefeated regular season will likely result in at least one home game in the tournament.



Joruan Mukiibi keeps the ball away from his opponent.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Brodie Koczur races for the ball.

Panthers end drought with Oakmont

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BARRE—Entering last Tuesday afternoon's Central Mass. Athletic Directors Association Class B quarterfinal field hockey match, the Quabbin Lady Panthers had gone 0-4-1 against Mid-Wach B rival Oakmont since the start of the 2022 regular season.

The fourth-seeded Lady Panthers ended their drought against the fifth-seeded Spartans with a 4-0 shutout victory before a large home crowd.

"We've played a couple of very close games against Oakmont," said Quabbin head coach Shelly Zalneraitis. "We haven't beaten them in a few years, and I'm very excited that we finally did it in today's game. I'm very proud of my players."

Three of the Lady Panthers four losses against the Spartans were by one goal, including a 3-2 home loss in the first meeting of this season. The second meeting, which was played on Oakmont's turf field, ended in a scoreless tie.

The last time that Quabbin celebrated a victory over Oakmont was a 1-0 home victory on October 13, 2021.



Annabelle Magill puts the first one in the net for Quabbin.

celebrated a victory over Oakmont was a 1-0 home victory on October 13, 2021.

The two squads, who finished the 2023 regular season tied for first place in the league standings, met in the C.M.A.D.A. finals a year ago. The Spartans players celebrated a 3-0 shutout victory in that contest.

Quabbin had a 9-4-3 overall record following the quarterfi-

nal victory while Oakmont had a 6-8-1 record.

Three of the Lady Panthers goals in the quarterfinal victory came on penalty corners. They also scored a penalty stroke goal in the middle of the final quarter.

"Scoring three goals on penalty corners were huge for us," Zalneraitis said. "We also had a

Please see **PANTHERS**, page 15

sports



Mike Tobin and Colin Harmon watch as Jacoby Dilling's corner kick scores for Quabbin.

Salvadore converts Panthers' win

BARRE – Last Friday night, the Quabbin High School football team's running game led to a win for the Panthers. Luke Salvadore ran to help Quabbin convert on a pair of two-point conversions, and that made the difference in a 16-14 win over Littleton. Both teams had two touchdowns in the game, with Quabbin's coming in the fourth quarter. But while Littleton kicked field goals after their touchdowns, the Panthers were able to score both conversions for the two-point win. Quabbin's 5-3 record did not qualify it for postseason, but the Panthers will play two more games before their Thanksgiving matchup with Gardner.



Anthony Quararone blocks as Jacoby Dilling tries to steal.



Jenkins Miller passes to Colin Harmon.

Photos by Ray Duffy

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

As of Oct. 17, Compression is the #1 seed in the Tuesday Night Commercial Elks league at Diamond Junction.

The first round of the season will end on Nov. 14 and several teams are trying to catch up to Compression, who are standing with 20 wins. In second place, Acres has 18 wins with The Champs R Here and the Blue B's tied for third place with 16 wins.

In one match, Champs R Here went up against Life is Good. In game one, Life is Good defeated the Champs by a score of 400-393. In game two, the Champs rallied and won by a score of 405-366.

Taylor Colkos and Steve Manolakis of the Champs carried the team by scoring 115 and 118.

In game three, Life is Good won by a score of 410-384. Jeff Knight of Life is Good scored a 107 game.

For total pinfall, The Champs won by a final score of 1182-1176. Both teams won two points.

Blue B's bowled against Last in Line. In game one, Blue B's won a close game by a score of 345-340. In game two, Last in Line won by a score of 383-350.

Jeremy Laduke of Last in Line scored 111, and Vinny Navarro of Last in Line scored 107. In game three, Last in Line and Blue B's tied at 346.

For total pinfall, Last in Line won by a final score of 1069-1041.

The #2 seed Acres went up against the #5 seed Team BK. In game one, BK won by a score of 377-357. In game two, Acres bounced back by taking the second game by a score of 382-373.

Kenny Trudel of Acres and Mark Fitzpatrick of BK were the high scorers on their teams, and both scored 110. In game three, Acres won a close game by a score of 369-360.

The total pinfall was close as BK managed to take total by just two pins in a final score of 1110-1108.

Compression bowled solo against their average and managed to sweep all four points and maintained their #1 spot.

The Commercial Elks league will be taking Oct. 31 off and will return on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Thursday Night Mixed League

The Thursday Night Mixed League bowled their final league night in October.

In one match, Team One bowled against Team Four. In game one,

Team Four won by a score of 409-384. In game two, Team Four won by a score of 416-404. In game three, Team One was victorious by a score of 413-401.

Team Four won total pinfall by a final score of 1226-1201.

Another match featured Team Six bowling against Team Two. In game one, Team Six won by a score of 409-378. In game two, Team Six won by a score of 432-418.

Donna Danek of Team Two broke the century mark by scoring a 109 game.

In game three, Team Six won to sweep the night by a score of 426-414. Donna Danek scored 102 the third game and Danny Fennyery of Team Two scored a 108 game in the third. Team Six took total pinfall by a final score of 1267-1210.

Team Five bowled against Team Three. In game one, Team Five won a close game against Team Three by a score of 403-397. In game two, Team Five continued keeping the match close by winning 439-429.

Jesse Danek of Team Three lead the team by scoring a 115.

In game three, Team Three won the third and final game by a score of 401-397. The match was close the entire night, but Team Five won total pinfall by a final score of 1239-1227.

WARE from page 13

"The linemen just did a great job of opening the holes for the running backs," Safford added. "Those guys really deserve a lot of credit."

The members of the Indians o-line are sophomore Alex Orszulak, junior Nate Harmon, junior Ben Paro, Fales, and Gordon.

"It takes a whole team effort for us to score a touchdown," said Gordon, who has been a member of the Indians football team since the eighth grade. "One player can't make all the plays. It always feels great to beat Palmer. We want to win this game every year."

The 49 points are the most points scored by either team in the rivalry game since Ware posted a 46-0 victory in 1992.

The last time that Palmer beat Ware on the gridiron was in 2015 by the final score of 14-6. Former Palmer QB Ryan McCarthy rushed for a total of 194 yards and scored a pair of rushing touchdowns in that contest. The Panthers also defeated the Indians five times between 2005 and 2011.

"We're a young team this year," said Palmer head coach Matt Marciniac. "We're just trying to get better as a team in every game that we play."

The seniors listed on the Panthers football roster, who were looking to celebrate a victory in the series for the first time, are Andrew Menard, Tanner Kirk, Osvaldo Nieves Jr., Karter Benoit, Peiwhiet Tim, and Andrew Haley.

"I do feel bad for the seniors," Marciniac said. "I wish that those guys could've held the trophy at least one time, but we just need to play better. We're hoping to win our final three games of the season."

The Indians won the coin toss and deferred until the second half, which meant the Panthers received the opening kickoff.

Under the direction of sophomore quarterback Matt Santos, the Panthers marched down the field on their first offensive possession. The visitors picked up a first down on a six yard reverse play by freshman tight-end Dylan Holbrook. A couple of plays later, Santos scrambled for ten yards picking up another first down, which moved the ball into Ware territory. Santos also completed an 18-yard pass over the middle to Benoit, who was tackled at the 32.

Two plays later, Ware junior Gavin Sawabi recovered a fumble, and it took the home team three plays to go 66 yards.

Berthiaume gained four and six yards on the first two plays. After taking another handoff off from Dyer, Berthiaume sprinted 56 yards down the left sideline into the endzone with 6:25 remaining in the first quarter.

Dyer, who made all seven of his extra point attempts, also handles the kickoff duties.

Dyer's squib kick on the ensuing kickoff was recovered by Orszulak at the Panthers 45.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Thomas Richter makes a block.



