

WARE RIVER NEWS

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'NUNCRACKERS'



The Gilbert Plays will present "Nuncrackers: The Nunsense Christmas Musical" at The Center at Eagle Hill, 242 Old Petersham Road, Hardwick, Dec. 5-7 with evening and matinee shows. Shown from left are Olivia Pascale as Sister Mary Paul (Amnesia), Susan Clark as Sister Mary Regina (Reverend Mother), Heather Pascale as Sister Mary Hubert, Laura Grunweg as Sister Mary Leo and Gina Rourke as Sister Robert Anne.

Christmas musical brings humor to holiday season

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

HARDWICK – This weekend, the nuns of Mount Saint Helen's Convent are embracing the production of "Nuncrackers: The Nunsense Christmas Musical" – in fact, it's truly a family affair.

Directed by husband and wife team John and Linda Tomasi of The Gilbert Players, "Nuncrackers" will be performed at The Center at Eagle Hill, 242 Old Petersham Road, on

Friday, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 6 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 7 at 2 p.m.

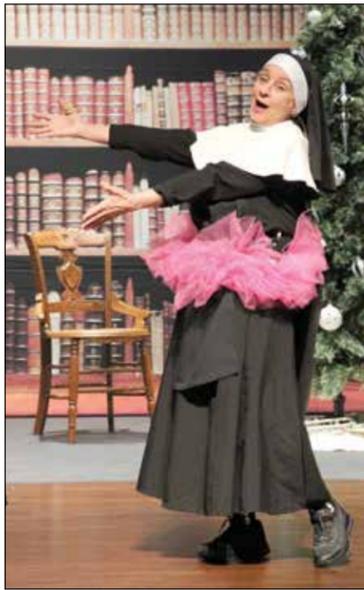
Linda Tomasi said The Gilbert Players first performed "Nuncrackers" in the St. Aloysius Catholic School building, where the theater group got its start in town before shifting its sell-out shows to the professional-level stage at The Center at Eagle Hill.

This spirited and comical musical production centers around a small group of nuns discovering that their cook (Sister Julia), Child of God, has

accidentally poisoned 52 of the sisters and they are in dire need of funding to properly pay for the funerals. The sisters decide that the best way to raise money is to put on a variety show.

SHOW TIMES
Friday, Dec. 5 • 7pm
Saturday, Dec. 6
2 pm & 7pm
Sunday, Dec. 7 • 2 pm

Please see **NUNCRACKERS**, page 5



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette
Sister Mary Leo (played by Laura Grunweg), has always dreamed of becoming a ballerina.

Tax classification hearing for FY 26

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARREN – The Board of Selectmen and Board of Assessors will hold a tax classification hearing this Thursday, Dec. 4 at 6 p.m. at the Warren Senior Center, 2252 Main St., West Warren.

Town Administrator James Ferrera said this public hearing is held annually to determine whether the town will continue to maintain a single tax rate, or shift to a split tax rate for fiscal year 2026.

"I'm confident in saying it is my belief that the town will continue with a single tax rate for fiscal year 26," he said.

Ferrera said that a split tax rate would shift more of the tax burden onto commercial taxpayers, which make up only about 13% of

the tax base. The town's tax base is largely residential, at about 87%.

A split tax rate, "would really put a significant hold on commercial economic development in town and we could potentially lose commercial business because of that," he said.

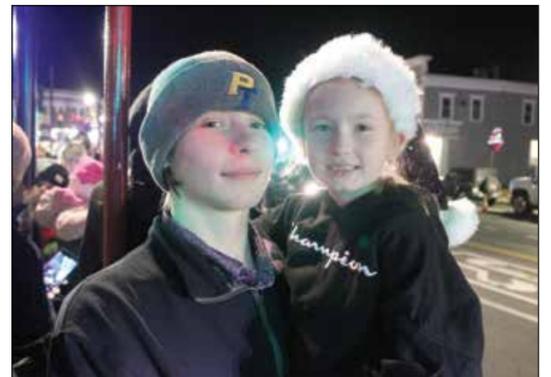
Ferrera explained the factors, which help to determine the tax rate for the coming fiscal year.

Property values

Ferrera said property values for single family homes have increased since fiscal year 2025, going from an average value of \$290,000 up to \$310,000.

"The values for single family homes are continuing to climb," Ferrera said. "That's one of the big factors in coming up with the rate and what taxpayers are going to be paying in the future."

Please see **TAX CLASSIFICATION**, page 13



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago
Jake Aucoin, left, and Ryan Deliz waited for the arrival of Santa Claus on Main Street during the Ware Holiday Flair.

Santa came to Ware for the Holiday Flair

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WARE – The annual Ware Holiday Flair took place last Friday evening on Main Street with various celebrations held.

Hundreds of residents gathered at Veterans Park to await the arrival of their

special guest. Santa Claus was picked up by the Fire Department and traveled down Main Street by firetruck to arrive at the park for the ceremonial tree lighting.

Prior to the tree lighting, residents witnessed the dance performance by

Please see **FLAIR**, page 8

Select Board appointed Library Assistants

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – Under new business the Select Board voted to appoint a library assistant during their Nov. 24 meeting.

