# WARE RIVER NEWS

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**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2023** 

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### **Voters** approve 34 articles at STM

**By Paula Ouimette** pouimette@turley.com

WARREN - All but two articles on the 36-article special town meeting warrant passed last week, as just over 50 voters allocated over \$500,000 in free cash to pay for various needs, in addition to putting aside over \$400,000 in stabilization funds.

#### Failed articles

The first article to fail at the Nov. 16 special town meeting with a vote of 17-34 was article 13, which was placed on the warrant by the Board of Selectmen, seeking three electronic speed signs and additional speed limit signs in the amount of \$9,300.

Board of Selectmen Chair David Dufresne said the signs would be used to reduce speeding in areas of concern, including on South Street and by the Senior Center. He said the signs on South Street would be placed on both sides of the road.

'South Street has been a concern for us," Dufresne said. This concern heightened after a child riding his bicycle was struck by a vehicle.

Dufresne said the speed signs record data, including what times of day people are speeding the

"It's a safety thing...people do slow down for them," Dufresne said.

The Finance Committee did not support the article, because its members believed the signs should be funded through the Police Department's budget, and they didn't see a need for additional signs when the town already has

The second article to fail was article 14, which asked voters to transfer \$30,000 from free cash to pay for a management assessment study for the Quaboag Regional School District, after voters had

Please see **WARREN STM**, page 12



Festive wreaths decorate the Town Hall.



#### Santa Claus is set to arrive on Nov. 24

WARE - The Ware Holiday Flair Committee will welcome Santa into town on a firetruck to light up the big tree in Veterans Park, the day after Thanksgiving, Friday, Nov. 24.

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.

Please see **FLAIR**, page 8



### Please see WALMART, page 11 **Boys State** represents democracy

**Walmart** 

addition

approved

Construction set

for next summer

**By Paula Ouimette** 

pouimette@turley.com

engineer from Bohler Engineering,

appeared before the Planning

Board on behalf of Walmart, 352

Palmer Road, seeking a major site

plan permit to allow for an 8,041

square foot addition at its location. At the Nov. 16 meeting, Allen

said Walmart is seeking to add

traffic striping and parking lot

improvements, including stop signs

and stop bars, to improve the traffic

be re-striped, Allen said, but there

The entire front parking lot will

circulation.

WARE - Dan Allen, a civil

By Ryan Drago Staff Writer rdrago@turley.com

and America

WARE - American Legion Boys State is considered one of the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for high school students in the U.S.

This educational experience is a participatory program in which students become part of the operation of local, county and state government.

Boys State was founded in 1935 to counter the socialism-inspired

Please see **BOYS STATE**, page 10

### **Hospital Review Committee** hears updates on MLH

By Paula Ouimette Editor pouimette@turley.com

WARE - Hospital Review Committee Chair Howard Trietsch said Baystate Health presented a timeline for the decommissioning of Baystate Mary Lane Hospital at the end of October, and to date, most of it has happened.

#### **Updates on decommissioning**

At the Nov. 15 meeting, Trietsch said the radiology department had left, and earlier that day the mammography and bone density department had also relocated from the Ware site to Baystate Wing in Palmer. The remaining departments will leave by Dec. 11.

Michael Knapik, vice-president of Government and Community Relations at Baystate Health, said the decommissioning continues to be on schedule, and that Baystate has a signed a nonbinding letter of intent with Westmass Area Development Corporation.

Knapik also told the committee that Baystate Health will be selling its external laboratories to Labcorp. "Internal labs will still be in [Baystate] Wing," Knapik said.

Trietsch said it would be more convenient for residents of Ware and Gilbertville to continue to have access to a laboratory in town.

#### Architect study/forum follow-up

Janet Slemenda and Amy Dunlap of HKT Architects Inc. have been working with the town to find possible uses for the site,

Please see **MLH UPDATE**, page 13

### **Quaboag wins Springfield Stock Market Competition**

By Haileigh Swistak Student Intern

WARREN - On Thursday, Nov. 9, Quaboag Business Teacher Jean DiRico took 62 students from her three Personal Finance classes on a field trip to participate in the Junior Achievement of Springfield's annual Stock Market

Competition. This marked the 18th annual Stock Market Competition hosted by the Junior Achievement of Western Massachusetts which took place at the Cedars Banquet Facility in Springfield.

The event began with each team having a fictitious one million dollars to invest into an artificial market which simulated the New York Stock Exchange. There was a total of 60 rounds which were labeled as days that lasted exactly one minute each.

Out of the 12 schools and 72 teams that participated in the event, a total of 300 middle and high school students were in attendance.

One of Quaboag's teams, "Buy Low, Sell High" from Quaboag won first place. The students in this team were Kassidy Pelland, Emily Cieslak, Richard Tracy, Daniel Hobart, and Izaiah Flores.

The team ended the game with the highest net worth of \$1,369,533.62 and an ROI of 36.95% and won a pizza party for all students in DiRico's Personal Finance classes.



Quaboag Regional High School's "Buy Low, Sell High" won first place at the Junior Achievement of Springfield's annual Stock Market Competition. The students in this team were Kassidy Pelland, Emily Cieslak, Richard Tracy, Daniel Hobart and Izaiah Flores.

### **Inside this edition:**

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BUSINESS

Country Bank donates to Senior Center

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COMMUNITY

**Author** writes history of sash

Page 7



**SPORTS** Ware

rebounds in week 10



Connect with us

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#### Ware River News OBITUARY POLICY

**Turley Publications** offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased. date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a Paid Obituary, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** 

should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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



This past Saturday, Highway Superintendent Marty Gryszowka and his crew hung the wreath on the Town House in preparation for the Hardwick Classic Christmas on the Common to be held on Sunday, Nov. 26 from 3-7 p.m.

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@ Ware River News

### Classic Christmas on the Common is Nov. 26

HARDWICK - Classic ties, 10+ vendors, annual Christmas on the Common will be held Sunday, Nov. 26 from 3-7 p.m. on the town common.

There will be holiday fun with a visit from Santa, games and activi-

tree lighting, touch a truck, hay rides, gingerbread house competition, holiday parade, dinner and bonfire

Purchase your Hardwick Kids. winter hat and 2024 calen-

PATHFINDER TECH

Invites you to our Open House

dar featuring photos taken by residents.

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

### Stork Report

#### **Avaree Marie Goudreau**

Born Sept. 28, 2023 Parents: Kellyann Kaiser and Ian Goudreau Siblings: Landon and Bailee Maternal grandmother: Donna Dansereau Paternal grandparents: Keith and Kim Goudreau

Maternal great-grandparents: Terese Grogan Paternal great-grandfather: Paul Young



### **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.

They will be raffling off donated wreaths and trees as well as other decorative items to support the Ware Center Meeting House and Museum. The event also has a bake sale, 50/50 raffle and a table with Ware books, T-shirts, and memorabilia.

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.

### Warren's annual tree lighting scheduled for Dec. 1

WARREN - Warren's annual tree lighting will be hosted by Parks and Recreation on the Common, Friday, Dec. 1 from 4-7 p.m., with a bad weather date of Dec. 2.

There will be musical entertainment, free horse drawn wagon rides, vendors, crafts, s'mores by fireside, open houses, activities, food at area merchants, and the tree lighting at 6 p.m. Santa's mailbox will be there as well as Santa him-

Lizak Bus Services will provide a free shuttle service from the Shepard Municipal Building to the Common.

Help the Warren Police Department stuff a cruiser for the Jingle Fund. Unwrapped gifts, gift cards and money donations are welcome. Wreaths will be sold at the Warren Fire Department.

### 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 assort-

ment of wood crafts, jewelry, holiday items, pottery, chocolate, paintings, ornaments, candles, maple products, signs, jams and jellies, crochet items and much more.





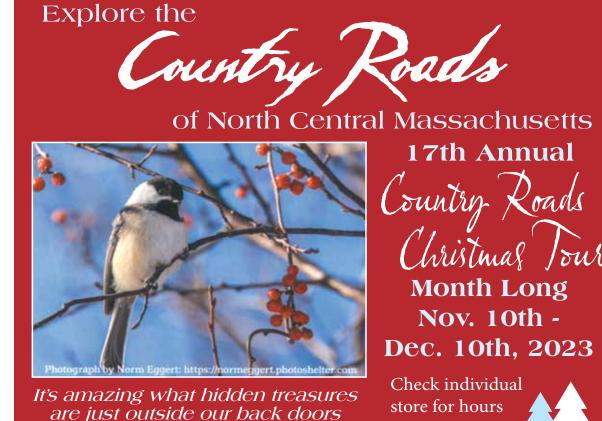
The Ware River News will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 3. To request a correction, send information to ekennedy@ turley.com, or call 967-3505. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Ware River News, Attn: Editor,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



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A PATH THAT BEGINS HERE CAN LEAD ANYWHERE!



www.countryroadschristmas.com



Jodie Gerulaitis, vice president Community Relations and Blair Robidoux, assistant vice president West Street Banking Center at Country Bank, present a check to John L. Zienowicz, executive direc-

### **Country Bank supports senior** centers with donations

WARE - Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving central and western Massachusetts, recently announced donations to 21 local senior centers throughout the

Supporting communities has been part of Country Bank's mission since 1850, the bank is committed to the people, businesses and non-profits it serves.

A total of \$42,000 in donations were made to local senior centers. These donations are made without restriction for those necessary items that may not be met within annual budgets.

"We are so fortunate to have a community partner like Country Bank. Countless members of their staff have volunteered at our events and special projects that have ranged from holiday parties at the senior center to personally delivering boxes of food items to seniors in need. This donation helps to sustain our meal program, which over the past five years, has provided in excess of 38,000 home cooked meals for the seniors. Their commitment to service, volunteerism and community is what makes Country Bank the gold standard when it comes to being true 'Difference Makers," said John L. Zienowicz, Ware Senior Center executive director in a press release.

'We know what a difference this makes for the senior centers, and we are honored to be able to support the great work that they do to help our seniors," said Jodie Gerulaitis, vice president of Community Relations at Country

In addition to its annual monetary support, Country Bank also sends teams of its "Difference Makers" to volunteer at local senior centers on a monthly basis.

About Country Bank Country Bank is a full-service \$1.7B with 17.0% Tier 1 Capital mutual community bank serving central and western Massachusetts with 14 offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton and Worcester. Country Bank is a member of FDIC, DIF, and the SUM network. Country Bank can be reached by calling 800-322-8233 or visiting countrybank.com.

### Orders accepted for Polish food sale starting Nov. 26

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 pickup time when placing your order. Payment will be collected at time

WARE - St. Mary's Church 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

> Food items available include pierogi: cabbage, \$13/dozen or \$6.50/ ½ dozen. sweet cheese, \$15/dozen or \$7.50/ 1/2 dozen and savory cheese, \$15/dozen and \$7.50/ ½ 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.

GUNS

413-323-4210

1-800-358-5100

# **Przypek named Human Resources Director**

By Paula Ouimette Editor

pouimette@turley.com

WARE - Town Manager Stuart Beckley presented his candidate for Human Resources Director to the Selectboard at a recent meeting.

The town's charter names the Town Manager as the appointing authority for this position, with the Selectboard's review

Beckley chose to appoint Amy Przypek, a lifelong resident and an employee of the town for almost nine years, currently working in the Payroll and Benefits Department.

'We had three strong candidates," Beckley said at the Nov. 14 meeting, adding that Przypek is "extremely capable and skilled."

"She works very hard for the town, she also had several years of experience in the private sector before coming to the town of Ware," he said. "I think she's a very strong candidate."

Selectboard Chair Caitlin McCarthy said this is a hard decision for her, as she agrees that Przypek has great qualities, but discussion with the town's labor counsel highlighted some areas of concern.

"After going through job description and minimum requirements...she did not meet those minimum requirements," McCarthy

Selectboard member Keith Kruckas said that while promoting from within can be a good thing, in the six years he's served on the board, he's seen a history of problems with it.

Kruckas said he was reluctant to even create the HR Director position in the first place.

When I started here, there was no HR position...it's always been part of the Town Manager's job," Kruckas said. "Given there were so many problems, I was reluctant and finally gave in and we created the position."

Kruckas said since then, there have been a couple of different people filling that role.

"To me, the revolving door of people that have come through this building that I've seen, only in the last six years, is completely disturbing," he said, getting worse since the pandemic. "We are in desperate need of getting help and keeping them, and we have to have somebody that has proven track

Kruckas said as a taxpayer, he's "sick and tired" of watching his

and other's money pay for training of employees, when they could just hire a qualified person.

"I just think as a taxpayer, the taxpayers deserve to have somebody that has a proven track record and has the qualifications that were requested in the ad," Kruckas said. "It's nothing personal."

Kruckas also noted that the Municipal Finance department would be left short-staffed with Przypek appointed to HR Director, and that the Selectboard is trying to complete an audit of that department. He also questioned if the shift in position would create a

"Having a person that was involved in that department that is now going to be under investigation or an audit, now be in charge of the HR, I don't think it is a very appropriate thing for the town to put ourselves in that position," he

McCarthy said she felt that Przypek lacked the ability to conduct investigations as HR Director, as required by the role, due to lack of experience and qualifications. McCarthy added that Przypek does a great job in the current position she holds, and she would support her in seeking education and training in HR.

Beckley said Przypek did really well in the interview and has a strong background that reflects the experience needed.

Selectboard member Jack Cascio said he was impressed with Przypek during the interview process, and that she already knows how the town operates.

"I liked Amy, and I was impressed with her, and I would feel comfortable with her in that position," Cascio said.

#### Reduced quorum discussion

Talbot said with special town meeting being the week after Thanksgiving, she is concerned that the 100 voter quorum won't be met, causing the meeting to be delayed.

"If we can't have the meeting, that pushes it off to another week,' Talbot said. "The setting of the tax rate is critical, because there's a timely issue with getting the bills out in December.'

Talbot suggested the Selectboard act on whether or not to reduce the quorum to 75 (just for this special town meeting), on Nov. 21. This vote would not affect future town meeting quorums.

Water/wastewater assets update

The Selectboard voted to reject the request for proposal from Aquarion Water Company.

McCarthy said in talking with others, she feels forming a subcommittee would be beneficial to the town. McCarthy said the subcommittee should have members that are knowledgeable of the field.

Cascio said he proposed forming an electable committee of Water Commissioners, which would require a charter revision.

Talbot said forming that committee would be a major change to the charter and could take years to form. She said forming a subcommittee would not require a charter revision.

#### Town Manager's report

Beckley said the Board of Health approved the ReSource Waste Services of Ware site assignment amendment following a hearing and review of conditions.

The town received insurance approval to repair the water damage that occurred in the Planning and Development Office and work should begin at the end of the

Beckley congratulated Firefighters Matthew Spellman and Joseph Tuminelli for their graduation from the Massachusetts Fire Academy.

"To have them complete the Academy is a great accomplishment," he said.

Beckley said an interview with a candidate for the Police Department was held, and the candidate will appear before the Board at the next meeting.

A grant to improve ADA accessibility in the Town Hall and High School for voting purposes was approved and is moving forward. Beckley said the town also received an earmark from the state to improve Veterans Park.

#### Handicapped parking space

A resident requested a handicapped parking space in front of 5 Pine St. Kruckas shared concerns that by allowing this, it will "open up a floodgate" of others wanting to do the same on public ways.

He said its opening up a "dangerous precedence" for the town.

"It's a public street and there's other homes on the street, there's a business there, I just think it wouldn't set the right precedence,"

McCarthy agreed and Beckley aid it would be challenging to

The Selectboard voted to take no action on the request.