Brady Dyer scrambles with the ball



Alex Orszulak tries to evade tackles.

With 5:18 remaining in the first quarter, Berthiaume, who rushed for 167 yards on six carries in the first half, scored his second TD on a 41-yard run.

"Jadrein did a fantastic job of filling in for Talan in today's game," Safford said. "When one player goes down, we have a lot of faith in the next player to take his spot. We have back-ups at almost every position."

At the end of the first quarter, Safford scored his first touchdown on a 10-yard power run up the middle.

Berthiaume scored his third rushing touchdown three minutes into the second quarter on a 40 yard dash into the end zone.

The Indians, who didn't have to punt until the fourth quarter, built a 35-0 lead following a Safford 90-yard touchdown run with 6:41 left in the first half.

After the Panthers were forced to punt for the third time, Haley recovered a fumble at the Indians 13.

On a fourth and one play, Santos completed a four-yard touchdown pass to sophomore running back Dylan Doherty with two minutes remaining in the half.

Holbrook made the extra point. The Indians headed to the locker

room with a comfortable 42-7 half-time lead, as Dyer connected with Safford for an eight-yard TD pass with five seconds left on the scoreboard clock.

With 25 seconds remaining in the third quarter, the duo hooked up again. This time, Dyer threw a screen pass to Safford, who scrambled into the endzone completing the 26-yard scoring play.

With the Indians holding a 49-7 lead, the fourth quarter was running time and the Indians j.v. unit got some playing time.

The Indians will be playing another important home game on Friday night. They entered the Division 8 state playoffs, as the fifth-seed and are scheduled to host 12-seeded Randolph in the round of the 16. It's a rematch of the 2021 round of 8 game, which was won by Randolph 16-10 at Veteran's Field. Randolph wound up winning the Division 8 Super Bowl that season.

"This is a great game for us to win, but it's not our final goal" Gordon said. "We're now looking to make a run in the state playoffs."

Palmer will be playing a couple of non-playoff games before facing rival Ludlow for the 76th time on Thanksgiving morning.

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Julianna Stanger makes a save in her shut-out win.

PANTHERS from page 13

penalty stroke goal. Those are the kind of things that can help you win games.” The Lady Panthers first penalty corner goal came with 5:34 remaining in the first quarter.

Senior Annabelle Magill inserted the ball from the right side of the cage to classmate Kylie Casey at the top of the circle. Casey, who’s planning to continue playing field hockey at Worcester State University next year, passed the ball back to Magill, who pushed a shot into the cage.

“That was a fabulous goal by Annabelle,” Zalneraitis said. “I just loved the fact that she stayed on the ball and kept forcing it until she finally scored. It also felt great to take an early 1-0 lead, especially against a well-coached team like Oakmont.”

Magill gave her thoughts about scoring the first goal of the quarterfinal game.

“I felt like my goal gave us a lot of momentum,” she said. “We just continued playing well after that. This is a very big win for us.”

The Lady Panthers had another penalty corner with two minutes remaining in the opening period, but the Spartans defenders blocked a couple of shot attempts.

Quabbin senior goalie Julianna Stanger only had to make one save during the first 15 minutes.

Less than two minutes into the second stanza, the home team converted another penalty corner goal.

This time, senior Madylin Breault inserted the ball to freshman Makenzie Casey.

Just like in the first quarter, Casey passed the ball back to Breault, who put the ball into the cage.

The Lady Panthers held a 2-0 half-time advantage.

Neither team scored a goal during the third quarter.

With 9:04 left in regulation, Breault scored her second penalty corner goal giving the Lady Panthers a commanding 3-0 lead.



Madylin Breault launches the ball for Quabbin’s third goal.

Photos by Ray Duffy

PATHFINDER from page 13

this was going to be a difficult match-up for us because Mahar’s regular season schedule is a little bit stronger than ours. We did play very well in our final regular season game at Athol on Tuesday night, but it just didn’t carry over into today’s game.”

The Pioneers (13-4) finished the regular season with a five game winning streak, which includes a 1-0 win at Athol.

“We only beat Athol, 1-0, but we had a lot more shots on goal than they did,” Wilson added. “It was the most lopsided 1-nil game that I’ve been a part of in a very long time.”

Pathfinder’s lone goal against Athol was scored by junior Evan Costa in the first half. It was Costa’s team-leading 29th goal of the season. The only other Pathfinder Tech player who has scored ten or more goals this season is senior Riley Sanderson.

In the Western Mass. Class C quarterfinal game, the Mahar Senators built a 3-0 lead during the first twenty five minutes of the contest.

The first two Senators goals were scored by senior Dominic Whitman.

Mahar senior Lucas Isrow, who assisted on the first two goals, fired a shot into the right corner of the net past Pathfinder senior goalie Richie Gula (4



The difference of inches as Kylie Casey scores on a penalty shot.

Breault’s second goal was assisted by Kylie Casey, who scored Quabbin’s fourth goal on a penalty stroke with 5:48 left on the scoreboard clock.

Stanger finished the game with five saves in posting her eighth shutout of the season.

“When I woke up this morning, I thought we might post a shutout in today’s game,” Zalneraitis said. “I think we’re peaking at the right time of the season. My players are very focused.”

Two days later, Quabbin knocked off top-seeded and previously unbeaten Lunenburg, 2-1, in the semifinals.

Quabbin was scheduled to face second-seeded and undefeated Clinton in the Class B championship game at Nashoba Regional on Monday night.

The last time that the Lady Panthers captured the Central Mass. title was in 1991 when they defeated Hopedale, 4-2, in the Division 2 finals. They then beat Milton, 2-0, in the state finals.

No matter the outcome of Mondays championship game, the Lady Panthers will be one of the teams competing in the Division 4 state tournament, which starts this week.

saves) during the 23rd minute.

Four minutes into the second half, a free kick goal by senior Xander Dowler gave the visiting team a 4-0 lead.

Pathfinder had a couple of shots on goal during the second half by junior Talon Clark and Sanderson, but they couldn’t break the ice.

The Pioneers weren’t shut out during the regular season.

“It’s a little bit disappointing being shut out on our home field,” Wilson said. “We didn’t have very many shots on goal.”

The Pioneers were scheduled to play at Keefe Tech in the semifinals of the small school vocational tournament on Tuesday afternoon.

“We played Keefe Tech in last year’s semifinals at Legion Field,” Wilson said. “They’re a skilled team and they beat us 3-1. We’ll be looking for a little bit of revenge. These boys deserve to play in a final.”

The Pioneers beat Cape Cod Tech, 3-2, in penalty kicks in a Division 5 preliminary round game last November. They then lost to fourth-seeded Gardner, 5-1, in the round of 32.

The other two Pioneers seniors listed on this year’s varsity soccer roster are Kenny Brouillette, and Basem Yaseen.

The pairings for the state tournament were scheduled to be released on at 1pm on Wednesday.

T-Birds even record with wins over Bruins

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (4-4-0-0) came back from two separate third-period deficits to knock off the Providence Bruins (1-3-1-2) on Sunday at the Amica Mutual Pavilion in a 3-2 overtime victory.

Vadim Zherenko got the starting nod and was up to par in the first, blocking aside all 14 Bruins shot attempts, including a calm breakaway stick save against Justin Brazeau in the opening minutes. Brandon Bussi was not tested much at all in period one, as the second-year Providence goalie only needed to make four saves in the opening 20 minutes.

After a chaotic first period that featured no goals but a combined eight penalty infractions, the Bruins finally broke the 0-0 tie with their fourth power-play goal in three games against Springfield. Reigning AHL All-Rookie Team member Georgii Merkulov netted the tally with a wristler from the right circle at the 7:41 mark of

the middle period, his second of the year.