There were two appoint-

ments listed, the appointment of Patricia Lalli as Per Diem Library Assistant and the appointment of Elizabeth Buck as the Library Assistant. Town Administrator Justine Caggiano reported that a total of five candidates were interviewed for these positions.

All the references checked out and both Buck and Lalli were appointed.

Paige Mixer Trust

The Select Board discussed the Paige Mixer Trust. Caggiano shared that the only update she's gotten regards an email she had

sent out about the statute of limitations has expired. The board will keep the Paige Mixer Trust on the agenda and hopes to hear further updates at their next meeting.

Please see **HARDWICK**, page 3



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago
Santa Claus got ready for pictures at the Town House.

Hardwick celebrated holiday season with Santa

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Town Common was the place to be this past weekend as Hardwick celebrated the holidays.

A community comes together through music, games, history, and warm beverages as Christmas on the Common commenced. Festivities began at the Hardwick Town House as carolers were warming up their voices and were expecting the arrival of Santa Claus.

The OK Chorale was

the group providing carols during the event. Santa Claus arrived on a tractor with guests following close behind. The carolers began to sing as Santa was heading to the photo booth for pictures.

The tractor stuck around as tractor rides were available for guests to enjoy as they strolled around the Common. There were also games, hands-on activities, and raffles to enjoy.

Guests would soon go over to the Upper Common to sing carols with their neighbors and play bells with the Hardwick Memorial

Please see **SANTA**, page 11

EQLT held Gratitude Friday event

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – The East Quabbin Land Trust hosted a Gratitude Friday event last week at its office at 120 Ridge Road.

Visitors got to explore the natural beauty of the Forest Play Trail that is in the backyard of the East Quabbin Land Trust's main office. The event began with visitors meeting land trust member Caren Caljouw, who guided visitors on a tree identification walk on the forest play trail.

On this walk, kids and adults learned about the different species of trees and played Fall Forest Bingo



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago
Elli Shea, left, introduced Caren Caljouw prior to the tree identification walk during the East Quabbin Land Trust's Gratitude Friday event.

Please see **EQLT**, page 13

during the walk. Members of the Land Trust handed out bingo cards for guests to play while walking on the trail.



St. Aloysius students participated in food drive



Submitted Photo

Students at St. Aloysius Catholic School participated in a food drive last month to benefit the Hardwick Food Pantry.

HARDWICK – From Nov. 10-18, St. Aloysius Catholic School students participated in a food drive to benefit the Hardwick Food Pantry.

Over the course of the eight days nearly 800 units of food were gathered.

There was a friendly competition among the classrooms, whereby the class that raised the most food would be entitled to a N.U.T (No Uniform Today) Day.

The smallest (but mightiest) class, kindergarten, won the challenge with around

200 units raised. They will be treated to a pajama day, and a movie to go with it. Congratulations to all the students for their hard work and commitment to this particular Corporal Work of Mercy, feeding the hungry.

December holiday events at Ware Senior Center

WARE – The Friends of Ware Seniors, Inc. and Otto Florist will offer two opportunities to make decorated balsam wreaths at the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road on Monday, Dec. 15.

Cost is \$20 and classes are limited to 30. There will be a 2:30 p.m. class and a 6 p.m. class.

You can sign up by calling Sue LaBarge at 413-544-1574. Deadline is Dec. 8.

Holiday music event

The holiday season comes to Ware Senior Center on Monday, Dec.

22 with music from the Ware High School Band and the third graders of Stanley M. Koziol Elementary School who will be singing. The event will start at noon.

New Year's Eve dance performance

Ring in the New Year with Limelight Dance Studio on Wednesday, Dec. 31. Dancers will provide a half hour show at noon.

To go along with the theme, party hats, blowers, etc., will be handed out by The Friends of Seniors, Inc. All events are open to the public.

St. Mary's church to host Polish food sale

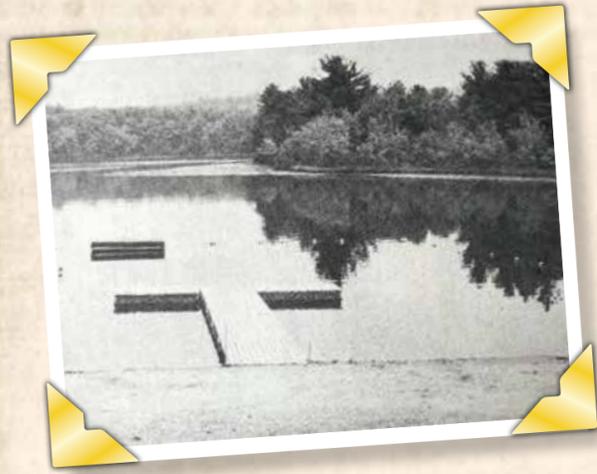
WARE – St. Mary's Church, 57 South St., will be hosting a Polish food sale on Saturday, Dec. 13 from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the church hall.

The menu consists of cabbage pierogi, 12 for \$15 and six for \$7.50; golombki, three-pack for \$14; and kapusta, one quart for \$10.

Food will be sold on a first come basis. Multiple orders will not be packaged separately.