The Selectboard also received a request from Workshop13 to create business parking in front of 13 Church St., which they took no

#### Winter parking rules

Beckley said the Police Chief wanted to make it clear that vehicles parked in municipal parking lots need to be removed by 7 a.m. for snow removal.

The Selectboard approved the modified parking lot rules.

#### **Rail Trail concerns**

Selectboard member Jack Cascio said Steven Hawk approached him with safety concerns regarding the Mass Central Rail Trail, as well as the need to add plexiglass to the kiosk at the Gibbs Crossing trail entrance.

Beckley said Hawk and the Friends of the Mass Central Rail Trail have also requested to place signs on both the town property, and Walmart's, to make road crossings safer. He said the town will need permission from Walmart in order to place signs on their prop-

#### **Appointments**

Ware High School senior Nicholas Bousquet was appointed to the Tax Increment Financing Committee and the Planning and Community Development Committee. Beckley said Bousquet is

the first member of the Planning and Community Development Committee. Bousquet also serves on the Open Space Committee. The Selectboard thanked

Bousquet for his enthusiasm and willingness to serve.

Wanda Mysona was appointed to be the seventh member of the 250th Celebration Committee.

#### Resignation

The Selectboard accepted resignation from Jon Hogan from the Ware Housing Authority. The vacancy will be posted and an appointment to fill the seat will be made at a December meeting.

#### New restaurant

The Selectboard approved a common victualler license for Ware House of Pizza, 197 West St. The restaurant plans to open at the beginning of December.

### Donations/volunteers sought for Wreaths Across America

WARE – Ware will be participating in the Wreaths Across America program, honoring veter-

ans 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 cemeter-

<u> Alix & Son's</u>

ies across the town.

Upgrades

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

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

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

Nesco Salesinc.

COMPLETE AUTOBODY CENTER

Your Safety is Our Top Priority

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

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.

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

of the

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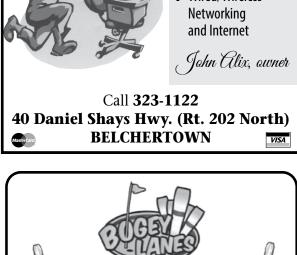




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WINTER FUN FOR EVERYONE!





**POSITION OPENING:** 

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.* 



### Life Together

### For what are you grateful?

May your days be filled with gratitude. Yet, for some, gratitude is hard pressed.

When the scarcity of money, food, and housing are present, giving thanks is difficult. When some reach deep down within themselves to recover some sense or hope, they come up empty.

Many of us are running on empty.

Enough gas in our car to get to work, if we have a job. Enough diapers. Enough food for those at the table. Enough hope to wake us up each morning, put our feet on the floor and do it all over again.

I am amazed at how some people do it.

As we are bombarded with TV and social media urging us to do this, buy that, come here, stay there, we are trapped by disappointment. When is enough enough?

When you do not have enough, the call to give thanks is faint. This Thanksgiving we lean on each other.

No matter what little or how much we have, we are urged not to buy but to receive. We are urged to receive the presence and love of those who count on us to provide enough; and when there is not enough, still embrace us and we discover what we really need is each other.

Where there is division, when we are warned not to talk about politics or religion at the Thanksgiving Table, we remember to listen, not rush to judgement, and avoid the truth. There is enough love, if only we can allow it.

Forgiveness is powerful.

Our Thanksgiving is not a movie, comedy or tragedy. It is an opportunity to change our mind. It is a second chance to heal.

It is a possibility that things can be different, as long as we lean on each other and give thanks for our life together.

Breaking bread with another is a sacred moment. No need to solve all the problems, or fix anyone.

Breaking bread is the breaking open of our relationships so we can see and hear the other. Listening is an art. Listening is hard.

We are not listening when another is talking and we are working on our defense, our version, our truth. Truth is a "third thing"; it is what rises up out of mutual love

The breaking open and the coming together is the rhythm of our life.

May this Thanksgiving be one in which you find a piece, no matter how small, of belonging and love.

There is enough. You are enough.

Life Together is written by Rev. Dr. Randall K. Wilburn, Bridge Pastor of Trinity Episcopal Church in Ware. With over 54 years as a parish minister, Wilburn is also an experienced marriage and family counselor. Life Together will deal with topics such as stress, grief, anxiety, healing and hope. To contact Wilburn, email rkeithw42@gmail.com.



### Can I voluntarily suspend my Social Security payments?

**Dear Rusty:** 

My wife retired in 2015 and is receiving Social Security.

I am past my full retirement age, and I still work. I recently filed for Social Security benefits and received my first payment earlier this month and my benefits are around three times my wife's.

I now find that, due to other income, I am having some regrets about filing for Social Security, as the taxes will be complicated. So, my questions are:

If I do a "Voluntary Suspension", can my wife still apply to get up to 50% of my benefits, or do I have to be "actively" receiving Social Security benefits? In other words, does the "Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015" prevent this?

If I do a "Voluntary Suspension", how soon could I "restart" my benefits?

Signed: Having Second Thoughts

#### **Dear Second Thoughts:**

The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 closed a loophole which previously allowed someone to file for their Social Security retirement benefit in order for their marital partner to claim a spousal benefit, after which the primary beneficiary could suspend their own benefit and allow it to grow to maximum at age 70. That "file and suspend" option went away in April of 2016; thus, your wife cannot claim her spousal benefit while your Social Security retirement benefits are suspended you must be "actively" receiving benefits

Please see **SSI**, page 6



### Garland and wreaths a fun DIY project

Tspent the morning wrapping garland around lampposts in preparation for ■Old Sturbridge Village's "Christmas by Candlelight" program.

Although I used to balk at decorating prior to Thanksgiving, it's a must at work, where so much needs to be ready for the first day of the program, next Friday, Nov. 24. The garland is beautiful- a mix of cedar and fir.

The smell of the cedar isn't at all familiar from my childhood Christmases, but I love it as an adult. What makes the garland so pretty is the variation in textures.

After the decorations are up at the Village, I turn to decorating at home. I love to sit on the floor of my living room with all types of greens strewn before me on an old bed sheet.

I make a wreath or two for our house and I always make one to give to a dear friend as an annual birthday present.

I encourage you to try your hand at wreath and garland making. It's really the same principle, with one made on a circular frame and the other made on a cord of ribbon or rope the

TO THE EDITOR

Charity thanks community

Wishing Well Charities held our annual Fall

First off, thank you so very much to our

sponsors, Safelite Auto Glass and B'leaf

Wellness Centre, without your generosity we

would not have been able to offer tickets at

such a reasonable price. Thank you to Teresa's

Restaurant for hosting us again and providing yet again delicious food and outstanding ser-

Thanks to The Time Trippers, our enter-

Special thanks to the following individu-

tainment for the night who had the dance floor

als and business that donated either products,

gift cards, or money for our silent auction,

which, thanks to these folks, was a huge suc-

cess: Kris Lynch, Bellies Barnyard, Pixie Ming

Soaps, Elaine Seveny, The Pampered Pup, The

Fitness Factory, Hardwick Crossing Country

Club, AnnMarie Kilborn, Debbie Juda, Donna

Robins, Lost Towns Brewing, Farmer Matt,

Dawn French, Lisa Jacques, Lisa Ouimette,

and several generous individuals who wish to

Finally, and most importantly, thank you to

hopping from first song to the very last.

Fundraiser on Nov. 4 and we want to take this

opportunity to thank everyone that made our

for support of fundraiser

LETTER

event a huge success.

vice.

length you need for decorating.

As mentioned, the key to success in wreath and garland-making is having a variety of greens to choose from. From airy white pine to rigid spruce, wispy arborvitae to dense juniper, pointy-leaved holly to minute boxwood, all look great together.

Balsam and fir tips pruned from the Christmas tree are a logical addition. Then add some budded Pieris, gilded birch branches and voila! - you have a unique combination.

Top it off with pinecones, winterberries and even sumac for a stunning grouping.

It's not hard to find different types of greens. First, scour your neighborhood.

Many of the plants I mentioned make their homes in our landscapes. I regularly prune this time of year purposely to use the clippings in my decorating.

The key to a good cut is not to leave stubsalways snip next to a side branch.

Cemeteries and vacant lots are also great spots to get a variety of greens. But be sure to ask permission beforehand.

Regardless, kindly take only what you need and space your cuts out evenly around the

Making a wreath is easy. Start with a wire coat hanger opened up into a circle.

Attach some pliable wire to it - 22 gauge is a good choice. Then, wrap little bunches of greens to the base one after another.

Be careful to lay them alongside, not on top of each other. You can make a wreath of just one type of green at a time, or make mixed "bouquets" for your bunches.

When you reach the end of the wreath, hide the last bunch under the first and secure the wire. You can easily make a loop for hanging, or use the hook that came with the coat

You can attach a bow to the front and insert some berries or pinecones on wire picks to

Garland making follows the same principle. Working on a taut cording or rope is important for success.

If you are going to be making a lot of garland I recommend "tying off" the ends of the cording or securing them somehow to your work surface. I've done it with duct tape or with the cord knotted to nails in my work

For me, working in a left to right manner seems natural. I use the pliable wire to secure the bunches of greens one after the other to the cording.

Sometimes I wait to embellish the garland with cones or berries until after it is set up around my doorway or wrapped around the lamppost. That way you'll be sure they aren't hidden or bending funny.

I hope that you will be encouraged to try your hand at wreath or garland making this year! It's quickly become one of my favorite Christmas traditions and it can be the same for

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.

OVERLAP HAS

GOTTEN WAY

OUT OF HAND

### Ware River News



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### **OPINION**

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and "Your Turn" guest col-umn 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.

### Surviving your first holiday without a loved one

0

#### From Thanksgiving to New Year's

remain anonymous.

SPRINGFIELD - There may be no "joy" in the holidays when facing them alone for the first time after the death of a loved one.

Looking at an empty chair at the table can bring a rush of emotions and it doesn't matter how long it has been, whether this year or in the past, since a family member or friend died. Grief never takes a holiday, noted Dr. Stuart Anfang, vice chair for Clinical Services, Psychiatry at Baystate Health.

"It's only natural to experience a range of emotions such as sadness, loneliness, and a feeling of helplessness and hopelessness as you navigate the hustle and bustle of the holidays alone. Those feelings of grief, especially during Thanksgiving and the December holidays, often become more intense for those preparing to spend these joyous occasions for the first time without a spouse, child or other beloved family member or friend by their side," Anfang said in a press release.

But you don't have to suffer alone.

"Recognize that you are not alone, and that mixed or sad feelings during the holidays are not uncommon. Do not suffer in silence and watch for the tendency to isolate or withdraw from others. Denying or bottling up your feelings--or self-medicating with alcohol or drugs---are worrisome signs," said Anfang.

Anticipation of the holidays can cause more stress than the holidays themselves.

Anfang noted that planning for the approaching holidays is the first step in developing your coping strategy, and there is no wrong or right way to deal with the holidays. Begin by making decisions that are comfortable for you and your family.

Use your awareness that things are dif-

ferent to help you plan what makes sense. past. It is stressful to experience the holiday Holiday preparations, traditions, and family

everyone who purchased tickets and partici-

pated in our silent auction, your financial sup-

port is what will give us the resources to grant

many wishes over the next several months -

without you we just couldn't do what we do!

time may all feel less than normal. It is also important to remember that your emotions and energy level are strongly connected. Good self-care routines are important as you prepare and deal with the holiday sea-

Get plenty of rest and pay attention to healthy eating. Use alcohol in moderation.

Plan self-care activities that will feed your mind, body and spirit. Give yourself permission to take care of yourself.

Additional tips from the American Psychological Association for making a plan that works for you include:

Are there some traditions you would rather not do because they are just too painful to relive? Why not introduce something new into

Do you want to celebrate in the same place and be reminded of your loved one? Maybe you might want to consider traveling this season instead of staying home.

Who are the people you want to be around? Enjoy their company when they invite you for a visit.

Can you handle an all-day celebration? Be flexible with yourself and let the host know you may only stay for a short while. The APA also reminds those grieving that

once the holiday finally arrives, "just like any

other day it only lasts 24 hours.' Anfang stressed that it's okay and not a sign of weakness to ask for help, whether it's help preparing some holiday treats, decorating the home, shopping, or just a shoulder to lean

"If you wish, you can find a way of formally remembering your loved one who is not physically present with you. For example, serving their favorite dessert and reflecting on the joy that it brought to your loved one in the

without your loved one, but you can find ways to honor and include them," he said.

DAVE GRANUND @ www.davegrar

We had a wonderful night with all of you

Wishing Well Charities, Inc.

and look forward to doing it again next year.

Thank you so very much.

Together you can share a holiday that is different, but still meaningful and hopeful. As a family, you can add a memory ritual into your holiday by including a special activity such as looking at old photo albums, making or displaying a special holiday decoration with significant ties to the deceased.

Many people also find solace in giving as it is the "season of giving," noted Anfang.

According to the American Association of Retired Persons, "it's amazing how in times of grief, sometimes the biggest comfort is to give to others," whether it's a physical present or doing something nice for others in need or who are also hurting. Many people volunteer during the holidays, such as serving meals at a local shelter or distributing toys to needy children.

Still, for some the holidays may offer a reprieve from sad feelings and you may find yourself caught up in the moment as you experience the joy of family and friends

"If you are noticing more significant symptoms causing impairment at work, school or home - problems with sleep, low energy, dramatic change in appetite or weight, inability to concentrate, frequent crying, easy irritability, thoughts of hurting yourself or wanting to die - that may be time to seek some professional evaluation. A good place to start can be your primary care provider or a trusted clergy. Bottom line - help is available and do not suffer in silence," said Anfang.

If you do not have a primary care provider, you can find one at https://www.baystatehealth.org/locations/search-results?loctype=primary%20care.

### **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.

### Selectboard and FinCom review STM articles

By Paula Ouimette

Editor pouimette@turley.com

WARE - The Selectboard reviewed 15 warrant articles for the special town meeting to be held on Monday, Nov. 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the Ware High School auditorium, 237 West St.

#### **Unpaid bills**

Article 1 will ask voters to transfer money from available funds to pay for unpaid bills from prior fiscal years in the amount of \$18,305.17.

Town Manager Stuart Beckley said there are six bills that need to be paid, including one from the Fire Department in the amount of \$500 to the town of Belchertown; the Department of Public Works for \$244 to Lagrant Electric; two Water Department bills for the analytical lab in the amount of \$245 and \$740; a sewer bill for sludge services for \$16,457 and a Lagrant Electric bill for \$117.50.

The Water Department bills will be paid by the Water Reserve fund and the sewer bills from the Sewer Retained Earnings.

Selectboard member Keith Kruckas asked why certain bills weren't being paid on time, especially when funds were available.

Beckley said some of the bills were received late by the town, but he agreed it is "unacceptable" for the regular bills to be unpaid.

Finance Committee Chair Ken Willette said some of the unpaid bills are understandable, but recurring bills where the funds have already been appropriated are of concern to his committee.

"That's not a sound financial policy and whatever can be done to address it, needs to be done," Willette said of the unpaid bills.

The Selectboard, Finance Committee and Beckley voted in favor of supporting the article.

#### Line item adjustments

Article 2 will ask voters to approve the following line item adjustments or amendments: \$8,000 for elections, \$40,000 for insurance, \$15,00 for Fire

Department, \$5,000 for building, \$10,000 for software, and \$11,200 for Assessor's salary.

The Selectboard, Finance Committee and Beckley supported this article.

#### **OPEB** liability

Article 3 seeks to appropriate, borrow and/or transfer \$322,481 from available funds for the other post-employment benefits liability trust fund.