The complexion of the game may have changed just past the midpoint of regulation when Sam Bitten dropped the gloves before a puck drop with Trevor Kuntar, drawing a huge ovation from his teammates on the bench. While Bitten and Kuntar would be given game misconducts for the fight, the shots and chances heavily leaned in Springfield’s favor from that point forward.

2:43 into the final period, Bitten’s scrap had its first tangible effect when Drew Callin took a feed from Mathias Laferriere in the trapezoid and wrapped it home through Bussi to tie the score, 1-1.

More adversity loomed just nine seconds later, though, as Justin Brazeau scorched a slap shot into the top shelf from the right circle, and

Providence had restored its lead, 2-1.

Despite the quick counter by the Bruins, the T-Birds continued to play with confidence, and in a period where they out-shot Providence 18-7, Mikhail Abramov found a soft spot in the slot area to deflect a Calle Rosen wrist shot over Bussi to make it a tie game again, 2-2, with 9:34 remaining in regulation.

The T-Birds’ penalty kill then had the pressure on its shoulders after Austin Osmanski inadvertently cleared a puck out of play, forcing Springfield into a delay-of-

game minor with just over five minutes to play. The PK picked up their teammate, and after nothing was settled in the closing minutes, the two rivals went to overtime, Springfield’s first extra-time game of the season.

In the 3-on-3 session, Abramov helped complete the comeback when he peeled off at the right-wing boards, drawing the attention of two defenders. Meanwhile, Dylan Coghlan sneaked down the left side to receive a rink-wide pass and snap a wristler perfectly off the post and in to win it at the 1:38 mark of overtime, 3-2. It was Coghlan’s second straight game with a goal.

Zherenko earned his third win in four starts by virtue of his 25 stops, while Bussi turned away 33 in the losing effort for Providence. The T-Birds embark on yet another 3-in-3 on Friday night as they welcome the Belleville Senators to the MassMutual Center for a 7:05 p.m. puck drop.



Cambridge half-marathon registration open

CAMBRIDGE – Registration is open for the Cambridge Half Marathon and 5K at CambridgeSide. The races are scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 5 (race begins 7 a.m. EST) on a gorgeous new course with views of the Charles River along Memorial Drive.

The Cambridge Half Marathon is a 13.1 mile fast

and flat course featuring views of the MIT, John W. Weeks Footbridge, Harvard University Stadium, Charles River and more. The new 5K race also offers scenic views alongside the Charles River. Both courses are USATF certified and start and finish at CambridgeSide.

Race registration includes

quarter zip pull over (half marathon participants) or long sleeve shirt (5K participants), five complimentary CambridgeSide parking passes, training plan, race bib with timing chip, and finishing medal. Register for both races at CambridgeSide.com.

Cambridge Half Marathon and 5K at CambridgeSide

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public safety

Ware Police Log

During the week of Oct. 23-30, the Ware Police Department responded to 19 miscellaneous calls, 34 administrative calls, seven traffic violations, 17 emergency 911 calls, four animal calls, one harassment, two frauds, two thefts/larcenies, 10 motor vehicle accidents, one trespass, two safety hazards, three assist other agencies, one breaking and entering and 34 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

Monday, Oct. 23
 4:40 p.m. Fraud/Deception, North Street, Report Made
 5:30 p.m. Fraud/Deception, Highland Village, Advised
 6:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Palmer Road, Citation/Warning Issued
 8:44 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Street, Could Not Locate
 10:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pulaski Street, Citation/Warning Issued

Tuesday, Oct. 24
 1:17 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, James Road, Report Made
 3:48 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Palmer Road, Assist Given
 4:25 p.m. Assault, West Main Street, Advised
 7:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 8:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 8:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Fourth Avenue, Citation/Warning Issued
 10:30 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, High Street, Arrest Made
 Arrest: Christian Lopez, 19, Belchertown
 OUI-Liquor or .08%; Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle; License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With; License Suspended, Operate

Motor Vehicle With; Speeding in Violation Special Regulation

Wednesday, Oct. 25
 12:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Street, Arrest Made
 Arrest: Devon A. Williams, 32, Springfield
 WMS Warrant
 3:45 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, North Street, Verbal Warning Issued

Thursday, Oct. 26
 2:03 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 4:23 a.m. Assist Other Agency, North Street, Services Rendered
 5:31 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Otis Avenue, Dispatch Handled
 8:44 a.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Palmer Road, Investigated
 1:01 p.m. Assist Other Agency, North Street, Services Rendered
 6:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued

Friday, Oct. 27
 8:39 a.m. DUI/Impaired, Route 32, Could Not Locate
 9:37 a.m. Drugs, West Street, Investigated

Saturday, Oct. 28
 12 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Hardwick, Services Rendered
 2:36 a.m. Safety Hazard, Laurel Drive, Services Rendered
 6:22 a.m. Safety Hazard, West Warren Road, Services Rendered
 8:28 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Palmer Road, Dispatch Handled
 12:35 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Barnes Street, Dispatch Handled
 1:50 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Palmer Road, Advised
 9:19 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Palmer Road, Report

Editor's Note: People in this country are presumed to be innocent until found guilty in a court of law. Police provide us with the information you read on this page as public record information. If you or any suspect listed here is found not guilty or has charges dropped or reduced, we will gladly print that information as a follow-up upon being presented with documented proof of the court's final disposition.

Made
 10:27 p.m. DUI/Impaired, Palmer Road, Services Rendered

Sunday, Oct. 29
 2:24 a.m. Breaking and Entering/Burglary, Robbins Road, Investigated
 12:39 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Eddy Street, Services Rendered
 1:02 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Belchertown Road, Dispatch Handled
 3:22 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Monson Turnpike Road, Investigated
 6:55 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Street, Arrest Made
 Arrest: Rebecca R. Cruz, 50, Holland
 OUI-Drugs; Leave Scene of Property Damage; License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With

Monday, Oct. 30
 12:26 p.m. Theft/Larceny, Palmer Road, Services Rendered
 12:43 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Palmer Road, Report Made
 1:33 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Wildflower Drive, Assist Given

Warren Police Log

During the week of Oct. 8-14, the Warren Police Department responded to 293 building/property checks, 96 community policing, 20 traffic enforcements, 14 emergency 911 calls, one harassment, one threat, two motor vehicle accidents, one illegal dumping, three animal calls and 26 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Sunday, Oct. 8
 8:07 a.m. Swollen Foot, Old West Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital
 12:03 p.m. Harassment, Comins Pond Road, Officer Took Call
 12:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road Extension, Written Warning
 1:36 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned, Winthrop Terrace, Transported to Hospital
 1:50 p.m. Neighbor Dispute, East Road, Report Filed
 2:52 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle, Crescent Street, Report Filed
 6:22 p.m. Abdominal/Back Pain, Pine Grove Street, Transported to Hospital

Monday, Oct. 9
 11:11 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 3:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Columbus Avenue, Criminal Complaint

Summons: Michael A. Sparks, 31, Palmer
 Uninsured Motor Vehicle; Unregistered Motor Vehicle; Registration Revoked, Operate Motor Vehicle With

Tuesday, Oct. 10
 4:21 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 9:58 a.m. Threats, Crescent Street, Report Filed
 5:56 p.m. CO Alarm, Pine Street, Investigated
 6:45 p.m. Fumes/Gas Leak, Main Street, Investigated
 7:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 9:31 p.m. Falls, Reed Street, Transported to Hospital
 11:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Prisoner Bailed
 Arrest: Susan T. Ouellette, 55, Leicester
 OUI-Liquor or .08%; Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle

Wednesday, Oct. 11
 9:06 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Main Street, Report Filed
 11:38 a.m. Animal Bite, Summer Street, Message Delivered
 1:37 p.m. Illegal Dumping, Cronin Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 2:44 p.m. Neighbor Dispute, Milton O. Fountain Way, Report