Cash or check made out to St. Mary's Church – exact amount preferred. The church members thank you for your patronage.

Are You Old News?



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

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



File Photo
Last week's photo from 1989 showed a new sign welcoming people to Warren in the center of town. The sign, a project of the Warren Arts Council, was executed by William Savoy of Brookfield. Pictured with the sign from left are Savoy, Sylvia Buck and Beth Roberts, members of the Warren Arts Council.

Paige Memorial Library lists holiday events

HARDWICK – Celebrate the season with the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road.

Create a Boxwood Christmas Tree on Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 6 p.m. at the Town House. The 12 to 14 inch arrangements will stay green and fresh for an extended period if watered. They would be perfect holiday decorations, charming gifts for hostesses or home-bound friends, and they could last until Valentine's Day.

Hartman's Herb Farm will provide instruction and all necessary materials, but you may bring your own ornaments to make it more personal. Register by emailing paigelibrary.hardwick@gmail.com or by calling 413-477-6704 and paying \$35 to the Friends of the Paige Memorial Library.

Cookies with Mrs. Claus

Mrs. Claus is coming to the Paige Memorial Library on Saturday, Dec. 13, at 11 a.m. to decorate Christmas cookies and children of all ages are invited to join her. Mrs. Claus and her Elves will provide all the supplies. Choose a large sugar



cookie shaped like a Christmas tree, a gingerbread man, a reindeer, or an ugly Christmas sweater to decorate. Register to save your spot.

Gift wrapping day

A special Christmas gift wrapping day will be held on Saturday, Dec. 20 at the Paige Memorial Library. The gift wrappers are self-proclaimed "obsessed" wrappers who will make every gift special.

A large selection of Christmas gift wraps and matching ribbons in many colors, and styles, classic and fun, will be available. Oddly shaped gifts must be placed in a box. All breakable items must have protective packing around them in the box.

Please make an appointment.

Donations for this service will be collected for the Christmas for Kids program sponsored by the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Association.

Ongoing activities

Ongoing activities offered at the library currently include the weekly Story Hour with art and science activities, the Paige Book Club, the Cookbook Club, Celebrate Hardwick, the ongoing Friends of the Paige Memorial Library Book Sale, the Paige Writers, and the recently formed Movie Festival Committee.

For more information and to register for any program, please email paigelibrary.hardwick@gmail.com or call 413-477-6704.

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



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Town Hall fire curtain encapsulated

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Correspondent

WARE – The Ware Historical Commission gave an update on the fire curtain in the Grand Hall of the Ware Town Hall last Monday.

The curtain was damaged this past summer when it fell, and inspectors found that it contained asbestos, triggering a deep cleaning and inspection of the Grand Hall. The curtain is now encapsulated.

This inspection also determined there was no asbestos in the dust or air samples taken from the Grand Hall after the curtain fell.

Tom Atkinson, who is helping with an archival project being done by the Historical Commission, commented that the curtain is now firm, and is not able to be rolled, deeming it unsuitable as a stage curtain. The commission members also commented that the Fire Chief is inspecting whether the curtain is still suitable for fire suppression, and that if it is not, a new one may need to be installed.

As a result of this, the stage in the Grand Hall will not be used for the upcoming Celebrate the Season being held on Dec. 6 and 7 at the Town Hall. The Grand Hall will still be open and hosting events.

Preservation goals
The commission members also presented a variety of preservation goals they are hoping to have completed in the coming year.

Most of their goals revolve around renovating the Town Hall itself, including fixing the fire escape, windows, and modifying bathrooms and doors to make them Americans with Disabilities Act compliant.

In addition, the commission would like an archival photo of the fountain that was previously in front of the Town Hall.

The members of the commission are also participating in an inventory project, researching a property of their choice to find previous owners, and familial history of those owners. The commission is considering hiring somebody to help with this process, as the regulations have become stricter since the last time the project was done.

Commission members also pledged to continue to support groups involved in historical preservation.

Archival project

The archival project being done by the Historical Commission, with the help of Atkinson has been digitized and added to the historical commission website (www.townofware.com). The page includes historic pictures from Ware, including a visit from President Kennedy, articles about the flood of 1938, and historical objects from the town.

The page is difficult to find, Atkinson noted, and he and the commission agreed an instructional page to make it easier to access should be

added to the page.

Historical Commission contest

Susan Sandridge, a member of the commission, proposed a contest to be put on by the Historical Commission as a community based activity. It would be an architectural discovery contest, where citizens can look for architectural styles on display in Ware, including Victorian Style and Cape Cod Revival.

Sandridge said that two people who enter will be randomly selected to win a prize that promotes history.

Other business

The commission members reviewed their annual budget, and talked about how they could spend it. They suggested spending it on something for the bicentennial celebration. Vice-Chair Wanda Mysona suggested a tour of the Ware Town Hall for the upcoming celebration, which the budget could be put towards, as well as potentially airing the tour on local television (channel 15).

The commission also has historic items from Mary Lane Hospital on site, and are planning to unveil them in January.

They also plan on changing the display case in the Town Hall to a bicentennial theme. The commission members also had a brief conversation about the new sign installed in front of the town hall, which they are pleased with.