The Selectboard, Finance Committee and Beckley supported this article.

Stabilization fund

Article 4 ask voters to appropriate and/or transfer \$107,493 to the stabilization fund.

The Selectboard, Finance Committee and Beckley supported

#### Capital stabilization fund

Article 5 asks voters to appropriate and/or transfer \$107,493 to the capital stabilization fund.

The Selectboard, Finance Committee and Beckley supported this article.

#### Overlay district

Article 6 will ask voters to create a rural residential business zone overlay district and to amend sections of the Zoning Bylaws

The Selectboard, Finance Committee and Beckley supported this article.

#### Police Department age requirement

Article 7 asks voters to authorize the Selectboard to petition the General Court for the enactment of special legislation, increasing the maximum age requirement allowed by the town to hire a police officer.

Beckley said over the years, there have been many requests for waivers from the town regarding the civil service maximum age in order to be appointed as a police

The town attorney said to avoid this, the town should significantly increase the maximum age to 45. The maximum age limit is currently set at 32.

#### Private to public way

Article 8 is presented by petition, to see if the town will accept King George Drive as a public way.

If passed by voters, the private way will be deeded to the town, with all title, closing and recording costs paid for by the property

The Selectboard, Planning Board and Beckley supported this

#### Financial software

Willette said article 9 will be passed over at the special town meeting, and will instead appear on the annual town meeting warrant. Article 9 asks voters to authorize the purchase of financial software using available funds.

He said the Finance Committee heard a proposal from a finance software vendor that is used in other municipalities, and they decided they would like to proceed with the project. This software will allow the town to streamline its budget book, as well as create dashboards, reports, pie charts, graphs, queries, track history and forecasting.

"One of the goals of the Finance Committee is to not use special town meetings as opportunities to circumvent the budget process of annual town meetings," Willette

He said in terms of financial policy and practice, the Finance Committee decided to withdraw the article until the spring.

#### **Grenville Park**

Article 10 seeks \$140,000 to plan, design, improve, renovate and equip Grenville Park to improve accessibility. This includes playground equipment, parking, walkways and a pavilion.

Beckley said the town has received a grant for \$97,000.

"The state requires that the whole project be funded, which is the \$140,000," he said, but the grant will cover for the majority

The Selectboard, Finance Committee, Parks and Recreation Committee and Beckley supported this article.

#### Personnel classification

Article 11 seeks \$12,000 to create a personnel classification and pay plan for nonunionized staff in

Willette said if available, the \$12,000 could be paid for using American Rescue Plan Act funds, and the article could be removed from the warrant.

The Selectboard voted 2-1 in favor of using ARPA funds, with Selectboard member Nancy Talbot abstaining. Article 11 will be dismissed at the special town meeting.

#### **HVAC** chiller

Article 12 asks voters to approve spending \$250,000 for an HVAC chiller at the High School. This cost includes the purchase, installation and design for the project.

Kruckas questioned what the school district's ARPA funding was spent on, adding that this item should have been a priority.

The Selectboard and Finance Committee stressed the importance of capital planning to ensure large projects like this are properly planned and budgeted for.

The Selectboard, Finance Committee and Beckley supported this article.

#### **DPW** mower

Article 13 will ask voters to purchase a new mower for the Department of Public Works in the amount of \$23,000. Beckley said the mower is needed for the town's cemeteries, but it can also be used for other town mowing needs.

#### Barn removal

Article 14 asks voters to spend \$14,000 to demolish and remove the barn at Aspen Grove Cemetery.

The Selectboard, Finance Committee, Cemetery Commission and Beckley supported the article.

#### **Facilities repairs**

Article 15 will also be dismissed at special town meeting, but it was seeking to funds repairs to town facilities, including design and engineering costs. Beckley said more research needs to be done on this article, which may appear on the annual town meeting warrant.

## **CDA** discusses grant funding, projects and growth

By Ryan Drago Staff Writer rdrago@turley.com

WARE - The Community Development Authority met to go over updates and projects that can be done under the Community Development Block

The funds will be used for engineering design work to Cottage Street, housing rehabilitation, implementation of a Facade Improvement Program, and to support public social services.

At the Nov. 13 meeting, Community Development Authority discussed new business in regard to updates on the Façade Improvement Program and the CDBG Program.

The Façade Improvement Program assists commercial property owners in the renovation of the exterior of their buildings in order to improve visual quality of the downtown and to enhance the area as a place to visit, shop, and work.

One of the project ideas discussed and identified during the meeting was supporting residents with low and moderate income. Another was repowering any water and sewer in town.

The Community Development Authority is aware that certain projects in town are expensive and the maximum amount of funding for the Community Development Block Grant is \$1,000,000. Of the grant, 25% is used for public service and support.

Preparing for a public hearing, the Community Development Authority is working to provide a presentation and figure out what special projects need to be done in Ware prior to their next meeting in December.

For the community, the Community Development

Authority was going over the use of the community development fund. The main topic in their community development fund was vacant storefronts in

There are several spaces in town that could be eligible for funds. However, the rule is that the space must be vacant for at least a year before any vacant storefront program funding.

One of the new additions to community development is a veterinarian service taking up vacant space in Ware. In addition to vacant spaces, there are some spaces on Main Street currently being filled up.

One way of spreading awareness of these vacant spaces is marketing through the town and growing more business. Ways to assist and develop further growth in town can come from promotion of the town, putting up banners, and other continued promotions.

Also in Ware, the authority was talking about a lot of downtown business growth. In the last several months, a pizza parlor, restaurant, and delivery service have been new additions to the town.

"A lot happening in the town of Ware," said Paralee Smith, director of Planning and Community Development.

During their ancillary discussion, the Community Development Authority discussed a map of grants, listings for the façade grant, and a master list of what has happened so far in town. With a lot of growth and progress going on in the town, the Community Development Authority hopes this growth is known to the public and continues as a trend.

The next meeting will be at the Town Hall on Monday, Dec.

may be sent to Ware Christmas For

Kids, c/o Ware Police Department,

Darlene Gildert is the pro-

gram coordinator, and she can be

reached at 413-967-3571, exten-

22 North St., Ware, MA 01082.

### Medicare 101 educational event offered Dec. 4

BARRE - The Barre Senior Center will be hosting an educational presentation on Monday, Dec. 4, at 12:30 p.m. at the senior center located at 557 South Barre Road Barre for current beneficiaries and for those who will soon be eligible for Medicare.

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

ducted by Ed Spater, a licensed the basics of Medicare including:

each year

your Medicare coverage options

which Medicare cover-

The presentation will be con-Insurance agent, who will explain

your current Medicare coverage

age option is right for you Ways to save money and get

Why it's important to evaluate

What to consider when decid-

The pros and cons of each of

better Medicare coverage in 2024 For accommodations of persons with special needs at meetings call 774-271-5199 or 711 for TTY callers.

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### Christmas for Kids begins, donations requested

Department and the Ware Fire Department have started their 20th annual Ware Christmas For Kids program for the 2023 holiday sea-

They are requesting financial assistance to help them fulfill the needs of the children of Ware, and

• Hazardous Tree Removal

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H: 508-867-6119 • C: 978-888-1693

• Stump Grinding

Bobcat Work

• Furnace Wood

• Firewood \$275/cord

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WARE - The Ware Police 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

sion 327.

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KENO

# community

### Department heads give quarterly reports

By Paula Ouimette Editor pouimette@turley.com

WARE - The Selectboard recently heard reports from the heads of the Building Department, Planning and Development Department, Parks Department, Health Department and the Town

#### **Building Department report**

At the Selectboard's Nov. 14 meeting, Building Commissioner and Zoning Enforcement Officer Anna Marques presented the Building Department's report for the previous month.

There were 39 meetings during the month of October, 32 permit inspections including site visits, five annual periodic inspections, two zoning complaint visits, two violations and one structure fire.

A total of 221 permits were received, which includes 158 building permits received and 128 issued, five signed permits received and issued, four tent permits received and issued, 39 electrical permits received and issued, five gas and 10 plumbing permits received and issued.

Marques said last month one of the restaurants in town was being remodeled, along with a store.

She said there was also a bank renovation, a pre-application meeting for a project looking to develop on Route 32, and site visits to Baystate Mary Lane

Marques said two restaurants have changed ownership, and that departments are working with the owners to get their certificates of occupancy set.

Marques said the department received many calls about properties that are on the market. She said many prospective businesses

are looking for real estate in town. A lot of interest has been shown in the mill yard.

"They specifically are looking for properties in Ware, so it's very reassuring," Marques said.

Marques said annual alcohol licensing inspections for restaurants will begin in November and December, along with annual church inspections.

Staffing changes include the addition of Christen Carter as the administrative assistant to the **Building Commissioner** 

"She's fitting in very well, and she's able to transition as needed throughout the day every day, Marques said.

Marques said the department also has a part-time Building

Palmer, MA 01069

Attn: Jamie Joslyn

Include a self addressed/

stamped envelope

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email photo to:

jamie@turley.com

with subject line:

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This offer is available to

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Pictures will be

published the week of

December 18-22, 2023.

Inspector, for several hours a on staff and town resources next week, depending on the need.

"He has been able to provide us with 34 inspections, helped with training other staff members, and he has contributed to sending out notices for periodic inspections for multi-families," Marques

A multi-family structure is one that contains three families or more, and the town has over 100.

These structures require annual inspections, coordinated by the Building Department, Fire Department and Board of Health, Marques said.

The department also joined other town employees in receiving Excel training, which has been helpful.

Kruckas asked Marques about the status of two buildings in town, including the former Otto Florist building on Main Street, along with a building on Webb Court. He said the roof on the Webb Court property has been gone for several years.

Marques said an in-town hearing was held last year regarding the Main Street building and information was compiled. She said that updated information needs to be organized and sent to town counsel.

Town Manager Stuart Beckley said an architect completed two pages of designs for the project on Webb Court, to be distributed to three contractors in order to get quotes.

Kruckas said he doesn't understand how they can't get a roof on a 24 by 24 foot building in three

"That is a clear problem," he

Kruckas also asked Marques who was responsible for the enforcement and fines when a cease and desist order isn't obeyed. Marques said she issues the enforcement orders and asked if an order had been disobeyed.

He also asked Marques what the typical time frame is for a building permit. She said with all proper documents, a complete building application and proper departmental reviews, it would take 30 days.

Kruckas said he has a list of open permits from over three

Marques said it is also the obligation of the property owner to

call and schedule the inspection. Resident and member of both Hospital Review Committee and we're just trying to work with Terry Smith suggested that the them and see what we come up

budget season, with the proposed demolition of Baystate Mary Lane Hospital.

He said the town may want to consider hiring a consultant for the demolition project. Smith said he understands the demands of Marques' position and the additional permits generated by the demolition could create delays for residential permits.

**Parks Department report** 

Parks Manager John Piechota said they are winding down on another great summer and fall of events and activities. He said the annual Halloween Spooktacular drive-thru event had another successful year.

"It's one of those events you enjoy as an employee...everyone comes through they're so thankful, they really, really appreciate it. Not only the kids, the adults," Piechota said.

The Parks Department is preparing for the Ware Holiday Flair Festive drive-thru next Saturday, Dec. 9 from 5-7 p.m.

He said the new playground has been well-received and respected. The security cameras have been successful with preventing vandalism and illegal dumping.

Piechota said there are cameras on the basketball court, playground, parking lot and bandstand. One camera is used for license plate recognition.

"Vandalism has gone down tremendously," he said. "The respect is there, and people know that the cameras are there. That was a very important thing for the park, and I think it's something we need to consider with other projects that we do not only in the park system, but in the town."

Piechota said his department is still working on coming up with a plan for the town pool. He said adding cameras to that project when it is completed would be a good idea.

"That's going to be a big, big ticket item," he said of the pool.

Initially the Parks and Recreation Commission had focused on the pool and a small splash pad, Piechota said, but now they are focusing on the bath-

Piechota said the company they are working with wants to dig three test pits to test the soil.

"It's going to be a challenge, the Finance Committee and but we are moving forward with it Selectboard consider the impact with," Piechota said.

He said the new pool wouldn't be as deep as the current pool and the water capacity would be cut by 50%. It will be L-shaped with a zero degree entry and a continu-

ous five-foot depth. "The goal was to get away from that water table by shortening the depth of the pool and raising it a little bit," he said. The engineers said the relief valves in the pool are making shifting worse in the pool, with water coming in and out.

"You want something that's a solid unit," Piechota said. He said the town pool is just past its life expectancy.

He said the playground by the town pool will also need addressing. Some of the wood used in the playground is still usable, but it is past it's prime.

Piechota suggested the anyone interested in restoring the playground attend a Parks and Recreation Commission meeting or contact him.

Piechota said the Parks Department has a new hire, Andy Hogan, and he said his team is working well together.

The Parks Department also received its new tractor, after a significant wait. The old tractor was auctioned off on Municibid, earning \$13,700.

The town's receipt of a Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities grant will improve Americans with Disabilities Act compliance in the parking lot at the playground and add a fully handicapped accessible piece of playground equipment and a pavilion. Piechota credited the town's Grant Writer Jay Mooney for his efforts to secure grants.

Mooney also secured a grant from the Stanton Foundation to make improvements to the Dog Park, including shade structures, landscape updates, a retaining wall in the back and woodchips.

Piechota said he hopes the improvements will help to revitalize the public's interest in helping to maintain the park.

#### **Health Department report**

Director of Public Health Andrea Crete said her department is staffed by and receives supplies from the Quabbin Health District, which covers the towns of Ware, Belchertown and Pelham.

She said they've hired John Prenosil as the new Health Inspector as of July

"He's been doing fantas-

Please see **REPORTS**, page 12

### Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago Staff Writer rdrago@turley.com

### Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER - The Commercial Elks League made it to their final league night of round one.

It is a close battle for first place and a spot in the playoffs at the end of the season. As of Nov. 7, Acres and Compression are tied for first place with a 24-12 record.

However, in case of another tie at the end of league night on Nov. 14 Acres would break the tie due to having the highest total pinfall accumulated throughout the first

Compression bowled against The Champs R Here on lanes one and two at Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes. In game one, Compression was victorious over the Champs by a score of 384-355. Jay Dominick of Compression started off with a 104 game.

In game two, The Champs gave Compression a challenge by bouncing back and won by a score of 405-380. Steve Manolakis of the Champs carried his team by scoring

In game three, Compression won the final game by a score of 376-368. Manolakis of the Champs has a three-game series of 322 for the

Compression won total pinfall by a final score of 1140-1127 and took three points.

The Blue B's bowled against Team BK on lanes three and four. In game one, Blue B's won in a close game by a score of 344-334.

In game two, BK won by a score of 373-370. Mark Fitzpatrick of BK led the team with a second game score of 119. In game three, Blue B's won by a score of 376-322.

Blue B's won total pinfall by a final score of 1090-1029. Mark Fitzpatrick of BK had a three-game series of 316.

Sharing first place with Compression is Acres bowling against Life is Good on lanes seven and eight. In game one, Acres won thanks to the strong beginning of Dave Cobleigh with a 106 game. The first game score was Acres 387, Life is Good 371.

In game two, a close game featured Life is Good hanging on to a single digit lead by beating Acres 371-365. In game three, Life is Good and Acres had another close League will meet again on game to end the night, but Life is Thursday, Nov. 30.

Good managed to squeeze another win over Acres by a score of 367-

Life is Good would take total pinfall over Acres by a final score of 1119-1116.

With Compression taking three points over Acres winning one point, Compression officially takes first place and is the winner of round one of the 2023-2024 Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League season. Compression will be competing in the season ending playoff round.

The next round began on Nov.