Filed
 4:12 p.m. Power Lines/Wires Down, Southbridge Road, Investigated
 6:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Coy Hill Road, Arrest(s) Made
 Arrest: Bismark J. Abban, 26, Warren
 Warrant

Thursday, Oct. 12
 6:52 a.m. Abdominal/Back Pain, Spring Street, Transported to Hospital
 8:01 a.m. Catheter Issues, Heritage Drive, Transported to Hospital
 11:18 a.m. Neighbor Dispute, Main Street, Report Filed
 4:10 p.m. Officer Initiated, Comins Pond Road, Report Filed
 6:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
 Summons: Johnathan A. Snow, 39, Warren
 Uninsured Motor Vehicle; Unregistered Motor Vehicle

Friday, Oct. 13
 6:43 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 8:36 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brook Road, Written Warning
 5:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 8:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
 Summons: Uninsured Motor Vehicle; Unregistered Motor Vehicle; Registration Revoked, Operate Motor Vehicle With

Public's help sought on anniversary of Holly Piirainen death

SPRINGFIELD – On Oct. 23, 1993, the remains of Holly Piirainen were found by hunters in a wooded area off Five Bridge Road in Brimfield.

Piirainen disappeared on Aug. 5, 1993, she was 10 years old at the time and would have turned 40 years old earlier this year.

Piirainen's family is asking members of the public who may have any information regarding her disappearance or subsequent murder to please come forward with any details you may have.

Piirainen had been vacationing with her father and other family members at a cottage in Sturbridge. She had last been seen by her father at 11:45 a.m., heading toward a residence in the area of Allen and South Shore roads in Sturbridge to play with puppies.

Piirainen was reported missing by her father, Richard Piirainen, when she did not return.

Her father began searching immediately for her, finding her sneaker on South Shore Road. Police were notified and a massive search was conducted by local and state police as well as sheriff's departments and units from Connecticut and Rhode Island, with no results.

Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni said, "The Piirainen family has been coping with this tragedy for 30 years. Along with Holly's family, I, members of my office, and the Massachusetts State Police Detectives assigned to the case have never stopped investigating to bring justice to Holly and her family. We continue to ask members of the public who may have any information please contact us."

Earlier in 2023, Gulluni released information on the ongoing investigative efforts. This included further forensic testing on cases items documented in 1993.

This resulted in the D.A. asking the public for assistance in regard to one particular item; a white



Submitted Photos
Holly Piirainen disappeared on Aug. 5, 1993, her remains were found Oct. 23, 1993.



Police ask for any information the public may have about this shirt.

tank top-style shirt, with a blue, purple, and pink colored "Boston" motif noted on the exterior front. The shirt has no tags or size information.

Investigators continue to ask the public for assistance and for any information about this shirt. They are interested in determining who owned the shirt, its origin or places where it was known to be sold, anything about its manufacture, and any information regarding its association with the area of where Piirainen was found in the Five Bridge Road area of Brimfield.

Anyone with information about this case is asked to contact the Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit assigned to the Hampden District Attorney's Office by calling 413-505-5993. You can also utilize text-a-tip by texting the word CRIMES (2-7-4-6-3-7) and type the word SOLVE into the body of the message followed by your tip.

DiZoglio releases audit of the Sex Offender Registry Board

BOSTON – State Auditor Diana DiZoglio's office released an audit of the Sex Offender Registry Board, which reviewed the period of July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2021.

The current audit followed up on deficiencies identified in a 2017 audit completed under the previous administration.

In her report, DiZoglio notes that SORB has not yet implemented prior recommendations to ensure that they have current addresses for sex offenders in violation.

Although SORB entered into interdepartmental service agree-

ments with the Department of Transitional Assistance and the Department of Revenue to conduct address verification data matching, they did not perform these verifications to ensure accurate data matched.

In addition, SORB has not entered into any other interdepartmental service agreements with executive branch agencies to verify sex offenders' addresses.

"By law, SORB is required to keep sex offender registry information up-to-date and accurate. It is important that SORB work with

our state and local public safety departments to properly educate the public about registered sex offenders living, working, or attending school in the Commonwealth," said DiZoglio. "Our audits exist to help make government work better. When our audit findings and recommendations are ignored, as was the case here, it's not only a waste of taxpayer dollars but can be a threat to public safety. It is imperative that these matters be addressed immediately."

obituary

Celia J. Was Slozak, 95

WARE – Celia J. Slozak, lifelong resident of Ware, and recently a resident of East Longmeadow Skilled Nursing Center, left this life on Oct. 28, 2023, one day past her 95th birthday.

Her daughter and son cherish being with her on her birthday where they all sang "Sto Lat!"

Celia and her late husband Walter were dedicated and loving parents. They leave their daughter, Fran Kordek of Morgantown, West Virginia, and their son, Walter M. Slozak Jr. and wife Pat of Londonderry, New Hampshire. Also surviving are grandchildren Kara and Matt Ladd, Mavis and CJ Strakal, Kevin and Jennifer Slozak, Dennis and Marie Slozak, and Brian and Kathleen Slozak.

Cherishing memories of Babcie are great grandchildren Jacob Marchand, Kaleigh and Elizabeth Slozak, Elyssa Marchand, Nathan and Emersyn Slozak, and Presley Slozak. Many nieces and nephews will also miss her.

Preceding Celia in death were her beloved husband Walter M. Slozak (1989) and her son-in-law Walter S. Kordek (2023). Also preceding were parents Antoni and Jadwiga Was and her brothers Walter, Joseph, Stanley, Henry and Frank Was, and sisters Sophie Porowski and Jenny Szkolt.

Celia was dedicated to her faith. She was an active participant of St. Mary's Parish in Ware and attended daily mass as her health allowed. She was a member of the Holy Rosary Sodality and former Ladies Guild and was always ready to volunteer for events, especially in the kitchen.

Celia had a strong work ethic and was employed for many years by the former Ware Knitters, Inc., including in a supervisory position. She also worked in the cafeteria of the Ware Public Schools.

Helping others and socializing with friends was important to her.

She was a member of the Friends of the Quabbin, sending out their mailings and often catering their meetings. The organization presented her with an award in recognition for her outstanding service.

She also volunteered at the hospital gift shop and was a member of the Ware Senior Center.

She was a talented seamstress and craftsperson, exhibited skill in many crafts and made her and her daughter's clothes.

Family and friends will be received on Friday, Nov. 3, 2023, from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the Cebula Funeral Home Chapel, 66 South St., Ware. A Funeral Mass will be offered at 11 a.m. in St. Mary's Church, 57 South St., Ware.

Following the funeral Celia will be laid to rest next to her husband Walter in St. Mary's Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to MDA (Muscular Dystrophy Association) at Trans NH Bike Ride, 25 Wentworth Dr., Bedford, NH 03110, or CORE (Center for Organ Recovery and Education), 204 Sigma Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15238.

For more information and an online guest book, please visit: www.cebula-funeralhome.com.