Members of Circle of Song are shown rehearsing for the upcoming concert to be held on Saturday, Dec. 20 in the Town Hall in Barre.

Circle of Song to perform annual concert

BARRE – Circle of Song will celebrate 25 years of community singing, with a free community concert on Saturday, Dec. 20 in the Town Hall, 2 Exchange St., at 7 p.m.

Twenty-five years ago, in September of 2001, Circle of Song came into existence under the co-direction of Julie Rawson and Beth Bryant, long-term community music colleagues. Fast forward 25 years. Bryant moved to Georgia in 2006, but kept close ties to family and music in Barre.

To celebrate Circle of Song's rich community-based four-part harmony, singing any genre that its members have wanted to sing, the founders decided to get together again for this anniversary concert.

Quintessential musician that she is, Bryant travelled

up to Barre on Nov. 6 to participate in the Circle of Song rehearsal and reunite with the chorus.

Under Bryant's direction, "Regina Coeli" will be sung. This upbeat minor work by Mozart of approximately eight minutes in duration, is a masterful and energizing celebration of Mary, Queen of Heaven, dating back to the 13th century in the Catholic Mass.

On the other end of the spectrum, Bryant will also direct "Java Jive", made popular by the Manhattan Transfer. This is a silly song about the wonders of coffee. And as a special treat, Grace Jenkins and her dancers will put it to dance.

Finally, Bryant, locally renowned for her expertise on clarinet, will accompany "Black is the Color of My True Love's Hair".

According to Wikipedia, "Black Is the Color (of My True Love's Hair)" is a traditional ballad folk song known in the U.S. as associated with colonial and later music in the Appalachian Mountains.

It is believed to have originated in Scotland, as it refers to the River Clyde in the lyrics. American musicologist Alan Lomax supported the thesis of Scottish origin, saying that the song was an American "re-make" of British materials. It is a hauntingly beautiful piece that concert-goers will enjoy.

The concert is free and the refreshments are always tasty. To learn more about Circle of Song or to join in January, contact director, Julie Rawson at julie@mhof.net; 978-257-1192 for more information.

HARDWICK from page 1

Town Administrator's report

Caggiano shared her report starting with the town having its second walk-through for the Town House Revitalization grant. As of Nov. 24, the town had received a total of three bids, but all three were over the budgeted amount. Caggiano wants to see what else is available.

Free cash has been certified for the town. Caggiano said the town is still standardizing its financial policies. The Town Administrator is still having bi-weekly financial management planning meetings with the Treasurer, Accountant

and the Assessor.

Caggiano made an announcement regarding the Stuff a Cruiser Toy Drive that is being held at the South Barre Rod & Gun Club on Saturday, Dec. 6. The municipal building has been doing well collecting food for their food drive and will continue to run food drive until the end of the year. Bins are placed inside the municipal building.

Select Board roundtable

Select Board member Jeff Schaaf expressed concern regarding the shortage of staff for the Sewer Department. Caggiano confirmed that the department is short on one position and one is waiting on certification as

they're still on their probationary period.

Caggiano also shared that the town has not received any applications for highway or wastewater.

"We need to fill those positions," Schaaf said.

Visitor's comments

The Select Board heard comments from Planning Board Chair William Cole about the bylaw changes. Cole said he's hoping to have a draft completed this calendar year. Afterwards, the Planning Board would like to present this draft to the Select Board to review and then send to legal.

The plan is to possibly hold a special town meeting sometime in February. The

warrant for that meeting would include a vote to sponsor a bylaw change.

Select Board Vice-Chair William Tinker asked if the Planning Board had run anything through town counsel about the bylaws and went over the findings that were made by the Attorney General.

Cole addressed the question and mentioned that the Attorney General has looked over the amended bylaws and will always caution a town on some bylaws.

"Caution the town to make sure they don't go into what they consider unreasonable enforcement or overregulation," Cole said.

The next subject the Planning Board is looking at is the section of accessory dwelling units. Edits will be made as the board reviews the bylaw and sees what has to be in it first.

Cole also had a question regarding grants, including Community Development Block Grants. Grants are applied for and rewarded to towns, and Cole asked about fiscal year 2026's applications, which are put out in January and will be due in March.

The Planning Board chair wanted to know more about what the town is looking to do if they receive a CDBG and see what other interests

may be addressed by various boards. There are some properties in the village of Gilbertville that could be looked at and town can determine possible uses for those spaces.

Caggiano shared some input and said revitalization of properties is part of the CDBG. Hardwick is looking to see if it is eligible for a grant. A lot of these grants mentioned by Cole are based off income rates.

The Select Board talked about putting this topic on the agenda to have an open discussion so people in town will realize that they will be contacted and that this is will benefit the town.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Wreaths Across America needs volunteers on Dec. 13

To our Ware community:

We are reaching out to ask your help in spreading the word about a volunteer opportunity that is near and dear to our hearts.

There are around 2,523 veterans that are in the cemeteries across Ware. In 2023, we had enough wreaths to cover 532 graves at the four Ware municipal cemeteries (Aspen Grove, Church Street, two at the Meeting House) with the donations received.

In 2024, we laid a little over 800 at the four municipal cemeteries, plus Holy Cross and Quabbin cemeteries.