#### Thursday Night Mixed League

The Thursday Night Mixed League met the week before Thanksgiving.

In one match, Team Six bowled against Team Five on lanes four and five. In game one, Team Six was victorious by a score of 391-388.

In game two, Team Six stayed strong and won by a score of 404-384. In game three, Team Six took the last game by a score of 405-394. Team Six won total pinfall by

a final score of 1200-1166. On lanes two and three, Team Four bowled against Team Three. In game one, Team Three won by a score of 401-382.

In game two, the match was close but Team Three won again 421-417. Jesse Danek of Team Three finished with a 105 the second game. On Team Four, Nick Maslon also bowled 105.

In game three, Team Three won the last game by a score of 408-397. Danek finished strong with a 111 game to end the night. His threegame series for the night was 315.

Total pinfall was won by Team Three by a final score of 1230-

One lanes six and seven, Team Two bowled against Team One. In game one, Team Two won by a score of 412-393. In game two, Team Two won again by a score of

Danny Fennyery of Team Two led the team by scoring 113 in game two. In game three, Team One took the last game by a score of 440-399. The final two bowlers on Team One finished with a 123 and a 107.

Thanks to a strong finish, Team One managed to take total pinfall

by a final score of 1233-1226. The Thursday Night Mixed

#### Marcus Kosnicki June 5,2022 Publications, Inc. Parents: Jonathan & Marcie Kosnicki rents: Marc Davignon & Lisa Dube, Chicoped John & Pamella Kosnicki, Palmer **Turley Publications** Baby's Name: would like to Birthdate: help you show off Parents' Names: the newest member of Parents' Town of Residence: your family Grandparents' Names & Town of Residence: this Christmas, **FOR** FREE! **Turley Publications** 24 Water Street

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**Deadline for photos and forms is** 

Friday, December 6, 2023

☐ The Wilbraham-

Hampden Times

☐ The Holyoke Sun

Journal Register

# North Brookfield Savings Bank annual toy drive returns

North Brookfield Savings Bank's annual toy drive aims to ensure holiday wishes come true for our younger community members. Running through Nov. 30

NORTH BROOKFIELD -

monetary donations and new toys will be collected at Bank branch locations. During the Toy Drive, com-

munity 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

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 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

toys, not funds, as their local toy visit us, as you have so gener- Association Adopt-a-Family ously done in the past, to make your contribution.' Donations are being accept-

ed 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

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.

**SSI** from page 4

for your wife to get benefits on your record.

Nevertheless, because you've already reached your full retirement age, you can voluntarily suspend your benefit payments at any time to allow it to continue growing by simply calling Social Security at your local office or at the national number 1-800-772-1213 and asking them to do so. Your wife will not receive her spousal benefits for any months your benefits are suspended, but she would continue to get her own SS retirement amount, only the spousal portion of her monthly amount would be suspended. You will be able to restart

your benefits at any time by calling Social Security again and asking that your benefits be resumed. You can suspend and restart your benefits as needed (no restriction on how many times), but they will only start/ resume the suspension effective with the month following the month you call.

And, as you likely already know, for each month your benefits are suspended you will earn Delayed Retirement Credits resulting in a higher payment amount later.

Just for clarity, voluntary sus-

pension of benefits is only available to those who have reached full retirement age but is an excellent way to increase your monthly Social Security payment. Your benefit will grow by .667% for each month suspended and, if your benefit is still suspended when you turn 70 years old, Social Security will automatically resume payments at that time, at your higher maximum monthly amount.

This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens

Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association To submit a question, visit amacfoundation. org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@ amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC. . NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website amacfoundation.org/programs/ social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfounda-

#### Author journeys through 175-year history of family sash

By Paula Ouimette pouimette@turley.com

BARRE - Paula Grandpre Wood has been studying genealogy since she was a teenager, following the connecting thread that weaves her family together, generation after generation; the Ceinture Fléchée.

Also known as the Arrow Sash, this 175-year old sash has been passed through her father's family for six generations. It was wrapped around the men over their fur coats in Canada.

"This all began in 2012 when I had this obsession," Grandpre Wood said of determining the sash's origins. This obsession led her to travel with friends to Quebec, Canada, her family's start in North America, and to write her first book.

"The Long Walk Home with the Ceinture Fléchée: The Arrow Sash," chronicles the journey of the sash, Grandpre Wood's family, and her own spiritual journey.

"The story starts with my ancestors, which I was blessed to have all the way back to the 1500s," she said.

Taking the sash with her, Grandpre Wood traveled to where her seven times great-grandfather was indentured to the governor as a servant for a three-year contract.

After finishing the term of his contract, Grandpre Wood's ancestor was given land, and put down permanent roots. That land is now the Canadian shrine to Our Lady of the Cape.

Grandpre Wood said her ancestors had arrived in New France (Canada) after having to flee La Rochelle, France. Her ancestors also converted to Catholicism when they arrived in the new world.

Never in my wildest dreams did I think I'd be looking for my ancestors in Quebec cemeteries,'

Grandpre Wood wondered what it must have been like for her ancestors, as they left everything they knew and loved to travel to an unknown place.

"What would you do to save your family? We're seeing that today, what happened in Ukraine,



with their 11 children.

The ties that bind

Israel, Gaza...where do you go with your families? Where do you take your families for a better life, even if you have to give up everything you love?" she asked.

The sash now belongs to her brother, but Grandpre Wood considers her self the "Keeper of the Sash," carrying it with her while she continues to find both ancestors and descendants.

Grandpre Wood said her great-grandparents had to uproot and move once again after they lost their farm, bringing all 11 children to Central Falls, Rhode Island where their cousins lived.

The family lived in a tenement house, just as Grandpre Wood did growing up in Central Falls.

The journey of the sash runs parallel to Grandpre Wood's spiritual journey, leading her to reclaim

"After being away from the Catholic church for 35 years, I had a call to return to the church," she said. "Never did I think I'd be including myself in the book....my story and my return to the Catholic church and my ancestors' story. What I found out in the end, as I kept bringing the sash to different places, they kept praying for me. It's about spirituality; mine and

When she's not exploring her family's history, Grandpre Wood enjoys spending time with her husband of 41 years, Mike, and their three dogs. She is also actively involved in the church, as a member of Saint Francis of Assisi

Prior to her retirement two weeks ago, Grandpre Wood worked as a physical therapist for 37 years at Quality Physical Therapy in Sturbridge and its satellite office at the Listening Wellness Center in

"For 22 of those years I lived



Author and Barre resident Paula Grandpre Wood stands with her book display during the Autumn Fair.

in Barre," she said. "I think of the thousands of people that I've met over the years. I love the work that I was able to do for all those years and the people I got to meet, it's incredible.'

One of the people Grandpre Wood met during her time as a physical therapist, is Laura Dusha Nelson, the outgoing executive director of the Listening Wellness

"I read the book, because I know Paula, she's been my physical therapist," Dusha Nelson said. "I honestly couldn't put it down. I wanted to hear what the next thing was...people who love history are going to love it, and people who know Paula are going to love her

When asked if she had plans to continue writing, Grandpre Wood said "it's not over yet."

"The sash always takes me to new places and challenges me to go a bit further," she said.

#### About 'The Arrow Sash'

"The Long Walk Home with the Ceinture Fléchée: The Arrow Sash" is available through Amazon and Barnes and Noble.



Paula Grandpre Wood is shown hiking with one of her dogs.

Grandpre Wood will also be at Saint Francis of Assisi Parish Christmas Open House at St. Joseph's Church, South Street,

10 a.m.-2 p.m.

For more information about the

Paula Grandpre Wood wears the sash at a cemetery.



The sash is wrapped around a family headstone in Saint-Liboire, Quebec, Canada.

(adjacent to the Listening Wellness book or author, visit paulagrand-Center) on Saturday, Dec. 2 from prewoodsash.com.







WARE-Holiday Flair

Nicole Croteau wreaths to be hung on the

Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

Mark Lagimoniere puts lights on a Christmas tree.

#### FLAIR from page 1

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 Connecter 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





Volunteers brought "season's greetings" to Main Street.

Christmas tree at Veterans Park.



Ornaments bearing the names of loved ones decorate the A volunteer works to connect the large Christmas Tree at Veterans Park.

### Monson Arts Council presents its 44th Annual **HOLIDAY** CRAFT FAIR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH 9 AM - 4:00 PM SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH 11:30 AM - 4:00 PM 0 TOWN WIDE CAROL SING 4:00 PM SATURDAY MEMORIAL HALL 200 MAIN STREET (ROUTE 32), MONSON, MA MA PIKE EXIT 63, 32 SOUTH -FREE ADMISSION-FOR MORE INFO CALL 413-218-0693

### **Quabbin History Calendar** available for holiday shopping

WARE – Local author J. R. on sale at the Checkout Desk Monday, Nov. 27 at 6 p.m. to sign and sell his annual Quabbin History Calendar.

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

Greene will be at the Young now through Christmas. For Men's Library, 27 Main St., on 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.

### Meeting discusses Patrill Hollow Dam removal

the public are invited to learn Dam has outlived its original about MassWildlife's plans to remove the Patrill Hollow Dam, located within Muddy Brook Wildlife Management Area, on Wednesday, Nov. 29 at 6:30 p.m. in the Myron E. Richardson Municipal Building, 307 Main St.

According to a notice from

HARDWICK - Members of MassWildlife, Patrill Hollow purpose and is in poor condition. Removing this aging dam will improve water quality and aquatic habitat, restore natural river flow, and reduce the potential risk of flooding.

For more information about the project, visit mass.gov/ patrillhollowdam.

#### **Patrill Hollow Dam Removal Public Informational Meeting**

MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) is inviting the public to an informational meeting on **November 29, 2023** from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Myron E. Richardson Municipal Building 307 Main Street, Gilbertville, MA.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the proposed Patrill Hollow Dam Removal project in the Muddy Brook Wildlife Management Area. The Project Team will be available to answer questions and to seek input on the project. Please contact Todd Olanyk todd.olanyk@mass.gov with questions or requests for accommodations.



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by Jack Cascio NEAP.smugmug.com

Kyle Safford scans the turf as he looks toward

# Following playoff loss, Ware rebounds in Week 10

By Tim Peterson Sports Correspondent

WARE —The non-playoff football game between the Belchertown Orioles and the Ware Indians featured two teams looking to get back into the win column following losses in the state tournament six days earlier.

The Indians, who lost at home to Randolph, 3-0, in a Division 8 tournament game on November 3, scored seven touchdowns enroute to a 48-14 victory on a foggy night at Veteran's Field on Nov. 9.

"I'm very proud of my players, especially the seniors, who were able to win the final game of the season on this field," said Ware head coach Mike Fazio. "We put a lot of effort into making the state playoffs every year and you're always worried about how the players are going to respond following a playoff loss. We responded very well in tonight's game."

The seniors listed on the Ware football roster are Jacob Witt, Kyle Gordon, Ayden Young, Noah Fales, Dominic Guardino, Kyle Safford, and Talan Molina.

"The seniors have done a lot of hard work in building our culture during the past couple of years," Fazio added. "They were my first group of players who put a lot of time in the weight



Ben Torres is in control as he makes a reception.

hoping to win our final game against Quaboag."

The home victory improved Ware's overall season record to 9-1. If they're able to defeat Quaboag on the night before Thanksgiving, the Indians will reach ten wins for the first time since 2017. They finished with a 10-1 mark that season.

The Indians have also won the last

and it has paid off. We're now three meetings on the gridiron against the Orioles. They squeaked out a 28-20 win in another non-playoff home game a year ago.

While Safford and Molina each scored a rushing touchdown in this year's meeting against the Orioles, sophomore Jadrien Berthiaume led the way offensively with four rushing

Please see **WARE**, page 10



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com Hunter Griswold runs through traffic.

### **Smith Voke gets** revenge on Pioneers

NORTHAMPTON - On Nov. 10, the Pioneers football team traveled to Northampton for a nonplayoff game against Tri-County opponent Smith Vocational. Pathfinder had a 19-7 win over Smith Voke in Week 8. This time, the Pioneers were not so lucky, falling 32-26. With the defeat, Pathfinder is 4-6 heading into this Thanksgiving's game against Belchertown.

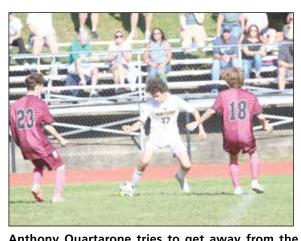
LEFT: Hunter Griswold drops back for a pass



**Dustyn Cook kicks off.** 



Nicholas Pfister runs down the field.





Anthony Quartarone tries to get away from the The Panthers were not able to make the tournament this season.

#### **PANTHERS FINISH FALL SEASON**

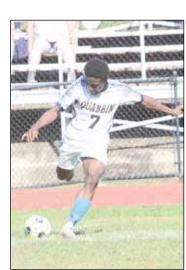
BARRE - It was a tough season for Quabbin boys soccer as the Panthers went 3-12-2 overall. The Panthers would not make the state tournament or the Central Mass. Tournament and finished their season on Oct. 28 with a 1-1 tie against Quaboag Regional.



Quabbin's final game was held at Quaboag High School.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Colin Harmon advances up the field with the ball.



Jenkins Miller clears the ball with pressure coming.



### **Cougars fall to Northbridge**

By Tim Peterson Sports Correspondent

WARREN-Prior to last Friday night's non-playoff game, Northbridge High School and Quaboag Regional had never faced each other on the gridiron.

Ken LaChapelle, who's wrapping up his 46th season as the Northbridge varsity football coach, entered the contest with 392 career victories. He moved a step closer to reaching the 400-win milestone after guiding the Rams to a 34-13 road win over the Cougars.

"It was nice to come here for the first time and get a win," said LaChapelle, who's the all-time winningest high school football coach in Massachusetts. "We've had an up and down year, so this is a very important win for us. I'm just hoping that we can find our way back home now."

While Quaboag head coach Dave Shepherd doesn't know LaChapelle very well, he did enjoy coaching against him for the first

"He's a great football coach," Shepherd said. "It was a lot of fun coaching against him for the first time. We just didn't play our best game of the season tonight."

Shepherd is also a veteran football coach. He spent the first four years of his high school football coaching career at Amherst Regional. He then coached football at Ware High School for nine years and this is his 15th season at

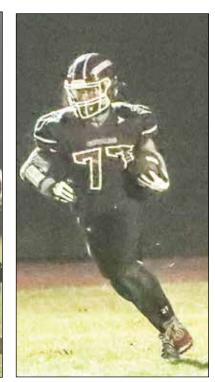


Tyler Withers leaps high to grab this pass.

"Overall, this is my 28th year coaching high school football," he said. "I certainly won't be coaching as long as coach LaChapelle."

The Rams headed back to the Blackstone Valley with a 5-5 overall record, the Cougars, who had won their previous two games, fell

After winning the coin toss and electing to receive the opening kickoff, the Cougars offense started the first series of the game at their



Turley photos by Jack Cascio NEAP.smugmug.com Bryce Douglas eats up yardage on this run.

On the first down play, senior running back Tyler Withers dropped the direct snap from center. After picking up the ball, Withers sprinted down the right sideline before being tackled from behind at the ten yard line by Northbridge senior Zach Tevepaugh.

Two plays later, sophomore

Please see **COUGARS**, page 11

## Hall creates new award with rapper

Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame and ground-breaking rap star, renowned blockbuster film producer and actor, entrepreneur, and co-founder of the BIG3 basketball league, Ice Cube, are thrilled to announce a pioneering partnership culminating in the creation of the inaugural Ice Cube Impact Award.

