

WARE RIVER NEWS

SERVING THE WARE REGION FOR 129 YEARS

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2023

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VETERANS DAY

Ware honors and thanks those who serve, sacrifice

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – The Veterans Day parade stepped off from the American Legion on Maple Street, making its way toward Veterans Park this past Saturday.

Led by the town's veterans, the parade featured the Police and Fire departments, Quabbin Regional High School's NJROTC, the Knights of Columbus, the Ladies Auxiliary, local and state leaders, Scouts from Troops 281 and 7281 and Pack 520, and many more.

Emcee Robert Brusio led the ceremony at Veterans Park, and thanked everyone for attending to honor those who have served our country and fought for our freedom.

Jane Sterndale and Deb Deschamps started by singing the National Anthem, and the Scouts joined together to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette
Ware veterans David LaVallie, Daniel Witt, Robert Brusio and John Pajak, march ahead of Quabbin Regional High School's NJROTC color guard.

Ron Rucki said a prayer, urging people to always remember the sacrifices needed for our freedom.

"We enjoy great freedoms in the United States," Rucki said. "May we never forget those killed in the line of duty, those still suf-

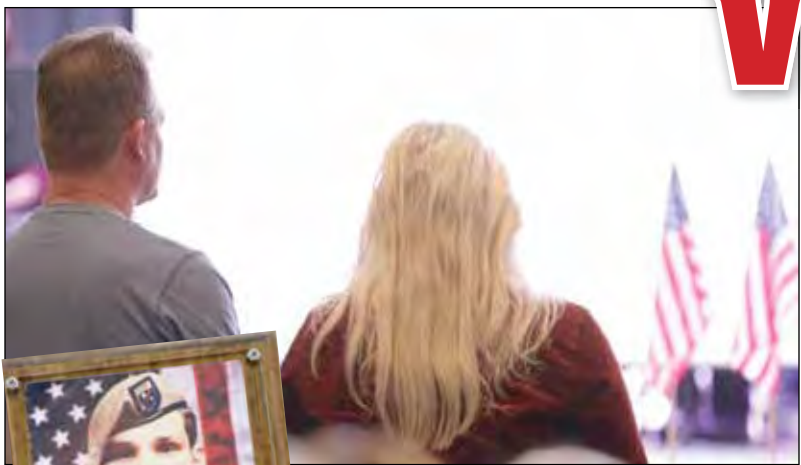
fering...we cannot forget the sacrifices of so many."

Selectboard Chair Caitlin McCarthy read a proclamation about Veterans Day from Gov. Maura Healey.

"Every November people

from around the nation...gather to honor our veterans," McCarthy said. "We honor and salute those who served."

Please see **WARE HONORS**, page 8



Turley Photos by Derick Veliz

U.S. Army veteran Anthony Girouard's parents stand to accept their son's honor, as he was unable to attend the ceremony.

Quaboag Regional High School Class of 2013 graduate and U.S. Army veteran Anthony Girouard was named as this year's Quaboag Alumni Veterans Wall inductee.

Quaboag remembers

Eighth grade civics students honor those who serve

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARREN – Eighth grade students in Joseph Salvatore's civics class honored veterans by leading a Veterans Day ceremony last week,

and also naming the newest inductee to the Quaboag Alumni Veterans Wall.

Students, staff and veterans filled the auditorium of Quaboag Regional Middle High School as emcee of the ceremony, Natalia Baldizon-Veliz gave the opening welcome and introduction.

Baldizon-Veliz said that Veterans Day used to be known as Armistice Day, dating back to

Please see **QUABOAG**, page 7

Fire Dept. discusses need for new fire engine

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

HARDWICK – Deputy Fire Chief Joshua Pease approached the Select Board about the need to replace the Fire Department's Engine 1.

Engine 1 is a 1987 Pierce Arrow, which is technically "out-of-service" by national standards, being over 25 years old.

"Over the last few years, we've put probably about \$30,000 into it," Pease said. "It still has some outstanding repairs that need to be done... which outweighs the cost of the vehicle."

At the Nov. 13 meeting, Pease said he has talked with a representative from Allegiance Fire and Rescue in Walpole about transitioning to a Pierce Ascendant Quint, which is a ladder truck with a pump and tank.

He said the new truck will still fit in the Fire Station.

Pease said the cost for the new engine is \$1,643,364, and that price is expected to increase by about 5% in January.

Town Administrator Nicole Parker said the only way to afford this expense would be to have a debt exclusion, which would need to be approved at a town meeting.

Select Board Chair Eric Vollheim said replacing Engine 1, is "long overdue."

Please see **HARDWICK**, page 12

Quilts of Valor

Local veterans honored for answering call to service

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Over 359,000 quilts have been gifted to veterans thanks to the efforts of the Quilts of Valor Foundation, which was started 20 years ago by founder Catherine Roberts.

This past Veterans Day, five area veterans received quilts during HomeFront Strong's Military Appreciation Breakfast, held at the Senior Center. The quilts were lovingly made by quilters of the Pro Style Graphics Chapter of Quilts of

Please see **QUILTS**, page 5



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

U.S. Air Force veteran and retired HomeFront Strong board member Belinda Morrone receives a Quilt of Valor from Kate Blanchard and Connie Barnes during HomeFront Strong's Military Appreciation Breakfast held at the Ware Senior Center this past Saturday.

Chamber of Commerce hosts annual dinner meeting at Salem Cross Inn

Ruggeiro takes place as new Board of Directors chairperson

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce welcomed incoming Board of Directors Chairperson Josh Ruggiero of Smith Brothers Insurance during its annual meet-

ing and dinner held at Salem Cross Inn last week.

On Nov. 5, outgoing Chairperson Lena Buteau of Monson Savings Bank spoke about the changes the Chamber has seen in the past few years, and where it stands now.

"We've come such a long way this year," Buteau said. "From 2020 to 2022 we were driven to survive. In 2023 we were driven to

thrive."

Buteau credited the Chamber's newest Chief Executive Officer, Robert Lavoie, with strengthening ties with businesses in the region, as shown by the dinner's sold out attendance.

"He's doing such a great job being the welcoming face of the

Please see **CHAMBER**, page 11



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette
Ware resident Nancy Harder stands with a piece she made out of pottery and driftwood.



Shaped by Service

Art show celebrates works of veterans and family members

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – For the third year, HomeFront Strong teamed up with Workshop13 to present the Shaped by Service art show at ArtWorks Gallery, 69 Main St.

Featuring 18 artists, the Shaped by Service art show offered servicemembers, veterans and their families a chance to express themselves creatively through various mediums, capturing the true image of what it means to serve.

"There's just so many different types of mediums all coming together to celebrate the military," the show's curator Faith Eileen Ward said. "It's a wonderful mix of people."

Through their shared experiences with the military, the artists have produced a touching, and often gut-wrenching, display rich with

colors and textures. "These are real things that happen," Ward said of these experiences. "They're fighting for our freedom."

Ward said her husband, uncle and aunt have all served in the military, and she knows the sacrifice servicemembers make for their country.

"I just have a lot of respect for people that allow us to live in freedom," she said.

Shaped by Service, just "brings together what they went through, even family members," Ward said.

HomeFront Strong's Executive Director Jennifer Baublitz said this is the first year the art show has filled the entire gallery, and it featured lots of returning artists.

One such returning artist is Anthony Seay of Three Rivers, a U.S. Coast Guard veteran and one of the area's most prolific painters, showcasing eight of his hyper realistic acrylic paintings in this year's show.

Seay has only been painting for six years, and it's something he's

Please see **ART**, page 6

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In Hardwick, Durant secured 260 votes and Zlotnik 203. With one write-in, a total of 464 votes were cast, giving the town a 22.87% voter turnout.



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They are requesting financial assistance to help them fulfill the needs of the

children of Ware, and all assistance is greatly appreciated. The program is for infants through children aged 12.

The program recognizes all holiday observances.

Monetary donations may be dropped off at the Ware Police Department at 22

North St., or may be sent to Ware Christmas For Kids, c/o Ware Police Department, 22 North St., Ware, MA 01082.

Darlene Gildert is the program coordinator, and she can be reached at 413-967-3571, extension 327.

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.

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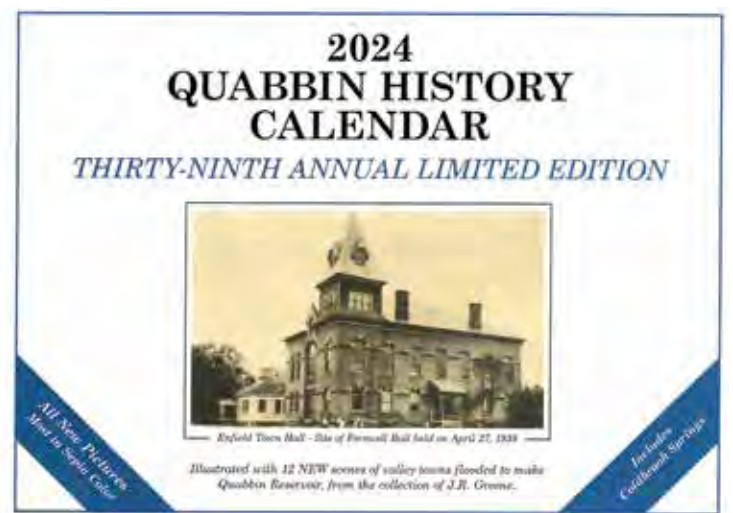
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He will give a short talk about some of this year's subjects before the signing.

If you can't make it to the library that day, there are some calendars and a few of his books on sale at the Checkout Desk now through Christmas. For more information, please call 413-967-5491.

Greene is also selling his calendars at Junction Variety in Thorndike, Quaboag Books in West Brookfield and Mimi's Coffeehouse in Hardwick. He will host a program at the Palmer Public Library on Tuesday, Dec. 12.



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The 39th annual Quabbin History Calendar is available at various locations, including the Young Men's Library Association, 37 Main St., Ware.

Tree & Wreath Festival returns Dec. 9 and 10

WARE – All are welcome to join the Proprietors of the Ware Center Meeting House for this year's Ware Tree & Wreath Festival on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 10 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Ware Town Hall, 126 Main St.

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There will be free children's activities including decorating a cookie, making a craft, and Kids Karaoke.

Be sure to come to check out (and take a chance) on the Ware Historical Society's Noah's Ark Tree.

It's decorated with pairs of ornaments to represent the animals on the Ark, which were the only toys children could play with on Sundays. The ornaments include giant cookies, over two inches round.

It's not too late to donate. Businesses and citizens interested in contributing decorated trees and wreaths should call Lynn Lak, co-chair of the Festival committee at 413-967-7223 or email her at llak310@comcast.net.

In-person drop off is Friday, Dec. 8 between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. at the Great Hall in the Town Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

Visit warecentermeetinghouse.org for more information or to make a donation online.

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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.

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH
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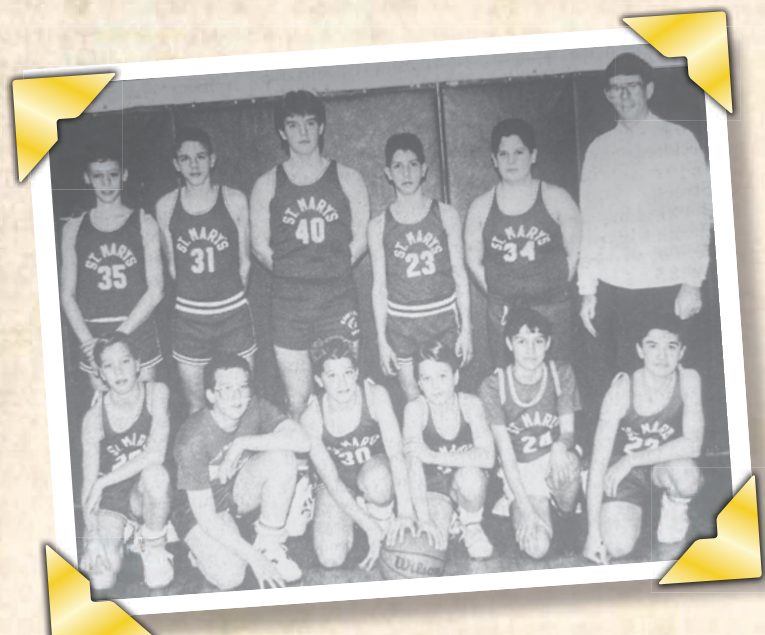
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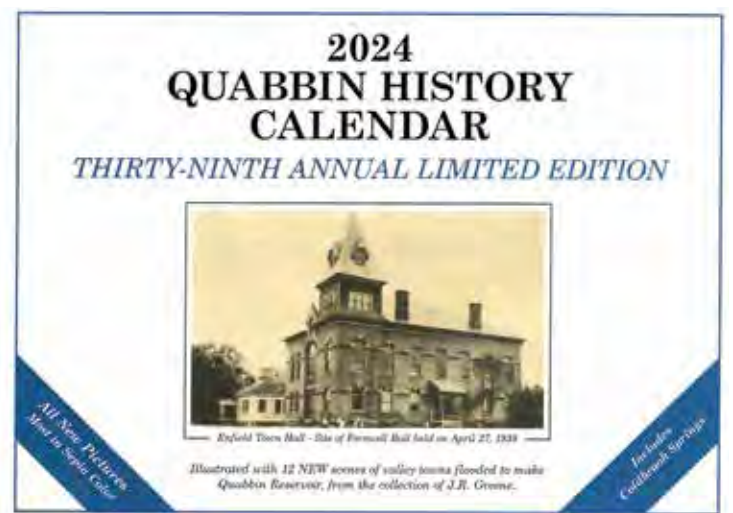
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Ware Senior Center events

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

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

ACTIVITIES Monday, Nov. 20

9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Scat
11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Party
Dessert and music by Charlie Lask provided by Friends of Ware Seniors Inc.

Tuesday, Nov. 21

9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
9-10 a.m. Council on Aging meeting
9:30 a.m. Quilting Club
10 a.m. Scat
11:30 a.m. Lunch
1-2 p.m. Food Bank of Western MA Mobile Food Pantry at Grenville Park
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. 22

9 a.m. Tai-Chi

10 a.m. Scat
10-11:30 a.m. Kirsten Krieger, Quabbin Region DPH Nurse, office hours
11:30 a.m. Lunch

Thursday, Nov. 23 Closed

Friday, Nov. 24 Closed

LUNCHES DINE IN

All meals \$3.50 unless otherwise noted

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

Monday, Nov. 20 Thanksgiving Party

Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Stuffing, Gravy, Veggie of the Day, *Dessert and entertainment courtesy of the Friends of Ware Seniors Inc.

Tuesday, Nov. 21

American Chop Suey, Dessert of the Day

Wednesday, Nov. 22

Grilled Rueben, French Fries, Three Bean Salad, Dessert of the Day

Thursday, Nov. 23 Closed

Friday, Nov. 24 Closed

Ware veteran looks back on life of service

VETERAN'S SPOTLIGHT: Phil Hamel

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – In 1954 at just 17 years old, Townsend resident Phil Hamel boarded the USS General George M. Randall, setting a course to Korea.

Hamel had made the decision to join the U.S. Army months prior, after his parents received a Western Union telegram saying his next to oldest brother was missing in action during the Korean War.

"I signed up," Hamel said. "I joined the Army in Springfield and ended up on a bus to Fort Dix, New Jersey."

Luckily, Hamel's family was notified that his brother had been located and was safe before Hamel made his way to basic training. After completing his eight weeks of basic training, Hamel was sent to Fort Lee in Virginia for another eight weeks of advanced training.

"They found him, he was okay, but by that time I was already signed up," Hamel said. "It was tough times, but overall, I'm glad I did it. I think it's a good place for all young people to go to for a couple of years, you either make it or you don't...I smartened up real fast."

For two weeks, Hamel was able to return home before he reported back to Virginia in order to make his way by plane to Fort Lewis in Washington, where the ship to Korea awaited.

Hamel's ship never made it to Korea.

"We were supposed to be heading to Korea, but halfway over, they changed our orders to Japan," Hamel said.

He stayed in Japan for two years, nine months and four days, as a member of the National Defense Forces.

During this time, Hamel was

again called to Korea, and this time he was airborne when for some reason, the plane turned back and returned to Japan.

While overseas, Hamel drove a truck, carrying ammunitions over the mountains to Mount Oshima Air Force base, and working his way up as a non-commissioned officer in charge of base camp at the training area.

"I was really amazed I had that position," Hamel said.

Hamel was placed as NCO after a master sergeant was caught stealing gas and selling it to the Japanese. As NCO, Hamel had a shower built, handled water supply, mess hall and communications.

"I had two generators, almost as big as half this room, that I had to maintain," he said.

Living in Japan was a far cry from his hometown life, and the winters were exceedingly harsh, sometimes accumulating snow seven-to-eight feet deep.

"It was different. It was a lot of getting used to, driving on the left side of the road was tough," Hamel said. "There roads were mostly dirt, very narrow. If you met another vehicle coming the other way, it was very challenging."

After serving three years in the U.S. Army, Hamel came home in 1957, returning to Fort Dix before he was assigned to the 94th Military Police Company in Boston where he served for a couple years.

"Every Tuesday night we had to go to Boston for our training meetings...from Townsend to Boston. Then I went to Camp Drum for two weeks training," Hamel said.

Hamel said he and his fellow MPs could go anywhere, as long as they stayed on base.

In his hometown of Townsend, Hamel was a call member of the

Fire Department, and had the emergency alarm center in his house.



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette
Phil Hamel,
U.S. Army veteran

He worked for his dad's oil company, Hamel Oil Co. before taking over a Pyrofax Gas distributor and creating Hamel Bottled Gas.

"I had to do the school of hard knocks," Hamel said with a laugh. "I took it on, ran that for quite a while."

Hamel soon expanded his business, opening a Whirlpool appliance store, and eventually taking on a business partner to help with the appliance operation.

"Never go into business with a partner," Hamel said, describing how the partnership soured and reached a breaking point. "We had a not so pleasant discussion. I said I'll make you and offer to buy me out. He bough me out, and three months later he's out of business."

Hamel's bottled gas company continued to thrive until the arrival of natural gas, which he knew would drive him out of business.

Hamel approached the natural gas company, and asked to have someone contact him. To his surprise, the president of the company called him and set up an interview.

"They offered to make me manager at a branch in Manchester, New Hampshire...I bought a house in Merrimack, and I took over the branch," Hamel said. "I was the manager there for three or four years."

While living in Merrimack, Hamel was recruited by the Police Chief to join the Department as a special police officer, which quickly turned into a full-time job.

Hamel left his job with the natural gas company, and worked his way through the Police Department, earning the rank of sergeant, as well as acting police

chief. Hamel decided to return to the natural gas business, and his former employer hired him back, making him manager of the Salem, New Hampshire branch.

"I stayed in that district for almost a year," Hamel said. That company eventually took over ownership of Ware Bottled Gas, bringing Hamel to Ware, where he has lived ever since.

"I ran that for 35 years...the gas company sold to Petrolane, and I got Barre on top of Ware," he said.

Hamel had a fleet of six tank trucks, two service trucks, and a pickup truck. He oversaw two office managers and two clerks.

"It kept me busy," he said.

Hamel also joined the Army National Guard, was a call firefighter, became a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, was the Rotary Club president for two terms (and a 44 year member). Hamel was also a corporator for Country Bank for over 35 years.

Hamel started as the youngest member of the Rotary Club, eventually ending up as the oldest member.

He also married Sandra Arsenault, and together the couple raised their six children. His wife was a nurse at Baystate Wing Hospital, before transferring to the pharmacy as a technician.

"My wife and I raised five boys and a girl," Hamel said. "Unfortunately, I lost my daughter about four years ago, my youngest child."

Hamel continues to be active in serving his country, as a member of the American Legion, AMVETS, VFW and DAV. He has also been president of the Ware Veterans Council, and emceed the parades for many years.

"All of it's a lot of work," Hamel said. "Between all of these organizations, don't ask me how I did it because I couldn't tell you. It's been quite an adventure. The good Lord was really good to me."

Donations/volunteers sought for Wreaths Across America

WARE – Ware will be participating in the Wreaths Across America program, honoring veterans in municipal cemeteries.

On National Wreaths Across America Day, held across the country on Saturday, Dec. 16 volunteers and community members will gather at Veterans Park on Main Street at 10 a.m. before distributing wreaths in four cemeteries across the town.

In order to secure enough wreaths for the four cemeteries, Ware's Wreaths Across America Chair Frank Bateman has paired up with two sponsorship groups, the Ware Middle School PTO and Scouts BSA Troop 281. Sponsoring a wreath is \$17, of which \$5 goes to the sponsoring group.

Wreaths can be sponsored by visiting the link for either sponsoring group: Scouts BSA Troop 281, <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/175907> and WMS PTO, <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/176743>.

People can also sign up to volunteer for National Wreaths Across America Day by visiting these links.

If people want to donate or volunteer but don't have online capabilities, they can call Bateman at 413-949-6517 and leave a message.

The cutoff to sponsor a wreath for this year's National Wreaths Across America Day is Nov. 28. Any donations received after that date will go toward securing next year's wreaths.

Support group offered for grandparents raising grandchildren on Wednesdays

WARE – Grandparents Raising Grandchildren support group meets Wednesday mornings from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Behavioral Health Network's Family Resource Center, 82 Main St.

Join the group weekly to have adult conversation and to connect

with others going through the same things you are, trying to be both parent and grandparent.

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

Ware Holiday Flair gets ready for holiday season

WARE – This Sunday, Nov. 19 the Ware Holiday Flair Committee is looking for volunteers to help decorate Main Street and Veterans Park, starting at 8 a.m., to get ready for a visit from Santa Claus.

The day after Thanksgiving, Santa will arrive on the fire truck to light up the big tree in Veterans Park.

The festivities will begin with a performance by dancers from Dance Unlimited in front of the Town Hall at 5:45 p.m., followed by the arrival of Santa around 6 p.m. After the tree lighting, children and families can visit with Santa in the Town Hall.

On Saturday Dec. 9 from 5-7 p.m., (or until the last car goes through), visit Grenville Park for the Ware Holiday Flair Festive Drive-Thru event. Vehicles will enter through the Upper Church Street exit, travel around the first baseball diamond, and exit through the entrance.

Cars must enter Upper Church Street coming from the direction of Route 32. No cars will be allowed to enter the park coming from the direction of downtown.

The Quaboag Connector will provide free rides for those without vehicles, staging in front of the old Church Street school,

across from the park entrance.

Donations will be accepted at the drive-thru, but are not necessary for this free, community event.

Volunteers are needed to help set up the morning of the event, starting at 9 a.m. If anyone would like to volunteer, they can contact Kathy Deschamps 413-519-9815.

If anyone would like to donate to help support the event, checks made to "Ware Holiday Flair" can be mailed to the Town Hall, c/o Stuart Beckley, 126 Main St., Ware, MA 01082.

Orders being accepted for Thanksgiving dinner rolls

WARE – The food service staff of the Ware Public Schools will once again be selling rolls for Thanksgiving dinner.

You can reserve your rolls by calling 413-967-5248 between 10-11 a.m. The deadline for orders is Monday, Nov. 20.

The cost will be \$8 for a pan of 16 rolls.

You may pick up the rolls on Wednesday, Nov. 22 between 9 a.m.-noon at the Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School cafeteria. All proceeds to benefit Ware's Christmas for Kids.



Paige Memorial Library offers fun for holiday season beyond

HARDWICK – On Sunday, Nov. 26 come to Hardwick's Christmas on the Common celebration where you can purchase delicious homemade cookies just in time for the holidays.

The Friends of the Paige Memorial Library present their Annual Cookie Walk from 3:30-5:30 p.m. at the Town House, 32 Common St. Proceeds go to the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Christmas for Kids program.

If you would like to bake for the Cookie Walk, please let the Friends know what you will be baking. They are keeping a list in order to offer a good variety.

Also, please package cookies in plastic bags: two if large, and more if small.

Basket raffle

On sale now at the library are tickets for the Anne of Green Gables raffle basket to delight the

collector and the young person in all of us or as a treasured gift. The raffle basket includes a limited-edition porcelain Anne Shirley doll, Anne of Green Gables cookbook, graphic novel, novel by Lucy Maud Montgomery, coloring book, crayons, and colored pencils.

Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. The drawing will be on Nov. 26 at 5:30 p.m. Proceeds from the raffle will be donated to the Hardwick Food Pantry.

Boxwood centerpiece

On Wednesday, Nov. 29, the Friends of the Paige Memorial Library will host a Boxwood Centerpiece Workshop at 7 p.m. at the Town House. Come to the Town House or order "take out."

Use premium boxwood tips, decorate with berries, birds and decorations supplied by Bemis Nursery, or bring your own to add a personal touch. The final size of the centerpiece is 14-16 inches.

The price is \$35, and you must register by Nov. 21. If you register and pay by Nov. 18 the price is \$30.

Cash or checks payable to the Friends of the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, Hardwick, MA 01037. For more information call 413-477-6704 or email director.paigelibrary@gmail.com.