Death notice

Slozak, Celia J. (Was)
 Died Oct. 28, 2023
 Services Friday, Nov. 3, 2023

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Post 2577 also sponsors the Ware Boy Scout Troop 281, that are always helping the veterans with all town relat-

Please see **AMVETS**, page 19



WARE VFW



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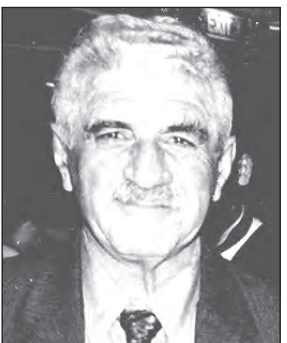
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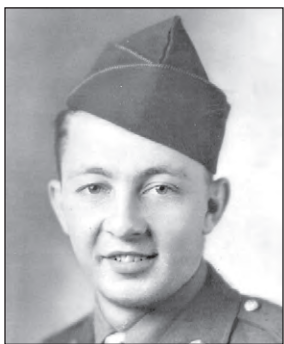
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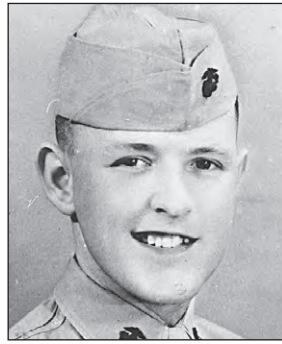
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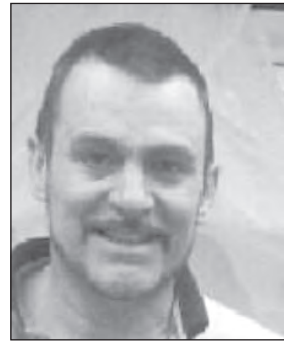
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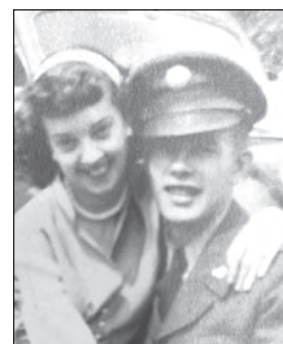
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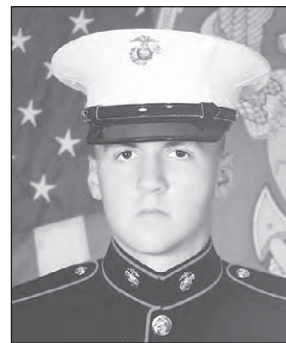
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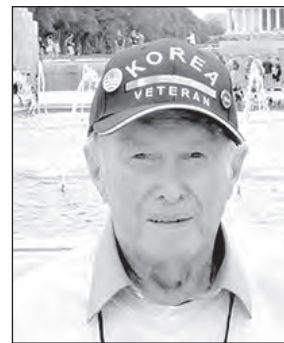
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United States Army
Warren



Anthony J. Oliveira
U.S. Marines
Three Rivers



Michael J. O'Keefe
U.S. Marine Corps
West Warren



John S. Pajak Sr.
United States Army
Ware



Theodore Pajak



Lillian B. Pekala
U.S. Navy
Monson



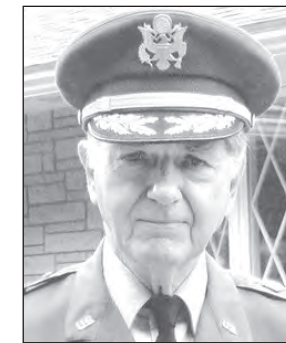
Carl A. Pekala
U.S. Army
Monson



Andrew R. Midura
U.S. Army
Ware



John J. Midura
U.S. Air Force
Ware



Major Francis Moran
U.S. Air National Guard
Ware



Michael Morris
U.S. Marine Corps
Warren



Art Morrison
U.S. Air Force



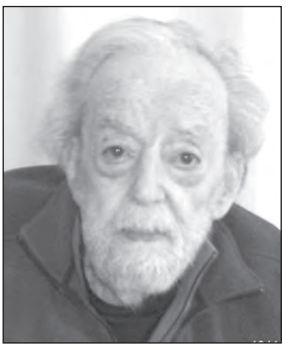
Herbert K. Moulton
U.S. Army
Ware



Henry J. Morrisette
U.S. Air Force



Casey Mues
U.S. Air Force/
Special Forces
Warren



Harvey Nadreau
U.S. Air Force



Adam Nevue
U.S. Air Force
Ware



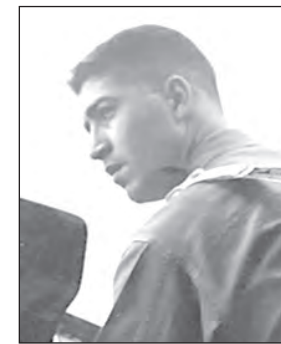
Francis Nevue
Ware



David Nicoson
Ware



Michael Norton
U.S. Coast Guard



Richard Norton
U.S. Army



Mathew Piechota
Ware



Daniel Polak
U.S. Air Force
Ware



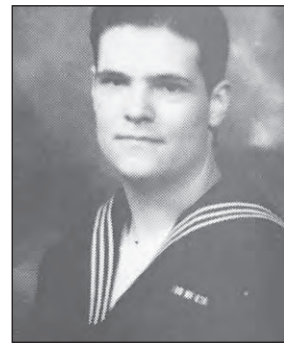
Michael Polak
U.S. Air Force
Ware



Patrick Polak
U.S. Army
Ware



Rodney Polak
U.S. Marine Corps
Ware



Alan R. Plant
United States Navy
Belchertown



Alexander M. Pratt
U.S. Marine Corps
Sturbridge



Howard E. Pratt
U.S. Army
West Warren



Kenneth W. Pratt
U.S. Navy
Ware



William K. Pratt
U.S. Army
West Warren



Bernard Robert
U.S. Army
Ware



Ethan W. Roberts
U.S. Army
Ware



Norman L. Robertshaw
U.S. Air Force
Thorndike

Dr. Navkiran Dhillon and the team at **Dhillon Family & Cosmetic Dentistry** would like to **THANK OUR VETERANS** for their service and dedication.

AMVETS from page 17

ed activities, and provides Eagle Scout Certificates signed by the AMVETS national commander, to recognize Eagle Scouts for their significant achievement.

Meetings are the third Tuesday of every month at the American Legion in Ware on 45 Maple St. All veterans are welcome to join

About AMVETS

AMVETS, which is also known as American Veterans, is the most inclusive congressionally chartered veterans service organization open to representing the interests of 20 million veterans and their families.

AMVETS has been veterans serving veterans since 1944.

Founded in 1944 and chartered by an act of Congress, the AMVETS organization has more than 250,000 members nationwide.

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U.S. Army
Ware



Stanley Roj
U.S. Army
Ware



Ronn Rook
U.S. Marine Corps
Mystic, CT



Charles Roy
U.S. Navy
Ware



Peter Rozkuszka
U.S. Army
Ware



Richard Rucki
Ware



Robert Rucki
Ware



John "Jack" Ruckley
U.S. Army
Ware



Jacob T. Russo
U.S. Marine Corps
Ware



Stanley A. Sadowski
U.S. Air Force
Ware



Allen Sanders
U.S. Air Force



Thomas J. Sheridan III
U.S. Air Force
West Brookfield



Wilbert A. Shover
U.S. Army
Ware



Felix J. Sidur, Jr.
U.S. Air Force
Ware

Helen V. Sidur
Corporal AAF
Sq. AWAC 146thAAF BV
Cedar Springs, VA



Tim Simons
U.S. Army
Ware



Trevor J. Skerritt
U.S. Army
Greenfield



Tristan P. Skerritt
U.S. Marine Corps
Greenfield



Robert G. Smith
U.S. Navy
Belchertown



Richard O. St. George
United States Marine
Corps
Ware



David Stupski
United States Army
Palmer



James Sullivan
U.S. Army



Chester Urban
U.S. Army
Ware



Michael Urban
U.S. Army
Ware



Fred Urban
U.S. Navy
Ware



David Vadnais
National Guard
Ware



Edmond Vadnais
Ware



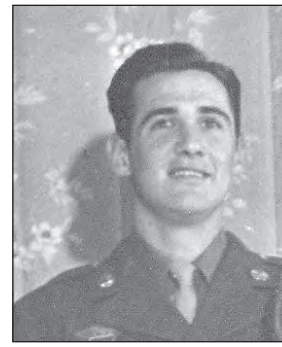
Eugene Vadnais
United States Navy
Ware



J. Maurice Vadnais
Ware



Paul Vadnais
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Robert Vadnais
United States Air Force
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William Vadnais
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**William "Billy"
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TOWN HALL from page 10

Reports and meeting minutes.