This unique collaboration is set to honor Ice Cube's extraordinary contributions to the world of basketball, his unparalleled passion for the game, and his unwavering commitment to encouraging crucial dialogues surrounding inclusivity, equal opportunity, and racial and social justice while contributing to initiatives focused on education and community development.

"The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame Award named in my honor is truly remarkable, and words alone can't express my gratitude for this recognition from such a prestigious organization," said Ice Cube, a

SPRINGFIELD - The lifelong Lakers fan who grew munities are unwavering," said up playing basketball at the Inglewood YMCA. "Having an award bearing my name only intensifies my commitment to advancing inclusivity

and equal opportunity in sports, alongside my unwavering dedication to community activism." Naismith Hall

of Fame will

permanently

own communities.

house and amplify the Ice Cube Impact Award in its museum and honor subsequent award winners each year through a dedicated exhibit and in-depth storytelling about honorees who use basketball as a platform for good works in their

"Ice Cube's unquestionable passion for the game and his desire to see it utilized as a catalyst for positive impact on comJohn L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. "His sphere of

> industry and in the professional brings

influence in both the

entertainment

remarka b l e authenticity and value to this award. delighted

to join hands with Ice Cube as he leverages his love of the game to inspire others. The Ice Cube Impact Award will stand as a testament to the power of basketball and the profound impact it can have on communities worldwide."

Ice Cube's remarkable jour-

ney through the world of basketball has had a profoundly transforming effect. As the visionary founder of the BIG3, he created a professional league built on the game's proven bests--Hall of Famers, World Champions, and All-Stars. The BIG3 has launched and revitalized careers and opened doors for all players and coaches who wish to continue to positively contribute to the game in a format that captures the hearts and imagination of fans nationwide. His unique and innovative approach to the game, which incorporates elements of streetball and professional basketball, also showcases the immense power of sports in uniting communities, as exemplified by the Young3 program focusing on youth in underserved areas.

The Ice Cube Impact Award will be presented to Ice Cube at the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame on Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Monday, January 15, 2024) in Springfield, Massachusetts.

#### acebook.com/turleysports **Turleyspor** Athlete of the Month **JORUAN MUKIIBI** WARE HIGH SCHOOL oruan Mukiibi's goal helped give Ware a lead early in the Western Mass. Class C Ifinal game. To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor

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### **UMass Amherst hosting Pioneer Valley Tip-Off**

AMHERST – The Pioneer and Pat Salle, both students at 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

the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and it continues to be entirely student-run by the environment for fans and players McCormack Student Leaders Club today. The PVTO is held on Dec. 9 and 10 and will

University of Massachusetts the region. A schedule is online Amherst campus, where we strive to create a professional alike. This year's event will be held each December on the feature teams from throughout

at www.pioneervallevtip-off. com. All games will be held at the Mullins Center on the UMass-Amherst campus.

#### WARE from page 9

touchdowns.

Berthiaume, who scored three rushing TD's in a 49-7 home win against rival Palmer at the end of October, finished the game with a total of 152 rushing yards on seven carries.

"Jadrien did a great job in tonight's game," Molina said. "He's an outstanding young football player with a very bright

The mood was a little bit different on the visiting sideline following last Thursday's game.

"I'm very disappointed with my team's performance," said Belchertown head coach Dan McCarthy. "I was expecting a hard fought battle. You have to give Ware a lot of credit. They're a well-coached physical team and we just didn't match it. Football is all about blocking and tackling and we didn't do either of them in tonight's

Belchertown (7-3) lost, 49-8, at Shawsheen Tech in a Division 5 playoff game.

The Orioles will be looking to wrap-up the football season by celebrating a home win versus Pathfinder Tech on Thanksgiving morning. The Orioles seniors are Josh Grillo, Shaun Lohse, Chris Daskam, Landon Andre, Nico St. George, Rylan Queiros, Michael

Muscaro, Tyler Dauplaise, and Kaden Couture.

Things didn't start out very well for Belchertown, who won the coin toss and elected to receive the opening kickoff.

A fourth down sack by Safford gave the Indians offense the ball for the first time at the Orioles 31 with 10:56 left in the opening quarter. Seven seconds later, the home team was leading 7-0 following a 31-yard touchdown run by Berthiaume.

Junior Brady Dyer made six of his seven extra point attempts.

The Ware defense, which is led by Gordon, Young, Fales, and Safford, forced the Orioles to punt on their next offensive series.

With 5:54 left in the opening quarter, Berthiaume took a handoff from Dyer, who's also Indians starting quarterback, and he sprinted 26 yards up the middle for his second rushing touchdown capping off a seven-play scoring drive, which covered 75 yards.

Less than three minutes into the second stanza, the Indians were leading 21-0 following an 18-yard TD run by Safford, who carried a couple of tacklers with him into the endzone.

The Orioles fans, who made the trek to Ware High School on Rte. 9, finally had something to cheer about when Andre, who was the starting QB, completed a 10-yard



Turley photos by Jack Cascio NEAP.smugmug.com Jadrien Berthiuaume wins this battle with this awesome grab.

touchdown pass to Grillo on a fourth down play with 2:27 remaining in the opening half.

Junior Brian Carlin made the

Then Daskam intercepted a deflected pass which led to a 39-yard TD pass from Andre to junior Jack Beals, who sprinted the final 25 yards into the end zone.

Carlin made his second extra point slicing the Orioles deficit down to 21-14 with 1:44 left in the

first half.

Andre was injured during the second half and was replaced at quarterback by St. George.

"Losing our starting quarterback to an injury is a very big loss for us," McCarthy said. "Landon is one of our leaders and he always leaves everything he has on the field."

That was the end of the drama, as the Indians scored the final four touchdowns of the game.

On the first play of the Orioles



down this runner.

next offensive series, Berthiaume scored on a 62-yard touchdown run down the right sideline.

The extra point sailed wide

Holding a 27-14 halftime lead, Dyer completed an 11-yard TD pass to junior Ben Torres with 7:56 left in the third quarter.

With less than a minute remaining in the third quarter, Molina scored his final home touchdown on a two-yard power run.

"It was very special scoring a touchdown in my final home game," Molina said. "All of my teammates have really helped me a lot this season."

Berthiaume capped off his memorable performance with a 17-yard dash into the endzone with five minutes in the ballgame.

The Indians looked to end their two-game losing streak at Quaboag Regional on Thanksgiving Eve.

#### **BOYS STATE** from page 1

Young Pioneer Camps. The program was the idea of two Illinois Legionnaires, Hayes Kennedy and Harold Card, who organized the first Boys State at the Illinois State Fairgrounds.

The experience of Boys State involves participants learning the rights, privileges and responsibilities of franchised citizens. The training is objective and centers on the structure of city, county, and state governments.

The activities members of Boys State partake in include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law-enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, choruses and recreational programs. American Legion posts throughout the state select high school juniors to attend the program.

Chairman of the American Legion Boys State program is Mark Avis. Knowing the history of Boys State by heart, Avis has witnessed many young men and women progress into becoming viable citizens.

Boys State members collaborate with each other and solve different scenarios. Some of these scenarios may be topics that come about in their own towns that they're resi-

dents of. They are then elected to every

form of government. This week-long program engages students in learning about the

roots of democracy. Students create Bousquet. and manage their own municipalities and work to understand how our government functions.

In addition, they form political parties, create a platform, and vote in a slate of officers that mirrors state government. They also elect two senators to represent them at Boys Nation, a gathering held every July in Washington, D.C.

One high school student to experience the atmosphere of Boys State is Nick Bousquet of Ware. During his junior year in high school, Bousquet was selected to

take part in the week long program. Being one of 180 selected juniors, Bousquet participated in the Boys State program at Stonehill College in Easton.

The responsibilities Bousquet and other juniors had to pick up included showing their leadership skills and trying to run a functioning government. The platform was split into parties and Bosquet ran for the role of state committee and state representative.

During the program, Bousquet was elected to the role of Speaker of the House. In that position, Bousquet learned to address town issues and make bills with the

For Bousquet, Boys State was a great learning experience he would do all over again.

"It helped me further my knowledge about candidates, politics, government, and service," said

Currently working as an intern for the town of Ware, Bousquet has gotten more involved with planning and community development. In school, he has done volunteer work for the student council and is now in student council.

He is also an intern for English and will be interning for a history class next semester.

In addition to his experiences in service and leadership, Bousquet led a project with Scouts BSA Troop 281 to create a path and outdoor programming area at the Paige Memorial Library in Hardwick. This project earned Bousquet the highest rank in Scouting, that of Eagle Scout.

Bousquet plans to study political science as he prepares for college. Some of his top choices for schools include Saint Anslem and UMass Amherst.

Thanks to the experience of Boys State, Bousquet found a future opportunity to pursue. "A got a real taste of what I am

studying, it encouraged my pursuit of politics," said Bousquet. Noah Fales of Ware High

School also got to be a part of the

Boys State experience. For Fales, it was a unique experience and an early glimpse of working at a college campus. Learning how powerful democracy can be, Fales ventured into the program and took in traditional learn-

ing and got to pick some general

education courses.

Fales chose to study economics, and learned the basics of supply and demand, how the stock market works and how to work with government and treasury bonds. This experience through the Boys State program fueled Fales'interest in studying business.

While at the program, Fales became a captain of the football team at Boys State for his district and won the final game. Fales currently attends Ware High School and is one of the captains of the varsity football team.

The experience at Boys State gave Fales a positive outlook and gave him a perspective on his future goals.

"A good early experience in learning what you really want to do," said Fales. "The program helps propel interest and to find the next steps."

Fales is currently looking into colleges, including Boston College and Dartmouth. For him, a good grasp on learning economics was important to him.

Boys State also gave early experiences in public speaking and Fales also ran for a statewide treasurer role. These activities showed Fales how important it is to vote and to campaign.

Avis also oversees Boys Nation, an organization that began in 1946.

A number of its graduates have been elected to public office, including presidents, congress-

men, state governors and state legislators. Many others have been inspired to work for the campaigns of individuals seeking public

Massachusetts Boys State is

one of the only states that has Boys State and Girls State as a combined The program is part of one of the main pillars of the American Legion and why it was formed.

During its origin, one of the main concerns was finding things for the youth to do. Boys State became a great benefit for the youth to build strong Americanism, care for veterans and

an opportunity for youths to progress in their future years. Avis pointed out that many members are alumni of the Boys State program. One member has had a grand total of 50 years of

Many members recruited for Boys State have come back as junior counselors to further their commitment to the program and to the American Legion. From Avis's point of view, those spans form

many friendships. "It shows the comradery that the kids develop within the program and make friends you never lose," said Avis. "Strongpoints of why the American Legion was formed. Brings out 100% of the Americanism and citizenship in our

The American Legion is an

institution founded on four pillars. Veterans affairs and rehabilitation, national security, Americanism, and children and youth.

Each of these pillars incorporates a variety of programs that benefit our nation's veterans, its servicemembers, their families, the youth of America and ordinary cit-

Avis has been involved with the Massachusetts Boys State program for about 26 years and knew how great of a program it is to the youth of the US.

"Once I went, I just saw the purpose," said Avis. "Witnessed great interaction, a strong idea of how government works, and become a viable citizen."

Avis mentioned that those selected for Boys State and Girls State leave as individuals and what they learned hopefully shows them what it means to be part of a democracy. Boys State programs vary in content and method of procedure, but each adheres to the same basic concept: teaching government from the township to the state level.

More information can be found on their website maboysstate.org.

Applications are posted to view along with information for eligibility. Visit www.legion.org/boysnation/stateeligibility.

The next event for Boys State will be in 2024 at Stonehill College in Easton from June 15-June 21.

## Thunderbirds fall in 'School Day' game

Springfield Thunderbirds (7-6-1-0) the Hartford Wolf Pack (7-3-2-0) on Wednesday morning inside the XL Center.

The Wolf Pack took a page out of Springfield's school day playbook and came out with an offensive flourish in the opening 20 minutes. Just 5:05 into the festivities, and just

under 15 seconds after beginning their first power play, the Pack man-advantage took a 1-0 lead on a tap-in goal on the near post by Hartford captain Jonny Brodzinski.

Just under six minutes later, Brodzinski became the passer, as he filtered a perfect pass to the slot area from the trapezoid. and Alex Belzile cashed in to make it 2-0 at 10:59.

Hartford's offensive blitz did not end there, and Adam Sykora got his first goal of the season, cruising down the slot to beat Vadim Zherenko over the shoulder at 18:53 to give the Wolf Pack a 3-0 lead at intermission.

The T-Birds could not find any puck luck in the second period, as a Hugh McGing

HARTFORD, Conn. -- The chance on a 2-on-1 caught the crossbar early in the period. Later on, Nikolas Brouillard found his way to the crease area to jam a rebound through

Zherenko on the backhand at 12:58 of the period, extending the lead to

the other end, Louis Domingue had been perfect until an innocent-looking wrist shot the right circle off

from the stick of Mathias Laferriere slipped through the veteran's legs at 15:20 of the period, finally getting Springfield on the board and narrowing the lead to 4-1 heading into the third. It was Laferriere's first goal of the season, with Zach Dean and MacKenzie MacEachern picking up the helpers.

Unfortunately for the T-Birds, the goal would only be a footnote, as Hartford extended back to a four-goal lead on a deflection tally from Adam Edstrom at 5:44 of the third to round out the scoring. Zherenko battled throughout and finished with 32 saves. Domingue needed to make just 23 saves for Hartford.

### **Follow Turley Sports on Instagram**

department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow

Turley Publications sports and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in

your community.

# Railers pick up win over Newfoundland

ST JOHNS, NL – The Worcester Railers HC (4-5-1-1, 10pts) toppled the Newfoundland Growlers (5-5-2-0, 12pts) on Nov. 12 in overtime by the final score of 2-1 in front of a crowd of 4,284 at the Mary Brown's Centre.

Trevor Cosgrove (1-1-2) broke open the scoring for Worcester in the first, putting Worcester ahead 1-0 after one. Zach O'Brien (1-0-1) scored for Newfoundland in his return to the Growlers lineup for the first time this season. Ashton Calder scored his second game-winner in three games for Worcester in overtime as the Railers came out on top to wrap up

the weekend, 2-1.

first goal for the third time this season, as Trevor Cosgrove (1st) danced through the defense to beat Luke Cavallin in net for Newfoundland glove side. Zach White would drop the gloves with former Railer Josh Victor twenty seconds later. Worcester was outshot in the first period 13-10, but led at the end of

twenty minutes, 1-0. Zach O'Brien (1st) returned to

the Growlers lineup for the first ting their first until there was just The Railers scored the game's time this season after playing in

Slovakia to start the season and potted his first goal since returning in the second. He grabbed the rebound off the post on the power play and patted it past Lennox to tie the game heading into the third at 1-1.

Worcester suffocated Newfoundland in the third, taking the period's first fifteen shots while preventing the growlers from get-

seven minutes left in regulation. Zach WHite was awarded a penalty shot in the third but failed to capitalize as the game remained 1-1. Grant Cruikshank committed a tripping penalty late in the third period which sent Worcester to the power play to end regulation.

Ashton Calder (6th) found the puck along the near side just 13 seconds into overtime and ended up slapping the puck top-shelf past Cavallin to give Worcester their second win on the weekend, and four out of a possible six points against Newfoundland.

#### **QUABOAG** from page 9

quarterback Jacob Cacace completed a four yard pass to junior Brasen Sauriol, who made a diving catch at the five. The Cougars wound up turning the ball over on downs following two incomplete passes in the endzone.

"We really need to punch it in on our opening drive," Shepherd said. "We thought about trying a field goal on fourth down, but Northbridge has an explosive offense, and we really needed a touchdown there."