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of the
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BUSINESSES

**POSITION OPENING:
Winter Plow
Drivers-Laborer**

Town of New Braintree (pop. 998) is seeking winter Plow Drivers both non-CDL and CDL to plow and treat roadways with our trucks. Salary dependent upon experience.

Further position details and job applications are available at the Board of Selectmen's Office, 20 Memorial Drive, New Braintree, MA 01531.

You can also contact the New Braintree Highway Superintendent by calling 508-847-2628.

Glenda's

Wednesday, Nov. 22 ~ 8pm-12am
THANKSGIVING EVE
Brookfield Rhythm

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

Friday Nights ~ 8pm-11pm
Karaoke

Upcoming Events
Friday, Dec. 1st 7pm-10pm
Moonlight Saints
Saturday, Dec. 9th 7pm-11pm
Alley Kings

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GUEST COLUMN

Remember the cost of freedom on Veterans Day

(Editor's note: this was the speech given at Ware's Veterans Day ceremony, held at Veterans Park.)

By Frank Bateman Jr.
United States Army

As Ronald Reagan said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it on to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same."

Gold Star families, fellow veterans, state and town officials, military members, leaders and members of veterans organizations, leaders and members of civic organizations, citizens of Ware, family and friends. It is an honor and a privilege to speak with you today.

Dec. 13, 1636, is known as the birthday of the United States Military, 140 years before the birth of our country. We, as in Massachusetts, are fortunate to live in the state "where it all began."

Since then, our citizens, and those across this great land, have come to the defense of not only our local cities and towns during disasters and unrest, but also to defend this country both domestically and abroad.

I'd like to start today by thanking all of those among us who, despite the risk and sacrifice, raised their hand to serve and defend this awesome country - our veterans. Retired or still serving, active duty servicemembers, guardsmen, and reservists.

Men and women that answered the call of their country, left their homes and lives, and performed duties that were thrust upon them, at all costs, to defend this great land, our allies, and our way of life.

Thank you to the families that stand with each one of them, for the sacrifices of a military family run deep, and often unnoticed to those around them. I know, for me, I am eternally grateful for my family that not only supported me during my career, but had to endure so many additional hardships due to my service.

I love and thank you very much. Our military men and women continue to answer the call, regardless of their political views. Today, there are more than 1.4 million serving in the Armed Forces, spread across this great nation, as well as in over 150 countries on every continent around the globe.

With the hostilities that we've witnessed over the past few years, and global tensions rising every day, it is ever more important for us to support our troops and their families wherever they may be sent, and for whatever mission they are asked to perform.

With the most diverse military force on earth, our branches continue to draw strength from within, and grow bonds often times stronger than blood, working for common goals and protection of the man or woman to their right or left.

Words cannot express my gratitude for the brothers and sisters in arms that I have been blessed to call friend - some of them here in this crowd today!

This We'll Defend, Semper Fidelis - Always Faithful, Non Sibi Sed Patriae - Not Self But Country, Aim High - Fly-Fight-Win, De Oppresso Liber - To Liberate the Oppressed, Semper Paratus - Always Ready, Semper Supra - Always Above.

The mottos of our Armed Forces, their guiding principles; their oaths and allegiance to our country.

Today, I thank you, all of you. Those of us who serve are grateful for patriots like you who support us, who support our families when we are deployed, who help our veterans in both small and grand ways.

Those that fought so hard for the approval of greatly needed improvements and expansion of the Holyoke Veteran's Home. Those that both directly and indirectly assist our veterans in need - physical, emotional, and financial.

Those that help make us what we are today: the world's greatest force for stability and peace on the face of the Earth - and I'm grateful for all that you do. But your job isn't finished.

As mentioned in the opening line, unless we continue to teach our children and young citizens the value, and the cost of freedom, our great land will lose it.

Continue to be active in our town, either in government or civic organizations. Stay informed in the political arena, listen and read about current events and most importantly, vote.

Let me close by reading the poem, "It Is The Soldier", by Charles M. Province.
It is the Soldier, not the minister
Who has given us freedom of religion.
It is the Soldier, not the reporter
Who has given us freedom of the press.
It is the Soldier, not the poet
Who has given us freedom of speech.
It is the Soldier, not the campus organizer
Who has given us freedom to protest.
It is the Soldier, not the lawyer
Who has given us the right to a fair trial.
It is the Soldier, not the politician
Who has given us the right to vote.
It is the Soldier who salutes the flag,
Who serves beneath the flag,
And whose coffin is draped by the flag,
Who allows the protester to burn the flag.



Thanksgiving thoughts

My dad has been gone a long time. I sometimes feel badly that he is not in my thoughts as much as he used to be. A lot has happened since his death - marriage and children, a new (old) house.

Sometimes it's easy to get caught up in the day to day, but today, as I write, I think of him. Holidays at my childhood home were always a lot of fun.

I reflect on that now, as we make plans for our Thanksgiving and Christmas gatherings. I can still picture him standing at the counter by the sink, carving the turkey and later in the day enjoying a whopping piece of apple pie (with American cheese?) from his recliner.

My mom still keeps some of the traditions alive as do other family members. Read on to learn about some of the favorite vegetables, fruits and even herbs that make an appearance at the table.

I am not exactly sure where my mom's stuffing recipe originally came from, but it is always a big hit. My Illinois based brother loves it so much that my sister-in-law asked for a copy and now makes it for him on Thanksgiving.

I guess if you can't be at home, having mom's stuffing is the next best thing! Her recipe wouldn't be the same without sage and I doubt yours would either.

Common garden sage (*Salvia officinalis*) is a shrubby perennial plant native to the Mediterranean.

Its leaves start out lime-green in color, but

at maturity end up more grey than green. They are somewhat "pebbly" in texture and are very aromatic.

For the most pungency, sage leaves should be harvested just prior to flowering. Hang the leaves and stem tips in loose bunches upside down in an airy, dark place to dry.

Once completely dry (crispy to the touch), leaves can be stripped from their stems and stored in an airtight container.

Remember, as with any herb, drying concentrates the oils in the foliage. Use only half the amount of dried herbs if you have to substitute them for fresh in any recipe.

Because sage is nearly evergreen (actually, "evergrey") I rarely dry any, but harvest it for immediate use even through the winter months - it is freeze-dried but still tasty! Cut back the plant hard in early spring- you will sacrifice a few flowers, but will be rewarded with a lush bushy plant, rather than one that is woody and sparse.

Another one of mom's cherished contributions to Thanksgiving dinner is her apple cranberry relish. This is a simple recipe in which fresh cranberries and peeled apples are chopped fine and mixed together with a little sugar.

So easy yet incredibly yummy! I tried growing cranberries only to be disappointed that voles chewed the roots and killed the plants.

Maybe I'll try again sometime in the future. They don't need a bog, but the water does help with harvesting.

My mom always bought a small turnip for my Dad to enjoy at Thanksgiving dinner. I have to say that I don't recall any other members of the family eagerly anticipating it, not the way he did anyway.

I remember mom carefully cutting away the hard outer skin and then cubing the flesh. It was then boiled and mashed as you would potatoes, with lots of butter.

Turnip must be one of those foods that you acquire a taste for, and as of yet I have not.

To produce the best-tasting, largest turnips time your plantings to grow and mature in cool weather. For Thanksgiving turnips sow seeds 90 days before the first fall frost is expected.

Simply make a shallow trench one-quarter to one-half inch deep and position seeds one to one and a half inches apart. Once germination occurs and plants have developed their first set of true leaves, thin seedlings to three inches apart.

Deep, loose soil is best for root vegetables of any kind. Turnips benefit from extra water during droughty periods.

If an early frost threatens and your roots aren't yet mature you can cover turnip plants with a sheet or blanket on chilly nights to get through the cold spell and sneak out some additional growing time. Do watch out for frigid temps, however, since mercury that measures below the twenty-five degree mark can damage the crown of the plant.

This type of injury can make turnips more susceptible to rot and reduce storage capabilities. Turnips are best stored at temperatures around thirty-five degrees.

They can be packed in damp sand or leaves in a cold cellar and should keep for at least two or three months. Some books recommend wrapping individual roots in plastic wrap to hold in moisture as well as prevent the strong turnip odor from permeating other vegetables.

Commercial turnip growers use a food grade wax for this purpose, which makes cutting away the outer flesh all the more challenging.

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.

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OF PARADES AND PASSAGES

By David Henrichon, Ph.D.
Vietnam veteran 1968-1969

How bright the colors of banners, flags and crisp uniforms looking new, adorning men and women, all soldiers, marching heads forward their destination True-

The brass and bands in the sunlight they shine so bright, but a closer inspection reveals the marcher's plight.

As row after row in order they march in practiced unison, the years of service exposed in telltale reverence to the human uniform

For crisp and measured the parade may be, tufts of white hair, mottled skin, and a future of uncertainty.

The pride in service past for veterans riding in cars, lays bare the unkind price they pay, the testimony of a life of scars.

How long the parade, how loud the cheers, of onlookers smiling, not seeing the tears.

For some of the vintage long and well done, for others the beginning of a journey the chorus yet unsung.

Such visions of glory, pride without bounds, perhaps stirs up the patriotic spirit in those standing round.

For the future doesn't rest with those in synchronous step, rather it's the children, young onlookers, with dreams to be met.

As the parade passes by, as all Parades do, I wonder the Thoughts of veterans of the red, white And blue.

Into the distance the parade of history does fade, let not the memories of those who served and when put to rest they are laid.



Remembering JFK - November 22, 1963

It was a warm autumn day in Dallas, The Kennedys were accepted by the Texans with no apparent malice. As the motorcade passed the Texas Book Depository and turned onto Elm. Our country stood proudly with JFK at the helm. Jack sat on the left and Jackie on the right, Men on the grassy knoll had our President in their sight. How many shots were fired? Three? Four? or Five? The outcome was the same because John F. Kennedy would not escape alive. Was it Oswald, the Mafia, or the CIA? America lost its innocence that very day. Many theories abound concerning this assassination plot, But the United States had lost its leader, its integrity, and Camelot. Images of that long weekend in November still seem very clear, The Caisson on Pennsylvania Avenue, John Junior's salute, Jackie with a tear. How do I explain to my children when they ask me who's to blame? I can take them to Arlington National Cemetery to see the Eternal Flame. Still I try to put into perspective November 22, 1963, Do I keep searching for the truth or let JFK's legacy inspire me?

Michael S. O'Rourke



When should I retire and claim my Social Security benefits?

Dear Rusty:
I am 64 years old and having difficulty working due to my arthritis, but I can continue part time as a podiatrist. I do not know the best way to determine when to retire. What is the formula or a way to determine which is a better choice?
Signed: Undecided

Dear Undecided:
There is a difference between deciding when to retire from working and deciding when to claim your Social Security benefits. For the former, you should consult with a certified financial advisor, but I'll provide you with how Social Security fits into your personal circumstances.

In deciding when to claim Social Security, you should look at your financial needs, your life expectancy, your work status and your marital status. There is no one formula right for everyone because everyone's circumstances are different, but here are some things to help decide what is right for you:

Social Security has an "earnings test" which applies to anyone who collects Social Security before reaching their Full Retirement

Age. Your FRA is 66 years and 8 months and that is the point at which you get 100% of the SS benefit earned from a lifetime of working.

If you collect SS before your FRA and continue to work, there is a limit to how much you can earn without jeopardizing your benefits. For example, the earnings limit for 2023 is \$21,240 and, if that is exceeded, SS will take away benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit.

They "take away" benefits by withholding future payments until they recover the penalty for exceeding the limit. If your earnings are substantially over the limit, you will be ineligible to collect Social Security until either your earnings are less or you reach your FRA.

If you claim SS before your FRA your ben-

Please see **BENEFITS**, page 11

OPINION POLICY

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

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

The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

Turley Election Policy

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

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

Quilts of Valor



These Quilts of Valor are all made with 100% cotton fabric, in shades of red, white and blue.



U.S. Army veterans stand during their branch's song.



A veterans stands as the U.S. Marine Corps song is played.

QUILTS from page 1

Valor in Springfield. After the National Anthem was performed on violin by 13-year-old Graciella Baublitz, those in attendance joined in the Pledge of Allegiance led by brothers Ron and Bobby Rucki.

Presenting the quilts were Kate Blanchard and Connie Barnes.

Blanchard said the quilters in the Springfield chapter started making Quilts of Valor 10 years ago, traveling to the Charlton Sewing Center before starting their own chapter closer to home. Together, they've made over 150 quilts.

Veterans can receive a lot of awards and recognition for their acts of service and bravery when protecting their country and freedom, she said, but these quilts are really to honor their willingness to serve.

"Quilts of Valor are honoring those who served and went where they were told to go," Blanchard said. "You did it, you served."

Blanchard shared a story she heard from a Korean War veteran, who had enlisted when he was just 16 years old. By the time he was 19, he was the "old man" of his unit, with the rank of sergeant.

One day, as this veteran was being driven past another servicemember handling artillery, he noticed something wasn't right with the gun that was about to be fired. He jumped out of the Jeep, and threw a hammer at the gun.

His quick actions saved five lives that day. There wasn't even a notation about this heroic action in his military files, Blanchard said.

This is the life of a veteran, she said.

"In many times, this isn't even acknowledged," Blanchard said. "We are grateful for that service."

The quilts were presented to William Griswold, a U.S. Army veteran from Palmer, Belinda Morrone, a U.S. Air Force veteran from Worcester, William "Billy" Byrnes, a U.S. Army veteran from Palmer and Willie Lemieux, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran from Belchertown. Gerald Flynn, a U.S. Army veteran, also received a quilt but was unable to attend the ceremony.

Morrone, a retired HomeFront



William Griswold of Palmer proudly wears his Quilt of Valor, joined by his wife, Charlann.



A U.S. Coast Guard veteran stands for his branch's song.



William "Billy" Byrnes, a U.S. Army veteran, wears his red, white and blue quilt.



A U.S. Air Force veteran stands for his branch's song.

Strong board member, is part of a smaller group of veterans recognized for their service, Blanchard said.

"We're in a minority being female, but we are veterans," said Blanchard, who is also a veteran.

Blanchard and Barnes wrapped each quilt around its recipient, thanking them individually for their service.

"We truly hope they provide warmth and comfort to you," Blanchard said of the quilts.

This is the third year HomeFront Strong, formerly the Brookfield Institute, has hosted its Military Appreciation Breakfast on Veterans Day. The breakfast is always free, and open to all veterans, servicemembers, and their families.

"We had a veterans breakfast prior to the pandemic," Jennifer Baublitz, executive director for HomeFront Strong said, seeing it return as an annual event last year.

This breakfast is just one of the ways HomeFront Strong continues its mission to build resiliency in veterans and military families through targeted programs and resources. The organization also hosts a drop-in Morning Coffee program on the fourth Thursday of each month from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Palmer Public Library, offering snacks, coffee and camaraderie.

"We remember those who serve

the people," Baublitz said. "We remember our comrades."

While almost every seat in the dining room of the Senior Center was filled on Saturday, one chair at a small table remained empty the entire time.

The table, which was draped in a white table cloth, was set to honor prisoners of war and those missing in action.

"We remember them," Baublitz said, as she read the significance of each item placed on the table. "Remember until the day they come home."

The table is smaller than the other tables in the dining room, symbolizing the frailty of one prisoner alone against their captors. The black napkin represents the emptiness left in the families' hearts.

The table has a red rose, a candle, a bread plate and an inverted wine glass. On the bread plate is a lemon, a bitter reminder of these POW/MIA's fate, and salt to represent the tears of their loved ones.

The glass is overturned, to remind people that these servicemembers are not here to raise their glasses.

Baublitz credited a crew of dedicated volunteers for making the breakfast a success, including Senior Center Executive Director John Zienowicz, Chef Alton Davis, Council on Aging members and



Belchertown veteran Willie Lemieux, U.S. Marine Corps, wears his Quilt of Valor as Kate Blanchard explains its significance.



Turley Photos by Paula Quimette Graciella Baublitz, age 13, performs the National Anthem on violin. She has been playing since she was 5 years old.

Senior Center volunteers, along with Country Bank staff, who served and cleared plates.

Morrone presented a medallion coin to each volunteer, as well as to HomeFront Strong staff and volunteers.

She also recognized Town Manager Stuart Beckley, Veterans Service Officer Mark Avis, along with Selectboard members

Nancy Talbot and Jack Cascio and Superintendent of Ware Public Schools Michael Lovato, who all attended the breakfast.

For more information about HomeFront Strong and the programs and services it offers, find

them on Facebook and Instagram, visit brookfieldinstitute.org, call 508-499-9589 or email jennifer@brookfieldinstitute.org.

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Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette
This quilt, "Home of the Free" was made by Jane Page.



Donald "Donny" Longley stands by his metal seahorse sculpture.



Katie Standiford of Longmeadow entered her ceramic sunflower, "Shades of Summer".

Shaped by Service



Linda Iorio painted "Morning Fire" from a scene at Fort Devens.



Donald "Donny" Longley's fish is made from new and repurposed metal.



Veterans art 11
Bold textures catch your eye in Steven Jones' "Locks".

ART from page 1

embraced in his sobriety. Seay is also a volunteer at HomeFront Strong, offering support for fellow veterans for a number of things including substance and alcohol use.

Veterans helping veterans is a model HomeFront Strong uses, allowing those shared experiences to create a lasting bond and trust. Seay said unless you've been in the military, or a substance user, it's very hard to relate to someone who is.

Seay had several paintings in the show based off of photos provided to him by a friend, who is a retired U.S. Marine Corps veteran. One is of a green Humvee that his friend drove in Okinawa, Japan, and another is of a 1942 U.S. Navy Willys Jeep.

His friend had the Willys shipped home after he discovered the U.S. Navy wanted to get rid of it. "We've rebuilt it twice," Seay said with a laugh. "It still runs."

Another painting featured a truck his friend drove while in Germany.

Nancy Harder of Ware also entered eight pieces into the Shaped by Service art show, featuring pottery, glasswork and more.

"I started as a littler girl, but I didn't pursue more of it until I retired," Harder said of her creative side.

Harder said she and her husband Gregory rent a cottage on the military base in Niceville, Florida, and she took advantage of a gift certificate she received from the local art studio CREATE!

"I just have such wonderful instructors there, it's very therapeutic...they embrace anyone who comes through the door," Harder said.

Gregory is a 20 plus year U.S. Air Force veteran, and while the two both grew up in Ware, they didn't know each other until later in life, when Gregory had retired from the military.

Harder said she was living in Chicago, and he was all over the world. "We were introduced, and our children convinced us we should be a family," Harder said. Together, the couple has four sons.

Making her art brings her joy, Harder said. She makes a lot of pieces that remind her of Gregory and home. "Gregory walks on the beach and brings me pieces of wood that washed up on shore," she said. One of her pieces in the show features a blue ceramic heart, hanging from a piece of driftwood collected by Gregory.

This was Donald "Donny" Longley's first time exhibiting in the show since he started his job as

HomeFront Strong's chief operating officer a little over a year ago.

Longley, a metalworker, served in the U.S. Air Force for six years, stationed at Dyess Air Force Base in Texas. He was deployed to both Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

For about 20 years, Longley has made sculptures out of a mix of new and repurposed metals.

"I like making abstract stuff," Longley said of his sculptures, which included a fish, a seahorse and even a ball and chain made from old railroad spikes.

The fish is Longley's favorite piece he entered in the show, and it features metal from a number of sources, including old railroad pitchforks, a lawnmower blade and leaf springs from a car. Longley cut out 100 metal disks from a sheet of metal to resemble the fish's scales.

U.S. Navy veteran Katie Standiford of Longmeadow entered her ceramic sunflower bowl titled, "Shades of Summer". The bowl is layered with seven or eight glazes, washing it in warm tints of pink, yellow, orange and brown.

The base of the bowl, which is the center of the sunflower, remains unglazed to showcase the clay's rich, earthy color.

"It's called 'Shades of Summer' because it was a culmination of everything I learned over the summer about glazing," she said. "How to get different depths in the surface so it wasn't flat...it really looks like a flower."

Standiford started taking a ceramics class as part of her art therapy for post-traumatic stress disorder about a year ago. Making the bowl took her about seven hours, with most of that time committed to layering the glazes.

Husband and wife artists Maurice and Linda Iorio traveled from Sterling to display their paintings in the show.

Maurice has exhibited in Shaped by Service for all three years, and last year, he even sold the painting he entered. It is now displayed at Monson Savings Bank.

Maurice has been painting since 2014 and Linda has been painting for over 50 years, and is also his teacher.

Linda remembered the first time her husband had expressed a desire to learn how to paint, during a cruise they took following Maurice's retirement, when she had brought her watercolors along.

Maurice served 21 years as U.S. Army intelligence, and two of his paintings in the show are of his military assignments. One is from his first assignment in Windsor Locks, Connecticut and another from his last



Three Rivers artist Anthony Seay displays three of the eight paintings he entered in the Shaped by Service art show.



Maurice and Linda Iorio of Sterling enjoy spending time together painting. Maurice's painting showing the view from a rooftop in Turkey is shown in the background.

in Turkey.

"90% of all of my paintings are from pictures I took," Maurice said.

Linda entered a painting of the morning fire at Fort Devens, as well as a sunset beach scene from Turkey. The beach scene was painted using a photo one of Maurice's friends from Turkey took.

Linda explores all types of mediums for her paintings, including acrylics, oils, watercolors and Japanese rice inks.

"I got to study with a phenomenal artist, who had his doctorate from Yale," Linda said

Now the couple has turned a spare bedroom in their home into a studio to display their work, and spend many days together in the dining room, just painting.

"The main thing is I get to spend more time with my wife," Maurice said of his interest in painting.



Patricia Read entered a pencil portrait titled "Robert".

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Eighth grade student Natalia Baldizon-Veliz led the Veterans Day ceremony.



Madison Schreier sang the National Anthem.



Student Riley Corder leads her classmates through the flag retirement.



Liliana McIsaac gave the history of the National Anthem.



The Quaboag Band performed "Ask Not", a musical tribute to President John F. Kennedy.

Turley Photos by Derick Veliz

Quaboag remembers

QUABOAG from page 1

Nov. 11, 1918, when a truce was declared to end World War I.

"It became a national holiday in 1939," she said.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed an amendment that changed the holiday to what is now Veterans Day, honoring the military service of veterans serving in all U.S. involved wars.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Liliana McIsaac joined Baldizon-Veliz on stage to give the history of the National Anthem, which was written by poet Francis Scott Key.

Singing the National Anthem was Madison Schreier, accompanied by Quaboag's Fine Arts Director James Joinville on piano.

Riley Corder led a group of her fellow classmates in the retiring of the American flag, walking them through each step of the process until it was folded into a triangle with only the field of stars showing.

This retired flag was handed to veteran Harry Pearson, a substitute teacher at the school.

Pearson said many people have questioned the need for the U.S. to have such a large military, and he said it's important to look to the past.

"Those who forget the past, are doomed to repeat it," he said.

Pearson spoke about isolationism, and how when confronted by a bully, our country must be prepared.

"Most Americans don't realize how great we have it here," he said. When speaking about freedom, Pearson said, "you should and must be prepared to defend it."

The featured speaker for the ceremony was state Rep. Todd Smola, who said it's extremely important to be here remembering and honor-



Veteran and teacher Harry Pearson accepts the American flag for retirement.



Teacher Joseph Salvatore watches as his eighth grade civics students lead the Veterans Day ceremony.



West Brookfield American Legion Post 244 Vice-Commander Jeff Nickerson stands to be recognized for his service.

ing veterans.

"Veterans see the world through a different set of eyes," Smola said. "Put yourself in the shoes of a veteran."

Smola said many veterans in the audience began defending their country's freedom when they were only a few years older than Salvatore's students. He said they

left their homes, their families, their regular lives.

He asked the students to imagine leaving it all behind to go to a



Students read the number of servicemembers killed during major wars.

foreign country, knowing that they might not ever return home.

Veterans have seen the worst of humanity, while carrying 300 million people on their backs, Smola said.

Veterans faced another challenge; coming home and forgetting all they had seen in combat. Saying goodbye once again to their family, this time, their military family.

Smola said when speaking to a homeless veteran, the veteran told him he just can't go back to regular life after serving.

"It's not an easy thing to do," he said. "It's a tough burden to carry."

Smola told the students that it's okay to be proud of their country and to recognize the sacrifice men and women have made through military service.

"We've got a responsibility to all of them. We have to take care of them, give them services," he said. "The freedoms that you have; use them wisely."

Joinville led the Quaboag Band through a piece called "Ask Not", a musical tribute to the life of President John F. Kennedy, while Principal Casey Handfield narrated.

"Ask Not" took the audience

through JFK's early days in office, and the fateful day in Texas in 1963, when shots were fired, striking the President and ultimately killing him.

"For four days, the world stood still," Handfield said. "On Nov. 25, he was laid to rest."

Following the musical performance, 12 students placed American flags on the stage, symbolizing the major wars the U.S. has been involved with, starting with the Revolutionary War. As students placed the flag, they read the number of servicemembers killed as a result of each war.