The mission of Wreaths Across America is "remember, honor, and teach" and it's really focused on teaching young people about citizenship and the sacrifice of veterans. Please spread the word and get this message out.

We would love to have youth and their families support at this event.

The ceremony will take place at Veterans Park in Ware on Saturday, Dec. 13 at 10 a.m. We will hold our opening ceremony, laying



branch specific wreaths at the park, then moving on to Aspen Grove Cemetery and continuing on from there to the others.

More instructions will be given the day of the event. Thank you so much for your support and leadership.

Please reach out with any questions – Frank 413-949-6517 or Kristin 413-427-3955.

Sincerely,

Frank and Kristin Bateman,
Location Coordinators

MAAGCE - Aspen Grove Cemetery

Wreaths Across America
www.wreathsacrossamerica.org

Wreaths and swags for one and all

For the last two weeks we've been busy decorating Old Sturbridge Village for their Christmas by Candlelight program.

The garland, wreaths, bows and swags are all up, and the planters have been filled with greens. It was fast-paced fun, and oh so rewarding. The museum looks absolutely magical.

I filled planters side by side with a coworker who, in her 30 plus years, has never done this part of the job with me. As we stuck greens and stood back to assess our work, it occurred to me that I've grown up making all of these decorations, like my parents before me!

I had assumed everyone else had too, but here we had Nina, who in her 60s, was at it for the first time. If you find yourself ready to make your own decorations, here are a few pointers from the archives.

My Dad was the wreath-maker in the family, and usually a post Thanksgiving walk in the woods would yield his raw materials. The wreaths he made would be taken back to decorate a college dorm or whatever apartment my older siblings would return to after Thanksgiving break some 40 plus years ago.

One wreath would also make its way to the front door of our little red house, too. Decorated with a red ribbon and a few pine cones, it really was something so simple and so beautiful in the same right.

His approach is the same one I'll recommend today. Start with a wire coat

hanger bent into a circle and attach some pliable wire to it. Then, wrap little bunches of greens to the base one after another.

up an assembly-line of sorts. Choose a sturdy green for the base of the swag- extra Christmas tree boughs would be perfect for this as well.

I cut however many I need to the same size, and I lay them out pretty side up. Next, I choose another type of green a bit smaller and put it on top. I repeat the process six or seven times until I have a nice upside-down "fan."

Here too, varying texture is nice, although Mom's feathery white pine and pine cone swags are pretty by themselves.

To complete your swag, wrap wire around the stems four or five inches down from the top, leaving a loop on the back for a hanger. You can cover the wire with a bow. I have often wired two swags together horizontally.

Place a bow in the middle, where the two intersect and hang your creation over a window or door, or even underneath a window for a different take on decorating.

Whether this is your first attempt at wreath and swag making or you've been at it for years, enjoy this holiday ritual, just as my mom and dad did.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



WARE RIVER NEWS

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Is Social Security really a 'good deal'?

Dear Rusty:

You've said in the past that most people recoup their SS contributions within five years of starting benefits, thus Social Security "is an exceptionally good deal."

Your calculation is correct but misleading; if it were not, SS would have been insolvent long ago. I will, in fact, get "my" contributions back in about five years, but my employer's contributions will take another five years and that is money that my employer could have been paying me, so they are really "my" contributions. But even that ignores the time value of money.

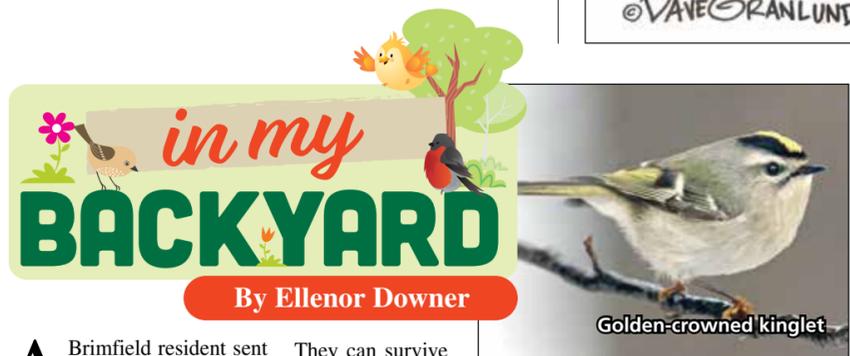
I did a calculation as if my contributions, along with those of my employer, were invested in an account earning 5% per year. That would provide me the equiv-

alent of SS income for 24 years, approximately what my life expectancy was when I retired. So, it's not a bad deal, but it is hardly exceptional. It is roughly the equivalent of me investing that money throughout my career and using the total to buy an annuity.

Of course, Social Security does have the advantage of certainty, at least until it goes broke. My portfolio would not earn a steady 5% every year, though that is at the low end of what financial managers would expect over a long period. And it does force people to save, many of whom would otherwise make no provision for retirement.

Signed: Realistic Senior

Please see **SOCIAL SECURITY**, page 15



A Brimfield resident sent an email to report seeing a golden-crowned kinglet on Nov. 17 in a dwarf Alberta spruce tree in front of his house.