During her time as Town Administrator, the town combined the position of Treasurer and Town Collector into one, something the state has recommended in small towns whenever either of these positions becomes vacant.

Parker said the finance team needs to be succinct in order to manage the budget, which includes monthly meetings.

"Every year I have been here, we've had good free cash," she said.

Parker said the town is starting to build up its stabilization and capital funds, to meet a growing list of capital projects including police and fire department needs and roadways. The Municipal Building, which was originally built as a school, also needs work.

Parker said the Select Board is also looking for recommendations about what to do with three vacant buildings in town: the Paige Building and the schools on Ruggles Hill Road and Main Street/Highland Terrace.

"We're looking to get them back on the tax roll," she said.

The town has also debuted new sections of the Mass Central Rail Trail, along with new launch points along the Blue Trail of the Ware River. This summer also saw the grand opening of Ware River Park, a 10-acre riverside park along Lower Road in Gilbertville.

Parker said what she enjoys the most about working for the town, is the dedication and passion of its residents to volunteer and get stuff done.

"The only way things get done, is with volunteers that care," Parker said.

Parker can be reached by calling 413-477-6197 extension 101, emailing admin@townofhardwick.com or stopping by the Municipal Building at 307 Main St., Gilbertville.



Ware Stuart Beckley

Town Manager Stuart Beckley has served the town of Ware in this role since 2012. Prior to coming to Ware, Beckley worked as a town planner in another municipality.

"I very much enjoy public service and helping people," Beckley said.

Through careful budgeting, the town is in a stable financial position with a stronger reserve than it had 10 years ago, Beckley said. The town also has a strong bond rating.

"The town has changed, but Ware residents have always cared about people and the happenings in town," Beckley said. "Residents have been advocating for increased improvements on many levels, which is great."

The public's participation in seeing that residents' needs are met has increased in recent years, with more people volunteering than ever before.

"More people have become involved," Beckley said. "They understand the importance of the quality of life as well as economic development."

Improvements are needed to the town's infrastructure, including roadways, water and sewers, and the cost of materials and services continues to rise. Working with town meetings to prioritize and fund these projects is important, Beckley said.

The town has a master plan and a capital plan to identify needs and help plan for the future.

"It's important to move forward on them," Beckley said of the areas highlighted in these plans.

In recent years, the town has focused on updating equipment and vehicles for various departments, but now the focus will be on buildings and infrastructure.

"The Town Hall needs continued work to preserve brickwork," Beckley said, in addition to a new electrical system.

The Senior Center has structural issues that need to be addressed, as well as needing a new roof.

Beckley said other departments, including the police, need more room.

Other focuses include the town's recreation, which has recently benefited from the addition of a new playground at Grenville Park. This is just one of the improvements to the park, as the bandshell was also updated.

The town also has added and improved sections of the Mass Central Rail Trail; at Gibbs Crossing to Robbins Road and on Upper Church Street. These trails create safe and fun places for people of all abilities to explore the beauty of the town.

One of the biggest needs in town that residents have been advocating for, is the repair or replacement of Reed Municipal Pool, which has been closed for some time.

"The new playground and discussion of renovation of the swimming pool demonstrates the need for residents to have a livable town," Beckley said.

Balancing these needs with the cost of infrastructure and education is very important, he said.

The town has also welcomed the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts through working with a social services network, helping to get food to people in need. There's also a resource center in town that helps connect residents to essential services.

"Each day there are a wide variety of issues to be tackled, and being able to contribute to finding solutions is important to me," Beckley said.

Beckley can be reached by calling 413-967-9648 extension 100, emailing sbeckley@townofware.com or stopping by the Town Hall at 126 Main St.



Warren James Ferrera

Before he began his career in municipal government, Town Administrator James Ferrera had his start in state government and has served as a City Councilor in the city he lives in.

Being a City Councilor and working to address local needs is what inspired Ferrera to shift his career and take on the role of Warren's Town Administrator.

"It really gave me an opportunity to learn and really fall in love with municipal government," Ferrera said of the City Council.

When he saw the Town Administrator position open up for a second time in Warren, Ferrera decided to pursue his passion.

"I'm grateful...I really wanted to get back into municipal government," Ferrera said. "You can do a lot to help at the local level."

Ferrera has worked to make sure town business runs smoothly in the Shepard Municipal Building, including the implementation of a sign in/sign out policy using technology secured by resident (and Board of Selectmen and Planning Board member) Derick Veliz.

Town staff use a tablet to enter a four-digit code when they come and go from their respective departments.

"It's been a valuable and vital tool for us to ensure there's structure, accountability, moving forward," Ferrera said.

Ferrera has also focused his energy on streamlining the budget process by creating a budget calendar to set the tone for each department.

"We set up a timeline, so things

are not just rushed in at the last minute," he said.

Ferrera said he just met with the Finance Committee to set the budget calendar for fiscal year 2025. Having this calendar helps the departments organize before town meetings.

Ferrera said he's also been aggressive in seeking grant funding for the town and recently secured two Community Compact Grants. One will be used to pay for a financial feasibility study for a public safety complex.

The town was also awarded a \$65,000 Community Compact IT Grant which was used to implement new financial management software, VADAR Systems. With VADAR Systems, each department's software will now be compatible.

"Before, software didn't communicate with other departments," Ferrera said. "The Financial Department will be able to see and communicate with each other and identify problems should they arise."

The Department of Revenue had recommended the software for best practices when it conducted an assessment of the town's finances.

Ferrera reported that the town has a historic amount of certified free cash, around \$1.6 million.

This amount is the "highest amount the town has seen," he said.

This was achieved by holding the line in spending, Ferrera said, which also helps to build the town's reserves.

After special town meeting, the town's stabilization account could reach over \$2 million, and the capital stabilization could get to over \$600,000.

The town has also established a fund for other post-employment benefits, which contains \$25,000

toward the town's \$5 million unfunded liability to cover retiree benefits.

"The most important thing is to have a plan, and we have a plan," Ferrera said, to cover the liability. "We have to at least start making strides and we are."

Ferrera said the town received \$1.4 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds, which has been used to pay for capital needs and projects, including a new police/fire radio tower and a grit screw for the Sewer Department.

"These things would have had to be done regardless of ARPA," Ferrera said. "Instead of having to budget for them, they [Board of Selectmen] used one-time money to address them...there's a savings there."

Ferrera and the Board of Selectmen have also focused on retaining employees in town, something that small towns are struggling to do in a competitive field.

"It's tough but we had to deal with some turnover," Ferrera said. "We have to find, train and get people in the office."

Ferrera said the town is also making improvements to its buildings, including the Senior Center and the Shepard Municipal Building. This is something that has been lacking in the past.

Ferrera said he likes to get things done and every effort is a team effort.

"I love the job," Ferrera said. "It's an experience I'll never forget."

Ferrera can be reached by calling 413-436-5701 extension 107, emailing townadministrator@warren-ma.gov, or stopping by the Shepard Municipal Building at 48 High St.

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public notices

TOWN OF WARE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS WARE, MASSACHUSETTS ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed Bids for the construction of the "Town of Ware, Massachusetts, Water Pollution Control Plant Influent Screening Improvement Project" will be received by the Department of Public Works at the Town Manager's Office in the Town Hall located at 126 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082 until 1:00 p.m. local time on Wednesday, November 29, 2023 at which time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read. Sealed Bids must have outer envelope marked as "Town of Ware, Water Pollution Control Plant Influent Screening Improvement Project".