Each year near Veterans Day, Quaboag students add an alumni to its Quaboag Alumni Veterans Wall, which is proudly displayed in the hallway at the back of the auditorium.

This year, U.S. Army veteran Anthony Girouard, Class of 2013, was inducted to the wall.

Living in Florida and working as a police officer, Girouard was unable to attend, but his parents proudly accepted the honor on his behalf.

"Just 10 years ago, he was walking these halls," Salvatore said of

Girouard.

Girouard voluntarily joined the U.S. Army in "the thick of things," Salvatore said, completing three tours in Afghanistan. Some of Girouard's friends in the military didn't make it home.

"You might consider the same choice," Salvatore said of enlisting in the military. He reassured students that as veterans, they would not be forgotten by Quaboag.

Superintendent of Schools Stephen Duff said Veterans Day is a day to express our deepest gratitude as U.S. citizens.

"Freedom comes at a cost," he said. "Today, we extend our heartfelt thanks to those that served and their families."

West Brookfield American Legion Post 244 Vice-Commander Jeff Nickerson spoke about the American Legion, and its support of veterans and their families.

Veterans are real people, he said, our neighbors, friends and families.

Following the ceremony, Baldizon-Veliz said she learned a lot about veterans while working to organize this year's ceremony.

"I learned how hard they worked," she said.

McIsaac echoed Baldizon-Veliz's statement, adding that veterans "don't get recognized enough for their hard work."

Corder said observing Veterans Day is very important to the country and its citizens.

Salvatore, who served six years in the U.S. Army National Guard and has been a longtime educator at Quaboag Regional Middle High School, said it's especially important to recognize those in your own community.

"I really like to see the kids who were students...and see their face on the wall," he said. "We remember them."

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Scouts from Ware Scouts BSA Troop 281 led the Pledge of Allegiance.



Frank Bateman was the featured speaker this year.



Ware Fire Department brought its newest engine to the parade.

VETERANS DAY



A service dog enjoys the warmth of the sun.

WARE HONORS from page 1

Newly elected state Sen. Peter Durant was honored to be included in Ware's Veterans Day ceremony.

"It's an honor to be here," he said. Durant said the world is a dangerous place and there is always conflict happening somewhere. It's up to the U.S. to provide freedom, even for other nations.

"We provide such a service...our world needs a force of good - that's the U.S.," Durant said.

State Rep. Todd Smola spoke after Durant and said that even though the U.S. is a young nation, it is a proud and strong nation. It has freedoms and opportunities for each of its citizens, that have been fought for by our veterans.

"Are you taking advantage of every opportunity you have?" Smola asked the crowd. "Opportunity has been given to each and every one of us...given to us by veterans."

Smola talked about the struggles veterans face returning to their normal lives after serving, and the work the State House is doing to help with that.

"We are blessed to live in this great country," Smola said. "God bless our veterans."

State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume, a U.S. Navy veteran, shared that he served for six years and went to 28 countries.

"It made me grow up a little," Berthiaume said. "And I met great people."

The featured speaker for the ceremony was Frank Bateman, a retired U.S. Army veteran with 39 years of service.

Bateman said, "We are very fortunate to live in the state where it all began."

He thanked his fellow veterans, the men and women who answered the call to serve "at all costs to defend this great land."

Bateman also thanked the military families, noting the sacrifices his own family made during his time in the U.S. Army.

Rucki closed the ceremony with another prayer, asking God to watch over them all.

"Rest well veterans, you are in our prayers," he said.



Missy Douty gets ready to enter the parade lineup driving John Pajak's Willys.



Jane Sterndale and Deb Deschamps sing patriotic song.



Bagpipers from the Melha Highlanders from Springfield perform "Amazing Grace".



Ron Rucki leads those gathered in prayer.



Drummers keep the beat during "Amazing Grace".



ABOVE: Major Francis Moran listens to the speaker during the Veterans Day ceremony.

Turley Photos by Paula Quimette



Cub Scouts from Ware Family Pack 520 listen to the speakers.



A veteran waves an American flag from his truck during the parade.



Ware's veterans always come out in full force to honor those who serve.



The color guard from Quabbin Region High School's NJROTC prepares to start the parade on Maple Street.



Members of the Police and Fire departments march in the parade.



State Reps. Todd Smola and Donnie Berthiaume and newly elected state Sen. Peter Durant joined the community to honor veterans.

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Indians, Cougars set for holiday eve matchup

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARREN—After winning the last two games against rival Ware, the members of the Quaboag football team will be looking to even the overall series record at 7-7 in this year's contest.

The 14th meeting between the two neighboring high schools is scheduled to take place at 6pm on the night before Thanksgiving at Quaboag Regional.

"Ware holds a 7-6 lead in the series, so we can tie it up this year," said Quaboag head coach Dave Shepherd. "We're looking forward to playing them and it's always a very competitive game."

Before starting the Cougars football program 15 years ago, Shepherd was the head football coach at Ware High School for nine years.

Two years ago, the Cougars celebrated a 22-7 home win versus the Indians. They also squeaked out a 26-21 win on Thanksgiving morning at Veteran's Field last year.

"We've been banged up the last couple of times that we've played Quaboag," said Ware head coach Mike Fazio. "We're relatively healthy right now and our kids are ready to go play them. We just want to get the trophy back in Ware again. The turkey always tastes bad after a loss."

The two football teams didn't face each other during the 2020



Zachary Russell returns the ball on a kickoff.

season due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prior to 2020, the Indians had won four games in a row against the Cougars, including an 8-0 home win in 2019. It was the first time that the football game between the two rivals was held on Thanksgiving morning.

Fazio enjoys playing the game on Thanksgiving morning as



Kolby McDonnell-Kularski kicks off for the Indians to start last year's game.

opposed to under the lights the night before.

"I would rather play the game on Thanksgiving Day," Fazio said. "It's a different kind of excitement when you wake up and play a football game on Thanksgiving morning."

Both teams will enter the final football game of the season with winning records.

Ware is currently 9-1 with their only setback coming against Randolph, 3-0, at home in a Division 8 playoff game on November 3.

If the Indians can end their losing streak against Quaboag, it would give them ten wins for the first time since 2017.

Please see **WARE**, page 10



Submitted photo

Kenzie Casey advances along the sideline.

Panthers season ends against Uxbridge

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

UXBRIDGE—Once the sting of losing in the Division 4 state quarterfinals fades away in a couple of weeks, the members of the Quabbin field hockey team will look back on the 2023 season with fond memories.

The ninth-seeded Lady Panthers made the trip to the Blackstone Valley last Saturday looking to upset the top-seeded and two-time Division 4 state champion Uxbridge High School.

Just like they've done in 21 of their 22 games this fall, the Spartans players celebrated a 7-0 victory over the Lady Panthers before a large crowd on their home turf field.

"We were able to win a lot of great games this year," said Shelly Zalneraitis, who completed her 30th season as the Lady Panthers varsity field hockey coach. "I'm really proud of these girls, especially the seniors."

The Lady Panthers senior captains are Kylie Casey, Camryn

Please see **QUABBIN**, page 10

Volleyball All-Star Showcase set for next Tuesday at Holyoke Community College

HOLYOKE – The 11th IVHF All-Star Showcase will feature the top players in Western Massachusetts in two showcase matches. The event will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 21 at the Holyoke

Community College Bartley Center located at 303 Homestead Avenue, Holyoke.

The event will start with a 3-set Second team all-star match at 6 p.m. followed by the award pre-

sentation and a 3-set First team match at 7:30 p.m. Adult tickets are \$10, Seniors 65-and-over are \$5 and Students/Children are free of charge. Admission to the All-Star Game also includes

a free of charge future admission pass to the International Volleyball Hall of Fame Museum. "The IVHF is very proud to have its home in Western Massachusetts and we are very

excited to again recognize the top players in our area," said IVHF Executive Director George Mulry. Selected players are chosen by vote of the Western Massachusetts girls high school coaches.

For more information on the Hall of Fame Girls All-Star Volleyball Showcase, contact events@volleyball.org.



Turley photos by Ray Duffy

Cole Austin with a leading block to help Nick Warburton carry into the endzone.

Panthers look for third straight holiday win

BARRE – Quabbin Regional High School football will close out its football season with a holiday eve matchup on Wednesday, Nov. 22 against Gardner High School.

Last year, for the second straight time, Quabbin defeated Gardner in their annual Thanksgiving holiday matchup. This year, it was a 34-21 victory on the turf of Gardner High School last Thursday morning. Nick Warburton scored four touchdowns to lead the Panthers. Jaxon Warburton had the other score. Nick Warburton scored on runs of 8, 13, 33, and 45 yards. He finished with 332 on an impressive 37 carries. His total captured the single-season rushing record for Quabbin. The game concludes the fall season for Quabbin with winter practices starting this week.

This year could prove a little more difficult as Gardner improved and has a 31-0 win over Quabbin in Week 1 of this year.

Kickoff is set for 6 p.m.



Luke Salvadore catches a pass in the first quarter during last year's Thanksgiving game.

Pioneers, Orioles set to matchup on Thanksgiving

PALMER – Last Thanksgiving, the Pathfinder High School football team scored early and often, utilizing the pass game to their advantage en route to a win over Belchertown. It was the first Thanksgiving win in a few years for the Pioneers, which finished the season above .500 for the first time in several years.

This year, both teams are coming off pretty successful seasons, setting up for a very good matchup on Thanksgiving morning, next Thursday.

This year's game will be held at Belchertown High School and the kickoff will take place a little early, at 9 a.m. Belchertown utilized the early kickoff two years ago for the first time.

Belchertown made the state tournament for the first time with a 7-1 record and a 4-1 conference record, losing only to Hoosac on Oct. 1.

The Orioles would be defeated by Shawsheen Valley Vocational 49-8 on Nov. 3 and then faced Ware in non-playoff action in Week 10. The Orioles were defeated in that matchup, entering the Thanksgiving matchup with a 7-3 record overall. Pathfinder enters this year's matchup at 4-6, though their team has had a much better season than their record reflects.

Even in defeat, Pathfinder always was in competitive matchups, and they were successful in Tri-County action, going 3-2, including a win over Smith Vocational on Oct. 27.

Smith Vocational got a bit of revenge, defeating Pathfinder in nonplayoff action on Nov. 10. Pathfinder also lost to Lee in Week 9.



Brandon Hnitecki makes a tackle for the Pioneers.

Staff photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Austin Lagimoniere ranges to make a catch.



Hunter Griswold makes a throw for Pathfinder.

Thunderbirds fall in overtime

BRIDGEPORT, CT – The Springfield Thunderbirds (7-6-1-0) got a terrific netminding performance, but the offense went cold in a 2-1 overtime loss to the Bridgeport Islanders (4-6-1-0) on Saturday night at Total Mortgage Arena in Bridgeport.

The starting goaltenders were the best performers in the opening period. Malcolm Subban got the nod for the T-Birds after a strong relief effort in Providence on Friday and helped Springfield kill off a pair of Islander power plays in the first, denying nine shots in the period. At the other end, Ken Appleby was far busier than he was last Sunday when he needed to make just 17 saves in 60 minutes against the T-Birds. He had an answer for all 11 Springfield shots in the first frame.

The scoreless affair was broken at the 5:54 mark in the second period. After Springfield failed to generate a chance on an odd-man rush, it sprung the Islanders into the T-Birds zone on a 3-on-

1, and Ruslan Iskhakov elected to take the shot himself from the right circle, slipping it between Subban's legs to give Bridgeport the 1-0 advantage and snap a streak of more than 75 minutes without a goal for the Isles.

Despite some shaky moments in the stanza, the T-Birds fought back to even the score at 15:28. Near the end of a shift, Will Bitten entered the offensive zone on the left wing, dropping a pass at the top of the left circle for Joey Duszak. After stumbling slightly, Duszak regathered his footing and surprised Appleby with a low shot along the ice that sneaked home, equaling things at 1-1. Bitten picked up his first assist of the year, while Duszak's tally was his first goal as a Thunderbird.

Subban remained stout in between the pipes, as he shut down each of the other 13 shots he faced in the period, allowing just the Iskhakov wrister to beat him, taking the 1-1 tie into the final 20 minutes.

Shots and chances heavily favored the Islanders in the third period, as Springfield just a single shot on goal in the final 20 minutes. Subban, though, maintained his poise and nearly singlehandedly earned a standings point for the T-Birds, forcing the 1-1 tie into overtime.

After winning their first two overtime games of the season, Springfield could not make it three straight, as Iskhakov stormed up the ice to create a 2-on-1 with Sam Asselin with under a minute left in overtime. Asselin hit Iskhakov in stride, and the skilled winger made no mistake in beating Subban on the stick side to seal the victory at 4:08 of extra time.

The T-Birds come back home next Friday, Nov. 17 for another Deuces Wild Friday at the Thunderdome, where the T-Birds will take on the Utica Comets for their first of four matchups on the season, with puck drop at 7:05 p.m.

University of Massachusetts hosting Pioneer Valley Tip-Off

AMHERST – The Pioneer Valley Tip-Off is a student-run high school basketball showcase featuring some of the best talent in Central and Western Massachusetts. The PVTO was started in 2011 by Scott Moses and Pat Salle, both students at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and it continues to be entirely student-run by the McCormack Student Leaders Club today. The PVTO is held

each December on the University of Massachusetts Amherst campus, where we strive to create a professional environment for fans and players alike. This year's event will be held on Dec. 9 and 10 and will feature teams from throughout the region. A schedule is online at www.pioneer-valleytip-off.com. All games will be held at the Mullins Center on the UMass-Amherst campus.

Alumni game at Chicopee Comp

CHICOPEE – All Chicopee Comprehensive High School football alumni are invited to participate in the 6th annual CCHS Alumni Football Game. The game will be taking place on Wednesday, Nov. 22 at 6 p.m. at Chicopee Comp High School, 617 Montgomery Street, Chicopee. All proceeds will benefit the Chicopee Comprehensive football team.

For more information, please contact Tammy Martin-Griffin at tmg811@yahoo.com.

WARE from page 9

"We haven't won ten games since I've been the head coach here," Fazio said. "We've been 9-2 a couple of times and 8-3 a couple of times. I would love it if the players on this year's team could do that. All of the kids have worked very hard."

The Indians seniors who'll be looking to close out their high school football careers with a victory, are Kyle Safford, Talan Molina, Noah Fales, Dominic Guardino, Ayden Young, Kyle Gordon, and Jacob Witt.

"It's a very big game, especially for the seniors, against our rivals," Fazio said. "You always want to end your season on a high note."

Molina, Safford, Fales, Young, and Gordon are the Indians captains.

Safford and Molina are also the Indians main running backs, along with sophomore Jadrien Berthiaume, who's also a wide receiver.

"Ware is a very good running team," Shepherd said. "That's

something that our defense will need to stop in order for us to win this year's game. Our offense can't afford to turn the ball over."

Another Ware wide receiver is junior Gavin Sawabi

Junior Brady Dyer is the Indians starting quarterback. He'll be starting in the rivalry game for the first time. He took over the starting duties from Jack Autcher, who's currently a freshman member of the W.P.I. football team.

"Brady has improved so much this season," Fazio said. "I'm really looking forward to watching him play against Quaboag. I'm very glad that I'll be coaching him again next year."

The Indians leading defensive players are Safford, Gordon, Fales, Young, junior Nathan Harmon, and sophomore Alex Orszulak.

Only three opponents have scored more than ten points against the Indians this fall.

The Cougars, who lost a non-playoff home game to Northbridge in their last game, will enter the contest with a 6-4 overall record.

Brendan Burke, who's also a freshman member of the W.P.I. football team, finished his high school career as the Cougars all-time leading rusher.

One of the Cougars offensive weapons this fall is senior Tyler Withers. He's a co-captain, along with senior Bryce Douglas, who's the leader of the defensive unit.

"Tyler and Bryce are both outstanding football players," Shepherd said. "Tyler is hoping to play college football next year."

The other Quaboag seniors, who'll be honored during a pre-game ceremony, are Chucky Smith, Jaden Ostigay, and Aidan Pontbriand.

"It's going to be our senior night and we're hoping to win the game for our five seniors," Shepherd said. "We want to keep the trophy at Quaboag for another year."

The Quaboag starting quarterback is sophomore Jacob Cacace.

The 14th meeting between the Ware and Quaboag football teams should be a very interesting affair.



Submitted Photo
U.S. Marine Corps veteran Sgt. Kevin W. McMenamin wears his Purple Heart medal.

Veteran receives Purple Heart 54 years later

BELCHERTOWN – On Veterans Day, Nov. 11, U.S. Marine Corps veteran Sgt. Kevin W. McMenamin was finally pinned with the Purple Heart he earned after being wounded during combat in Vietnam 54 years ago.

McMenamin was honored at a ceremony held at Belchertown High School, where he received a commendation from the Commonwealth, one from the Senate presented by state Sen. Jake Oliviera, and one from the

House of Representatives presented by state Rep. Aaron Saunders.

Saunders congratulated McMenamin for his bravery, and his patience. A long list of other awards and conflict participations were also noted during the ceremony.

Belchertown Veterans' Agent, Charly N. Oliva, MSW, pinned the Purple Heart medal on McMenamin.

Music for the ceremony was provided by the Chestnut Hill School's chorus and band.

The chorus sang the theme song for each branch of the military as the veterans stood for their particular song. The chorus also paid special tribute to those missing in action with a full rendition of "Amazing Grace".

The band performed several patriotic pieces as well.

Ware resident Rita Lee was proud that her granddaughter, Aliah Miller, sang onstage to honor McMenamin and other veterans. Miller also performed with the band.

Sign up for the Wilbraham Turkey Trot

WILBRAHAM – Please join us on Thanksgiving morning, Nov. 23 for the Wilbraham Turkey Trot - a five-mile road race up Monson Road now in its 44th year. The annual tradition, started in 1980, has grown in recent years selling out at 500 runners the past several years. This year, the maximum has been increased to 550 participants.

The race returned successfully returned last Thanksgiving morning for the annual tradition benefitting the Community Survival Center.

There is no vaccination requirement this year. The course starts in Woodland Dell Cemetery just up from race headquarters at the Wilbraham United Church. Runners then make a left onto Main St. and head up Monson Road. Once summited, runners turn left

and enjoy scenic views of the valley from atop Ridge Road and enjoy the downhill along Mountain Road before turning back on Main Street to the church. The race starts at 8:30 a.m. with bib pick-up beginning at 7:30 a.m. at the church.

The race focuses on providing a classic New England Turkey Trot with chip timing, race swag, and one big hill. Awards will be given for the first male and female runners to the top of Monson Road.

Registration is only \$20 and available online at www.RunReg.com/wilbrahamturkeytrot

Residents are asked not to park on Woodland Dell or Main Street on Thanksgiving morning and to avoid driving on the route until after the race has concluded at 10 a.m. Any traffic will be detoured

downhill from Monson Road to Main along Ridge and Mountain Roads.

Expected road closures are as follows:

Main Street: From Monson to Woodland Dell: 8:30-8:35 a.m.

Monson Road: Closed to downhill traffic from Ridge Road to Main Street: 8:30-8:50 a.m. (Traffic detoured down ridge road)

Ridge Road: Closed to uphill traffic from Mountain to Monson: 8:35-9:10 a.m.

(Traffic detoured down Mountain Road)

Mountain Road: Closed to uphill traffic from Main to Ridge: 8:40-9:25 a.m.

(Traffic can travel uphill via Monson Road)

QUABBIN from page 9

Orsini, Gracie Talbot, and Julianna Stanger, who was the starting goalkeeper. The other two seniors are Annabelle Magill, and Madylin Breault.

"The seniors were our leaders this year," Zalneraitis said. "It was a very special season."

Quabbin's five returning starters in the fall of 2024 will be junior Sydney Slattery, junior Haley Ayer, sophomore Farrah Wojcik, sophomore Madelyn Stauder, and freshman Makenzie Casey.

After finishing the regular season with an 8-4-3 record, the Lady Panthers entered the Central Mass. Athletic Directors Association Class B tournament as the fourth seed.

They defeated the fifth-seeded Oakmont Spartans, 4-0, in a CMADA quarterfinal home game. It was the first time that the Lady Panthers defeated their Mid-Wach B rivals since a 1-0 home victory on October 13, 2021.

The Lady Panthers then defeated top-seeded Lunenburg, 2-1, in the semifinals, and second-seeded Clinton, 2-1 in the Class B. finals.

Quabbin, who handed both Lunenburg and Clinton their first losses of the season, captured the sectional title for the first time since 1991.

The Lady Panthers began the Division 4 state tournament with an exciting 1-0 victory over 24th-seeded Saint Paul Diocesan of Worcester in the round of 32, which was played at Alumni Field.

Breault scored the only goal in that contest on a penalty corner, which was assisted by Makenzie Casey. It was also the Lady Panthers final home game of the season.

Five days later, Quabbin squeaked out a 2-1 road victory over eighth-seeded Cohasset in round of 16.

Trailing 1-0, Magill scored the tying goal against Cohasset in the second quarter, which was assisted by Breault. The Casey sisters combined for the go-ahead goal. Makenzie put the ball into the cage while her older sister assisted.

"We beat Clinton and Lunenburg, who were previously undefeated in the Central Mass. Tournament," Zalneraitis said. "Cohasset was another big win because they were seeded ahead of us. We did a lot of great things to get here this year."

Quabbin entered the Division 4 quarterfinal match riding a seven game winning streak.

Uxbridge had won 67 games in a row before losing, 2-0, at Andover, who's the defending Division 1 state champions, on October 16. The Spartans, who outscored their opponents, 115-13 during the regular season, won their eighth consecutive game against the Lady Panthers.

"Uxbridge is a powerhouse team, and they move the ball unbelievably well," Zalneraitis said. "It's like a high school team playing against a college team. Even if a team plays a perfect game against them, I'm not sure you would beat them. The turf field also makes a huge difference."

The Lady Panthers practiced on the turf field at Gardner High School a couple of times.

"The Gardner AD (Dan Forte) has been great allowing us to use their turf field for practice," Zalneraitis said. "I wish that we had our own turf field."

Stanger, who made five of her 21 saves during the first quarter, managed to keep the Spartans off the scoreboard for the first twelve minutes.

"Julianna played a phenomenal game today," Zalneraitis said. "She



Julianna Stanger makes a save for the Panthers.



Abby Rogowski dribbles up the field.



Gracie Talbot clears the ball away on defense.



Violet Kelley deflects the ball.

Submitted photos

should hold her head up high leaving here."

Uxbridge head coach Kelly Rosborough was also impressed with Stanger's outstanding performance.

"I thought the Quabbin goalie did a heck of a job," said Rosborough, who was inducted into the Uxbridge High School Athletic Hall of Fame last Saturday night. "She's one of the best goalies we've faced this season. She stopped a lot of hard shots. It took us more than ten minutes to score our first goal of the game."

With 2:51 left in the opening quarter, Uxbridge junior Ellie Bouchard pushed a shot into the cage for her first of four goals.

Sophomore Kendall Gilmore, who assisted on the Spartans first goal, scored a goal with eight seconds remaining in the quarter, which was assisted by sophomore Amelia Blood.

The Lady Panthers had two pen-

alty corners during the first five minutes of the second quarter, but they couldn't take a shot on goal.

The home team held a 5-0 half-time lead following one goal by sophomore Julianna Casucci and two more from Bouchard during the second quarter.

Uxbridge's lone goal of the third quarter was scored on a penalty corner by Blood with nine minutes remaining on the scoreboard clock.

Less than 40 seconds into the final quarter, Bouchard capped off the scoring with her fourth goal.

Down at the other end of the field, Uxbridge sophomore goalie Julia Okenquist didn't have to make any saves in posting her 14th shutout of the season.

While the Lady Panthers end their season with a 13-5-3 overall record, the Spartans (21-1) were scheduled to face fourth-seeded Sutton in the Division 4 state semifinals.

public safety



Graduates of Class #534 represent 14 Massachusetts fire departments.

Submitted Photo

Ware firefighters graduate from Firefighting Academy

SPRINGFIELD – State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Director Jeffrey P. Winn announced the graduation of 25 firefighters from the 50-day Career Recruit Firefighting Training Program.

Local graduates from the Ware Fire Department include Matthew Spellman and Joseph Tuminelli.

“Massachusetts firefighters are on the frontlines protecting their communities every day, and today’s graduates are needed now more than ever,” said Davine in a press release. “The hundreds of hours of foundational training they’ve received will provide them with the physical, mental, and technical skills to perform their jobs effectively and safely.”

“Massachusetts Firefighting Academy instructors draw on decades of experience in the fire service to train new recruits,” said Winn. “Through consistent classroom instruction and practical exercises, today’s graduates have developed the tools they’ll need to work seamlessly with veteran firefighters in their home departments and in neighboring communities as mutual aid.”

The graduating firefighters of Class #534 represent the fire departments of Attleboro, Charlton, Chicopee,

Douglas, East Longmeadow, Falmouth, Longmeadow, Lowell, Northampton, Uxbridge, Ware, West Springfield, Westfield and Westminster.