He said, "[It was] very active, but I got to see the bright yellow crown patch."

Golden-crowned kinglets are a small bird, not much larger than a hummingbird. The male is boldly marked with a black eyebrow stripe and flashy lemon-yellow crest.

They spend much of their time high up in dense spruce or fir foliage and that is the place to find them.

Their high, thin call notes and song is often heard before catching sight of them.

The Brimfield resident called them "very active."

They can survive 40 degrees below Fahrenheit nights. Sometimes huddling together for warmth.

They breed in the far north and montane west and visit most of North America during winter. Although it used to nest almost exclusively in boreal spruce-fir forests, the golden-crowned kinglet has expanded its breeding range southward into conifer stands of the Midwest and Appalachians.

They usually raises two large broods of young, despite the short nesting season of the northern boreal forest. The female feeds her first brood only up until the day after they leave the nest. She then starts laying the second set of eggs while the male takes care

of the first brood. The male manages to feed eight or nine nestlings himself and he occasionally feeds the incubating female too.

An interesting fact about golden-crowned kinglet's is each nostril is covered by a single, tiny feather.

The oldest golden-crowned kinglet on record was a male and at least 6 years, 4 months old when it was recaptured and re-released by a Minnesota bird bander in 1976.

Other Brimfield birds

This month the Brimfield resident saw a Carolina wren flipping over leaves in his garden. He said, "We joined

the 'leave the leaves' movement and don't do a major fall cleanup to benefit the critters that survive the winter under the leave and in the other material left in the garden."

He also noticed robins and cedar waxwings in the crab apple tree in his yard. He said, "We don't usually see these species eating the crab apples until later in the winter. Fortunately there is a bumper crop of fruit on the trees this year. A couple of robins were also on the ground searching for food and I saw one robin at some pokeberry aka, pokeweed, eating the fruit. He has not seen any water fowl at the local ponds he visits regularly."

Lots of bluebirds

I received an email from a reader, who said his wife saw approximately 40 bluebirds on the causeway stonewall at Quabbin Reservoir.

Bald eagles

My daughter, Paula, took photos of a bald eagle in a field along the Ware River, on Church Street in Ware recently.

I saw a bald eagle perched

in a tree on the shore of the Ware River not far from the Gilbertville line. It may have been the same eagle.

Migrating geese

I saw a large flock of Canada geese in a small, pond along Route 32 in Ware on Nov. 15. They covered over half the pond.

Helping birds

When it is time to take the Christmas tree down, place it outside to offer shelter to birds and other critters. Some people hang peanut butter filled pine cones rolled in birdseed or pieces of suet to provide some high energy food. Planting evergreen trees especially spruce and firs are away to attract the golden-crowned kinglets and offer a living shelter year round.

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

OPINION POLICY

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

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

The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

Turley Election Policy

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

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



Gina Rourke sang as street-smart, tough-talking Brooklyn nun, Sister Robert Anne.



Sister Mary Paul (Amnesia) played by Olivia Pascale and Sister Mary Regina played by Susan Clark, sang during the song "Three Hundred Sixty-Four Days".



Heather Pascale as Sister Mary Hubert (left) gets an earful from Susan Clark as Sister Mary Regina, or the Mother Reverend.

NUNCRACKERS
from page 1

"That was 30 years ago," Tomasi said of that first performance of "Nuncrackers".

For this year's performance, Tomasi decided to tag the members of a musically gifted Barre family in a Facebook post, suggesting that they audition for the lead roles in "Nuncrackers".

"I've always wanted to do a show with the Pascales," Tomasi said. "They are so talented and we share the same sense of humor."

This chance reach-out manifested into the star-studded cast that will have you "holy rolling" in the aisles with laughter.

Heather Pascale of Barre, a mother of seven, is returning to the stage as Sister Mary Hubert with two of her daughters Olivia Pascale (also of Barre) and Gina Rourke of Wheelwright, as well as her mother, Susan Clark.

The family has music running through their veins, and have formed several successful family bands, including a Christian rock band called Six Stories Up. The daughters credited their mom, and their grandmother, for teaching them to sing and make music.

Tomasi described Heather's voice as "amazing." "She can be three different characters in one black dress, depending on what sister she's talking to," Tomasi said.

Heather can be remembered for several roles with The Gilbert Players alongside her children. She even starred in a production with her youngest daughter, Sophia, when Sophia was just 9 months old.

"She even cried on cue," Rourke said of her sister's acting debut.

Heather said she had taken a hiatus from the theater, but was excited to play the convent's second-in-command in "Nuncrackers".



The nuns performed "Three Hundred Sixty-Four Days" in a recent rehearsal.

"I had take a little bit more than a decade-long break and Linda pulled me out of the woodwork," she said.

Heather said she put her experience as a mother into the character of Sister Mary Hubert.

"I've had to be a leader to these girls their whole life," she said pointing to her daughters. "Sister Mary Hubert is a bit of a leader."

Clark of Barre, plays the role of Mother Reverend, Sister Mary Regina, and she admitted that her grandchildren somewhat misled her when she accepted the role by saying it, "didn't have a lot of lines."

"I told her the part would be really easy," Rourke said with a laugh.