It took the Rams 12 plays to march 95 yards down the field.

The visitors took a 7-0 lead with 2:20 remaining in the first quarter, sophomore Nate Falconer plowed into the endzone on a one yard run. Sophomore Jayden Wilson added the extra point.

With 8:20 remaining in the first half, Cacace completed a pass to Withers down the left sideline, which would've given the Cougars a first down at the Rams 40. However, the play was wiped out following an offensive pass interference penalty.

"The offensive pass interference was the turning point of the game," Shepherd said. "We were moving the ball well on that drive. "

Northbridge junior Anthony Lippolis intercepted a pass on the next play.



Jack Morgan runs it in for a touchdown.

The Rams then took a 14-0 lead when sophomore QB Joel LaChapelle completed a 45 yard touchdown pass to senior Michael DiMuzio with 7:31 left in the second quarter.

The Cougars responded with a 67 yard touchdown run by Withers, who found a huge hole in the line, with 3:55 left in the half.

Withers, who's a co-captain, also made the extra point cutting the Cougars deficit to 14-7.



Turley photos by Jack Cascio Jacob Cacace eyes his blockers as he eats up yardage.

The members of the Quaboag offensive line are junior Trenton Benson, junior Samuel Carrasco, senior Jaden Ostiguy, senior Chucky Smith, and senior co-captain Bryce Douglas, who was a force on defense.

The home team wouldn't get any closer than seven points the rest of the game.

With two minutes remaining in the opening half, Falconer scored

his second touchdown on an 11 yard dash up the middle.

After the Rams recovered a fumble, the Quaboag coaching staff wasn't very pleased with the clock operator, who gave the Rams offense a couple of extra seconds at the end of the first half.

It allowed LaChapelle, who's the grandson of the Rams head coach, an opportunity to throw a 13-yard TD pass to junior Ben Direnzo, which gave the visiting team a 28-7 halftime advantage.

"I really don't know what happened at the end of the first half," Shepherd said. "There wasn't any time on the scoreboard clock, but they gave them a couple of extra seconds and they scored a touchdown."

The Rams scored another rushing touchdown in the third quarter to take a commanding 34-7 lead.

At the beginning of the fourth quarter, Cacace threw a 13-yard pass to junior Jack Morgan, who dove into the end zone.

The extra point attempt sailed

The Cougars five seniors were set to be honored in a pregame ceremony before they play in their final high school football game against rival Ware on the night before Thanksgiving.

#### **WALMART** from page 1

are no real significant changes to

"The main kind of part of the project...they're proposing an 8,000 square foot building addition to assist with and improve their online order operations," Allen said. The addition would primarily be used for storing consumer goods and orders.

There will be an increase in parking spaces designated to online order customers, from eight to 45.

"They're going to be expanding that due to what they're seeing from their consumers...and operationally, just looking to improve the overall operations for the existing Walmart," Allen said.

This addition will reduce the number of overall parking spaces by 58, bringing the total from 755

Allen said the current parking requirements are out of compliance, with the maximum limit of parking spaces allowed set at 624, and this will bring the site closer to compliance. He said the proponent is also requesting a waiver for the parking requirements to allow for the amount over the maximum limit.

Allen said there will be an 1,800 square foot reduction of impervious coverage with the addition. Additional landscape includes 17

shrubs and two trees. He said runoff from the roof will be piped directly into the drainage manhole.

Allen said there is a slight encroachment into the 100-foot wetlands buffer zone at the parking area and that the site inspection was submitted to the Conservation Commission.

"They didn't have any further comments and determined that no other applications would be needed there," Allen said.

Allen said Walmart will also be renovating the interior of the building and refreshing the exterior, including repainting the façade and replacing signage.

"There's really no significant changes from what's out there today," he said.

He said it will be a similar color theme, but the blue color will be located on the upper part of the façade, instead of the lower por-

will also be slightly smaller than the summer of 2024. existing one.

Planning and Community Development Director Paralee Smith asked where Walmart would be stockpiling plowed snow during the winter, with the loss of parking spaces. Allen said Walmart didn't have concerns about having enough room for snow with the reduction of parking spots, but he will follow up with Walmart to determine where it will go.

She also wanted to ensure that the grease trap covers located at the front and west side of the building, would still be accessible during construction.

Allen said the grease trap cover on the side will be maintained where it is and there will be a cleanout relocated near the front of the proposed addition.

Planning Board Vice-Chair Richard Starodoj suggested reconsidering the proposed landscaping islands, due to the challenges they pose for snow removal.

He said the location of handicapped parking signs also prevents drivers from pulling through the parking spot, requiring them to back up, which can pose a potential driving hazard.

He said, "It's a lot easier for someone to drive forward than it is to backup. You don't need those signs there in the middle, it just blocks everything."

Starodoj said the sign placement also prohibits snow removal.

Allen said the sign placement is now an Americans with Disabilities Act requirement.

Starodoj mentioned that while unrelated to this project, users of the Mass Central Rail Trail have been seeking a crosswalk from Walmart's parking lot to the trail entrance. Allen said he would share that information with Walmart representatives.

The Planning Board unanimously approved the plan, on the condition that construction does not occur on major holidays, and be limited to 7 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Construction would only be allowed on Sundays if a "demonstrated need" were to arise and was approved by the Building Inspector.

Allen said construction for the

tion where it is now. The wall sign project is expected to start around

Smith said she went to the dog breeder's site with Building Commissioner and Zoning Enforcement Officer Anna Marques after a complaint had been received by the Planning Board.

Smtih said the site was clean and organized and the dogs looked happy and healthy.

Smith said Marques recently discovered a note from the previous Health Inspector, who had done a site inspection in the past. Smith and Marques asked for a continuance so the current Health Inspector could review the note.

#### **Town Planner's update**

Smith said Tractor Supply recently submitted paperwork, and will appear before the Planning Board during a December meeting. She said Integrity Towing has also submitted a special permit and site plan application, and she hopes to have both appear at the same meet-

Smith said she is waiting to have a definitive answer from Minuteman Farm, LLC, a cannabis cultivation project located in the mill yard at 24 East Main St., after construction had ceased on the proj-

"They're obviously trying to keep it continuing," Smith said, and she will continue to reach out.

Smith said she has hired an assistant, who will start the week after Thanksgiving. Smith said her office is also being repaired, replacing the ceiling and carpet.

During the renovation, Smith, her assistant and her intern will be working out of the Selectboard's Meeting Room.

#### **Additional hours**

Lori and Megan Sinclair of B'leaf Wellness Centre requested approval for their business to stay open for an extra hour on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving for "Green Wednesday" as well as the Friday after Thanksgiving for Black Friday shopping.

The Planning Board granted a two day exemption to extend the operating hours.



# public safety

### **Warren Police Log**

29-Nov. 4, the Warren Police Department responded to 235 building/property checks, 73 community policing, 24 traffic enforcements, eight emergency 911 calls, one harassing/annoying phone call, one fraud/forgery, one larceny/theft, two animal calls and 27 motor vehicle stops in the town of

#### Sunday, Oct. 29

1:21 a.m. Disorderly Conduct, Sarty Road, Officer Spoke to Party 3:33 p.m. Fraud/Forgery, Crescent Street, Report Filed

3:49 p.m. Seizures, Brimfield Road, Transported to Hospital

8:21 p.m. Larceny/Theft, Main Street, Report Filed

#### Monday, Oct. 30

2:19 a.m. Stroke, Brimfield Hospital Road, Transported to Hospital

8:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint Summons: Darrien X. Ellis, 20, Holyoke

Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle; Passing Violation; Speeding in Violation Special Regulation

Tuesday, Oct. 31 12:33 a.m. Harassing/

During the week of Oct. Annoying Phone Calls, Quaboag Street, Officer Spoke to Party

3:42 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Santos Road, Transported to Hospital

5:32 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning 8:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Boston Post Road, Citation Issued

#### Wednesday, Nov. 1

6:52 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Bacon Street, No Fire Service

2:10 p.m. Chest Pain/ Heart Problem, South Street, Transported to Hospital

#### Thursday, Nov. 2

9:04 a.m. Falls, Southbridge Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal 10:58 a.m. Seizures, Southbridge Road, Transported to

#### Friday, Nov. 3

2 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

4:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning 5:15 p.m. Fire Alarm

Activation, Bemis Road, Fire Extinguished

Saturday, Nov. 4

9:47 a.m. Falls, Bemis Road,

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.

Transported to Hospital

3:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old West Warren Road, Citation

5:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning 5:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop,

Main Street, Written Warning 7:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Cutler Road, Arrest(s) Made

Arrest: Zachary H. Homuth, 29, Warren

OUI-Liquor or .08%, 2nd Offense; Operation of Motor Vehicle, Improper

### **Gullini named president of Massachusetts DAs Association**

In a unanimous vote by the ecutors and 260 victim witness

Commonwealth's district attorneys, Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni has been elected as the president of the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association.

This is the second time Gulluni has been elected president of the association, the first coming in November of 2019. He has been serving as vice president for the past year, and will now serve as president for the next year.

MDAA is an independent state agency whose mission is to support the eleven elected Massachusetts District Attorneys, their staff, including approximately 785 prosadvocates, while promoting public safety practices and policies

on a state-wide basis.

Gulluni stated in a press release, "I am honored by the trust of my fellow district attorneys in electing me as president of our association. I am enthusiastic about representing my colleagues on matters affecting public safety throughout the Commonwealth and advancing our shared

commitment to justice, fairness, and integrity."

**Hampden District** 

**Attorney Anthony** 

D. Gulluni

First elected in 2015, Gulluni is currently serving his third term in office.

He currently sits on the Massachusetts Victim and

Witness Assistance Board, which is the governing body of the Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance, which is the only state-wide board representing victims' rights. He also serves on the Governor's Task Force on Hate Crimes.

His appointments first came under Governor Charlie Baker and has been reappointed to both by Governor Maura Healey.

Gulluni is a pragmatic prosecutor whose work in promoting public safety includes strong partnerships, focused and strategic prosecutions, and ground-breaking preventative programing, such as the Emerging Adult Court of Hope, Future Lawyers of Springfield, Hampden County Addiction Taskforce, and his office's prolific outreach and programming within the many school districts of

Hampden County.

### Ware Firefighters host Santa Run on Dec. 16

WARE – Ware Firefighters Local 1851 is hosting its third annual Santa Run on Saturday, Dec. 16 for Ware residents.

Deadline to sign up is Dec. 8 and Santa's route will be determined on Dec. 11. Local 1851 is asking for a donation of \$10 per child receiving a gift and one wrapped gift per child. Residents can drop wrapped gifts at the Fire Station, 200 West St. with donation.

You will be required to fill out a form with the name of the recipient and address the gift is going to. Please make checks payable to Ware Firefighters Local 1851.

One the date of the event, the gifts will be delivered by Santa and members of Local 1851. Delivery times will be announced once the route is finalized after the deadline.

### Firefighters host raffle for Bruins hockey tickets

WARE - Ware Firefighters Local 1851 is hosting a raffle of four tickets to see the Boston Bruins on Jan. 22, 2024 at TD Garden, plus a free parking pass.

The prize is valued at \$990. The winning raffle ticket will be drawn on Christmas day.

Raffle tickets are a \$10 donation each with proceeds to support the Ware Firefighters Local

All members of Ware Fire Department have tickets, or people may call 413-967-9630.

### MassDOT announces snow plow naming contest

BOSTON – The Massachusetts to celebrate the snow and ice sea-Department of Transportation is announcing the second annual, "Name A Snowplow," contest for statewide elementary school students in Massachusetts.

The contest seeks to solicit names for 12 vehicles. MassDOT snowplows that will be in service for the upcoming 2023/2024 winter season.

Applications for the snowplow naming contest are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1, and can be submitted by using an online portal: https://www.mass.gov/forms/ name-a-snowplow-contest-submission. There is no limit to the number of applications that can be submitted per school.

The contest winners will be invited to participate in a scheduled snowplow unveiling event.

The purpose of the contest is

son and to help recognize the hard work and dedication shown by public works employees and contractors during the winter season.

Winning applicants will be announced by Dec. 22.

"This contest is a great way to celebrate the winter season in New England, encourage the creativity of our young people, and to thank all the dedicated members of our crews who keep our roads and bridges cleared during severe weather," said Acting Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt in a press release. "We truly appreciate all the people who work on the front lines regardless of the weather in all sectors of the economy and this is one gesture of thanks."

A selection panel composed of MassDOT employees will choose

two elementary school classroom winners that are located within each of the six Highway Division districts. The winning submissions will be evaluated based on two grade-level categories: kindergarten through fourth grade; and fifth grade through eighth grade.

During the first snowplow naming contest last winter, the winning names were: Flurry Fighter, Luke Snowalker, Plower Ranger, Sherlock Snowmes, Snowdrop, Arctic Beast, Sled Zeppelin, Snow day No Way, Blizzard Wizard, Snow Big Deal, Snow Time to Lose, and Blizzard of Oz. These names which were placed on the sides of plow trucks a year ago remain on those vehicles.

For more information on the contest, please visit: https://www. mass.gov/name-a-snowplow-contest-2023-24.

#### **WARREN STM** from page 1

approved the study at the annual town meeting.

The motion failed to pass by a

Residents asked if West Brookfield, the other town in the regional school district, would also be contributing to the cost of the study. Town Administrator James Ferrera said West Brookfield did not have the financial means at this time.

One resident asked if the Superintendent and School Committee had been approached by town officials about conducting the study. She suggested the town seek the data they are looking for by filing public information requests for teachers' contracts, staff to student ratio and more.

Ferrera said in order to get the best results, the study needs both the town and the school district to be on board.

"The study requires both parties to cooperate together," he said. If they don't it will make the study difficult to do. The Finance Committee did not

support this article due to the need for cooperation, and its members suggested revisiting the article at a later town meeting. Ferrera said it "may take time"

to get cooperations and the article could reappear on the annual town meeting warrant.

Dufresne said the study may go in favor of the school district,

READING NEWSPAPERS

showing a need for more funding.

Superintendent of Schools Stephen Duff said the school district pays for an audit each year, and questioned if the study did show the school as being understaffed, would it be corrected.

"Will the town support the staffing needed at annual town meeting?" Duff asked the Board of Selectmen.

#### Levee maintenance

Voters approved the transfer of \$25,000 from free cash to cover the costs of maintaining the town's levee, located near the Wrights Mill Complex.

Dufresne said the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers notified the Board of Selectmen, that the town owns the levee and is responsible for its upkeep.

'We have to maintain it to make sure there are no problems," Dufresne said.

Dufresne said the money will allow the town to hire a company to use cameras to inspect the valve system. There are also trees that need to be removed, as they are compromising the levee.

#### New police cruiser

Article 21 asked voters to approve the purchase of a 2023 Ford Police Interceptor with free cash in the amount of \$46,286. The

cruiser would replace a 2020 Interceptor with over 105,000 miles on it. Ferrera said the

new cruiser is a critical need for the Police Department,

Police Chief Gerald Millette said the 2024 models are changing, and all of the department's existing equipment would not be transferrable. He said with the purchase of the 2023 model, the department could just shift the equipment from one vehicle to the next.

Voters passed the article, 36-11.

#### Fire engine replacement

Articles 23, 24 and 25 asked voters to transfer funds from various sources to cover the cost of purchasing a new Fire Engine 1.

Fire Chief Adam Lavoie said the town had already appropriated \$200,000 to go toward the purchase at a previous town meeting.

Lavoie said the cost of the engine is increasing by about 10-15% a year and getting the chassis is "next to impossible."