Basic firefighter skills

Students receive classroom training in all basic firefighter skills. They practice first under non-fire conditions and then during controlled fire conditions.

To graduate, students must demonstrate proficiency in life safety, search and rescue, ladder operations, water supply, pump operation, and fire attack. Fire attack operations range from mailbox fires to multiple-floor or multiple-room structural fires.

Upon successful completion of the Career Recruit Program, all students have met the national standards of NFPA 1001, Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications, and are certified to the levels of Firefighter I/II and Hazardous Materials First Responder Operations by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council, which is accredited by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications.

More than fighting fires

Modern firefighters train for and respond to all types of hazards and emergencies.

They are the first ones called to respond to chemical and environmental emergencies, ranging from the suspected presence of carbon monoxide to gas leaks to industrial chemical spills. They may be called to rescue a child who has fallen through the ice, an office worker stuck in an elevator, or a motorist trapped in a crashed vehicle.

They test and maintain their equipment, including self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), hydrants, hoses, power tools, and apparatus.

At the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, recruits learn all these skills and more, including the latest science of fire behavior and suppression tactics, from certified fire instructors.

They also receive training in public fire education, hazardous material incident mitigation, flammable liquids, stress management, and self-rescue techniques. The intensive, 10-week program involves classroom instruction, physical fitness training, firefighter skills training, and live firefighting practice.

The MFA provides recruit and in-service training for career, call, and volunteer firefighters at every level of experience, from recruit to chief officer, at campuses in Stow, Springfield and Bridgewater.

Firefighter safety grant opportunity announced

STOW – The Healey-Driscoll Administration announced that \$5 million in grant funding is available to support the purchase of firefighter turnout gear, fire suppression equipment, and related items through the FY24 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant program.

The competitive grant program, which is administered by the Executive Office of Public Safety & Security and the Department of Fire Services, reimburses local fire departments for the purchase of qualifying safety equipment.

Departments of every city, town, fire district, and eligible state authority may apply for a grant. Maximum funding amounts are based on the size of the popu-

lation the department serves.

“The equipment funded through these grants will make firefighters and their communities safer,” said Secretary of Public Safety and Security Terrence M. Reidy in a press release. “Whether it’s a complete set of turnout gear or ballistic protection for use on a rescue task force, every dollar goes toward protecting the people who protect us.”

More than 130 different categories of tools, meters, personal protective equipment, communications devices, and other items are eligible for reimbursement through the program.

“The Firefighter Safety Equipment Grants are an investment in the health and safety of

Massachusetts firefighters,” said State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine. “The flexibility of the program is especially valuable because it allows each department to make purchases based on their specific needs and resources.”

For more information on the FY24 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant program, including eligibility requirements and conditions, fire chiefs and/or department grant managers should read the Notice of Funding Opportunity posted on the Department of Fire Services’ website, mass.gov/doc/fy24-firefighter-safety-equipment-grant-notice-of-funding-opportunity/download.

Trustees of the Paige Memorial Library and the other from the Council on Aging.

Liquor license

Kat Riley of the Whistle Stop Restaurant came before the Select Board seeking a new, all-alcohol restaurant license for her Main Street establishment.

Riley said she wants to be able to offer alcoholic beverages in the restaurant, and in an adjacent train car.

The Board approved the application.

New position

Select Board members approved the creation of a Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals clerk position.

Resignation

The Select Board accepted two resignation letters from Edward Kelly, one from the Board of

HARDWICK from page 1

Tax classification hearing

Board of Assessors Clerk Jennifer Kolenda said the Assessors recommend staying with a single tax rate for all classes of property.

She said the small benefit that a split tax rate could give residents is not warranted. It would also place a burden on commercial taxpayers, who would pay a higher rate with this type of classification.

A single tax rate would be \$12.62 per \$1,000 valuation.

Kolenda explained that the split rate, would reduce residential taxes to \$12.02 but would increase commercial rates to \$18.93.

The Select Board voted to accept the single tax rate of \$12.62, as recommended by the Board of Assessors.

Ware Police Log

During the week of Nov. 6-10, the Ware Police Department responded to 19 miscellaneous calls, 23 administrative calls, five traffic violations, nine emergency 911 calls, two animal calls, two harassments, one theft/larceny, four motor vehicle accidents, four assist other agencies, one breaking and entering and 24 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

Monday, Nov. 6

7:30 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Gould Road, Investigated
11:06 a.m. Assist Other Agency, West Street, Assist Given
12:33 p.m. Assist Other Agency, West Main Street, Assist Given
12:36 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Glendale Circle, Advised
1:17 p.m. Drugs, West Street, Services Rendered
1:31 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Main Street, No Action Required
4:41 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, North Street, Advised
5:38 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Anderson Road, Advised

Tuesday, Nov. 7

8:33 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Dispatch Handled
1:15 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call,

Main Street, Canceled En Route

Wednesday, Nov. 8

10:42 a.m. Theft/Larceny, Palmer Road, Services Rendered
Summons: German O. Rivas Boneta, 50, Springfield
Shoplifting \$250+ by Asportation c266 §30A
11:56 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Main Street, Dispatch Handled
2:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation/Warning Issued
3:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued
4:44 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Street, Report Made
6:32 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Valley View, Advised

Thursday, Nov. 9

6:38 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued
10:22 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Parker Street, Services Rendered
10:45 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Parker Street, Services Rendered
12:41 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, South Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Warren Police Log

During the week of Oct. 22-28, the Warren Police Department responded to 237 building/property checks, 90 community policing, 15 traffic enforcements, 10 emergency 911 calls, one harassment, one fraud/forgery, one motor vehicle accident, one property damage, three complaints, one safety concern, two animal calls and 36 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Sunday, Oct. 22

2:26 a.m. Tree Incidents, Reed Street, Removed Hazard
3:13 p.m. Recreational Vehicle Complaint, Keys Road, Information Given

Monday, Oct. 23

4:07 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, North Street, Report Filed
5:09 p.m. Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Old West Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital
5:43 p.m. Headache, Presidential Circle, Mutual Aid Transport

Tuesday, Oct. 24

4:59 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brimfield Road, Citation Issued
5:34 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
6:13 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
9:25 a.m. Complaint, Keys Road, Officer Took Call
9:48 a.m. Fraud/Forgery, Pine Street, Officer Took Call
2:01 p.m. Fire/Motor Vehicle Collision, North Street, Transported to Hospital
3:15 p.m. Harassment, North Street, Officer Spoke to Party
7:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brook Road, Written Warning
8:33 p.m. Property Damage, Keys Road, Report Filed

Wednesday, Oct. 25

11:09 a.m. Fire/Smoke Investigation, Maple Street, Investigated
4:27 p.m. Abdominal/Back Pain, Ware Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
5:20 p.m. Breathing Difficulty, Maple Street, Transported to Hospital
7:22 p.m. Diabetic, Brimfield

Wednesday, Nov. 8

2:30 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Lower Road, Investigated
5:48 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Citation Issued
7:25 a.m. 911 Lockout, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered
9:09 a.m. Investigation, Lower Road, Officer Handled
11:35 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
12:36 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled
3:22 p.m. Medical Emergency, Prospect Street, Transported to Hospital
4:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
6:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Ridge Road, Officer Handled
6:59 p.m. 911 Misdial, Upper Church Street, Dispatch Handled
8:02 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

Thursday, Nov. 9

12:12 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
6:50 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Petersham Road, Arrest(s) Made
11:04 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Grove Street, Officer Handled
2:07 p.m. Property Damage, Church Street, Report Taken
2:58 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Broad Street, Services Rendered
3:17 p.m. Assist Citizen, Fleming Road, Services Rendered
11:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Main Street, Spoken To

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.

4:25 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Services Rendered
8:58 p.m. Breaking and Entering/Burglary, Milner Street, Report Made

Friday, Nov. 10

4:42 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Chestnut Street, Services Rendered

Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Thursday, Oct. 26

6:59 a.m. Complaint, Pulaski Street, Report Filed
4:29 p.m. Falls, Old West Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital

Friday, Oct. 27

7:08 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Mechanic Street, Transported to Hospital
8:42 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Boston Post Road, Report Filed

Saturday, Oct. 28

6:45 a.m. Complaint, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
4:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
Summons: Miles Woodyard, 21, Springfield
License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With
5:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old West Brookfield Road, Written Warning
6:49 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Grove Street, Transported to Hospital

Friday, Nov. 10

2:20 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Main Street, Officer Handled
9:36 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Town of Hardwick, Dispatch Handled
12:55 p.m. Threat, Lower Road, Officer Handled
1:22 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered
2:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Vehicle Towed
2:49 p.m. Complaint, Hardwick Pond Road, Officer Handled
3:58 p.m. Assist Citizen, Barre Road, Officer Handled
6:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
6:53 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Lower Road, Negative Contact

Saturday, Nov. 11

4:56 p.m. 911 Elevator Call/Alarms, Old Petersham Road, Unfounded
7:33 p.m. 911 Disabled Motor Vehicle, Petersham Road, Vehicle Towed

Sunday, Nov. 12

12:27 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Petersham Road, Officer Handled
2:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Lower Road, Investigated
7:25 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Breen Road, Merge
7:27 p.m. 911 Suspicious Activity, Mellon Road, Unfounded

Monday, Nov. 13

2:41 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Lower Road, Services Rendered

Singles tournament begins at Diamond Junction

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

PALMER – The singles tournament began this past Saturday at Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes.

The event is the second tour stop of the 2023-2024 Western New England Candlepin Association tour season. Over 30 bowlers signed up to bowl on Nov. 4 for three games of candlepin bowling and an attempt to earn points to compete in the playoffs at the end of the season.

John Havens Sr. of Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes was thrilled to witness a great turnout to start off tournament weekend.

"It's good to see the bowlers come all around," said Havens.

Many of the bowlers came from as far as Adams, and even out-of-state from Vermont, as well as central Massachusetts and various towns of western Massachusetts to try out Diamond Junction for the first time.

This is the first year that the WNECA has hosted a tournament in Palmer.

Paul and Elaine Barnard of Montague currently run the tournaments for the Western New England candlepin tour. The turnout has already been successful as 32 bowlers showed up in two shifts on

Saturday.

Elaine Barnard, looking through the statistics, has another 30 bowlers signed up for the shifts to be held the following day on Nov. 5.

Each bowler was competing individually and bowled a total of three games. Their scores plus their handicap will determine their final score.

Every WNECA tournament is 90% handicap based off an average of 130.

On the lanes, the pin action did not come easy, but several bowlers encountered some big scores. Tim Soucy out of Vermont bowled the first shift and scored a 143 game in the first. Later, TJ Vareschi of Adams finished strong by bowling 137 in the third game.

The following shift was at 2 p.m. and featured league bowlers of Diamond Junction. The results of the tournament will be posted on the WNECA Facebook page.

The next WNECA tour stop will be in December at Bogey Lanes in East Brookfield, and it will be a doubles tournament.

The playoffs will take place on April 13, 2024, at French King Bowling Center in Erving.

Visit Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes at 1446 North Main St. The lanes can be reached by calling 413-289-0013.



Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes hosted their first tournament in nearly a decade for the WNECA candlepin tour.



Over 30 bowlers signed up for day one of the tournament on Saturday, Nov. 4.

LEFT: Candlepin bowlers from all over western Massachusetts participating in the singles tour stop at Diamond Junction.



Energy bill supports low-income households in the commonwealth

BOSTON – Senators Edward J. Markey (D-Massachusetts) and Elizabeth Warren (D-Massachusetts), along with Representatives Richard Neal (MA-01), Jim McGovern (MA-02), Lori Trahan (MA-03), Jake Auchincloss (MA-04), Katherine Clark (MA-05), Seth Moulton (MA-06), Ayanna Pressley (MA-07), Stephen Lynch (MA-08), and Bill Keating (MA-09), released the following statement in celebration of the Department of Health and Human Services awarding Massachusetts more than \$130 million in funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program to provide assistance on household energy bills:

"No family should have to suffer through a cold winter in Massachusetts simply because they cannot afford to heat their home. LIHEAP funding is a lifeline for tens of thousands of

Bay Staters and their families every year. This \$130 million will help make sure that families can afford the heating they need to stay warm and safe. We will keep fighting for bigger, bolder LIHEAP investments so that low-income households in every corner of our Commonwealth aren't forced to choose between chills and bills."

This funding release includes funds appropriated by Congress from the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024, as well as \$100 million appropriated for fiscal year 2024 from the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Nearly \$200,000 of the funding was awarded to Tribal nations in Massachusetts for direct administration of LIHEAP.

This month, in the wake of energy costs increasing, Markey joined a letter to the Biden administration in support of supplemental LIHEAP funding for the Fiscal

Year 2024.

In February, Senator Markey and Representative Jamaal Bowman (NY-16) reintroduced the Heating and Cooling Relief Act to invest in and expand LIHEAP, ensuring families who are eligible for fuel assistance and support are provided the relief they need, and to leverage LIHEAP funding to invest in climate adoption and clean energy.

Last October, the Massachusetts congressional delegation sent a letter requesting that the HHS expedite the release of LIHEAP funding for the winter. Last March, Senators Markey and Warren announced that Massachusetts will receive more than \$80 million in weatherization funding from the IJIA to help families reduce their energy consumption and lower their energy bills.

DCR Visitor Center hosts group hike of watershed

RUTLAND – The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center is hosting a free group hike to explore the Ware River Watershed in Rutland.

On Saturday, Nov. 18, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., explore the Ware River Watershed on a 4.4 mile lollipop loop moderate group hike near Rutland State Park. The route climbs/descends roughly 200 feet in elevation.

Meet at the Ware River Watershed, Mass Central Rail Trail (MCRT)/Mid State Trail Parking Area, Route 122, Rutland.

(<https://maps.app.goo.gl/dgzSozmffyz7NFJr7>)

The hike begins/ends on the MCRT with a loop in the middle consisting of Camel's Hump, Long Meadow Road, and Prison Camp Road. Visit the following website for additional information on the route: <https://www.trailforks.com/route/4-mi-inner-loop-near-rutland-state-park/>.

Ticks are still active, so protection is advised, as is wearing orange during hunting season.

Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring water and snacks.

About the Visitor Center

The Quabbin Interpretive Services program operates the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center, offering public and school education programs, teacher workshops, and general information about DCR's water supply resources and watershed management, the history of the Quabbin Valley and wildlife of the area.

Staff members are available to assist with visitor information and services. An automated telephone system, 413-323-7221, provides 24 hour access to current information on fishing, hunting, programs, rules and regulations, and public access.

All ages are welcome to these events. Email QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov with questions or to be added to the mailing list. To register for any of these events, visit www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events.

CANDLEPIN LEAGUE NEWS

Thursday Night Mixed League

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

PALMER – Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes had a fun night of league bowling on Thursday night, Nov. 9.

The Thursday Night Mixed League had a night of stars and strikes as many high scores were bowled at the retro candlepin lanes.

In one match, Team Two bowled against Team Five. In game one, Team Five won by a score of 420-398. In game two, Team Two won by a score of 425-403.

Danny Fennyery of Team Two led his team to the win by scoring a 106 game. In game three, Team Two won over Team Five by a score of 413-392. Fennyery scored 115 in the third game and had a three-game series of 329 for the night.

Team Two won total pinfall by a final score of 1236-1215.

Team Three bowled against Team One for the night. In game one, Team One was victorious by scoring 447 to Team Three's 372.

Kris Rickson of Team One bowled a 127 and was well over his league average as was his whole team in the first game. In game two, Team One stayed strong and won by a score of 397-369.

In game three, Team Three won the last game by a score of 432-414. Jesse Danek of Team Three finished strong with a 113 game.

Team One was the overall winner in total pinfall by a score of 1258-1173.

Team Four bowled against Team Six. In game one, Team Four defeated Team Six in a close game by a score of 438-429. Nick Maslon started off his night with a 112 game.

In game two, Team Four won again by scoring 437 to Team Six's 419. In game three, Team Four won the final game of the night by a score of 432-378. Maslon had a three-game series of 312.

Team Four won total pinfall by a final score of 1307-1226.

Christmas Fanfare Concert to be held Dec. 2

MONSON – On Saturday, Dec. 2 at 7 p.m., a Christmas Fanfare Concert will be held at First Church of Monson, 5 High St.

David Neill will direct the Fanfare Brass Ensemble in concert in the sanctuary of First Church. Concert tickets are \$5 and are available at the door.

The concert will be preceded by a dinner at 5 p.m.; the menu is homemade beef chili (vegetarian option); cornbread or corn muffins; salad; and apple crisp for dessert. Tickets for the dinner and concert are \$20 and can be purchased from Gail by calling 413-267-4818.

The Church thanks the Monson Cultural Council for their grant to sponsor this concert.

Second Chance Animal Services celebrates milestone

EAST BROOKFIELD – Second Chance Animal Services, a non-profit dedicated to improving the welfare of animals, is thrilled to announce a monumental achievement in their mission to reduce pet overpopulation.

In September, the organization performed its 75,000th low-cost spay and neuter surgery, marking a significant milestone in their ongoing efforts to create healthier communities for pets.

This achievement builds on the success of Second Chance's longstanding commitment to providing accessible and affordable spay and neuter services.

The organization began its low-cost program in 2005 at their East Brookfield shelter, aiming to address the root causes of pet homelessness. Today, the nonprofit's hospitals in North Brookfield,

Southbridge, Springfield, and Worcester continue to serve hundreds of pets each month in state-of-the-art surgical suites, made possible by grants and generous donors.

Spaying and neutering not only contribute to controlling the population of stray and unwanted animals but also play a vital role in enhancing the overall health and well-being of pets. These procedures can prevent various cancers and other serious health issues while positively influencing pets' behavior by reducing aggression and roaming tendencies.

Sheryl Blancato, the CEO and founder of Second Chance, expressed her pride in the organization's impact through 75,000 surgeries.

"This milestone is a testament to the dedication of our team and



Submitted Photo
Second Chance Animal Services recently celebrated its performance of its 75,000th low-cost spay and neuter surgery. Two kittens seen at Second Chance await their operations.

the support of our community," she said in a press release. "However, our work is far from over. We are committed to continuing our efforts to reach even more pets in need."

Blancato urges all pet owners to consider spaying or neutering their pets, emphasizing the preventative benefits.

"Routine spays and neuters can protect pets from life-threatening conditions, including pyometra and testicular cancer," she said. "Our goal is not only to address the immediate needs of pets but to contribute to a healthier pet community in the long run."

Pet owners interested in availing themselves of the low-cost spay and neuter program can visit www.secondchanceanimals.org, and complete a S.P.O.T application under the Vet Care tab.

Baystate Wing Auxiliary selling lotto calendars

PALMER – The Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary is currently selling their January 2024 Lotto Calendars.

The one-month calendar, which costs \$5 each or three for \$10, has a daily winning amount of \$100 with special drawings on Jan. 1 and Jan. 31.

The calendars will be on sale at the Baystate Wing Hospital gift shop. Funds raised by the annual Lotto Calendars support the Auxiliary's scholarship program and their philanthropic efforts that benefit Baystate Wing Hospital.

For over 65 years the Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary has been actively sup-

porting local healthcare through its sponsorship of special events and sales from the Baystate Wing Hospital Gift Shop located on the first floor of the hospital.

Whether people are looking for something special for a patient, a gift for a special occasion, or an item for the home, the Baystate Wing Hospital Gift Shop offers many unique, hand-selected items.

For more information about the Lotto Calendar visit the Baystate Wing Hospital Gift Shop Monday through Thursday from 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and on Friday from 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. or by calling 413-370-8169.

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HELP WANTED
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Brookfield is seeking a full-time Highway Superintendent. Full job description and application details at brookfieldma.us. Deadline to apply is November 20th or when position is filled, whichever is longer.

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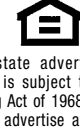
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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about 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.

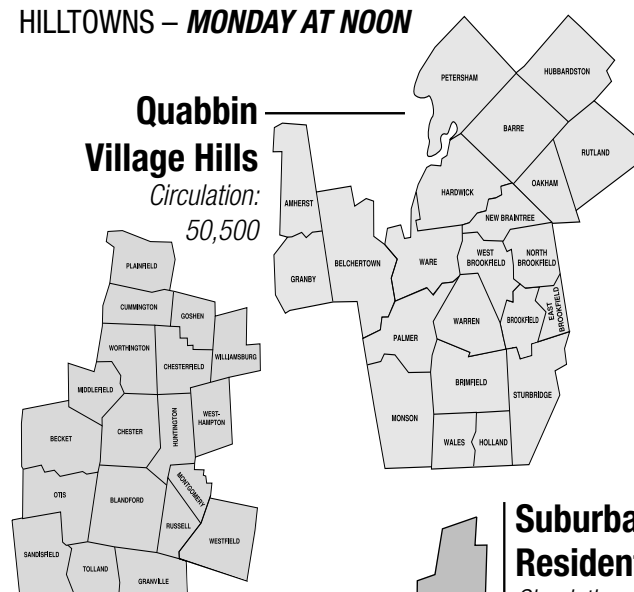
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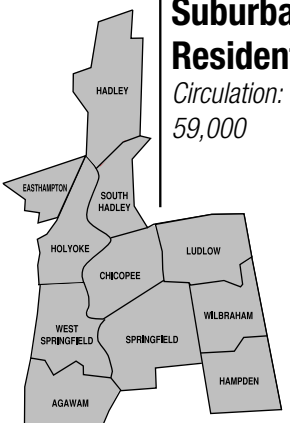
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1	2	3	4
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public notices

More Public Notices on Page 15.

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage dated April 11,

2022 given by Blackhorse Builders Inc. to Steven A. Ross, Trustee of QS Lending Trust u/d/t dated January 27, 2020 (recorded in Book 14443, Page 82), said mortgage record-

ed with the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 14519, Page 214 and which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said

mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at **2:00 p.m. on the 1st day of December 2023 at 17 Sherwin Street, Ware, Massachusetts**, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage.

To wit:
Property Address: 17 Sherwin Street, Ware, MA 01082

The land with the buildings thereon, in Ware, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning on the southerly side of Sherwin Street at the easterly corner of said Street and Bellevue Avenue;

Thence easterly on said Street forty-five (45) feet to an iron pin at land now or formerly of F.J. Browning;

Thence southerly on land now or formerly of said Browning seventy-five (75) feet to an iron pin at land now or formerly of Joseph Dumas, Jr.;

Thence westerly on land now or formerly of said Dumas forty-five feet to Bellevue Avenue;

Thence northerly on said Avenue seventy-five (75) feet to the place of beginning

Reserving, however, to Frank J. Browning and his heirs and assigns, forever the right to use the cesspool on said tract in connection with his house on the adjoining tract with the privilege to enter at reasonable times to repair the pipes connecting said house with said cesspool.

For title reference See Deed Recorded Herewith [Book 14519, Page 210].

Premises to be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens and rights of any tenants

and parties in possession, if there be any, or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed. The successful bidder will pay all costs of recording the foreclosure deed and any other foreclosure documents including, without limitation, all state and county excise stamp fees, and shall also be responsible for any Title V inspection and repair requirements.

Terms of sale: A deposit of Ten Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$10,000.00) by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check to Baker, Braverman & Barbadoro, P.C., 1200 Crown Colony Drive, Suite 610, Quincy, MA 02169 within thirty

(30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control.

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

Steven A. Ross,
Trustee of QS Lending Trust u/d/t dated

January 27, 2020
Present holder of said mortgage

By his Attorneys,
Baker, Braverman & Barbadoro, P.C.
1200 Crown Colony Drive, Suite 610
Quincy, MA 02169
11/09, 11/16, 11/23/2023

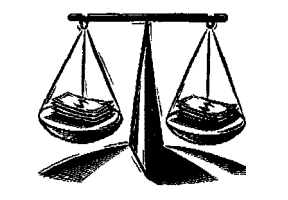
Hardwick Planning Board

Notice of Public Hearing
Notice is hereby given that the Hardwick Planning Board, acting as Special Permit Granting Authority for the Town of Hardwick, will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 6:45PM at the Municipal Office Building, 307 Main Street, Gilbertville, MA 01301.**

Pursuant to Hardwick Zoning Bylaw Section 6.9.2, this Hearing is regarding the application by Keith and Tracey Gray for a Special Permit to occupy a camping trailer at '878' Muddy Brook Road while building a house onsite. All interested parties are asked to attend.

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

Hardwick Planning Board
Jenna Garvey, Chair
11/09, 11/16/2023



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warren

Quaboag Regional announces Project 351 student ambassadors

WARREN – Quaboag Regional Middle High School Principal Casey Handfield is pleased to announce that the two Project 351 student representatives will be eighth graders Andrew Boudreau and Caroline Stevens.

Boudreau is the son of Thomas and Erin Boudreau of Warren and Stevens is the daughter of Neal and Elizabeth Stevens of West Brookfield.

Project 351 is a state run community service initiative that began in 2011 that brings one eighth grader from each town for a day of leadership training and service in Boston. Students then bring these skills back to their own communities to begin their own community service projects.