Nonetheless, Clark eagerly took on the challenge, easy or not, and said the experience has been wonderful and has given her more cherished memories with her daughter and granddaughters.

"I'm loving being with my family," she said.

At 76 years old, she is no



Sister Mary Leo (Laura Grunweg) danced with Father Virgil.

stranger to performing, having first joined The Gilbert Players in their production of "Annie" along with her

grandchildren.

Clark said she brings her sense of humor to her role as Mother Reverend, and jok-

ingly said she uses her husband as inspiration in the scenes where she's lecturing the other nuns. She has also put her baton-twirling talents to use for the first time in over 40 years.

Rourke, who has been performing as long as she can remember, became the lead singer of the family band when she was just 8 years old, and even won The Center's Got Talent singing "Jesus, Take the Wheel" her senior year of high school.

Rourke said her Italian family members inspired her role as the street-smart, tough-talking Brooklyn nun, Sister Robert Anne.

Rourke has appeared in a lot of shows at The Gilbert Players, including "Annie Get Your Gun", "Annie", "The Wizard of Oz" and "Honk!" In high school, she was able to play her favorite stage role of all time, that of Asaka in "Once on This Island". She has also performed with Sterling Community Theatre.

Rourke has been a dance teacher for 12 years, and also did the choreography for "Nuncrackers".

Rourke described Sister Robert Anne as someone who "likes to be kind of a star."

"I really love to perform...I'm very confident performing and so it vibes with me," she said of the role.

Her sister Olivia has been in five shows with The Gilbert Players, most recently in "Chicago". She has also performed with the Sterling Community Theatre and Central Mass Onstage.

Olivia said Sister Mary Paul, also known as Amnesia, got that nickname after suffering memory loss when a crucifix fell on her head. Her sweet southern drawl delicately covers her sarcastic side.

"She's super funny," Olivia said of her character. "She's sassy and quirky, and

super sarcastic." Joining the family to round out the cast of nuns is Hardwick resident Laura Grunweg as Sister Mary Leo, a nun who dreams of being a dancer.

"My ambition is to become the first nun ballerina," she said.

Grunweg moved to town two years ago, and this is her first time performing with The Gilbert Players.

When she lived in New York and worked as a library director, she wrote and directed several old-time radio shows, and also participated in community theater.

Grunweg got her acting debut in Hardwick during this past October's Ghost Walk in the cemetery adjacent to the Town House, playing the role of Bathsheba Newcomb Ruggles, the mother of the infamous Bathsheba Ruggles Spooner.

All of the cast members said they have enjoyed working with Linda and John and being a part of "Nuncrackers".

"I love working with John," Rourke said. "I take his criticism very seriously. He makes us better for sure."

Rourke said Linda "loves to make her cast happy," right down to bringing cookies to rehearsals.

About 'Nuncrackers'

Enjoy some quality time with your own family and share laughs with the sisterhood this weekend at "Nuncrackers: The Nonsense Christmas Musical".

Tickets are \$10, \$17 and \$19. Ticket prices will never go above \$20, Tomasi said, keeping theater affordable and enjoyable for all.

Tickets can be purchased online at thecenterateaglehill.org, calling the box office at 413-477-6746, or at the door. Advanced purchase is recommended as this show is likely to sell out.

The Center at Eagle Hill is handicapped accessible.

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community

Library Friend's group hosts free wine tasting event

WARE – The Friends of the Ware Library will be hosting a Wine Tasting presentation at It's Wine O'clock, 164 D West St., on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 1-4 p.m.

The staff of It's Wine O'clock will be giving a presentation about the featured wines, and the Friends will receive a percentage of the sales to help with programming at the Ware Library.

The Friends will also be selling their Lotto Calendars for \$10 each. With your purchase of a calendar you have the opportunity to win a cash prize every day in January.

Please stop in anytime during the hours of the free wine tasting, and learn about some wine from the very knowledgeable staff – just in time to purchase your wine for the upcoming holidays, or to buy some gifts for the wine lovers on your list.

The Friends appreciate the staff of It's Wine O'clock for partnering with them. This event is a great way to showcase the wines at Wine O'clock and help support the Ware Library.



The afternoon class that made Thanksgiving Pumpkin Centerpieces displayed their creations.

Submitted Photos

Seniors enjoyed Thanksgiving centerpiece classes

WARE – The Friends of Ware Seniors, Inc. and Otto Florist provided two classes on Nov. 24 to 40 people who signed up to make a Pumpkin Centerpiece for Thanksgiving at the Ware Senior Center.

There was an afternoon class and an evening class. Designer/Stylist Brian Socha instructed everyone to creating beautiful centerpieces to take home.

A huge shout out to Michele Lariviere owner of Otto Florist who provided all the pumpkins and flowers along with Brian.

This event was so successful that another class will be taking place on Monday,



Participants showed off their Thanksgiving Pumpkin Centerpieces made at an event hosted by The Friends of Ware Seniors, Inc. along with Otto Florist. This photo shows people who attended the evening class.

Dec. 15, to make decorated balsam wreaths. Cost is \$20

and classes are limited to 30. There will be a 2:30 p.m.

class and a 6 p.m. class.