Subtrades: Electrical Work; Miscellaneous and Ornamental Iron HVAC; Metal Windows

The work consists of replacing an existing influent comminutor with a new Headworks Screenings Removal System consisting of a mechanical screen, screenings sluice, washer compactor, and all necessary controls systems and appurtenances for a complete system to be installed within the

existing influent channel. The project includes a new structural operating platform to support the Screenings Removal System, enclosure of the space with architectural panels, and associated HVAC and electrical upgrades to support the project. Bids shall be on a lump sum and unit price basis as indicated in the Bid Form.

All Bids for this project are subject to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 149, Section 44A - 44J inclusive as amended.

In accordance with Section 44D of Chapter 149 of the General Laws of Massachusetts as amended, the prospective General Bidders and Filed Sub-Bidders must submit with their Bid, a certificate of eligibility issued by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM), showing that the Bidder has been approved to bid on projects of the size and nature as advertised herein. Prospective General Bidders must also submit an updated statement summarizing their record for the period between the latest DCAMM certificate and the date of the Bid submittal. The DCAMM certificate of eligibility to be submitted by the General Bidder shall be for the category of work defined as "Sewage and Water Treatment Plants". The DCAMM certificate of eligibility to be submitted by the Filed Sub-Bidders shall be for the category of work for which they are submitting a Bid.

Bidding Documents will be available by 5 PM on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, and may be obtained electronically from the Tighe & Bond website at: http://www.tighebond.com/Projects_Out_to_Bid.php

Prospective bidders must complete a one-time registration process on the web site in order to receive log-in credentials. Bidders must log in to the web site to download bidding documents for the project. Bidders will be added to the "planners" or prospective bidders list upon downloading the bidding documents for the project. Bidding documents may also be examined only after an appointment has been coordinated at the office of Tighe & Bond, Inc., 120 Front Street, Suite 700, Worcester, Massachusetts between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, legal holidays excluded.

A bid deposit of 5% shall be furnished in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

Minimum Wage Rates as determined by the Commissioner of Department of Workforce Development under the provision of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 149, Section 26 to 27D, as amended, apply to this project. It is the responsibility of the Contractor, before Bid opening, to request if necessary, any additional information on Minimum Wage Rates for

those trades people who may be employed for the proposed Work under this Contract.

This project is funded from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds as part of the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA).

A non-mandatory pre-Bid conference will be held at the Ware, MA Water Pollution Control Plant located at 30 Robbins Road, Ware, MA, on Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at 1 PM in the afternoon.

TOWN OF WARE, MASSACHUSETTS Consulting Engineer: Tighe & Bond, Inc. 120 Front Street, Suite 700 Worcester, MA 01608 508-754-2201 11/02/2023

Town of Hardwick Conservation Commission

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act that a Public Meeting will be held for a Request for Determination of Applicability on Wednesday, NOVEMBER 15, 2023 at 6:30 pm at the Municipal Office Building, 307 Main Street, Gilbertville. All inter-

ested parties are urged to attend.

Applicant: MassDOT Highway Division

Description of Proposed Work: Resurfacing of R132 portion

Location: Gilbertville, MA, from Gilbertville library south to New Braintree boundary

Town: Hardwick Interested parties may also view this Legal Notice at http://masspublicnotices.org. 11/02/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampshire Division Docket No. HS23P0613EA Estate of: Deborah A. Stephens Date of Death: 07/18/2023 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Timothy M. Stephens of Ware, MA. Timothy M. Stephens 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. 11/02/2023

Notice of Public Hearing Planning Board LEGAL NOTICE SPR-2023-01

NOTICE is hereby given that the Ware Planning Board, acting as the Special Permit Granting Authority, will hold a Public Hearing on

THURSDAY, November 16, 2023 at 7:05 PM

on the application of Walmart for a Major Site Plan Permit for the construction of a 8,041 square foot addition under section 4.1.1. of the Zoning Bylaw, and pursuant to MGL Chapter 40A. Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this hearing will be conducted in person and via remote means, in accordance with applicable law. This means that members of the Planning Board as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means. In person attendance will be held in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, 126 Main Street, Town Hall, Ware, MA. It is possible that any or all members of the public body may attend remotely, with in-person attendance consisting of members of public. The meeting may be accessed remotely via zoom. Go to https://zoom.us/join or join by phone. Phone Number: 929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 784 604 1861; Password: 01082.

SITE LOCATION: 352 Palmer Road, Ware, MA. Said premises being further described in deeds recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 4600, Page 13.

Property is also identified as Assessor's Parcel # 9-0164. Zoned: Commercial Industrial (CI).

A complete copy of the application can be found at the Town Clerk's office and on the Planning & Community Development Department website under Recent Filings. Anyone interested or wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.

WARE PLANNING BOARD Ed Murphy, Chairman 10/26, 11/02/2023

Hardwick Selectboard Notice of Public Hearing

The Hardwick Selectboard will hold a public hearing on November 13, 2023, at 6:45 PM at the Myron E Richardson Municipal Building, 307 Main Street, Gilbertville on the application from Whistlestop, under MGL C 138 §12 for a NEW All-Alcohol Restaurant License located at 248 Main Street, Gilbertville, 01031.

Any persons interested in being heard should appear at the time and place above stated. 11/02/2023



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 \$225, 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.

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title. 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers. Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays. visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

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EXPERIENCED ROOFER wanted. Part-time, must have own transportation. Call **413-967-6679.**

NEIGHBORLY CLEANING & CARE is looking for mature, responsible adults with own transportation, experience and references for a house-keeping position. Hours 7:30- 2:30. Call Nancy today **(413)267-4297.**

SEWING MACHINE OPERATORS
 Experience preferred: basic math skills a plus. Immediate openings, first shift, flexible hours. Inquire at **The Nixon Company, 161 Main St., Indian Orchard.** Contact: **413-543-3701** or **info@NixonAwards.com**

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 Experience preferred but not required! Join a dynamic team of educators to bring fun and nurturing to a great group of preschoolers! Per Diem, Salary Range \$16.50-\$17.50, additional .50-\$1.00/hour bilingual differential, if applicable.
 Employment contingent upon satisfactory completion of a background investigation, including CORI, DCF, SORI, and fingerprint-based national CORI, NCOOR, and out of state checks if applicable, and driving record check if applicable.
 To apply please go to <https://www.communityaction.us/job-openings> for full job description and information regarding benefits.
 Community Action is committed to a diverse workforce. AA/EOE/ADA

HELP WANTED
TOWN OF BROOKFIELD Interim Highway Superintendent
 Brookfield is seeking a full time Interim Highway Superintendent. Applicants may be considered for permanent position. Full job description and application details at **brookfieldma.us** Deadline to apply is November 1.

HELP WANTED
WINTER PLOW DRIVERS / LABORER
 The town of New Braintree is seeking non CDL and CDL drivers to plow & treat roadways with our trucks. Salary dependent upon experience. Further details & applications are available at Selectmen's Office, 20 Memorial Dr., New Braintree or contact Highway Superintendent, **508-847-2628.**

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

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MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES:
 or call: 413-283-8393

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HILLTOWNS - MONDAY AT NOON

CATEGORY:

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

Base Price \$28.00, \$27.50, \$27.50, \$28.00, \$28.50, \$29.00, \$30.00, \$31.50, \$32.00, \$32.50, \$33.00, \$33.50, \$34.00, \$34.50, \$35.00, \$35.50, \$36.00

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 Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
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 Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
 Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

First ZONE base price _____ Includes additional words
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 Add a third ZONE **\$5.00**
 Subtotal _____
 x Number of Weeks _____
 TOTAL Enclosed _____

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Job Connection

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CONSERVATION AGENT TOWN OF PALMER

Advises the Conservation Commission on administering the Wetlands Protection Act and other pertinent bylaws and regulations. Assists the Conservation Commission in its mission to protect the community's natural resources, including its biodiversity, wetlands, and other water resources. Issues needed permits and monitors projects for compliance with above mentioned laws and regulations. Assists the Commission in planning, acquisition, administration, and management of municipal conservation land, and oversees tasks such as trail building and maintenance, signage and clean-up. Works independently with minimal supervision.