Boudreau and Stevens were selected by their teachers because they exemplify the traits sought in Project 351 ambassadors of being kind and



Submitted Photo
Project 351 ambassadors Andrew Boudreau and Caroline Stevens. Both are students at Quaboag Regional Middle High School.

friendly to all, exhibiting leadership qualities, and showing a willingness to help others.

NBSB annual toy drive returns

NORTH BROOKFIELD – North Brookfield Savings Bank's annual toy drive aims to ensure holiday wishes come true for our younger community members.

Starting Nov. 1 and running through Nov. 30 monetary donations and new toys will be collected at Bank branch locations.

During the Toy Drive, community members are welcome to visit any branch location to make their donations of new unwrapped toys for children. All toys collected will be donated to local toy programs in each community, to ensure that local children in need will receive holiday presents.

This year, the Bank's Ware branch location will be primarily accepting monetary donations to help their local toy program partner the Ware Police Department, who has reformatted their program to be more tailored to each family in need.

The Bank's Belchertown location will only accept donations of toys, not funds, as their local toy program partner the Belchertown Police Department, has also reformatted their program.

In addition to toys, NBSB will accept financial contributions at each branch. The Bank will match every dollar donated, as well as contribute \$1 for

every toy collected, up to \$250 per branch location.

"As a local Bank that places a high importance on embracing and committing to the values of kindness and community support, North Brookfield Savings Bank is proud to continue the tradition of hosting our Annual Toy Drive at our locations," said Nicole Syriac, Digital Marketing Strategist at North Brookfield Savings Bank in a press release. "We want to ensure that every child can have a wonderful holiday season, this year and every year. We know this goal is possible with the continued support and kindness of our local community. We invite all of you to visit us, as you have so generously done in the past, to make your contribution."

Donations are being accepted at these North Brookfield Savings Bank branches:

North Brookfield Branch, 9 Gilbert St., partnering with the North Brookfield Police Association's Toys for Joys Program.

East Brookfield Branch, 100 West Main St., Route 9, partnering with the East Brookfield Toys for Joy Program.

West Brookfield Branch, 128 West Main St., Route 9, partnering with the West Brookfield Police Association Holiday Toy

Program.

Ware Branch, 40 Main St., Route 9, partnering with the Ware Police Department Holiday Toy Program- only accepting monetary donations for 2023.

Belchertown Branch, 4 Daniel Shays Highway, Routes 9 and 202, partnering with the Belchertown Firefighters Association Adopt-a-Family Program, only accepting toy donations for 2023.

Three Rivers Branch, 2060 Main St., partnering with the Palmer Lions Club Holiday Toy Program

"The holiday season is about caring for those around us and being generous. It is heartwarming every year to witness how our community members support each other. By partnering with the local toy drive organizations and our giving residents we are able to bring a child holiday cheer and truly embody the spirit of the holiday season. Thank you to everyone who plans to give this year and has supported this effort in the past," Syriac said.

To learn more about North Brookfield Savings Bank's community giving efforts and all the convenient banking products and services offered, visit www.NorthBrookfieldSavingsBank.com.

Orders accepted for Polish food sale starting Nov. 26

WARE – St. Mary's Church will begin to take orders for its Polish food sale starting on Sunday, Nov. 26 through Saturday, Dec. 2, or until sold out.

Call between noon-7 p.m. for Sylvia at 413-436-9268 or Diane at 413-967-5207 with questions and/or to order. Pickup will be on Saturday, Dec. 16 (snow date is Dec. 17) in St. Mary's Church hall on South Street.

Curbside pickup will only be available to anyone with a handicap card.

You will be designated a pick-up time when placing your order. Payment will be collected at time of pick up and should be exact amount, either check made out to St. Mary's Church, or cash and placed in an envelope with your name, order number and payment amount.

Food items available include pierogi: cabbage, \$13/dozen or \$6.50/ 1/2 dozen. sweet cheese, \$15/dozen or \$7.50/ 1/2 dozen and savory cheese, \$15/dozen and \$7.50/ 1/2 dozen; golombki, \$13 for three; kapusta, \$9/quart; kielbasa from Bernat's in Chicopee, whole \$10 and half, \$5; and rye bread from Countryside Bakery, whole \$5.50 and half, \$2.75. Thank you for your support.

public notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PLANNING BOARD LEGAL NOTICE Special Permit-312 Site Plan - 70

NOTICE is hereby given that the Warren Planning Board, acting as the Special Permit Granting Authority, will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, November 27, 2023 at 7:15 PM** on the application of Lawrence Tuttle, Architectural Insights, for a Special Permit and Site Plan review for the relocation of the kitchen to the rear of the unit, make the rear unit legal if applicable under Section 13, 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, Shepard Municipal Building, 48 High Street, Warren, MA. It is possible that any or all members of the public body may attend remotely, with in-person attendance consisting of members of the public. The meeting may be accessed remotely via zoom.

Meeting ID: 869 2706 4530
Password: 784772

or join by phone
Phone number: 646-558-8656

SITE LOCATION:
942 Main St, Warren, MA 01083
Said premises being further described in deeds recorded in the Worcester County Registry of Deeds, Book 61175, Page 159. Property is also identified as Assessor's Parcel # 24-0-7. Zoned: Village District (V).

A complete copy of the application may be inspected in the Office of the Planning Board or the Town Clerk during normal business hours. Anyone interested or wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.

WARREN PLANNING BOARD
11/09, 11/16/2023

More Public Notices on Page 14.

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

Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?

We invite you to join us Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm to explore these topics and more.

This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.

Please contact Pat James 413-726-8661.

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- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

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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. 20

9 a.m. Tai Chi
10 a.m. Scat
11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Party
Dessert and music by Charlie Lask provided by Friends of Ware Seniors Inc.

Tuesday, Nov. 21

9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
9-10 a.m. Council on Aging meeting
9:30 a.m. Quilting Club
10 a.m. Scat
11:30 a.m. Lunch
1-2 p.m. Food Bank of Western MA Mobile Food Pantry at Grenville Park
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. 22

9 a.m. Tai-Chi

10 a.m. Scat
10-11:30 a.m. Kirsten Krieger, Quabbin Region DPH Nurse, office hours
11:30 a.m. Lunch

Thursday, Nov. 23 Closed

Friday, Nov. 24 Closed

LUNCHES DINE IN

All meals \$3.50 unless otherwise noted

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

Monday, Nov. 20 Thanksgiving Party

Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Stuffing, Gravy, Veggie of the Day, *Dessert and entertainment courtesy of the Friends of Ware Seniors Inc.

Tuesday, Nov. 21

American Chop Suey, Dessert of the Day
Wednesday, Nov. 22
Grilled Rueben, French Fries, Three Bean Salad, Dessert of the Day

Thursday, Nov. 23 Closed

Friday, Nov. 24 Closed

Ware veteran looks back on life of service

VETERAN'S SPOTLIGHT: Phil Hamel

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – In 1954 at just 17 years old, Townsend resident Phil Hamel boarded the USS General George M. Randall, setting a course to Korea.

Hamel had made the decision to join the U.S. Army months prior, after his parents received a Western Union telegram saying his next to oldest brother was missing in action during the Korean War. "I signed up," Hamel said. "I joined the Army in Springfield and ended up on a bus to Fort Dix, New Jersey."

Luckily, Hamel's family was notified that his brother had been located and was safe before Hamel made his way to basic training. After completing his eight weeks of basic training, Hamel was sent to Fort Lee in Virginia for another eight weeks of advanced training.

"They found him, he was okay, but by that time I was already signed up," Hamel said. "It was tough times, but overall, I'm glad I did it. I think it's a good place for all young people to go to for a couple of years, you either make it or you don't...I smartened up real fast."

For two weeks, Hamel was able to return home before he reported back to Virginia in order to make his way by plane to Fort Lewis in Washington, where the ship to Korea awaited.

Hamel's ship never made it to Korea.

"We were supposed to be heading to Korea, but halfway over, they changed our orders to Japan," Hamel said.

He stayed in Japan for two years, nine months and four days, as a member of the National Defense Forces.

During this time, Hamel was

again called to Korea, and this time he was airborne when for some reason, the plane turned back and returned to Japan.

While overseas, Hamel drove a truck, carrying ammunitions over the mountains to Mount Oshima Air Force base, and working his way up as a non-commissioned officer in charge of base camp at the training area.

"I was really amazed I had that position," Hamel said.

Hamel was placed as NCO after a master sergeant was caught stealing gas and selling it to the Japanese. As NCO, Hamel had a shower built, handled water supply, mess hall and communications.

"I had two generators, almost as big as half this room, that I had to maintain," he said.

Living in Japan was a far cry from his hometown life, and the winters were exceedingly harsh, sometimes accumulating snow seven-to-eight feet deep.

"It was different. It was a lot of getting used to, driving on the left side of the road was tough," Hamel said. "There roads were mostly dirt, very narrow. If you met another vehicle coming the other way, it was very challenging."

After serving three years in the U.S. Army, Hamel came home in 1957, returning to Fort Dix before he was assigned to the 94th Military Police Company in Boston where he served for a couple years.

"Every Tuesday night we had to go to Boston for our training meetings...from Townsend to Boston. Then I went to Camp Drum for two weeks training," Hamel said.

Hamel said he and his fellow MPs could go anywhere, as long as they stayed on base.

In his hometown of Townsend, Hamel was a call member of the

Fire Department, and had the emergency alarm center in his house.



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette
Phil Hamel,
U.S. Army veteran

He worked for his dad's oil company, Hamel Oil Co. before taking over a Pyrofax Gas distributor and creating Hamel Bottled Gas.

"I had to do the school of hard knocks," Hamel said with a laugh. "I took it on, ran that for quite a while."

Hamel soon expanded his business, opening a Whirlpool appliance store, and eventually taking on a business partner to help with the appliance operation.

"Never go into business with a partner," Hamel said, describing how the partnership soured and reached a breaking point. "We had a not so pleasant discussion. I said I'll make you and offer to buy me out. He bough me out, and three months later he's out of business."

Hamel's bottled gas company continued to thrive until the arrival of natural gas, which he knew would drive him out of business.

Hamel approached the natural gas company, and asked to have someone contact him. To his surprise, the president of the company called him and set up an interview.

"They offered to make me manager at a branch in Manchester, New Hampshire...I bought a house in Merrimack, and I took over the branch," Hamel said. "I was the manager there for three or four years."

While living in Merrimack, Hamel was recruited by the Police Chief to join the Department as a special police officer, which quickly turned into a full-time job.

Hamel left his job with the natural gas company, and worked his way through the Police Department, earning the rank of sergeant, as well as acting police

chief.

Hamel decided to return to the natural gas business, and his former employer hired him back, making him manager of the Salem, New Hampshire branch.

"I stayed in that district for almost a year," Hamel said. That company eventually took over ownership of Ware Bottled Gas, bringing Hamel to Ware, where he has lived ever since.

"I ran that for 35 years...the gas company sold to Petrolane, and I got Barre on top of Ware," he said.

Hamel had a fleet of six tank trucks, two service trucks, and a pickup truck. He oversaw two office managers and two clerks.

"It kept me busy," he said.

Hamel also joined the Army National Guard, was a call firefighter, became a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, was the Rotary Club president for two terms (and a 44 year member). Hamel was also a corporator for Country Bank for over 35 years.

Hamel started as the youngest member of the Rotary Club, eventually ending up as the oldest member.

He also married Sandra Arsenault, and together the couple raised their six children. His wife was a nurse at Baystate Wing Hospital, before transferring to the pharmacy as a technician.

"My wife and I raised five boys and a girl," Hamel said. "Unfortunately, I lost my daughter about four years ago, my youngest child."

Hamel continues to be active in serving his country, as a member of the American Legion, AMVETS, VFW and DAV. He has also been president of the Ware Veterans Council, and emceed the parades for many years.

"All of it's a lot of work," Hamel said. "Between all of these organizations, don't ask me how I did it because I couldn't tell you. It's been quite an adventure. The good Lord was really good to me."

Donations/volunteers sought for Wreaths Across America

WARE – Ware will be participating in the Wreaths Across America program, honoring veterans in municipal cemeteries.

On National Wreaths Across America Day, held across the country on Saturday, Dec. 16 volunteers and community members will gather at Veterans Park on Main Street at 10 a.m. before distributing wreaths in four cemeteries across the town.

In order to secure enough wreaths for the four cemeteries, Ware's Wreaths Across America Chair Frank Bateman has paired up with two sponsorship groups, the Ware Middle School PTO and Scouts BSA Troop 281. Sponsoring a wreath is \$17, of which \$5 goes to the sponsoring group.

Wreaths can be sponsored by visiting the link for either sponsoring group: Scouts BSA Troop 281, <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/175907> and WMS PTO, <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/176743>.

People can also sign up to volunteer for National Wreaths Across America Day by visiting these links.

If people want to donate or volunteer but don't have online capabilities, they can call Bateman at 413-949-6517 and leave a message.

The cutoff to sponsor a wreath for this year's National Wreaths Across America Day is Nov. 28. Any donations received after that date will go toward securing next year's wreaths.

Support group offered for grandparents raising grandchildren on Wednesdays

WARE – Grandparents Raising Grandchildren support group meets Wednesday mornings from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Behavioral Health Network's Family Resource Center, 82 Main St.

Join the group weekly to have adult conversation and to connect

with others going through the same things you are, trying to be both parent and grandparent.

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

Ware Holiday Flair gets ready for holiday season

WARE – This Sunday, Nov. 19 the Ware Holiday Flair Committee is looking for volunteers to help decorate Main Street and Veterans Park, starting at 8 a.m., to get ready for a visit from Santa Claus.

The day after Thanksgiving, Santa will arrive on the fire truck to light up the big tree in Veterans Park.

The festivities will begin with a performance by dancers from Dance Unlimited in front of the Town Hall at 5:45 p.m., followed by the arrival of Santa around 6 p.m. After the tree lighting, children and families can visit with Santa in the Town Hall.

On Saturday Dec. 9 from 5-7 p.m., (or until the last car goes through), visit Grenville Park for the Ware Holiday Flair Festive Drive-Thru event. Vehicles will enter through the Upper Church Street exit, travel around the first baseball diamond, and exit through the entrance.

Cars must enter Upper Church Street coming from the direction of Route 32. No cars will be allowed to enter the park coming from the direction of downtown.

The Quaboag Connector will provide free rides for those without vehicles, staging in front of the old Church Street school,

across from the park entrance.

Donations will be accepted at the drive-thru, but are not necessary for this free, community event.

Volunteers are needed to help set up the morning of the event, starting at 9 a.m. If anyone would like to volunteer, they can contact Kathy Deschamps 413-519-9815.

If anyone would like to donate to help support the event, checks made to "Ware Holiday Flair" can be mailed to the Town Hall, c/o Stuart Beckley, 126 Main St., Ware, MA 01082.

Orders being accepted for Thanksgiving dinner rolls

WARE – The food service staff of the Ware Public Schools will once again be selling rolls for Thanksgiving dinner.

You can reserve your rolls by calling 413-967-5248 between 10-11 a.m. The deadline for orders is Monday, Nov. 20.

The cost will be \$8 for a pan of 16 rolls.

You may pick up the rolls on Wednesday, Nov. 22 between 9 a.m.-noon at the Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School cafeteria. All proceeds to benefit Ware's Christmas for Kids.



Paige Memorial Library offers fun for holiday season beyond

HARDWICK – On Sunday, Nov. 26 come to Hardwick's Christmas on the Common celebration where you can purchase delicious homemade cookies just in time for the holidays.

The Friends of the Paige Memorial Library present their Annual Cookie Walk from 3:30-5:30 p.m. at the Town House, 32 Common St. Proceeds go to the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Christmas for Kids program.

If you would like to bake for the Cookie Walk, please let the Friends know what you will be baking. They are keeping a list in order to offer a good variety.

Also, please package cookies in plastic bags: two if large, and more if small.

Basket raffle

On sale now at the library are tickets for the Anne of Green Gables raffle basket to delight the

collector and the young person in all of us or as a treasured gift. The raffle basket includes a limited-edition porcelain Anne Shirley doll, Anne of Green Gables cookbook, graphic novel, novel by Lucy Maud Montgomery, coloring book, crayons, and colored pencils.

Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. The drawing will be on Nov. 26 at 5:30 p.m. Proceeds from the raffle will be donated to the Hardwick Food Pantry.

Boxwood centerpiece

On Wednesday, Nov. 29, the Friends of the Paige Memorial Library will host a Boxwood Centerpiece Workshop at 7 p.m. at the Town House. Come to the Town House or order "take out."

Use premium boxwood tips, decorate with berries, birds and decorations supplied by Bemis Nursery, or bring your own to add a personal touch. The final size of the centerpiece is 14-16 inches.

The price is \$35, and you must register by Nov. 21. If you register and pay by Nov. 18 the price is \$30.

Cash or checks payable to the Friends of the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, Hardwick, MA 01037. For more information call 413-477-6704 or email director.paigelibrary@gmail.com.

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Further position details and job applications are available at the Board of Selectmen's Office, 20 Memorial Drive, New Braintree, MA 01531.

You can also contact the New Braintree Highway Superintendent by calling 508-847-2628.

Glenda's

Wednesday, Nov. 22 ~ 8pm-12am
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Moonlight Saints
Saturday, Dec. 9th 7pm-11pm
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GUEST COLUMN

Remember the cost of freedom on Veterans Day

(Editor's note: this was the speech given at Ware's Veterans Day ceremony, held at Veterans Park.)

By Frank Bateman Jr.
United States Army

As Ronald Reagan said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it on to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same."

Gold Star families, fellow veterans, state and town officials, military members, leaders and members of veterans organizations, leaders and members of civic organizations, citizens of Ware, family and friends. It is an honor and a privilege to speak with you today.

Dec. 13, 1636, is known as the birthday of the United States Military, 140 years before the birth of our country. We, as in Massachusetts, are fortunate to live in the state "where it all began."

Since then, our citizens, and those across this great land, have come to the defense of not only our local cities and towns during disasters and unrest, but also to defend this country both domestically and abroad.

I'd like to start today by thanking all of those among us who, despite the risk and sacrifice, raised their hand to serve and defend this awesome country - our veterans. Retired or still serving, active duty servicemembers, guardsmen, and reservists.

Men and women that answered the call of their country, left their homes and lives, and performed duties that were thrust upon them, at all costs, to defend this great land, our allies, and our way of life.

Thank you to the families that stand with each one of them, for the sacrifices of a military family run deep, and often unnoticed to those around them. I know, for me, I am eternally grateful for my family that not only supported me during my career, but had to endure so many additional hardships due to my service.

I love and thank you very much.

Our military men and women continue to answer the call, regardless of their political views. Today, there are more than 1.4 million serving in the Armed Forces, spread across this great nation, as well as in over 150 countries on every continent around the globe.

With the hostilities that we've witnessed over the past few years, and global tensions rising every day, it is ever more important for us to support our troops and their families wherever they may be sent, and for whatever mission they are asked to perform.

With the most diverse military force on earth, our branches continue to draw strength from within, and grow bonds often times stronger than blood, working for common goals and protection of the man or woman to their right or left.

Words cannot express my gratitude for the brothers and sisters in arms that I have been blessed to call friend - some of them here in this crowd today!

This We'll Defend, Semper Fidelis - Always Faithful, Non Sibi Sed Patriae - Not Self But Country, Aim High - Fly-Fight-Win, De Oppresso Liber - To Liberate the Oppressed, Semper Paratus - Always Ready, Semper Supra - Always Above.

The mottos of our Armed Forces, their guiding principles; their oaths and allegiance to our country.

Today, I thank you, all of you. Those of us who serve are grateful for patriots like you who support us, who support our families when we are deployed, who help our veterans in both small and grand ways.

Those that fought so hard for the approval of greatly needed improvements and expansion of the Holyoke Veteran's Home. Those that both directly and indirectly assist our veterans in need - physical, emotional, and financial.

Those that help make us what we are today: the world's greatest force for stability and peace on the face of the Earth - and I'm grateful for all that you do. But your job isn't finished.

As mentioned in the opening line, unless we continue to teach our children and young citizens the value, and the cost of freedom, our great land will lose it.

Continue to be active in our town, either in government or civic organizations. Stay informed in the political arena, listen and read about current events and most importantly, vote.

Let me close by reading the poem, "It Is The Soldier", by Charles M. Province.

It is the Soldier, not the minister
Who has given us freedom of religion.
It is the Soldier, not the reporter
Who has given us freedom of the press.
It is the Soldier, not the poet
Who has given us freedom of speech.
It is the Soldier, not the campus organizer
Who has given us freedom to protest.
It is the Soldier, not the lawyer
Who has given us the right to a fair trial.
It is the Soldier, not the politician
Who has given us the right to vote.
It is the Soldier who salutes the flag,
Who serves beneath the flag,
And whose coffin is draped by the flag,
Who allows the protester to burn the flag.



Thanksgiving thoughts

My dad has been gone a long time. I sometimes feel badly that he is not in my thoughts as much as he used to be. A lot has happened since his death - marriage and children, a new (old) house.

Sometimes it's easy to get caught up in the day to day, but today, as I write, I think of him. Holidays at my childhood home were always a lot of fun.

I reflect on that now, as we make plans for our Thanksgiving and Christmas gatherings. I can still picture him standing at the counter by the sink, carving the turkey and later in the day enjoying a whopping piece of apple pie (with American cheese?) from his recliner.

My mom still keeps some of the traditions alive as do other family members. Read on to learn about some of the favorite vegetables, fruits and even herbs that make an appearance at the table.

I am not exactly sure where my mom's stuffing recipe originally came from, but it is always a big hit. My Illinois based brother loves it so much that my sister-in-law asked for a copy and now makes it for him on Thanksgiving.

I guess if you can't be at home, having mom's stuffing is the next best thing! Her recipe wouldn't be the same without sage and I doubt yours would either.

Common garden sage (*Salvia officinalis*) is a shrubby perennial plant native to the Mediterranean.

Its leaves start out lime-green in color, but

at maturity end up more grey than green. They are somewhat "pebbly" in texture and are very aromatic.

For the most pungency, sage leaves should be harvested just prior to flowering. Hang the leaves and stem tips in loose bunches upside down in an airy, dark place to dry.

Once completely dry (crispy to the touch), leaves can be stripped from their stems and stored in an airtight container.

Remember, as with any herb, drying concentrates the oils in the foliage. Use only half the amount of dried herbs if you have to substitute them for fresh in any recipe.

Because sage is nearly evergreen (actually, "evergrey") I rarely dry any, but harvest it for immediate use even through the winter months - it is freeze-dried but still tasty! Cut back the plant hard in early spring- you will sacrifice a few flowers, but will be rewarded with a lush bushy plant, rather than one that is woody and sparse.

Another one of mom's cherished contributions to Thanksgiving dinner is her apple cranberry relish. This is a simple recipe in which fresh cranberries and peeled apples are chopped fine and mixed together with a little sugar.

So easy yet incredibly yummy! I tried growing cranberries only to be disappointed that voles chewed the roots and killed the plants.

Maybe I'll try again sometime in the future. They don't need a bog, but the water does help with harvesting.

My mom always bought a small turnip for my Dad to enjoy at Thanksgiving dinner. I have to say that I don't recall any other members of the family eagerly anticipating it, not the way he did anyway.

I remember mom carefully cutting away the hard outer skin and then cubing the flesh. It was then boiled and mashed as you would potatoes, with lots of butter.

Turnip must be one of those foods that you acquire a taste for, and as of yet I have not.

To produce the best-tasting, largest turnips time your plantings to grow and mature in cool weather. For Thanksgiving turnips sow seeds 90 days before the first fall frost is expected.

Simply make a shallow trench one-quarter to one-half inch deep and position seeds one to one and a half inches apart. Once germination occurs and plants have developed their first set of true leaves, thin seedlings to three inches apart.

Deep, loose soil is best for root vegetables of any kind. Turnips benefit from extra water during droughty periods.

If an early frost threatens and your roots aren't yet mature you can cover turnip plants with a sheet or blanket on chilly nights to get through the cold spell and sneak out some additional growing time. Do watch out for frigid temps, however, since mercury that measures below the twenty-five degree mark can damage the crown of the plant.

This type of injury can make turnips more susceptible to rot and reduce storage capabilities. Turnips are best stored at temperatures around thirty-five degrees.

They can be packed in damp sand or leaves in a cold cellar and should keep for at least two or three months. Some books recommend wrapping individual roots in plastic wrap to hold in moisture as well as prevent the strong turnip odor from permeating other vegetables.

Commercial turnip growers use a food grade wax for this purpose, which makes cutting away the outer flesh all the more challenging.

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.

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OF PARADES AND PASSAGES

By David Henrichon, Ph.D.
Vietnam veteran 1968-1969

How bright the colors of banners, flags and crisp uniforms looking new, adorning men and women, all soldiers, marching heads forward their destination True-

The brass and bands in the sunlight they shine so bright, but a closer inspection reveals the marcher's plight.

As row after row in order they march in practiced unison, the years of service exposed in telltale reverence to the human uniform

For crisp and measured the parade may be, tufts of white hair, mottled skin, and a future of uncertainty.

The pride in service past for veterans riding in cars, lays bare the unkind price they pay, the testimony of a life of scars.