Voters passed all three articles favorably.

#### Other articles

All remaining articles passed including allocating \$18,000 for building maintenance and improvement for the Shepard Municipal Building, Town Hall and Council on Aging; paying prior years bills, salary transfers, funding staff trainings and office equipment, cleaning services, paying off debts, and eliminating licensing fees for dog owners aged 70 and older.

Voters also transferred \$352,000 from free cash to stabilization and \$100,000 from free cash to capital stabilization.

#### **REPORTS** from page 6

tic," Crete said. She said all of his training is provided by the department using a Public Health Excellence grant.

Prenosil is currently conducting food inspections in the district, as well as housing and nuisance inspections, and miscellaneous inspections such as tanning and body art.

She said the goal is to conduct high risk food inspections three times a year.

The department also hired Title V independent contractor Roger Bacon, using grant funding, to do all Title V work and septic inspections in the district.

Crete said Public Health Nurse Kirsten Krieger has been doing a lot of work with the homebound population and working with the Senior Center and elder services. Krieger has been hosting flu vaccine clinics as well.

Krieger conducted CPR/First Aid and ChokeSaver training for municipal employees in Ware and Belchertown. She has also conducted Naloxone training and held a number of programs at the library.

"She just does so much," Crete

Crete said Krieger is working with St. Mary's Church to secure it as an emergency dispensing site, rather than the school.

"The plan that we currently have for emergency dispensing site is very outdated," she said. "If an emergency happens and school happens to be in session... we wouldn't be able to utilize that

Crete said they received grant funding to hire a support staff, for 18 hours a week, unbenefited.

**Town Clerk report** Town Clerk Nancy Talbot said every day she processes vital records, creates records, issues certificates and answers ques-

"We spend a lot of time in the office giving directions, trying to find out answers for people, giving them calls back," she said.

Talbot said the town will be implementing new software for vitals and voter registration sys-

She said there will be four different elections next year and the legislature passed laws that mandate 10 days of early voting before any state primary or election, one weekend of early voting, and vote-by-mail postcards for state elections and primaries.

"There's a lot of work to do once those postcards are received," Talbot said.

Talbot said her office received a second delivery of 200 initiative petitions, all with one signature on each petition. She said they need to be categorized, go into the software, be time and date stamped and more.

Talbot also issues business certificates, annual dog licensing, raffle permits, posting meeting notices, and much more.

#### **Planning Department report**

Planning and Community Development Director Paralee Smith said since her start five weeks ago, she has hired an assistant, who will be starting the week after Thanksgiving.

She said there is an upcoming training seminar in Greenfield, and she will be joined by some members of the Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Board.

### **SCHOOL VAN DRIVERS**

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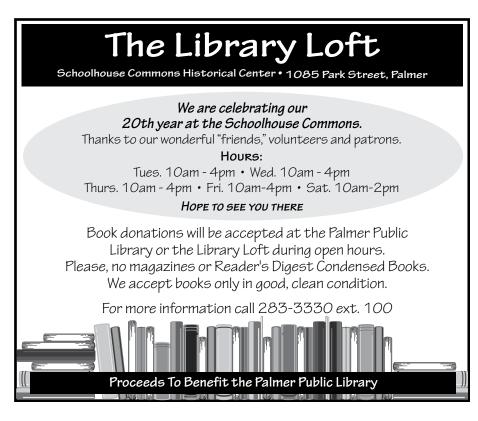
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#### **NEWS & FEATURES**

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the Ware River News, please email warerivernews@turley.com.

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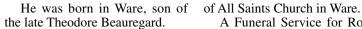
### Ronald "Ricketts" Beauregard, 58

BONDSVILLE - Ronald Beauregard of Bondsville, passed

away on Friday, Nov. 17, 2023, at his home,

at the age of 58 He leaves his mother, Bernice T. Beauregard of West Brookfield, his sisters, Linda Lindsay and her husband Richard of Brimfield, and Jennifer Zepf and her husband Robert of Ocala, Florida; as well as two nieces, Sarah Nykiel and Jessica

Lindsay; two great-nephews, Carson and Grant Nykiel; and many friends.



Ronald was a foreman and served as the VP of the Steel Workers Union at Kanzaki Specialty Paper in Ware for many years.

He had a love for all sports, from coaching little league to his ventures to visit every stadium. Ronald also refereed youth basketball in

the past. He was a communicant of the former Mount Carmel Church and

A Funeral Service for Ronald will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2023, at 7 p.m. in the Varnum Funeral Home, Inc., 43 East Main St., in West Brookfield. Calling hours will be held prior to the funeral service from 5-7 p.m.

Burial will be in the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cemetery in the spring. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute/ Jimmy Fund, P.O. Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284 or by visiting http://www.jimmyfund.org.

An online guest book is available at varnumfuneralhome.com.

### Claire A. Nickerson, 88

WARREN -Claire A. (Wirf) Nickerson, of Warren, died on Friday, Nov. 10, 2023, at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield after a brief illness, at the age of 88.



She leaves her daughter, Deborah Tonelli and her husband Norman of Westerly, Rhode Island; two sons, Timothy Nickerson of Warren, and Jeff Nickerson and his wife Sharon of North Brookfield; four grandchildren, Melissa Vadnais, Allyson Manganello, Tyler Nickerson and Conor Nickerson, as well as three great-grandchildren, Timothy, Rachel, and Julian Letourneau.

She was predeceased by her parents, Walter Wirf and Hattie (Chapin) Wirf, her sister Hilda (Wirf) Zrate, and the love of her life, her husband, Donald Nickerson, who passed away in

After graduating from Warren High School, Claire married her high school sweetheart "Nick" and began to raise her family. Along with her husband she helped manage Nickerson's Par 3 golf course cooking hundreds of meals over

She volunteered her time on the Warren Fire Department Auxiliary where she helped serve coffee and food to firemen fighting fires at all hours of the day and night. For many years she volunteered counting votes at annual elections for the town of Warren.

Past jobs included being a secretary at WARE radio station, hostess at Salem Cross Inn, and for many years working in the office at Warren Pumps.

### **Death notices**

Beauregard, Ronald Died Nov. 17, 2023 Services Nov. 28, 2023

Bergeron, Nicole J. Died Nov. 13, 2023 Services Nov. 20, 2023

Nickerson, Claire A. (Wirf) Died Nov. 10, 2023

Claire was a loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grand-

At an early age Claire excelled at tap dancing and would perform in local recitals. She was an excellent seamstress, sewing beautiful clothes and costumes for her children and grandchil-

She loved gardening and crafts. She enjoyed travelling on cruises with Nick and also taking many fun trips with her grandchildren and enjoyed spending time with "the girls" having coffee at the Warren Spa.

Claire was a very generous person who would help anyone in need.

Nick and Claire were a wonderful and loving couple and will be missed by all who had the privilege to know them. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Honor Flight Connecticut at www.honorflightct.org or Second Chance Animal Shelter at https://www. secondchanceanimals.org/donate/.

A joint graveside burial for Nick and Claire will be held in the spring at Pine Grove cemetery in Warren and updates will be posted on this obituary. Varnum Funeral Home, Inc., 43 East Main St., in West Brookfield is assisting the family with arrangements.

An online guest book is available at varnumfuneralhome.com.

Ware River News **OBITUARY** POLICY

**Turley Publications** offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice listing** the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

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**Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** 

should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

#### Nicole J. Bergeron, 31

SPRINGFIELD - Nicole J. outdoors, going to the beach, uncles, maternal grandparents, Bergeron passed away after suffering injuries as a passenger in a car accident on Nov. 13, 2023, at the age of 31.

She was born on July 19, 1992, in Springfield, to her loving parents, Bernard and Darlene (Bishop) Bergeron of Ware. Nicole was raised in Ware and graduated from Ware High School class of 2010.

After high school she completed the medical assistant program at Branford Hall. She was currently employed at the Delaney House in Holyoke and Paddy's Irish Pub in Springfield as a bar-

Nicole loved spending time

kayaking, spending time with her cousins, and nephews.

stepdaughter Ellie and her dog, Lilly. She also enjoyed going to the gym and spending time with her friends.

Besides her parents, she will be deeply missed by her brother Alex Bergeron of Ware, two half siblings, Shelby Frenette (Joel) of Delray Beach, Florida and Tricia

Porter (Jim) of Southwick. She made in her name to Lighthouse leaves behind her stepdaughter Ellie along with her dog Lilly whom she loved very much. She also leaves behind loving aunts,

Calling hours were held on Sunday, Nov. 19 from 2-5 p.m. at the Beers & Story of South Hadley Funeral Home. A memorial service was held Monday, Nov. 20 at 10 a.m. at the funeral home. Burial is pri-

In lieu of flowers, donations may be Animal Shelter, www.lighthouse-

animalshelter.org.

## CDC recommends getting your flu shot now

SPRINGFIELD – It's flu shot time. No one knows exactly what to expect about the severity of this flu season, but

flu is already in the community. While the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend getting your flu shot by the end of October, it's never too late, and if you haven't gotten the vaccine yet, don't wait any longer to protect yourself and those

around you. "Whether we have a severe or mild flu season predicted should not matter when it comes to getting your flu shot. Everyone with some exceptions needs to get one," said Dr. Armando Paez, chief, Infectious Disease Division,

Baystate Health in a press release. The CDC recommends that everyone 6 months and older who does not

them from getting flu vaccine, such as flu. These include older adults, residents a prior reaction after receiving the flu vaccine, should be vaccinated now, preferably before the end of October. The flu vaccine composition for 2023-2024 has been updated to best match the flu viruses that are anticipated to be commonly circulating this season.

One-dose flu shots are appropriate for most people, with rare exceptions for children younger than 6 months of age and those with severe, life-threatening allergies to any ingredient in the flu vaccine or who have had a previous severe allergic reaction to a dose of flu

through 8 years may require two doses.

Flu vaccinations are particularly important for those individuals at risk have any conditions that may prevent of severe illness and complications from

of long-term care facilities, women who are pregnant, adults and children with a weakened immune system, and those with chronic medical conditions and

Persons who live with or care for individuals at risk of severe infection such as healthcare personnel and others living in the home are also essential to be vaccinated.

For people 65 years and older, there are three preferentially recommended higher-dose or adjuvant flu vaccines: Fluzone High-Dose Ouadrivalent vaccine, Flublok Quadrivalent recombi-Some children aged 6 months nant flu vaccine and Fluad Quadrivalent adjuvant flu vaccine.

> More information is available at https://www.cdc.gov/flu/ highrisk/65over.htm.

Yet another concern, according to Paez, "In addition to flu, COVID-19 and RSV infections can complicate and pose additional threats to vulnerable individuals with weakened immune systems."

A flu outbreak can be devastating for

"Influenza and RSV have always been a significant illness in young children. Children with underlying medical conditions, especially prematurity, asthma and immunodeficiencies, kids under age five, as well as those with asthma or serious underlying pulmonary, cardiac, neurologic, or immune system illnesses are at particular risk for a serious influenza infection," said Dr. Cecilia Di Pentima, chief, Pediatric Infectious

Please see **FLU SHOT**, page 15



#### **MLH UPDATE** from page 1

and they gave the committee feedback generated from the visioning forum held on Sept. 20.

Trietsch said the town was able to hire HKT Architects Inc. through grant funding, to look at the property and give ideas for possible reuses and what the challenges are.

Slemenda said there were five different questions asked and the most common responses about the site mainly related to health care, including an urgent care or medical/health care facility.

"People made similar comments on needing urgent care and central availability of medical care," Slemenda said. "There's an emphasis on emergency care being available."

Trietsch said health care was the "major impetus," for residents, and referenced in about 90% of the responses.

Slemenda said residents also listed redevelopment of the site, creating athletic fields and open space, as other possible uses for

She said the loss of the facility in town has made a big impact on area residents.

#### Cleanup concerns

"There's was a lot of discussion about the legacy of the Gilbert family," Slemenda said. "A lot of questions about contamination of the buildings and

Hardwick resident Stephen Granlund said based on the reaction of people at the September forum, most did not know about possible contamination from medical waste on the site.

"Human tissue was incinerated and dumped out in the field... the town should never take the property," Granlund said.

President and CEO of Westmass Area Development Corporation Jeff Daley said Atlas Engineering will be taking core samples of the soil starting next week for phase two of the site assessment. They will be testing the whole campus.

ed with results available in Daley said every building in

Soil samples will be test-

the hospital complex is "loaded with asbestos."

"Any reuse of any building, it would need significant upgrades...I was surprised Davis was a loaded as it was. It has pages and pages [of asbestos findings]," he said. "Every window, wall, ceiling, has asbestos."

Abating this asbestos would cost millions of dollars, he said.

Daley stressed the need for the site to be clean in order to take title to it for redevelopment. He said it has to be clean before his organization would even consider the possibility.

"I'm not taking title of a dirty property...I'm not taking 24 acres with liability on it," Daley said. "Nobody is going to take

#### **Deed restrictions**

Daley said in meeting with Baystate Health earlier that same day, he told them in order for Westmass Area Development Corporation to take over the property, it cannot have any deed restrictions placed on it.

Knapik said there are no deed restrictions on the property, and he said he has never heard anything internally at Baystate Health suggesting a restriction be placed on the deed, to prevent other medical/health care facili-

ties from reusing the site. Residents at the meeting said hearing this information was

"reassuring."

Knapik said he was not aware of any health care facility that was interested in the site, and Daley said larger facilities from Boston and Connecticut, aren't coming to Ware.

Daley encouraged anyone who had ideas about a medical/ health care facility interested in the site, to contact him.

"There's not likely a business that does medical," Daley said. 'There's not a market for it in

Town Manager Stuart Beckley said any offers for the town to take title of the property are "not on the table."

#### Gilbert Trust

Knapik said the monies from the Gilbert Trust are held by Baystate Health Foundation and that these monies "will continue to stay on behalf of Mary Lane Hospital." He said Baystate Health will continue to keep the money in "spirit of the trust."

"We certainly understand our fiduciary responsibility," Knapik said. "We look forward to sharing that information with folks."

#### **Building reuses**

Daley said in addition to asbestos, the buildings on the site pose other challenges for redevelopment, including having the HVAC system and utilities connect from one building to the next, instead of having separate

"Any time you take our any building in front, you'd have to run it all back again," he said, which would be very expensive.

The MOB building in the back is the only building with its own separate propane supply, and could be the easiest to disconnect because of this.

Daley said the easiest decision

about the buildings on the site would be to remove all of them and start fresh, but it's not something he takes lightly or would like to do.

"I haven't convinced myself to do that yet," he said. But, "right now, I don't have enough data to say it's worth saving buildings."

He said they are looking at three different options with the easiest being demolition. The other two options include saving certain buildings on the site or a combination of buildings.

Daley warned that empty buildings pose both a health and safety hazard.

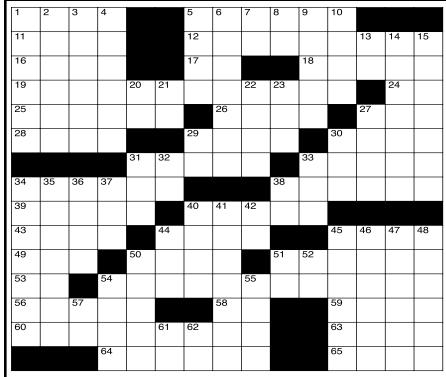
He talked about the Davis building, which was built on the site in 1972, which he described as a "very solid" 80,000 square foot building that would cost millions of dollars just to clean up.

"The place has to be completely stripped and cleaned... nobody's going to take that building. We know that market, and know it very well."