Work schedule is largely during business hours, but also includes regular evening meetings and occasional evening/weekend field work. Physical agility needed to access areas of conservation lands and project sites.

To submit resume/cover letter, or for a complete job description, contact: **hmannarino@townofpalmer.com**.

Position open until filled.

Community Newspaper EDITOR WANTED

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

The editor will need to cover local government and events while representing the newspaper at public venues.

The successful candidate will have strong community journalism skills and is also expected to gather news and write stories for the two papers as well as for other occasional companywide publications.

This is a job for a self-starter who has a vision for growing and connecting with our valued readers, and who thoroughly enjoys community journalism.

This full-time position with flexible schedule is based in our Palmer office at 24 Water St., this is not a remote position.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
- Willingness to mentor a staff writer and correspondents
- Editing experience and ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style
- Management experience and/or experience managing content for a print publication.

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

CLUES ACROSS

- A way to drop
- Bits per inch
- Ghosts
- Present
- Noises
- Honorable fourth name in ancient Rome
- Elevated railroad
- A way to drench
- The Tarheel State
- Lilly and Manning are two
- Where golfers begin
- Harvester
- Unit of subjective loudness
- Jewish calendar month
- Dash
- Armed conflict
- Daisy ___: Broadway actress
- Jump
- Get free of
- A written proposal or reminder
- Organic chemistry reactive structure
- African country
- Cool!
- Used to treat Parkinson's disease
- ___ route
- Ed Murrow's home
- Lethal dose
- Give cards incorrectly
- A treeless grassy plain
- Famed R.L. Stevenson novel
- In an incisive way
- Mark Wahlberg's screen partner
- Criticize
- A domed or vaulted recess
- Trade agreement
- Larger
- Egged
- Data
- Something curved in shape
- Root mean square (abbr.)
- Farm state
- Pre-1917 emperor of Russia
- Short-term memory
- Indigenous peoples of central Canada
- Honor as holy
- Monetary unit of Samoa
- Company that rings receipts
- City in Finland
- Small finch
- Arctic explorers (abbr.)
- Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
- Very willing
- Partner to "oozed"
- Turntable
- Major Hindu deity
- Move head slightly
- Plain-woven fabric
- Die
- Shipped as cargo
- Something highly prized
- Individual thing or person
- Humbled
- Speak indistinctly
- No seats available
- Financial obligation
- Green vegetable
- Tough outer skin of fruit
- ___ Spumante (Italian wine)
- Troubles
- Singer Charles
- Camper

CLUES DOWN

- Mountain in the Julian Alps

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 Purchase a photo that recently ran in one of our publications. Go to newspapers.turley.com/photo-request
\$12.50 Each

Halloween Spooktacular



Thrills and chills were found around every turn.



Blow-up displays gave visitors to the Halloween Spooktacular plenty to look at.



These witches searched for children to join them on a broomstick ride through the sky.

DRIVE-THRU from page 1

A haunted forest that was home to many chilling skeletons and spirits, eventually opened to a clearing, where shipwrecked sailors yelled a friendly "Ahoy!"

A skeleton crew of landscapers took to their lawnmowers as they readied for the graveyard shift. Spiders of unusual size wove their webs across the outfield of the baseball diamond.

The Addams Family, a trio of witches, dragon tamers, a mad scientist and many more could be found along the route, as children prepared to collect their goody bags which were packed with delicious snacks and treats and colorful glow sticks and wands.

Upcoming events

Now that Halloween is over, the Knights of Columbus are preparing for the annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner, which delivers free turkey dinners to families in need or those who are alone for the holiday.

Orders are being accepted until Friday, Nov. 17.

Please call 413-277-5000 and provide your name, address, telephone number and the number of meals requested.

The Knight of Columbus has also

kicked off the annual Coats for Kids drive, which began Nov. 1.

Drop-off locations are at all three Ware Public Schools, St. Aloysius Catholic School in Gilbertville, All Saints and St. Mary's churches, Nat Falk, Limelight Dance Studio, the Sharpest Edge Barber Shop, Live Sharp Hair Salon and the Country Bank branch on West Street.

Donations of new (or gently worn and clean) coats, hats, gloves and mittens will be accepted.

Monetary donations can be made to Ware Knights of Columbus Council 183, P.O. Box 88, Ware, MA 01082. Please put "Coats for Kids" in the check memo.

On Saturday, Nov. 11, from 9 a.m.-noon, Bruce Marshall of 97.7 FM will be hosting a live broadcast for Coats for Kids from Nat Falk, and anyone that donates during that time will receive 10% off their purchase at the store.

Nat Falk owner Charlie Lask has also committed to donating 10% of that day's total sales to the Coats for Kids drive.

Families in need of coats for their children can contact the School Superintendent's office at Ware Public Schools. Any extra coats received during Coats for Kids will be distributed to the town's food pantries.



Turley Photos by Paula Oumette
TOP: These dragon tamers showed their bravery.

LEFT: This eerie skeleton illuminated the park.

RIGHT: This wide-eyed traveler looked as if he'd seen a ghost as he walked through the haunted forest.



The Addams Family was indeed "mysterious and spooky."

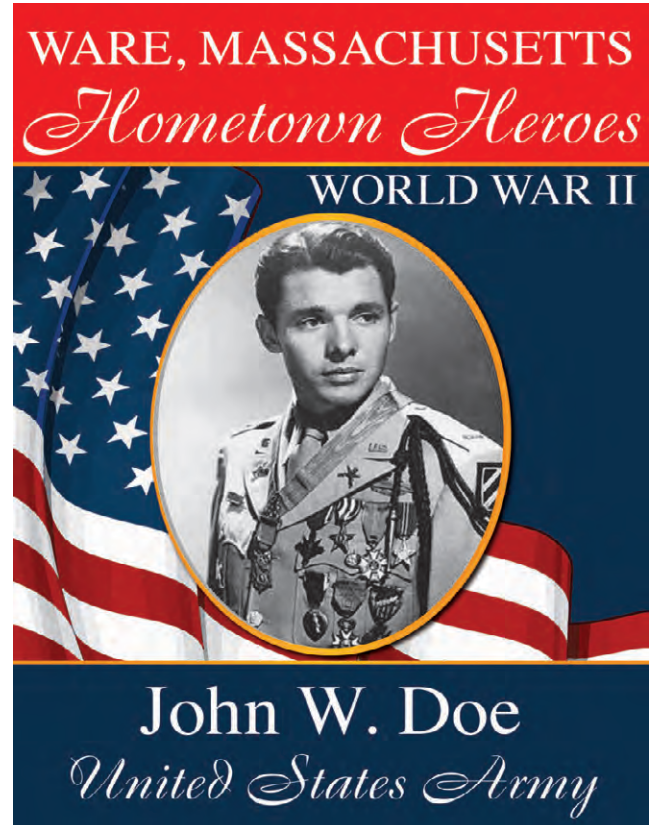


The Beast and Belle welcomed visitors to the Halloween Spooktacular drive-thru event.



Harper's Landscaping & Mowing had a skeleton crew at work during the drive-thru.

HOME TOWN HERO Pole Banners to Honor Ware Veterans



Name of Veteran _____

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