How long the parade, how loud the cheers, of onlookers smiling, not seeing the tears.

For some of the vintage long and well done, for others the beginning of a journey the chorus yet unsung.

Such visions of glory, pride without bounds, perhaps stirs up the patriotic spirit in those standing round.

For the future doesn't rest with those in synchronous step, rather it's the children, young onlookers, with dreams to be met.

As the parade passes by, as all Parades do, I wonder the Thoughts of veterans of the red, white And blue.

Into the distance the parade of history does fade, let not the memories of those who served and when put to rest they are laid.



Remembering JFK - November 22, 1963

It was a warm autumn day in Dallas, The Kennedys were accepted by the Texans with no apparent malice. As the motorcade passed the Texas Book Depository and turned onto Elm. Our country stood proudly with JFK at the helm. Jack sat on the left and Jackie on the right, Men on the grassy knoll had our President in their sight. How many shots were fired? Three? Four? or Five? The outcome was the same because John F. Kennedy would not escape alive. Was it Oswald, the Mafia, or the CIA? America lost its innocence that very day. Many theories abound concerning this assassination plot, But the United States had lost its leader, its integrity, and Camelot. Images of that long weekend in November still seem very clear, The Caisson on Pennsylvania Avenue, John Junior's salute, Jackie with a tear. How do I explain to my children when they ask me who's to blame? I can take them to Arlington National Cemetery to see the Eternal Flame. Still I try to put into perspective November 22, 1963, Do I keep searching for the truth or let JFK's legacy inspire me?

Michael S. O'Rourke



When should I retire and claim my Social Security benefits?

Dear Rusty:

I am 64 years old and having difficulty working due to my arthritis, but I can continue part time as a podiatrist.

I do not know the best way to determine when to retire. What is the formula or a way to determine which is a better choice?

Signed: Undecided

Dear Undecided:

There is a difference between deciding when to retire from working and deciding when to claim your Social Security benefits. For the former, you should consult with a certified financial advisor, but I'll provide you with how Social Security fits into your personal circumstances.

In deciding when to claim Social Security, you should look at your financial needs, your life expectancy, your work status and your marital status. There is no one formula right for everyone because everyone's circumstances are different, but here are some things to help decide what is right for you:

Social Security has an "earnings test" which applies to anyone who collects Social Security before reaching their Full Retirement

Age. Your FRA is 66 years and 8 months and that is the point at which you get 100% of the SS benefit earned from a lifetime of working.

If you collect SS before your FRA and continue to work, there is a limit to how much you can earn without jeopardizing your benefits. For example, the earnings limit for 2023 is \$21,240 and, if that is exceeded, SS will take away benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit.

They "take away" benefits by withholding future payments until they recover the penalty for exceeding the limit. If your earnings are substantially over the limit, you will be ineligible to collect Social Security until either your earnings are less or you reach your FRA.

If you claim SS before your FRA your ben-

Please see **BENEFITS**, page 11

OPINION POLICY

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

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

The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

Turley Election Policy

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

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

Quilts of Valor



These Quilts of Valor are all made with 100% cotton fabric, in shades of red, white and blue.



U.S. Army veterans stand during their branch's song.



A veterans stands as the U.S. Marine Corps song is played.

QUILTS from page 1

Valor in Springfield. After the National Anthem was performed on violin by 13-year-old Graciella Baublitz, those in attendance joined in the Pledge of Allegiance led by brothers Ron and Bobby Rucki.

Presenting the quilts were Kate Blanchard and Connie Barnes.

Blanchard said the quilters in the Springfield chapter started making Quilts of Valor 10 years ago, traveling to the Charlton Sewing Center before starting their own chapter closer to home. Together, they've made over 150 quilts.

Veterans can receive a lot of awards and recognition for their acts of service and bravery when protecting their country and freedom, she said, but these quilts are really to honor their willingness to serve.

"Quilts of Valor are honoring those who served and went where they were told to go," Blanchard said. "You did it, you served."

Blanchard shared a story she heard from a Korean War veteran, who had enlisted when he was just 16 years old. By the time he was 19, he was the "old man" of his unit, with the rank of sergeant.

One day, as this veteran was being driven past another servicemember handling artillery, he noticed something wasn't right with the gun that was about to be fired. He jumped out of the Jeep, and threw a hammer at the gun.

His quick actions saved five lives that day. There wasn't even a notation about this heroic action in his military files, Blanchard said.

This is the life of a veteran, she said.

"In many times, this isn't even acknowledged," Blanchard said. "We are grateful for that service."

The quilts were presented to William Griswold, a U.S. Army veteran from Palmer, Belinda Morrone, a U.S. Air Force veteran from Worcester, William "Billy" Byrnes, a U.S. Army veteran from Palmer and Willie Lemieux, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran from Belchertown. Gerald Flynn, a U.S. Army veteran, also received a quilt but was unable to attend the ceremony.

Morrone, a retired HomeFront



William Griswold of Palmer proudly wears his Quilt of Valor, joined by his wife, Charlann.



A U.S. Coast Guard veteran stands for his branch's song.



William "Billy" Byrnes, a U.S. Army veteran, wears his red, white and blue quilt.



A U.S. Air Force veteran stands for his branch's song.

Strong board member, is part of a smaller group of veterans recognized for their service, Blanchard said.

"We're in a minority being female, but we are veterans," said Blanchard, who is also a veteran.

Blanchard and Barnes wrapped each quilt around its recipient, thanking them individually for their service.

"We truly hope they provide warmth and comfort to you," Blanchard said of the quilts.

This is the third year HomeFront Strong, formerly the Brookfield Institute, has hosted its Military Appreciation Breakfast on Veterans Day. The breakfast is always free, and open to all veterans, servicemembers, and their families.

"We had a veterans breakfast prior to the pandemic," Jennifer Baublitz, executive director for HomeFront Strong said, seeing it return as an annual event last year.

This breakfast is just one of the ways HomeFront Strong continues its mission to build resiliency in veterans and military families through targeted programs and resources. The organization also hosts a drop-in Morning Coffee program on the fourth Thursday of each month from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Palmer Public Library, offering snacks, coffee and camaraderie.

"We remember those who serve

the people," Baublitz said. "We remember our comrades."

While almost every seat in the dining room of the Senior Center was filled on Saturday, one chair at a small table remained empty the entire time.

The table, which was draped in a white table cloth, was set to honor prisoners of war and those missing in action.

"We remember them," Baublitz said, as she read the significance of each item placed on the table. "Remember until the day they come home."

The table is smaller than the other tables in the dining room, symbolizing the frailty of one prisoner alone against their captors. The black napkin represents the emptiness left in the families' hearts.

The table has a red rose, a candle, a bread plate and an inverted wine glass. On the bread plate is a lemon, a bitter reminder of these POW/MIA's fate, and salt to represent the tears of their loved ones.

The glass is overturned, to remind people that these servicemembers are not here to raise their glasses.

Baublitz credited a crew of dedicated volunteers for making the breakfast a success, including Senior Center Executive Director John Zienowicz, Chef Alton Davis, Council on Aging members and



Belchertown veteran Willie Lemieux, U.S. Marine Corps, wears his Quilt of Valor as Kate Blanchard explains its significance.



Turley Photos by Paula Quimette
Graciella Baublitz, age 13, performs the National Anthem on violin. She has been playing since she was 5 years old.

Senior Center volunteers, along with Country Bank staff, who served and cleared plates.

Morrone presented a medallion coin to each volunteer, as well as to HomeFront Strong staff and volunteers.

She also recognized Town Manager Stuart Beckley, Veterans Service Officer Mark Avis, along with Selectboard members

Nancy Talbot and Jack Cascio and Superintendent of Ware Public Schools Michael Lovato, who all attended the breakfast.

For more information about HomeFront Strong and the programs and services it offers, find

them on Facebook and Instagram, visit brookfieldinstitute.org, call 508-499-9589 or email jennifer@brookfieldinstitute.org.

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Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette
This quilt, "Home of the Free" was made by Jane Page.



Donald "Donny" Longley stands by his metal seahorse sculpture.



Katie Standiford of Longmeadow entered her ceramic sunflower, "Shades of Summer".

Shaped by Service



Linda Iorio painted "Morning Fire" from a scene at Fort Devens.



Donald "Donny" Longley's fish is made from new and repurposed metal.



Veterans art 11
Bold textures catch your eye in Steven Jones' "Locks".

ART from page 1

embraced in his sobriety.

Seay is also a volunteer at HomeFront Strong, offering support for fellow veterans for a number of things including substance and alcohol use.

Veterans helping veterans is a model HomeFront Strong uses, allowing those shared experiences to create a lasting bond and trust. Seay said unless you've been in the military, or a substance user, it's very hard to relate to someone who is.

Seay had several paintings in the show based off of photos provided to him by a friend, who is a retired U.S. Marine Corps veteran. One is of a green Humvee that his friend drove in Okinawa, Japan, and another is of a 1942 U.S. Navy Willys Jeep.

His friend had the Willys shipped home after he discovered the U.S. Navy wanted to get rid of it.

"We've rebuilt it twice," Seay said with a laugh. "It still runs."

Another painting featured a truck his friend drove while in Germany.

Nancy Harder of Ware also entered eight pieces into the Shaped by Service art show, featuring pottery, glasswork and more.

"I started as a littler girl, but I didn't pursue more of it until I retired," Harder said of her creative side.

Harder said she and her husband Gregory rent a cottage on the military base in Niceville, Florida, and she took advantage of a gift certificate she received from the local art studio CREATE!

"I just have such wonderful instructors there, it's very therapeutic...they embrace anyone who comes through the door," Harder said.

Gregory is a 20 plus year U.S. Air Force veteran, and while the two both grew up in Ware, they didn't know each other until later in life, when Gregory had retired from the military.

Harder said she was living in Chicago, and he was all over the world. "We were introduced, and our children convinced us we should be a family," Harder said. Together, the couple has four sons.

Making her art brings her joy, Harder said. She makes a lot of pieces that remind her of Gregory and home. "Gregory walks on the beach and brings me pieces of wood that washed up on shore," she said. One of her pieces in the show features a blue ceramic heart, hanging from a piece of driftwood collected by Gregory.

This was Donald "Donny" Longley's first time exhibiting in the show since he started his job as

HomeFront Strong's chief operating officer a little over a year ago.

Longley, a metalworker, served in the U.S. Air Force for six years, stationed at Dyess Air Force Base in Texas. He was deployed to both Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

For about 20 years, Longley has made sculptures out of a mix of new and repurposed metals.

"I like making abstract stuff," Longley said of his sculptures, which included a fish, a seahorse and even a ball and chain made from old railroad spikes.

The fish is Longley's favorite piece he entered in the show, and it features metal from a number of sources, including old railroad pitchforks, a lawnmower blade and leaf springs from a car. Longley cut out 100 metal disks from a sheet of metal to resemble the fish's scales.

U.S. Navy veteran Katie Standiford of Longmeadow entered her ceramic sunflower bowl titled, "Shades of Summer". The bowl is layered with seven or eight glazes, washing it in warm tints of pink, yellow, orange and brown.

The base of the bowl, which is the center of the sunflower, remains unglazed to showcase the clay's rich, earthy color.

"It's called 'Shades of Summer' because it was a culmination of everything I learned over the summer about glazing," she said. "How to get different depths in the surface so it wasn't flat...it really looks like a flower."

Standiford started taking a ceramics class as part of her art therapy for post-traumatic stress disorder about a year ago. Making the bowl took her about seven hours, with most of that time committed to layering the glazes.

Husband and wife artists Maurice and Linda Iorio traveled from Sterling to display their paintings in the show.

Maurice has exhibited in Shaped by Service for all three years, and last year, he even sold the painting he entered. It is now displayed at Monson Savings Bank.

Maurice has been painting since 2014 and Linda has been painting for over 50 years, and is also his teacher.

Linda remembered the first time her husband had expressed a desire to learn how to paint, during a cruise they took following Maurice's retirement, when she had brought her watercolors along.

Maurice served 21 years as U.S. Army intelligence, and two of his paintings in the show are of his military assignments. One is from his first assignment in Windsor Locks, Connecticut and another from his last



Three Rivers artist Anthony Seay displays three of the eight paintings he entered in the Shaped by Service art show.



Maurice and Linda Iorio of Sterling enjoy spending time together painting. Maurice's painting showing the view from a rooftop in Turkey is shown in the background.

in Turkey.

"90% of all of my paintings are from pictures I took," Maurice said.

Linda entered a painting of the morning fire at Fort Devens, as well as a sunset beach scene from Turkey. The beach scene was painted using a photo one of Maurice's friends from Turkey took.

Linda explores all types of mediums for her paintings, including acrylics, oils, watercolors and Japanese rice inks.

"I got to study with a phenomenal artist, who had his doctorate from Yale," Linda said.

Now the couple has turned a spare bedroom in their home into a studio to display their work, and spend many days together in the dining room, just painting.

"The main thing is I get to spend more time with my wife," Maurice said of his interest in painting.



Patricia Read entered a pencil portrait titled "Robert".

Happy Thanksgiving

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Eighth grade student Natalia Baldizon-Veliz led the Veterans Day ceremony.



Madison Schreier sang the National Anthem.



Student Riley Corder leads her classmates through the flag retirement.



Liliana McIsaac gave the history of the National Anthem.



Turley Photos by Derick Veliz

The Quaboag Band performed "Ask Not", a musical tribute to President John F. Kennedy.

Quaboag remembers

QUABOAG from page 1

Nov. 11, 1918, when a truce was declared to end World War I.

"It became a national holiday in 1939," she said.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed an amendment that changed the holiday to what is now Veterans Day, honoring the military service of veterans serving in all U.S. involved wars.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Liliana McIsaac joined Baldizon-Veliz on stage to give the history of the National Anthem, which was written by poet Francis Scott Key.

Singing the National Anthem was Madison Schreier, accompanied by Quaboag's Fine Arts Director James Joinville on piano.

Riley Corder led a group of her fellow classmates in the retiring of the American flag, walking them through each step of the process until it was folded into a triangle with only the field of stars showing.

This retired flag was handed to veteran Harry Pearson, a substitute teacher at the school.

Pearson said many people have questioned the need for the U.S. to have such a large military, and he said it's important to look to the past.

"Those who forget the past, are doomed to repeat it," he said.

Pearson spoke about isolationism, and how when confronted by a bully, our country must be prepared.

"Most Americans don't realize how great we have it here," he said. When speaking about freedom, Pearson said, "you should and must be prepared to defend it."

The featured speaker for the ceremony was state Rep. Todd Smola, who said it's extremely important to be here remembering and honor-



Veteran and teacher Harry Pearson accepts the American flag for retirement.



Teacher Joseph Salvatore watches as his eighth grade civics students lead the Veterans Day ceremony.



West Brookfield American Legion Post 244 Vice-Commander Jeff Nickerson stands to be recognized for his service.

ing veterans.

"Veterans see the world through a different set of eyes," Smola said. "Put yourself in the shoes of a veteran."

Smola said many veterans in the audience began defending their country's freedom when they were only a few years older than Salvatore's students. He said they

left their homes, their families, their regular lives.

He asked the students to imagine leaving it all behind to go to a



Students read the number of servicemembers killed during major wars.

foreign country, knowing that they might not ever return home.

Veterans have seen the worst of humanity, while carrying 300 million people on their backs, Smola said.

Veterans faced another challenge; coming home and forgetting all they had seen in combat. Saying goodbye once again to their family, this time, their military family.

Smola said when speaking to a homeless veteran, the veteran told him he just can't go back to regular life after serving.

"It's not an easy thing to do," he said. "It's a tough burden to carry."

Smola told the students that it's okay to be proud of their country and to recognize the sacrifice men and women have made through military service.

"We've got a responsibility to all of them. We have to take care of them, give them services," he said. "The freedoms that you have; use them wisely."

Joinville led the Quaboag Band through a piece called "Ask Not", a musical tribute to the life of President John F. Kennedy, while Principal Casey Handfield narrated.

"Ask Not" took the audience

through JFK's early days in office, and the fateful day in Texas in 1963, when shots were fired, striking the President and ultimately killing him.

"For four days, the world stood still," Handfield said. "On Nov. 25, he was laid to rest."

Following the musical performance, 12 students placed American flags on the stage, symbolizing the major wars the U.S. has been involved with, starting with the Revolutionary War. As students placed the flag, they read the number of servicemembers killed as a result of each war.

Each year near Veterans Day, Quaboag students add an alumni to its Quaboag Alumni Veterans Wall, which is proudly displayed in the hallway at the back of the auditorium.

This year, U.S. Army veteran Anthony Girouard, Class of 2013, was inducted to the wall.

Living in Florida and working as a police officer, Girouard was unable to attend, but his parents proudly accepted the honor on his behalf.

"Just 10 years ago, he was walking these halls," Salvatore said of

Girouard.

Girouard voluntarily joined the U.S. Army in "the thick of things," Salvatore said, completing three tours in Afghanistan. Some of Girouard's friends in the military didn't make it home.

"You might consider the same choice," Salvatore said of enlisting in the military. He reassured students that as veterans, they would not be forgotten by Quaboag.

Superintendent of Schools Stephen Duff said Veterans Day is a day to express our deepest gratitude as U.S. citizens.

"Freedom comes at a cost," he said. "Today, we extend our heartfelt thanks to those that served and their families."

West Brookfield American Legion Post 244 Vice-Commander Jeff Nickerson spoke about the American Legion, and its support of veterans and their families.

Veterans are real people, he said, our neighbors, friends and families.

Following the ceremony, Baldizon-Veliz said she learned a lot about veterans while working to organize this year's ceremony.

"I learned how hard they worked," she said.

McIsaac echoed Baldizon-Veliz's statement, adding that veterans "don't get recognized enough for their hard work."

Corder said observing Veterans Day is very important to the country and its citizens.

Salvatore, who served six years in the U.S. Army National Guard and has been a longtime educator at Quaboag Regional Middle High School, said it's especially important to recognize those in your own community.

"I really like to see the kids who were students...and see their face on the wall," he said. "We remember them."

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Scouts from Ware Scouts BSA Troop 281 led the Pledge of Allegiance.



Frank Bateman was the featured speaker this year.



Ware Fire Department brought its newest engine to the parade.

VETERANS DAY



A service dog enjoys the warmth of the sun.

WARE HONORS from page 1

Newly elected state Sen. Peter Durant was honored to be included in Ware's Veterans Day ceremony.

"It's an honor to be here," he said. Durant said the world is a dangerous place and there is always conflict happening somewhere. It's up to the U.S. to provide freedom, even for other nations.

"We provide such a service...our world needs a force of good - that's the U.S.," Durant said.

State Rep. Todd Smola spoke after Durant and said that even though the U.S. is a young nation, it is a proud and strong nation. It has freedoms and opportunities for each of its citizens, that have been fought for by our veterans.

"Are you taking advantage of every opportunity you have?" Smola asked the crowd. "Opportunity has been given to each and every one of us...given to us by veterans."

Smola talked about the struggles veterans face returning to their normal lives after serving, and the work the State House is doing to help with that.

"We are blessed to live in this great country," Smola said. "God bless our veterans."

State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume, a U.S. Navy veteran, shared that he served for six years and went to 28 countries.

"It made me grow up a little," Berthiaume said. "And I met great people."

The featured speaker for the ceremony was Frank Bateman, a retired U.S. Army veteran with 39 years of service.

Bateman said, "We are very fortunate to live in the state where it all began."

He thanked his fellow veterans, the men and women who answered the call to serve "at all costs to defend this great land."

Bateman also thanked the military families, noting the sacrifices his own family made during his time in the U.S. Army.

Rucki closed the ceremony with another prayer, asking God to watch over them all.

"Rest well veterans, you are in our prayers," he said.



Missy Douty gets ready to enter the parade lineup driving John Pajak's Willys.



Jane Sterndale and Deb Deschamps sing patriotic song.



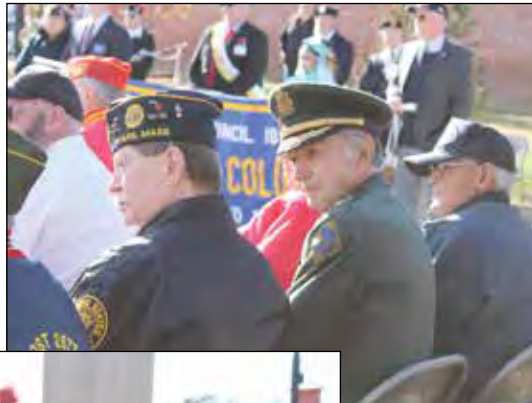
Bagpipers from the Melha Highlanders from Springfield perform "Amazing Grace".



Ron Rucki leads those gathered in prayer.



Drummers keep the beat during "Amazing Grace".



ABOVE: Major Francis Moran listens to the speaker during the Veterans Day ceremony.

Turley Photos by Paula Quimette



Cub Scouts from Ware Family Pack 520 listen to the speakers.



A veteran waves an American flag from his truck during the parade.

Ware's veterans always come out in full force to honor those who serve.



The color guard from Quabbin Region High School's NJROTC prepares to start the parade on Maple Street.



Members of the Police and Fire departments march in the parade.



State Reps. Todd Smola and Donnie Berthiaume and newly elected state Sen. Peter Durant joined the community to honor veterans.

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Indians, Cougars set for holiday eve matchup

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARREN—After winning the last two games against rival Ware, the members of the Quaboag football team will be looking to even the overall series record at 7-7 in this year's contest.

The 14th meeting between the two neighboring high schools is scheduled to take place at 6pm on the night before Thanksgiving at Quaboag Regional.

"Ware holds a 7-6 lead in the series, so we can tie it up this year," said Quaboag head coach Dave Shepherd. "We're looking forward to playing them and it's always a very competitive game."

Before starting the Cougars football program 15 years ago, Shepherd was the head football coach at Ware High School for nine years.

Two years ago, the Cougars celebrated a 22-7 home win versus the Indians. They also squeaked out a 26-21 win on Thanksgiving morning at Veteran's Field last year.

"We've been banged up the last couple of times that we've played Quaboag," said Ware head coach Mike Fazio. "We're relatively healthy right now and our kids are ready to go play them. We just want to get the trophy back in Ware again. The turkey always tastes bad after a loss."

The two football teams didn't face each other during the 2020



Zachary Russell returns the ball on a kickoff.

season due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prior to 2020, the Indians had won four games in a row against the Cougars, including an 8-0 home win in 2019. It was the first time that the football game between the two rivals was held on Thanksgiving morning.

Fazio enjoys playing the game on Thanksgiving morning as



Kolby McDonnell-Kularski kicks off for the Indians to start last year's game.

opposed to under the lights the night before.

"I would rather play the game on Thanksgiving Day," Fazio said. "It's a different kind of excitement when you wake up and play a football game on Thanksgiving morning."

Both teams will enter the final football game of the season with winning records.

Ware is currently 9-1 with their only setback coming against Randolph, 3-0, at home in a Division 8 playoff game on November 3.

If the Indians can end their losing streak against Quaboag, it would give them ten wins for the first time since 2017.

Please see **WARE**, page 10



Kenzie Casey advances along the sideline.

Submitted photo

Panthers season ends against Uxbridge

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

UXBRIDGE—Once the sting of losing in the Division 4 state quarterfinals fades away in a couple of weeks, the members of the Quabbin field hockey team will look back on the 2023 season with fond memories.

The ninth-seeded Lady Panthers made the trip to the Blackstone Valley last Saturday looking to upset the top-seeded and two-time Division 4 state champion Uxbridge High School.

Just like they've done in 21 of their 22 games this fall, the Spartans players celebrated a 7-0 victory over the Lady Panthers before a large crowd on their home turf field.

"We were able to win a lot of great games this year," said Shelly Zalneraitis, who completed her 30th season as the Lady Panthers varsity field hockey coach. "I'm really proud of these girls, especially the seniors."

The Lady Panthers senior captains are Kylie Casey, Camryn

Please see **QUABBIN**, page 10

Volleyball All-Star Showcase set for next Tuesday at Holyoke Community College

HOLYOKE – The 11th IVHF All-Star Showcase will feature the top players in Western Massachusetts in two showcase matches. The event will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 21 at the Holyoke

Community College Bartley Center located at 303 Homestead Avenue, Holyoke.

The event will start with a 3-set Second team all-star match at 6 p.m. followed by the award pre-

sentation and a 3-set First team match at 7:30 p.m. Adult tickets are \$10, Seniors 65-and-over are \$5 and Students/Children are free of charge. Admission to the All-Star Game also includes

a free of charge future admission pass to the International Volleyball Hall of Fame Museum. "The IVHF is very proud to have its home in Western Massachusetts and we are very

excited to again recognize the top players in our area," said IVHF Executive Director George Mulry. Selected players are chosen by vote of the Western Massachusetts girls high school coaches.

For more information on the Hall of Fame Girls All-Star Volleyball Showcase, contact events@volleyball.org.



Cole Austin with a leading block to help Nick Warburton carry into the endzone.