Daley said his organization is not earning a profit from the redevelopment of the site, but rather any money earned by the redevelopment of the Mary Lane Hospital site will be rolled into another redevelopment project.

Daley explained the Westmass Area Development Corporation was founded in the 1960s by the commonwealth as a not-for-profit economic and real estate development firm and its mission is to develop and manage exceptional properties.

We help communities that don't have the staff for their own projects," Daley said. "Our mission is to make sure the town is comfortable with what we do. We're going to do the right thing for Ware."



**CLUES ACROSS** 1. Nocturnal S. American acid

12. Happiness 16. Military branch 17. -\_\_, denotes past 18. Middle Eastern city 19. Air hostesses 24. Partner to Pa

5. Requesting

11. Give temporarily

25. Percussion instrument 26. Popular computers 27. Decrease light 28. Valley in the Osh Region 29. "To \_\_ his own" 30. Absence of difficulty

31. Notice announcing

intended marriage read out in church 33. Trims by cutting 34. Impact 38. Military member 39. A French river

40. Member of prehistoric people in Mexico

43. Messenger ribonucleic 44. Musician Clapton 45. Greek sophist 49. Largest English

dictionary (abbr.) 50. Narrow valley 51. A way to disentangle 53. Indicates not an issue (abbr.) 54. Recommending 56. Genus of legumes

58. Friend to Larry and 59. Off-Broadway theater award Fencers 63. Small Eurasian deer 64. Denoting passerine

65. Separate by category **CLUES DOWN** 1. Colorless fluid part of

2. Of a main artery

blood

22. Pouches 23. Trigraph in Afghanistan

33. Political action

27. Form of Persian spoken 29. route 30. Body part 31. Bridge building degree 32. Indicates position

3. Photographic equipment

4. Confirms a point

6. Not the leader

singer)

10. Antelopes

Lang (country)

8. Adults need one

9. Nests of pheasants

13. One quintillion bytes

5. Developed over time

34. Tasty snack 35. Part of a quadruped 36. Locate 37. Pitching statistic 38. Of I 40. City in Utah 41. Football players in the trenches 42. Hammer is one

44. A "nightmarish" street (abbr.) 14. Japanese three-45. Performers stringed lute 46. Slang for cut or scrape 47. More breathable 15. Type of cat 20. Cools your home 21. The ancient Egyptian

sun god

52. Sodium family 55. Zero \_ and behold 62. Popular Tom Cruise

48. Most slick 50. Provokes 51. Home to college's Flyers 54. Large fish of mackerel 61. The Palmetto State

movie franchise (abbr.)

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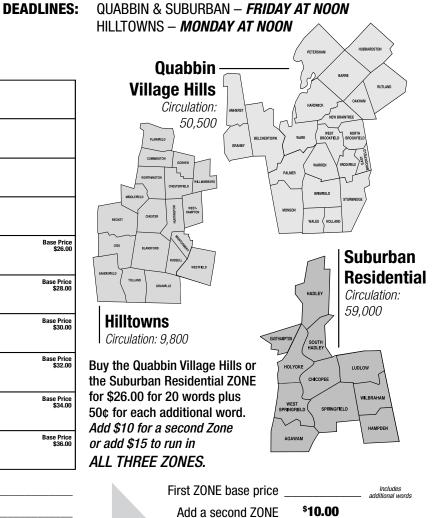
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The Polish ambassador to the United States, Marek Magierowski, visited the Polish American Caucus of the State House, which included an informal

### Oliveira, Kushmerek offer invite to Polish ambassador

American caucus welcomed the Polish ambassador to the United States, Marek Magierowski, to the State visiting his ancestral homeland, but

The visit was orchestrated by the chairs of the Polish American Caucus, state Sen. Jake Oliveira, D-Ludlow, and State Rep. Mike Kushmerek, D-Fitchburg, to forge closer ties between the government of Poland and Massachusetts, and discuss working together to promote Polish cultural heritage in the United States.

During his visit, Magierowski spent time addressing the House and Senate chambers and spoke about the importance of the collaboration between Poland and the commonwealth. The visit also included meetings with the Speaker of the House Ron Mariano, and Senate President Karen Spilka, whose grandfather immigrated from Poland to the United States in the early 20th century.

'Having the opportunity to sit with President Spilka and Ambassador Magierowski and go from chatting about the villages where our grandparents and great-grandparents were born to how our nations can work together for shared prosperity reaffirmed the importance of the ambassador's visit," said Oliveira in a press release. "When we can come together face to face and reflect on our shared heritage with our allies and discuss all that we have in common, we strengthen the bond between us, which is something that can't be measured.'

Oliveira and Kushmerek began arranging the visit after meeting with representatives from the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in June. Kushmerek was grateful to Magierowski for his visit and reflected

BOSTON - Recently, the Polish on his family history and the opportunities the visit presented.

"My father always dreamed about geopolitics, poverty, and health denied him the opportunity in his lifetime," Kushmerek said. "This week, however, I know that my father would have been proud that, as House Chair of the Polish American Caucus, I had the amazing privilege of welcoming the Polish Ambassador to the United States as my guest at the State House to celebrate our shared Polish heritage, and promote the opportunities for further cultural, economic, political and tourism collaboration."

Magierowski's final stop at the State House was having lunch with members of the Polish American

During the casual lunch, he shared past and present photos of Poland he had on his cell phone to exhibit how far the historic nation had come. He encouraged the members to visit the nation of their descendants, where they would be pleasantly surprised by the new "modern Poland."

Before being appointed Polish ambassador to the United States, Magierowski worked as a reporter, editor and columnist, mainly covering international relations for over 20 years. He has also worked for the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland as an expert on public diplomacy, and the Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland to Israel.

He began his service as an ambassador to the United States in November 2021.

#### Birdhouse painting offered at Ware library

WARE – A drop-in decorative birdhouse painting program for children will be offered in the Children's Room of the Young Men's Library supplies last.

Association, 37 Main St., on Saturday, Nov. 25 from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

No registration is required, while

#### Program for fathers/male caregivers

WARE - Nurturing Fathers at Behavioral Health Network's Family Resource Center, 82 Main St., is held

on Tuesdays from 5:30-7:30 p.m. This is an empowering program for fathers and male caregivers.

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

#### **FLU SHOT** from page 13

Diseases, Baystate Children's Hospital.

During the 2022-23 influenza season, 174 children of all age groups died of influenza.

She noted the best way to protect children from more severe influenza infection is with annually available vaccines. While protection from immunization might not prevent getting sick with influenza, it does offer protection against more severe illness.

Children between 6 months and 8 years of age who have never received at least two doses of flu vaccine at any point in time during their lives (not necessarily during the same flu season) need two doses of flu vaccine given at least four weeks apart in order to be better protected from flu.

But it's not just about the flu for kids this fall and beyond.

"As the RSV season arrives, newborns, and infants under 8 months of age can be protected for severe RSV infection with a single intramuscular injection of a newly approved monoclonal antibody (Nirsevimab). Older infants between eight months and 19 months of age with underlying risk factors are also eligible to receive Nirsevimab," said Di Pentima.

Monoclonal antibodies are manmade proteins that mimic the antibodies our bodies naturally produce when exposed to harmful germs. Because these antibodies are not produced by our own immune system, they are called "passive-immunization."

Although COVID-19 infections in children tend to have a milder impact than in adults, severe lung and heart disease can lead to complications in children as well. Since the onset of the pandemic, over 2000 children and teenagers 17 years of age and younger have died of COVID-19 infection.

Infants as young as 6 months of age and older can be protected with the updated COVID-19 vaccines.

"The best way to learn more about influenza, RSV and COVID-19 prevention is by talking to your pediatrician now, before the colder weather increases the risk of transmission of all respiratory viruses," Di Pentima said.

Given the potential tripledemic of respiratory infections by RSV, flu and COVID, Paez noted Americans at risk of severe disease from these infections are urged to get vaccinated.

Flu shots can be given at the same time as other vaccines, including the updated COVID-19 vaccine. However, there are mixed messages on adding the RSV vaccine at the same time.

The CDC has stated that it may be given at the same time as other vaccines. However, some health experts cite the fact there is little research about administering an RSV shot with another vaccine.

Consult your doctor if you are usure as what to do.

For more information on Baystate Health, visit baystatehealth.org or for more information about Baystate Children's Hospital, visit baystatehealth.org/bch.

# <u>public</u> notices

Notice of **Public Hearing Planning Board** LEGAL NOTICE SP-2023-07

NOTICE is here-

by given that the Ware

Planning Board, acting

as the Special Permit Granting Authority, will hold a Public Hearing on **THURSDAY**, December 7, 2023 at 7:05 PM on the application of Stephanie Benmahidi, for a Special Permit for the operation of a towing truck business with vehicle storage for an impound yard under section.4.1.1, of the Zoning Bylaw, and pursuant to MGL Chapter 40A. Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this hearing will be conducted in person and via remote means, in accordance with applicable law. This means that members of the Planning Board as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means. In person attendance will be held in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, 126 Main Street, Town Hall, Ware, MA. It is possible that any or all members of the public body may attend remotely, with in-person attendance consisting of members of public. The meeting may be accessed remotely via zoom. Go to https://zoom. us/join or join by phone. Phone Number: 929-205-6099; Meeting ID:

01082 SITE LOCATION: 51 West St., Ware, MA. Said premises being further described in deeds recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 12189, Page 274. Property is also identified as Assessor's Parcel # 56-0-31 and 56-0-27. Zoned: Highway Commercial (HC).

784 604 1861; Password:

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

WARE PLANNING BOARD Ed Murphy, Chairman 11/23, 11/30/2023

#### 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 recorded 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 mort-

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

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 comer 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 hid heirs and assigns, forever the right to use the cesspool on said tract in connection with his house on the adjoining tract wit 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

Present holder of said mortgage By his Attorneys, Baker, Braverman & Barbadoro, P.C. 1200 Crown Colony Drive, Suite 610 Quincy, MA 02169

#### **Notice of Public Hearing Planning Board** LEGAL NOTICE SP-2023-08

11/09, 11/16, 11/23/2023

NOTICE is hereby given that the Ware Planning Board, acting as the Special Permit Granting Authority, will hold a Public Hearing on THURSDAY, December 7, 2023 at 7:05 PM on the application of Palm Coast Capital LLC, for a Special Permit for the construction of a commercial business, Tractor Supply Co., under section.4.1.1. of the Zoning Bylaw, and pursuant to MGL Chapter 40A. Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this hearing will be conducted in person and via remote means, in accordance with applicable law. This means that members of the Planning Board as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means. In person attendance will be held in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, 126 Main Street, Town Hall, Ware, MA. It is possible that any or all members of the public body may attend remotely, with in-person attendance consisting of members of public. The meeting may be accessed remotely via zoom. Go to https://zoom. us/join or join by phone. Phone Number: 929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 784 604 1861; Password:

**SITE LOCATION:** 256 West St., Ware, MA. Said premises being further described in deeds recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Book 13093, Page 124 & 125. Property is also identified as Assessor's Parcel # 10-0-129. Zoned: Residential Business (RB) and Suburban Residential

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

PLANNING BOARD Ed Murphy, Chairman 11/23, 11/30/2023

**ADVERTISEMENT** FOR BIDS WARE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS WARE,

**MASSACHUSETTS** WATER TELEMETRY AND CONTROL **SYSTEM UPGRADE General Notice** 

Ware Department of Public Works (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:

WATER TELEMETRY AND CONTROL SYSTEM UPGRADE

General Bids for the construction of the Project will be received

Office located at Town Hall, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082, until Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. local time. At that time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read.

The Project includes the following Work: Upgrading the telem-

etry and control systems for the Town of Ware's Water Department at their Barnes Street Water Treatment Plant, Well No. 5, Church **Street Tank and Booster** Station, and Anderson Tank sites. The work includes, but is not limited to, the furnishing and installation of field instrumentation, industrial control panels, a new telemetry system, a new SCADA system and electrical work. The time for substantial completion for this contract is 330 calendar days, and the time for final completion for this contract is 360 calendar days.

Owner anticipates that the Project's total bid price will be approximate-\$360,000.00

#### Obtaining the **Bidding Documents**

Information and Bidding Documents for the Project can be found at the following designated website:

#### https://www.wrightpierce.com/projects

Bidding Documents may be downloaded from the designated website at no cost. To be considered

a responsive Bidder, the Bidder shall have obtained at least one set of Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office using the name that is to appear on the Bid Form. The designated website will be updated periodically with addenda, lists of plan holders, reports, and other information relevant to submitting a Bid for the Project. All official notifications, addenda, and other Bidding Documents will be offered only through the designated website. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the designated website. It is the Bidder's responsibility to check the desig-

nated website for addenda. **Pre-bid Conference** A pre-bid conference

for the Project will be held on Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at Barnes Street Water Treatment Plant, 22 Barnes Street, Ware, MA 01082 (enter from Pleasant St). Attendance at the pre-bid conference is encouraged but not required.

#### Instructions to **Bidders**

For all further requirements regarding funding agency notifications, funding agency requirements, bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents. The bidding and award

of this Contract will be under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 30, Section 39M. Complete instructions for filing

January 27, 2020 at the **Town Manager's** Bids are included in the Instructions to Bidders.

Each Bid shall be submitted in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders and shall be accompanied by a Bid Security in the amount of 5 percent of the

No Bidder may withdraw their Bid for a period of thirty (30) days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays after the actual date of the opening of the General Bids. This advertisement does not obligate the Owner for any costs associated with preparing or submitting bids.

The successful General Bidder must furnish a 100 percent Performance Bond and a 100 percent Payment Bond with a surety company acceptable to the Owner.

Minimum wage rates as determined by the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, Department of Labor Standards (DLS) under the provisions of M.G.L., Chapter 149, Section 26 to 27D, as amended, apply to this project. It is the responsibility of the contractor, before bid opening, to request if necessary, any additional information on Prevailing Wage Rates for those trades people who may be employed for the proposed work under this contract.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informality in or to reject any or all Bids if deemed to be in its best interest.

This Advertisement is issued by: Owner: Town of Ware By: Stuart Beckley Title: Town Manager Date: November 22, 2023 11/23/2023

#### TOWN OF WARREN, MA **Tax Classification Hearing**

The Warren Selectboard will conduct the tax classification hearing on Thursday November 30, 2023, at 6:30 PM in the Shepard Municipal Building, 48 High Street, Warren. At the hearing the Selectboard will consider tax policy options including (1) whether to have a single or split tax rate and (2) whether to all an open space discount, (3) a residential exemption, and (4) a small commercial exemption. The Selectboard will receive comments from interested taxpayers at the hearing or taxpayers may provide written comments sent to PO Box 609, Warren MA 01083.

Karen Dusty Selectmen's Assistant 11/23, 11/30/2023

Please check

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

#### **NOTICE**

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

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### PUBLIC NOTICES **ARE NOW ONLINE**

- Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

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Dorrinda O'Keefe-Shea CENTURY 21. Century 21 North East Ready to Buy or Sell? Call Me! 109 West St., Ware 1-978-434-1990



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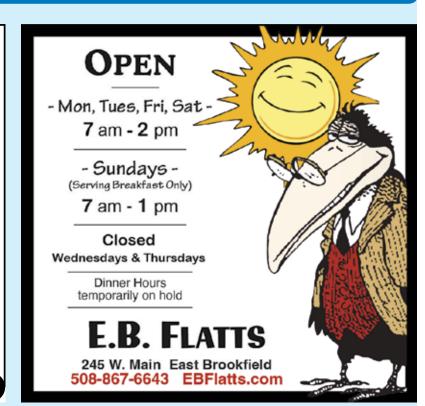
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