Turley photos by Ray Duffy

Panthers look for third straight holiday win

BARRE – Quabbin Regional High School football will close out its football season with a holiday eve matchup on Wednesday, Nov. 22 against Gardner High School.

Last year, for the second straight time, Quabbin defeated Gardner in their annual Thanksgiving holiday matchup. This year, it was a 34-21 victory on the turf of Gardner High School last Thursday morning. Nick Warburton scored four touchdowns to lead the Panthers. Jaxon Warburton had the other score. Nick Warburton scored on runs of 8, 13, 33, and 45 yards. He finished with 332 on an impressive 37 carries. His total captured the single-season rushing record for Quabbin. The game concludes the fall season for Quabbin with winter practices starting this week.

This year could prove a little more difficult as Gardner improved and has a 31-0 win over Quabbin in Week 1 of this year.

Kickoff is set for 6 p.m.



Luke Salvadore catches a pass in the first quarter during last year's Thanksgiving game.

Pioneers, Orioles set to matchup on Thanksgiving

PALMER – Last Thanksgiving, the Pathfinder High School football team scored early and often, utilizing the pass game to their advantage en route to a win over Belchertown. It was the first Thanksgiving win in a few years for the Pioneers, which finished the season above .500 for the first time in several years.

This year, both teams are coming off pretty successful seasons, setting up for a very good matchup on Thanksgiving morning, next Thursday.

This year's game will be held at Belchertown High School and the kickoff will take place a little early, at 9 a.m. Belchertown utilized the early kickoff two years ago for the first time.

Belchertown made the state tournament for the first time with a 7-1 record and a 4-1 conference record, losing only to Hoosac on Oct. 1.

The Orioles would be defeated by Shawsheen Valley Vocational 49-8 on Nov. 3 and then faced Ware in non-playoff action in Week 10. The Orioles were defeated in that matchup, entering the Thanksgiving matchup with a 7-3 record overall. Pathfinder enters this year's matchup at 4-6, though their team has had a much better season than their record reflects.

Even in defeat, Pathfinder always was in competitive matchups, and they were successful in Tri-County action, going 3-2, including a win over Smith Vocational on Oct. 27.

Smith Vocational got a bit of revenge, defeating Pathfinder in nonplayoff action on Nov. 10. Pathfinder also lost to Lee in Week 9.



Brandon Hnitecki makes a tackle for the Pioneers.

Staff photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Austin Lagimoniere ranges to make a catch.



Hunter Griswold makes a throw for Pathfinder.

Thunderbirds fall in overtime

BRIDGEPORT, CT – The Springfield Thunderbirds (7-6-1-0) got a terrific netminding performance, but the offense went cold in a 2-1 overtime loss to the Bridgeport Islanders (4-6-1-0) on Saturday night at Total Mortgage Arena in Bridgeport.

The starting goaltenders were the best performers in the opening period. Malcolm Subban got the nod for the T-Birds after a strong relief effort in Providence on Friday and helped Springfield kill off a pair of Islanders power plays in the first, denying nine shots in the period. At the other end, Ken Appleby was far busier than he was last Sunday when he needed to make just 17 saves in 60 minutes against the T-Birds. He had an answer for all 11 Springfield shots in the first frame.

The scoreless affair was broken at the 5:54 mark in the second period. After Springfield failed to generate a chance on an odd-man rush, it sprung the Islanders into the T-Birds zone on a 3-on-

1, and Ruslan Iskhakov elected to take the shot himself from the right circle, slipping it between Subban's legs to give Bridgeport the 1-0 advantage and snap a streak of more than 75 minutes without a goal for the Isles.

Despite some shaky moments in the stanza, the T-Birds fought back to even the score at 15:28. Near the end of a shift, Will Bitten entered the offensive zone on the left wing, dropping a pass at the top of the left circle for Joey Duszak. After stumbling slightly, Duszak regathered his footing and surprised Appleby with a low shot along the ice that sneaked home, equaling things at 1-1. Bitten picked up his first assist of the year, while Duszak's tally was his first goal as a Thunderbird.

Subban remained stout in between the pipes, as he shut down each of the other 13 shots he faced in the period, allowing just the Iskhakov wrister to beat him, taking the 1-1 tie into the final 20 minutes.

Shots and chances heavily favored the Islanders in the third period, as Springfield just a single shot on goal in the final 20 minutes. Subban, though, maintained his poise and nearly singlehandedly earned a standings point for the T-Birds, forcing the 1-1 tie into overtime.

After winning their first two overtime games of the season, Springfield could not make it three straight, as Iskhakov stormed up the ice to create a 2-on-1 with Sam Asselin with under a minute left in overtime. Asselin hit Iskhakov in stride, and the skilled winger made no mistake in beating Subban on the stick side to seal the victory at 4:08 of extra time.

The T-Birds come back home next Friday, Nov. 17 for another Deuces Wild Friday at the Thunderdome, where the T-Birds will take on the Utica Comets for their first of four matchups on the season, with puck drop at 7:05 p.m.

University of Massachusetts hosting Pioneer Valley Tip-Off

AMHERST – The Pioneer Valley Tip-Off is a student-run high school basketball showcase featuring some of the best talent in Central and Western Massachusetts. The PVTO was started in 2011 by Scott Moses and Pat Salle, both students at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and it continues to be entirely student-run by the McCormack Student Leaders Club today. The PVTO is held

each December on the University of Massachusetts Amherst campus, where we strive to create a professional environment for fans and players alike. This year's event will be held on Dec. 9 and 10 and will feature teams from throughout the region. A schedule is online at www.pioneer-valleytip-off.com. All games will be held at the Mullins Center on the UMass-Amherst campus.

Alumni game at Chicopee Comp

CHICOPEE – All Chicopee Comprehensive High School football alumni are invited to participate in the 6th annual CCHS Alumni Football Game. The game will be taking place on Wednesday, Nov. 22 at 6 p.m. at Chicopee Comp High School, 617 Montgomery Street, Chicopee. All proceeds will benefit the Chicopee Comprehensive football team.

For more information, please contact Tammy Martin-Griffin at tmg811@yahoo.com.

WARE from page 9

"We haven't won ten games since I've been the head coach here," Fazio said. "We've been 9-2 a couple of times and 8-3 a couple of times. I would love it if the players on this year's team could do that. All of the kids have worked very hard."

The Indians seniors who'll be looking to close out their high school football careers with a victory, are Kyle Safford, Talan Molina, Noah Fales, Dominic Guardino, Ayden Young, Kyle Gordon, and Jacob Witt.

"It's a very big game, especially for the seniors, against our rivals," Fazio said. "You always want to end your season on a high note."

Molina, Safford, Fales, Young, and Gordon are the Indians captains.

Safford and Molina are also the Indians main running backs, along with sophomore Jadrien Berthiaume, who's also a wide receiver.

"Ware is a very good running team," Shepherd said. "That's

something that our defense will need to stop in order for us to win this year's game. Our offense can't afford to turn the ball over."

Another Ware wide receiver is junior Gavin Sawabi

Junior Brady Dyer is the Indians starting quarterback. He'll be starting in the rivalry game for the first time. He took over the starting duties from Jack Autcher, who's currently a freshman member of the W.P.I. football team.

"Brady has improved so much this season," Fazio said. "I'm really looking forward to watching him play against Quaboag. I'm very glad that I'll be coaching him again next year."

The Indians leading defensive players are Safford, Gordon, Fales, Young, junior Nathan Harmon, and sophomore Alex Orszulak.

Only three opponents have scored more than ten points against the Indians this fall.

The Cougars, who lost a non-playoff home game to Northbridge in their last game, will enter the contest with a 6-4 overall record.

Brendan Burke, who's also a freshman member of the W.P.I. football team, finished his high school career as the Cougars all-time leading rusher.

One of the Cougars offensive weapons this fall is senior Tyler Withers. He's a co-captain, along with senior Bryce Douglas, who's the leader of the defensive unit.

"Tyler and Bryce are both outstanding football players," Shepherd said. "Tyler is hoping to play college football next year."

The other Quaboag seniors, who'll be honored during a pre-game ceremony, are Chucky Smith, Jaden Ostigay, and Aidan Pontbriand.

"It's going to be our senior night and we're hoping to win the game for our five seniors," Shepherd said. "We want to keep the trophy at Quaboag for another year."

The Quaboag starting quarterback is sophomore Jacob Cacace.

The 14th meeting between the Ware and Quaboag football teams should be a very interesting affair.



Submitted Photo
U.S. Marine Corps veteran Sgt. Kevin W. McMenamin wears his Purple Heart medal.

Veteran receives Purple Heart 54 years later

BELCHERTOWN – On Veterans Day, Nov. 11, U.S. Marine Corps veteran Sgt. Kevin W. McMenamin was finally pinned with the Purple Heart he earned after being wounded during combat in Vietnam 54 years ago.

McMenamin was honored at a ceremony held at Belchertown High School, where he received a commendation from the Commonwealth, one from the Senate presented by state Sen. Jake Oliviera, and one from the

House of Representatives presented by state Rep. Aaron Saunders.

Saunders congratulated McMenamin for his bravery, and his patience. A long list of other awards and conflict participations were also noted during the ceremony.

Belchertown Veterans' Agent, Charly N. Oliva, MSW, pinned the Purple Heart medal on McMenamin.

Music for the ceremony was provided by the Chestnut Hill School's chorus and band.

The chorus sang the theme song for each branch of the military as the veterans stood for their particular song. The chorus also paid special tribute to those missing in action with a full rendition of "Amazing Grace".

The band performed several patriotic pieces as well.

Ware resident Rita Lee was proud that her granddaughter, Aliah Miller, sang onstage to honor McMenamin and other veterans. Miller also performed with the band.

Sign up for the Wilbraham Turkey Trot

WILBRAHAM – Please join us on Thanksgiving morning, Nov. 23 for the Wilbraham Turkey Trot - a five-mile road race up Monson Road now in its 44th year. The annual tradition, started in 1980, has grown in recent years selling out at 500 runners the past several years. This year, the maximum has been increased to 550 participants.

The race returned successfully returned last Thanksgiving morning for the annual tradition benefitting the Community Survival Center.

There is no vaccination requirement this year. The course starts in Woodland Dell Cemetery just up from race headquarters at the Wilbraham United Church. Runners then make a left onto Main St. and head up Monson Road. Once summited, runners turn left

and enjoy scenic views of the valley from atop Ridge Road and enjoy the downhill along Mountain Road before turning back on Main Street to the church. The race starts at 8:30 a.m. with bib pick-up beginning at 7:30 a.m. at the church.

The race focuses on providing a classic New England Turkey Trot with chip timing, race swag, and one big hill. Awards will be given for the first male and female runners to the top of Monson Road.

Registration is only \$20 and available online at www.RunReg.com/wilbrahamturkeytrot

Residents are asked not to park on Woodland Dell or Main Street on Thanksgiving morning and to avoid driving on the route until after the race has concluded at 10 a.m. Any traffic will be detoured

downhill from Monson Road to Main along Ridge and Mountain Roads.

Expected road closures are as follows:

Main Street: From Monson to Woodland Dell: 8:30-8:35 a.m.

Monson Road: Closed to downhill traffic from Ridge Road to Main Street: 8:30-8:50 a.m. (Traffic detoured down ridge road)

Ridge Road: Closed to uphill traffic from Mountain to Monson: 8:35-9:10 a.m.

(Traffic detoured down Mountain Road)

Mountain Road: Closed to uphill traffic from Main to Ridge: 8:40-9:25 a.m.

(Traffic can travel uphill via Monson Road)

QUABBIN from page 9

Orsini, Gracie Talbot, and Julianna Stanger, who was the starting goalkeeper. The other two seniors are Annabelle Magill, and Madylin Breault.

"The seniors were our leaders this year," Zalneraitis said. "It was a very special season."

Quabbin's five returning starters in the fall of 2024 will be junior Sydney Slattery, junior Haley Ayer, sophomore Farrah Wojcik, sophomore Madelyn Stauder, and freshman Makenzie Casey.

After finishing the regular season with an 8-4-3 record, the Lady Panthers entered the Central Mass. Athletic Directors Association Class B tournament as the fourth seed.

They defeated the fifth-seeded Oakmont Spartans, 4-0, in a CMADA quarterfinal home game. It was the first time that the Lady Panthers defeated their Mid-Wach B rivals since a 1-0 home victory on October 13, 2021.

The Lady Panthers then defeated top-seeded Lunenburg, 2-1, in the semifinals, and second-seeded Clinton, 2-1 in the Class B. finals.

Quabbin, who handed both Lunenburg and Clinton their first losses of the season, captured the sectional title for the first time since 1991.

The Lady Panthers began the Division 4 state tournament with an exciting 1-0 victory over 24th-seeded Saint Paul Diocesan of Worcester in the round of 32, which was played at Alumni Field.

Breault scored the only goal in that contest on a penalty corner, which was assisted by Makenzie Casey. It was also the Lady Panthers final home game of the season.

Five days later, Quabbin squeaked out a 2-1 road victory over eighth-seeded Cohasset in round of 16.

Trailing 1-0, Magill scored the tying goal against Cohasset in the second quarter, which was assisted by Breault. The Casey sisters combined for the go-ahead goal. Makenzie put the ball into the cage while her older sister assisted.

"We beat Clinton and Lunenburg, who were previously undefeated in the Central Mass. Tournament," Zalneraitis said. "Cohasset was another big win because they were seeded ahead of us. We did a lot of great things to get here this year."

Quabbin entered the Division 4 quarterfinal match riding a seven game winning streak.

Uxbridge had won 67 games in a row before losing, 2-0, at Andover, who's the defending Division 1 state champions, on October 16. The Spartans, who outscored their opponents, 115-13 during the regular season, won their eighth consecutive game against the Lady Panthers.

"Uxbridge is a powerhouse team, and they move the ball unbelievably well," Zalneraitis said. "It's like a high school team playing against a college team. Even if a team plays a perfect game against them, I'm not sure you would beat them. The turf field also makes a huge difference."

The Lady Panthers practiced on the turf field at Gardner High School a couple of times.

"The Gardner AD (Dan Forte) has been great allowing us to use their turf field for practice," Zalneraitis said. "I wish that we had our own turf field."

Stanger, who made five of her 21 saves during the first quarter, managed to keep the Spartans off the scoreboard for the first twelve minutes.

"Julianna played a phenomenal game today," Zalneraitis said. "She



Julianna Stanger makes a save for the Panthers.



Abby Rogowski dribbles up the field.



Gracie Talbot clears the ball away on defense.



Violet Kelley deflects the ball.

Submitted photos

should hold her head up high leaving here."

Uxbridge head coach Kelly Rosborough was also impressed with Stanger's outstanding performance.

"I thought the Quabbin goalie did a heck of a job," said Rosborough, who was inducted into the Uxbridge High School Athletic Hall of Fame last Saturday night. "She's one of the best goalies we've faced this season. She stopped a lot of hard shots. It took us more than ten minutes to score our first goal of the game."

With 2:51 left in the opening quarter, Uxbridge junior Ellie Bouchard pushed a shot into the cage for her first of four goals.

Sophomore Kendall Gilmore, who assisted on the Spartans first goal, scored a goal with eight seconds remaining in the quarter, which was assisted by sophomore Amelia Blood.

The Lady Panthers had two pen-

alty corners during the first five minutes of the second quarter, but they couldn't take a shot on goal.

The home team held a 5-0 half-time lead following one goal by sophomore Julianna Casucci and two more from Bouchard during the second quarter.

Uxbridge's lone goal of the third quarter was scored on a penalty corner by Blood with nine minutes remaining on the scoreboard clock.

Less than 40 seconds into the final quarter, Bouchard capped off the scoring with her fourth goal.

Down at the other end of the field, Uxbridge sophomore goalie Julia Okenquist didn't have to make any saves in posting her 14th shutout of the season.

While the Lady Panthers end their season with a 13-5-3 overall record, the Spartans (21-1) were scheduled to face fourth-seeded Sutton in the Division 4 state semifinals.

public safety



Graduates of Class #534 represent 14 Massachusetts fire departments.

Submitted Photo

Ware firefighters graduate from Firefighting Academy

SPRINGFIELD – State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Director Jeffrey P. Winn announced the graduation of 25 firefighters from the 50-day Career Recruit Firefighting Training Program.

Local graduates from the Ware Fire Department include Matthew Spellman and Joseph Tuminelli.

“Massachusetts firefighters are on the frontlines protecting their communities every day, and today’s graduates are needed now more than ever,” said Davine in a press release. “The hundreds of hours of foundational training they’ve received will provide them with the physical, mental, and technical skills to perform their jobs effectively and safely.”

“Massachusetts Firefighting Academy instructors draw on decades of experience in the fire service to train new recruits,” said Winn. “Through consistent classroom instruction and practical exercises, today’s graduates have developed the tools they’ll need to work seamlessly with veteran firefighters in their home departments and in neighboring communities as mutual aid.”

The graduating firefighters of Class #534 represent the fire departments of Attleboro, Charlton, Chicopee,

Douglas, East Longmeadow, Falmouth, Longmeadow, Lowell, Northampton, Uxbridge, Ware, West Springfield, Westfield and Westminster.

Basic firefighter skills

Students receive classroom training in all basic firefighter skills. They practice first under non-fire conditions and then during controlled fire conditions.

To graduate, students must demonstrate proficiency in life safety, search and rescue, ladder operations, water supply, pump operation, and fire attack. Fire attack operations range from mailbox fires to multiple-floor or multiple-room structural fires.

Upon successful completion of the Career Recruit Program, all students have met the national standards of NFPA 1001, Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications, and are certified to the levels of Firefighter I/II and Hazardous Materials First Responder Operations by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council, which is accredited by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications.

More than fighting fires

Modern firefighters train for and respond to all types of hazards and emergencies.

They are the first ones called to respond to chemical and environmental emergencies, ranging from the suspected presence of carbon monoxide to gas leaks to industrial chemical spills. They may be called to rescue a child who has fallen through the ice, an office worker stuck in an elevator, or a motorist trapped in a crashed vehicle.

They test and maintain their equipment, including self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), hydrants, hoses, power tools, and apparatus.

At the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, recruits learn all these skills and more, including the latest science of fire behavior and suppression tactics, from certified fire instructors.

They also receive training in public fire education, hazardous material incident mitigation, flammable liquids, stress management, and self-rescue techniques. The intensive, 10-week program involves classroom instruction, physical fitness training, firefighter skills training, and live firefighting practice.

The MFA provides recruit and in-service training for career, call, and volunteer firefighters at every level of experience, from recruit to chief officer, at campuses in Stow, Springfield and Bridgewater.

Ware Police Log

During the week of Nov. 6-10, the Ware Police Department responded to 19 miscellaneous calls, 23 administrative calls, five traffic violations, nine emergency 911 calls, two animal calls, two harassments, one theft/larceny, four motor vehicle accidents, four assist other agencies, one breaking and entering and 24 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

Monday, Nov. 6

7:30 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Gould Road, Investigated
11:06 a.m. Assist Other Agency, West Street, Assist Given
12:33 p.m. Assist Other Agency, West Main Street, Assist Given
12:36 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, Glendale Circle, Advised
1:17 p.m. Drugs, West Street, Services Rendered
1:31 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Main Street, No Action Required
4:41 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, North Street, Advised
5:38 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Anderson Road, Advised

Tuesday, Nov. 7

8:33 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Dispatch Handled
1:15 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call,

Main Street, Canceled En Route

Wednesday, Nov. 8

10:42 a.m. Theft/Larceny, Palmer Road, Services Rendered
Summons: German O. Rivas Boneta, 50, Springfield
Shoplifting \$250+ by Asportation c266 §30A
11:56 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Main Street, Dispatch Handled
2:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Main Street, Citation/Warning Issued
3:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued
4:44 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, West Street, Report Made
6:32 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Valley View, Advised

Thursday, Nov. 9

6:38 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued
10:22 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Parker Street, Services Rendered
10:45 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Parker Street, Services Rendered
12:41 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, South Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Warren Police Log

During the week of Oct. 22-28, the Warren Police Department responded to 237 building/property checks, 90 community policing, 15 traffic enforcements, 10 emergency 911 calls, one harassment, one fraud/forgery, one motor vehicle accident, one property damage, three complaints, one safety concern, two animal calls and 36 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Sunday, Oct. 22

2:26 a.m. Tree Incidents, Reed Street, Removed Hazard
3:13 p.m. Recreational Vehicle Complaint, Keys Road, Information Given

Monday, Oct. 23

4:07 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, North Street, Report Filed
5:09 p.m. Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Old West Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital
5:43 p.m. Headache, Presidential Circle, Mutual Aid Transport

Tuesday, Oct. 24

4:59 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brimfield Road, Citation Issued
5:34 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
6:13 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
9:25 a.m. Complaint, Keys Road, Officer Took Call
9:48 a.m. Fraud/Forgery, Pine Street, Officer Took Call
2:01 p.m. Fire/Motor Vehicle Collision, North Street, Transported to Hospital
3:15 p.m. Harassment, North Street, Officer Spoke to Party
7:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brook Road, Written Warning
8:33 p.m. Property Damage, Keys Road, Report Filed

Wednesday, Oct. 25

11:09 a.m. Fire/Smoke Investigation, Maple Street, Investigated
4:27 p.m. Abdominal/Back Pain, Ware Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
5:20 p.m. Breathing Difficulty, Maple Street, Transported to Hospital
7:22 p.m. Diabetic, Brimfield

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.

4:25 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Services Rendered
8:58 p.m. Breaking and Entering/Burglary, Milner Street, Report Made

Friday, Nov. 10

4:42 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Chestnut Street, Services Rendered

Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Thursday, Oct. 26

6:59 a.m. Complaint, Pulaski Street, Report Filed
4:29 p.m. Falls, Old West Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital

Friday, Oct. 27

7:08 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Mechanic Street, Transported to Hospital
8:42 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Boston Post Road, Report Filed

Saturday, Oct. 28

6:45 a.m. Complaint, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
4:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
Summons: Miles Woodyard, 21, Springfield
License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With
5:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old West Brookfield Road, Written Warning
6:49 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Grove Street, Transported to Hospital

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Nov. 6-13, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 65 building/property checks, 37 directed/area patrols, four traffic controls, 14 emergency 911 calls, 13 radar assignments, three complaints, seven motor vehicle investigations, one investigation, three assist other agencies, six citizen assists, one threat, one vandalism, one property damage, four animal calls and 14 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, Nov. 6

9:20 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Greenwich Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
1:08 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Street, Transported to Hospital
1:57 p.m. Vandalism, Grove Street, Spoken To
6:19 p.m. Assist Citizen, Parker Court, Spoken To
8:18 p.m. 911 Animal Call, Barre Road, Officer Handled
8:20 p.m. Gunshots, Fiske Road, Report Taken
10:20 p.m. Assist Citizen, River Run, Investigated

Tuesday, Nov. 7

1:57 a.m. Medical Emergency, Greenwich Road, Services Rendered
2:35 p.m. Neighbor Dispute, High Street, Summons Issued
2:45 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Prospect Street, Transported to Hospital
4:01 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Turkey Street, Vehicle Towed
5:05 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, River Run, Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, Nov. 8

2:30 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Lower Road, Investigated
5:48 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Citation Issued
7:25 a.m. 911 Lockout, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered
9:09 a.m. Investigation, Lower Road, Officer Handled
11:35 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
12:36 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled
3:22 p.m. Medical Emergency, Prospect Street, Transported to Hospital
4:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
6:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Ridge Road, Officer Handled
6:59 p.m. 911 Misdial, Upper Church Street, Dispatch Handled
8:02 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

Thursday, Nov. 9

12:12 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
6:50 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Petersham Road, Arrest(s) Made
11:04 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Grove Street, Officer Handled
2:07 p.m. Property Damage, Church Street, Report Taken
2:58 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Broad Street, Services Rendered
3:17 p.m. Assist Citizen, Fleming Road, Services Rendered
11:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Main Street, Spoken To

Friday, Nov. 10

2:20 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Main Street, Officer Handled
9:36 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Town of Hardwick, Dispatch Handled
12:55 p.m. Threat, Lower Road, Officer Handled
1:22 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered
2:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Vehicle Towed
2:49 p.m. Complaint, Hardwick Pond Road, Officer Handled
3:58 p.m. Assist Citizen, Barre Road, Officer Handled
6:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
6:53 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Lower Road, Negative Contact

Saturday, Nov. 11

4:56 p.m. 911 Elevator Call/Alarms, Old Petersham Road, Unfounded
7:33 p.m. 911 Disabled Motor Vehicle, Petersham Road, Vehicle Towed

Sunday, Nov. 12

12:27 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Petersham Road, Officer Handled
2:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Lower Road, Investigated
7:25 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Breen Road, Merge
7:27 p.m. 911 Suspicious Activity, Mellon Road, Unfounded

Monday, Nov. 13

2:41 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Lower Road, Services Rendered

Firefighter safety grant opportunity announced

STOW – The Healey-Driscoll Administration announced that \$5 million in grant funding is available to support the purchase of firefighter turnout gear, fire suppression equipment, and related items through the FY24 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant program.

The competitive grant program, which is administered by the Executive Office of Public Safety & Security and the Department of Fire Services, reimburses local fire departments for the purchase of qualifying safety equipment.

Departments of every city, town, fire district, and eligible state authority may apply for a grant. Maximum funding amounts are based on the size of the population the department serves.

“The equipment funded through these grants will make firefighters and their communities safer,” said Secretary of Public Safety and Security Terrence M. Reidy in a press release. “Whether it’s a complete set of turnout gear or ballistic protection for use on a rescue task force, every dollar goes toward protecting the people who protect us.”

More than 130 different categories of tools, meters, personal protective equipment, communications devices, and other items are eligible for reimbursement through the program.

“The Firefighter Safety Equipment Grants are an investment in the health and safety of

Massachusetts firefighters,” said State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine. “The flexibility of the program is especially valuable because it allows each department to make purchases based on their specific needs and resources.”

For more information on the FY24 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant program, including eligibility requirements and conditions, fire chiefs and/or department grant managers should read the Notice of Funding Opportunity posted on the Department of Fire Services’ website, mass.gov/doc/fy24-firefighter-safety-equipment-grant-notice-of-funding-opportunity/download.

Trustees of the Paige Memorial Library and the other from the Council on Aging.

EV charging stations

The Select Board signed a contract to accept a grant from the Electric Vehicle Incentive Program, to cover the replacement of electric vehicle charging stations.

Cultural Council grant

The Select Board accepted \$11,400 on behalf of the Hardwick/New Braintree Cultural Council, through the Local Cultural Council program.

HARDWICK from page 1

Tax classification hearing

Board of Assessors Clerk Jennifer Kolenda said the Assessors recommend staying with a single tax rate for all classes of property.

She said the small benefit that a split tax rate could give residents is not warranted. It would also place a burden on commercial taxpayers, who would pay a higher rate with this type of classification.

A single tax rate would be \$12.62 per \$1,000 valuation.

Kolenda explained that the split rate, would reduce residential taxes to \$12.02 but would increase commercial rates to \$18.93.

The Select Board voted to accept the single tax rate of \$12.62, as recommended by the Board of Assessors.

Liquor license

Kat Riley of the Whistle Stop Restaurant came before the Select Board seeking a new, all-alcohol restaurant license for her Main Street establishment.

Riley said she wants to be able to offer alcoholic beverages in the restaurant, and in an adjacent train car.

The Board approved the application.

New position

Select Board members approved the creation of a Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals clerk position.

Resignation

The Select Board accepted two resignation letters from Edward Kelly, one from the Board of

Singles tournament begins at Diamond Junction

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

PALMER – The singles tournament began this past Saturday at Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes.

The event is the second tour stop of the 2023-2024 Western New England Candlepin Association tour season. Over 30 bowlers signed up to bowl on Nov. 4 for three games of candlepin bowling and an attempt to earn points to compete in the playoffs at the end of the season.

John Havens Sr. of Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes was thrilled to witness a great turnout to start off tournament weekend.

“It’s good to see the bowlers come all around,” said Havens.

Many of the bowlers came from as far as Adams, and even out-of-state from Vermont, as well as central Massachusetts and various towns of western Massachusetts to try out Diamond Junction for the first time.

This is the first year that the WNECA has hosted a tournament in Palmer.

Paul and Elaine Barnard of Montague currently run the tournaments for the Western New England candlepin tour. The turnout has already been successful as 32 bowlers showed up in two shifts on

Saturday.

Elaine Barnard, looking through the statistics, has another 30 bowlers signed up for the shifts to be held the following day on Nov. 5.

Each bowler was competing individually and bowled a total of three games. Their scores plus their handicap will determine their final score.

Every WNECA tournament is 90% handicap based off an average of 130.

On the lanes, the pin action did not come easy, but several bowlers encountered some big scores. Tim Soucy out of Vermont bowled the first shift and scored a 143 game in the first. Later, TJ Vareschi of Adams finished strong by bowling 137 in the third game.

The following shift was at 2 p.m. and featured league bowlers of Diamond Junction. The results of the tournament will be posted on the WNECA Facebook page.

The next WNECA tour stop will be in December at Bogey Lanes in East Brookfield, and it will be a doubles tournament.

The playoffs will take place on April 13, 2024, at French King Bowling Center in Erving.

Visit Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes at 1446 North Main St. The lanes can be reached by calling 413-289-0013.



Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes hosted their first tournament in nearly a decade for the WNECA candlepin tour.



Over 30 bowlers signed up for day one of the tournament on Saturday, Nov. 4.

LEFT: Candlepin bowlers from all over western Massachusetts participating in the singles tour stop at Diamond Junction.



Energy bill supports low-income households in the commonwealth

BOSTON – Senators Edward J. Markey (D-Massachusetts) and Elizabeth Warren (D-Massachusetts), along with Representatives Richard Neal (MA-01), Jim McGovern (MA-02), Lori Trahan (MA-03), Jake Auchincloss (MA-04), Katherine Clark (MA-05), Seth Moulton (MA-06), Ayanna Pressley (MA-07), Stephen Lynch (MA-08), and Bill Keating (MA-09), released the following statement in celebration of the Department of Health and Human Services awarding Massachusetts more than \$130 million in funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program to provide assistance on household energy bills:

“No family should have to suffer through a cold winter in Massachusetts simply because they cannot afford to heat their home. LIHEAP funding is a lifeline for tens of thousands of

Bay Staters and their families every year. This \$130 million will help make sure that families can afford the heating they need to stay warm and safe. We will keep fighting for bigger, bolder LIHEAP investments so that low-income households in every corner of our Commonwealth aren’t forced to choose between chills and bills.”

This funding release includes funds appropriated by Congress from the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024, as well as \$100 million appropriated for fiscal year 2024 from the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Nearly \$200,000 of the funding was awarded to Tribal nations in Massachusetts for direct administration of LIHEAP.

This month, in the wake of energy costs increasing, Markey joined a letter to the Biden administration in support of supplemental LIHEAP funding for the Fiscal

Year 2024.

In February, Senator Markey and Representative Jamaal Bowman (NY-16) reintroduced the Heating and Cooling Relief Act to invest in and expand LIHEAP, ensuring families who are eligible for fuel assistance and support are provided the relief they need, and to leverage LIHEAP funding to invest in climate adoption and clean energy.

Last October, the Massachusetts congressional delegation sent a letter requesting that the HHS expedite the release of LIHEAP funding for the winter. Last March, Senators Markey and Warren announced that Massachusetts will receive more than \$80 million in weatherization funding from the IJIA to help families reduce their energy consumption and lower their energy bills.

DCR Visitor Center hosts group hike of watershed

RUTLAND – The Department of Conservation and Recreation’s Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center is hosting a free group hike to explore the Ware River Watershed in Rutland.

On Saturday, Nov. 18, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., explore the Ware River Watershed on a 4.4 mile lollipop loop moderate group hike near Rutland State Park. The route climbs/descends roughly 200 feet in elevation.

Meet at the Ware River Watershed, Mass Central Rail Trail (MCRT)/Mid State Trail Parking Area, Route 122, Rutland.

(<https://maps.app.goo.gl/dgzSozmffyz7NFJr7>)

The hike begins/ends on the MCRT with a loop in the middle consisting of Camel’s Hump, Long Meadow Road, and Prison Camp Road. Visit the following website for additional information on the route: <https://www.trailforks.com/route/4-mi-inner-loop-near-rutland-state-park/>.

Ticks are still active, so protection is advised, as is wearing orange during hunting season.

Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring water and snacks.

About the Visitor Center

The Quabbin Interpretive Services program operates the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center, offering public and school education programs, teacher workshops, and general information about DCR’s water supply resources and watershed management, the history of the Quabbin Valley and wildlife of the area.

Staff members are available to assist with visitor information and services. An automated telephone system, 413-323-7221, provides 24 hour access to current information on fishing, hunting, programs, rules and regulations, and public access.

All ages are welcome to these events. Email QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov with questions or to be added to the mailing list. To register for any of these events, visit www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events.

CANDLEPIN LEAGUE NEWS

Thursday Night Mixed League

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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PALMER – Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes had a fun night of league bowling on Thursday night, Nov. 9.

The Thursday Night Mixed League had a night of stars and strikes as many high scores were bowled at the retro candlepin lanes.

In one match, Team Two bowled against Team Five. In game one, Team Five won by a score of 420-398. In game two, Team Two won by a score of 425-403.

Danny Fennyery of Team Two led his team to the win by scoring a 106 game. In game three, Team Two won over Team Five by a score of 413-392. Fennyery scored 115 in the third game and had a three-game series of 329 for the night.

Team Two won total pinfall by a final score of 1236-1215.

Team Three bowled against Team One for the night. In game one, Team One was victorious by scoring 447 to Team Three’s 372.

Kris Rickson of Team One bowled a 127 and was well over his league average as was his whole team in the first game. In game two, Team One stayed strong and won by a score of 397-369.

In game three, Team Three won the last game by a score of 432-414. Jesse Danek of Team Three finished strong with a 113 game.

Team One was the overall winner in total pinfall by a score of 1258-1173.

Team Four bowled against Team Six. In game one, Team Four defeated Team Six in a close game by a score of 438-429. Nick Maslon started off his night with a 112 game.

In game two, Team Four won again by scoring 437 to Team Six’s 419. In game three, Team Four won the final game of the night by a score of 432-378. Maslon had a three-game series of 312.

Team Four won total pinfall by a final score of 1307-1226.

Christmas Fanfare Concert to be held Dec. 2

MONSON – On Saturday, Dec. 2 at 7 p.m., a Christmas Fanfare Concert will be held at First Church of Monson, 5 High St.

David Neill will direct the Fanfare Brass Ensemble in concert in the sanctuary of First Church. Concert tickets are \$5 and are available at the door.

The concert will be preceded by a dinner at 5 p.m.; the menu is homemade beef chili (vegetarian option); cornbread or corn muffins; salad; and apple crisp for dessert. Tickets for the dinner and concert are \$20 and can be purchased from Gail by calling 413-267-4818.

The Church thanks the Monson Cultural Council for their grant to sponsor this concert.

Second Chance Animal Services celebrates milestone

EAST BROOKFIELD – Second Chance Animal Services, a non-profit dedicated to improving the welfare of animals, is thrilled to announce a monumental achievement in their mission to reduce pet overpopulation.

In September, the organization performed its 75,000th low-cost spay and neuter surgery, marking a significant milestone in their ongoing efforts to create healthier communities for pets.

This achievement builds on the success of Second Chance’s longstanding commitment to providing accessible and affordable spay and neuter services.

The organization began its low-cost program in 2005 at their East Brookfield shelter, aiming to address the root causes of pet homelessness. Today, the nonprofit’s hospitals in North Brookfield,

Southbridge, Springfield, and Worcester continue to serve hundreds of pets each month in state-of-the-art surgical suites, made possible by grants and generous donors.

Spaying and neutering not only contribute to controlling the population of stray and unwanted animals but also play a vital role in enhancing the overall health and well-being of pets. These procedures can prevent various cancers and other serious health issues while positively influencing pets’ behavior by reducing aggression and roaming tendencies.

Sheryl Blancato, the CEO and founder of Second Chance, expressed her pride in the organization’s impact through 75,000 surgeries.

“This milestone is a testament to the dedication of our team and



Submitted Photo
Second Chance Animal Services recently celebrated its performance of its 75,000th low-cost spay and neuter surgery. Two kittens seen at Second Chance await their operations.

the support of our community,” she said in a press release. “However, our work is far from over. We are committed to continuing our efforts to reach even more pets in need.”

Blancato urges all pet owners to consider spaying or neutering their pets, emphasizing the preventative benefits.

“Routine spays and neuters can protect pets from life-threatening conditions, including pyometra and testicular cancer,” she said. “Our goal is not only to address the immediate needs of pets but to contribute to a healthier pet community in the long run.”

Pet owners interested in availing themselves of the low-cost spay and neuter program can visit www.secondchanceanimals.org, and complete a S.P.O.T application under the Vet Care tab.

Baystate Wing Auxiliary selling lotto calendars

PALMER – The Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary is currently selling their January 2024 Lotto Calendars.

The one-month calendar, which costs \$5 each or three for \$10, has a daily winning amount of \$100 with special drawings on Jan. 1 and Jan. 31.

The calendars will be on sale at the Baystate Wing Hospital gift shop. Funds raised by the annual Lotto Calendars support the Auxiliary’s scholarship program and their philanthropic efforts that benefit Baystate Wing Hospital.

For over 65 years the Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary has been actively sup-

porting local healthcare through its sponsorship of special events and sales from the Baystate Wing Hospital Gift Shop located on the first floor of the hospital.

Whether people are looking for something special for a patient, a gift for a special occasion, or an item for the home, the Baystate Wing Hospital Gift Shop offers many unique, hand-selected items.

For more information about the Lotto Calendar visit the Baystate Wing Hospital Gift Shop Monday through Thursday from 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and on Friday from 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. or by calling 413-370-8169.

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2007 CUB CADET MOWER. Series 1000, Model LT 1042 needs some TLC, \$200. **2001 Dodge Durango,** 8 cyl., auto, 146,000 miles. **508-867-9734.**

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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 HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Brookfield is seeking a full-time Highway Superintendent. Full job description and application details at brookfieldma.us. Deadline to apply is November 20th or when position is filled, whichever is longer.

PAID ON-THE-JOB HOME HEALTH AIDE TRAINING.

Earn \$2000 once you complete our Certified Home Health Aide 115-hour Training Program. \$300 Sign on Bonus also available! Call **Excel Nursing Services 413-583-8900, EOE. www.excelnursing.com**

REAL ESTATE

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, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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REAL ESTATE

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings 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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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	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.00
23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Price \$28.00
25	Base Price \$28.50	26	Base Price \$29.00
27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00
29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
35	Base Price \$33.50	36	Base Price \$34.00
37	Base Price \$34.50	38	Base Price \$35.00
39	Base Price \$35.50	40	Base Price \$36.00

Quabbin
Circulation: 50,500

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

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TOTAL Enclosed _____

Run my ad in the following ZONE(s):
 Quabbin
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OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

public notices

More Public Notices on Page 15.

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage dated April 11,

2022 given by Blackhorse Builders Inc. to Steven A. Ross, Trustee of QS Lending Trust u/d/t dated January 27, 2020 (recorded in Book 14443, Page 82), said mortgage record-

ed with the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 14519, Page 214 and which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said

mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at **2:00 p.m. on the 1st day of December 2023 at 17 Sherwin Street, Ware, Massachusetts**, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage.

To wit:
Property Address: 17 Sherwin Street, Ware, MA 01082

The land with the buildings thereon, in Ware, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning on the southerly side of Sherwin Street at the easterly corner of said Street and Bellevue Avenue;

Thence easterly on said Street forty-five (45) feet to an iron pin at land now or formerly of F.J. Browning;

Thence southerly on land now or formerly of said Browning seventy-five (75) feet to an iron pin at land now or formerly of Joseph Dumas, Jr.;

Thence westerly on land now or formerly of said Dumas forty-five feet to Bellevue Avenue;

Thence northerly on said Avenue seventy-five (75) feet to the place of beginning

Reserving, however, to Frank J. Browning and his heirs and assigns, forever the right to use the cesspool on said tract in connection with his house on the adjoining tract with the privilege to enter at reasonable times to repair the pipes connecting said house with said cesspool.

For title reference See Deed Recorded Herewith [Book 14519, Page 210].

Premises to be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens and rights of any tenants

and parties in possession, if there be any, or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed. The successful bidder will pay all costs of recording the foreclosure deed and any other foreclosure documents including, without limitation, all state and county excise stamp fees, and shall also be responsible for any Title V inspection and repair requirements.

Terms of sale: A deposit of Ten Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$10,000.00) by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check to Baker, Braverman & Barbadoro, P.C., 1200 Crown Colony Drive, Suite 610, Quincy, MA 02169 within thirty

(30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control.

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

Steven A. Ross, Trustee of QS Lending Trust u/d/t dated

January 27, 2020 Present holder of said mortgage

By his Attorneys, Baker, Braverman & Barbadoro, P.C. 1200 Crown Colony Drive, Suite 610 Quincy, MA 02169 11/09, 11/16, 11/23/2023

Hardwick Planning Board Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Hardwick Planning Board, acting as Special Permit Granting Authority for the Town of Hardwick, will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 6:45PM at the Municipal Office Building, 307 Main Street, Gilbertville, MA 01301.**

Pursuant to Hardwick Zoning Bylaw Section 6.9.2, this Hearing is regarding the application by Keith and Tracey Gray for a Special Permit to occupy a camping trailer at '878' Muddy Brook Road while building a house onsite. All interested parties are asked to attend.

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

Hardwick Planning Board
Jenna Garvey, Chair
11/09, 11/16/2023



EARLY DEADLINE

In observance of **THANKSGIVING PUBLIC NOTICES** WILL HAVE AN **EARLY AD DEADLINE**
Place your public notice no later than **Thurs., Nov. 16 Noon**
FOR PUBLICATION THE WEEK OF NOV. 20-24

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warren

Quaboag Regional announces Project 351 student ambassadors

WARREN – Quaboag Regional Middle High School Principal Casey Handfield is pleased to announce that the two Project 351 student representatives will be eighth graders Andrew Boudreau and Caroline Stevens.

Boudreau is the son of Thomas and Erin Boudreau of Warren and Stevens is the daughter of Neal and Elizabeth Stevens of West Brookfield.

Project 351 is a state run community service initiative that began in 2011 that brings one eighth grader from each town for a day of leadership training and service in Boston. Students then bring these skills back to their own communities to begin their own community service projects.

Boudreau and Stevens were selected by their teachers because they exemplify the traits sought in Project 351 ambassadors of being kind and



Submitted Photo
Project 351 ambassadors Andrew Boudreau and Caroline Stevens. Both are students at Quaboag Regional Middle High School.

friendly to all, exhibiting leadership qualities, and showing a willingness to help others.

NBSB annual toy drive returns

NORTH BROOKFIELD – North Brookfield Savings Bank's annual toy drive aims to ensure holiday wishes come true for our younger community members.

Starting Nov. 1 and running through Nov. 30 monetary donations and new toys will be collected at Bank branch locations.

During the Toy Drive, community members are welcome to visit any branch location to make their donations of new unwrapped toys for children. All toys collected will be donated to local toy programs in each community, to ensure that local children in need will receive holiday presents.

This year, the Bank's Ware branch location will be primarily accepting monetary donations to help their local toy program partner the Ware Police Department, who has reformatted their program to be more tailored to each family in need.

The Bank's Belchertown location will only accept donations of toys, not funds, as their local toy program partner the Belchertown Police Department, has also reformatted their program.

In addition to toys, NBSB will accept financial contributions at each branch. The Bank will match every dollar donated, as well as contribute \$1 for

every toy collected, up to \$250 per branch location.

"As a local Bank that places a high importance on embracing and committing to the values of kindness and community support, North Brookfield Savings Bank is proud to continue the tradition of hosting our Annual Toy Drive at our locations," said Nicole Syriac, Digital Marketing Strategist at North Brookfield Savings Bank in a press release. "We want to ensure that every child can have a wonderful holiday season, this year and every year. We know this goal is possible with the continued support and kindness of our local community. We invite all of you to visit us, as you have so generously done in the past, to make your contribution."

Donations are being accepted at these North Brookfield Savings Bank branches:

North Brookfield Branch, 9 Gilbert St., partnering with the North Brookfield Police Association's Toys for Joys Program.

East Brookfield Branch, 100 West Main St., Route 9, partnering with the East Brookfield Toys for Joy Program.

West Brookfield Branch, 128 West Main St., Route 9, partnering with the West Brookfield Police Association Holiday Toy

Program.

Ware Branch, 40 Main St., Route 9, partnering with the Ware Police Department Holiday Toy Program- only accepting monetary donations for 2023.

Belchertown Branch, 4 Daniel Shays Highway, Routes 9 and 202, partnering with the Belchertown Firefighters Association Adopt-a-Family Program, only accepting toy donations for 2023.

Three Rivers Branch, 2060 Main St., partnering with the Palmer Lions Club Holiday Toy Program

"The holiday season is about caring for those around us and being generous. It is heartwarming every year to witness how our community members support each other. By partnering with the local toy drive organizations and our giving residents we are able to bring a child holiday cheer and truly embody the spirit of the holiday season. Thank you to everyone who plans to give this year and has supported this effort in the past," Syriac said.

To learn more about North Brookfield Savings Bank's community giving efforts and all the convenient banking products and services offered, visit www.NorthBrookfieldSavingsBank.com.

Orders accepted for Polish food sale starting Nov. 26

WARE – St. Mary's Church will begin to take orders for its Polish food sale starting on Sunday, Nov. 26 through Saturday, Dec. 2, or until sold out.

Call between noon-7 p.m. for Sylvia at 413-436-9268 or Diane at 413-967-5207 with questions and/or to order. Pickup will be on Saturday, Dec. 16 (snow date is Dec. 17) in St. Mary's Church hall on South Street.

Curbside pickup will only be available to anyone with a handicap card.

You will be designated a pick-up time when placing your order. Payment will be collected at time of pick up and should be exact amount, either check made out to St. Mary's Church, or cash and placed in an envelope with your name, order number and payment amount.

Food items available include pierogi: cabbage, \$13/dozen or \$6.50/ 1/2 dozen. sweet cheese, \$15/dozen or \$7.50/ 1/2 dozen and savory cheese, \$15/dozen and \$7.50/ 1/2 dozen; golombki, \$13 for three; kapusta, \$9/quart; kielbasa from Bernat's in Chicopee, whole \$10 and half, \$5; and rye bread from Countryside Bakery, whole \$5.50 and half, \$2.75.

Thank you for your support.

public notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PLANNING BOARD LEGAL NOTICE Special Permit-312 Site Plan - 70

NOTICE is hereby given that the Warren Planning Board, acting as the Special Permit Granting Authority, will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, November 27, 2023 at 7:15 PM** on the application of Lawrence Tuttle, Architectural Insights, for a Special Permit and Site Plan review for the relocation of the kitchen to the rear of the unit, make the rear unit legal if applicable under Section 13, 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, Shepard Municipal Building, 48 High Street, Warren, MA. It is possible that any or all members of the public body may attend remotely, with in-person attendance consisting of members of the public. The meeting may be accessed remotely via zoom.

Meeting ID: 869 2706 4530
Password: 784772

or join by phone
Phone number: 646-558-8656

SITE LOCATION:
942 Main St, Warren, MA 01083
Said premises being further described in deeds recorded in the Worcester County Registry of Deeds, Book 61175, Page 159. Property is also identified as Assessor's Parcel # 24-0-7. Zoned: Village District (V).

A complete copy of the application may be inspected in the Office of the Planning Board or the Town Clerk during normal business hours. Anyone interested or wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated.

WARREN PLANNING BOARD
11/09, 11/16/2023

More Public Notices on Page 14.

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

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<p>4 TREE SERVICE</p> <p>H&H Tree Service Warren, MA FULLY INSURED Tree Care & Removal David Hamlin 413.668.6560</p>	<p>5 PLUMBING & HEATING</p> <p>Residential • Commercial • Industrial</p> <p>BECLUM Plumbing and Heating, Inc.</p> <p>FOR ALL YOUR PLUMBING & HEATING NEEDS SIZEABLE REBATES MAY BE AVAILABLE TO YOU CALL US TO DISCUSS HEATING EQUIPMENT UPGRADES www.beclumbing.com Warren, MA 413-436-0076 Ware, MA 413-967-0076</p>	<p>6 HOME, YARD, GARAGE</p> <p>ESTABLISHED 1914 HARDWICK FARMERS CO-OP</p> <p>Rt. 32, 444 Lower Road, Gilbertville, MA 01031 413-477-6913 • www.hardwickfarmers.net Open: Mon-Fri 8AM-5PM; Sat 8AM-4PM, Sun 9AM-3PM For All Your Yard, Garden & Garage Needs Become A Member & Save Money!</p>
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- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

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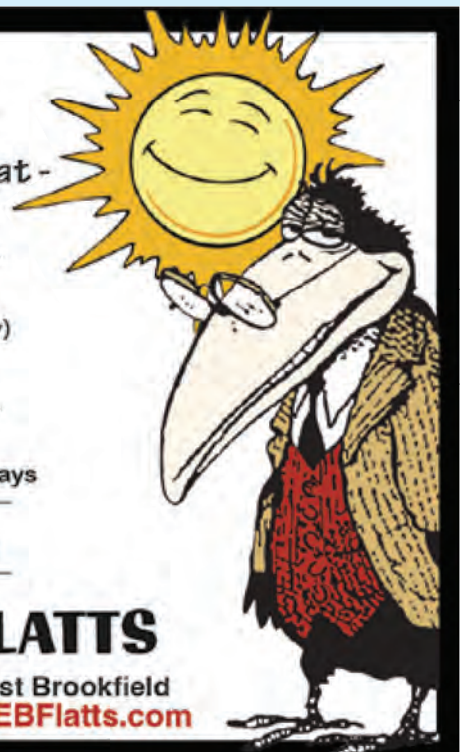
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