You can sign up by call-

ing Sue LaBarge at 413-544-1574. Deadline is Dec. 8.

'Celebrate the Season' to be held Dec. 6-7

WARE – The Proprietors of the Ware Center Meeting House will present "Celebrate the Season" (formerly known as the Wreath and Tree Festival) at the Town Hall, 126 Main St., on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 7 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

There will also be a door prize table, holiday music, an incredible bake sale, 50/50 raffle and a table with Ware books, T-shirts, and

memorabilia, all to support the Ware Center Meeting House and Museum. There will be free children's activities including: decorate a card and make a craft.

Santa will arrive on Sunday, Dec. 7 at 1 p.m. and glitter tattoos will be available at that time.

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. 5 between 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Great Hall in the Ware Town Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

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

Ware Christmas for Kids donations requested

WARE – The Ware Police Department and the Ware Fire Department have started their 22nd annual Ware Christmas For Kids program for the 2025 holiday season.

They are requesting financial assistance to help them fulfill the needs of the children of Ware, and all assistance is greatly appreciated. The program is for infants through children aged 12.

The program recognizes all holiday observances.

Monetary donations may be dropped off at the Ware Police Department at 22 North St., or may be sent to Ware Christmas For Kids, c/o Ware Police Department, 22 North St., Ware, MA 01082.

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

Tree of Love fundraiser

PALMER—The Tree of Love annual fundraiser honors a loved one with a wooden ornament to be put on our tree near the Baystate Wing Gift Shop from November thru December.

A single name ornament is \$5 and a family name is \$10.

More information and forms are available in the Gift Shop or by our tree on the 1st floor.



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EARLY DEADLINES FOR ADS & LEGAL NOTICES

Christmas will bring early deadlines for all ads & legal notices to run in TURLEY PUBLICATIONS the week of December 22-26, 2025:

Wednesday, December 17 at 2 PM for December 25 issue
• Country Journal • The Register • Wilbraham-Hampden Times

Thursday, December 18 at 2 PM for December 25 Issue
• Agawam Advertiser News
• Sentinel • Quaboag Current • The Journal Register

Friday, December 19 at 2 PM for December 25 Issue
• Ware River News • Barre Gazette

Monday, December 22 at 2 PM for December 26 Issue
• Town Reminder • The Holyoke Sun • Chicopee Register

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Gallery to hold annual Holiday Group Show

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WEST BROOKFIELD – Get ready for your holiday shopping while also supporting local artists and business at West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery for the 9th annual Holiday Group Show during the month of December.

The Holiday Group Show will showcase the gallery's artists and will open with a reception on Friday, Dec. 5 from 5-7 p.m. There will be merriment found in the form of wine, cheese and friendly conversation – all while surrounded by one-of-a-kind works of art that are sure to become your loved one's most cherished holiday gift.

"It's a time to celebrate our local artists at the gallery," West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery owner Rebecca Fay said of the Holiday Group Show.

Some of the gallery's artists who will be submitting work for the show include Ruth Sanderson of Easthampton, a well-known illustrator who has worked on over 90 children's books. Sanderson will have her plein air paintings and scratchboards at the show.

Abigail Rorer of Petersham, who recently held a very successful solo show at the gallery back in October, will have her wood engravings, silverpoints and more. She is also the publisher of limited edition fine print books.

West Brookfield's own talented wood turner, Frank White, will have his bowls and more to display at the show – any one of his pieces will bring beauty to your holiday table setting.

Brookfield artist Vanessa Varjian is the youngest artist in the show, but her years of experience as a painter are evident in her outdoor scenes, which have an impressionistic feel and perfectly capture the way the natural light hits her subject.

Susan Pecora of Thorndike, who used to have her own painting show on PBS, will have numerous paintings featuring easily identifiable local landscapes. Pecora is a renowned artist and her work is featured in galleries all over.

In addition to being the gallery owner, Fay is also one of its artists. For this year's Holiday Group Show she will showcase her beetle and bee pieces while incorporating 22-karat gold leaf.

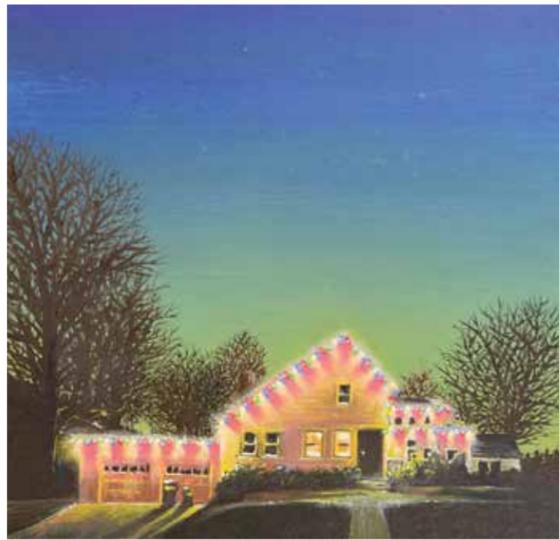
Joanne Talbot Quinn of Princeton is a retired art teacher, has been focusing her paintbrush on capturing the vibrant beauty of the nasturtium flower, in addition to the soft beauty of her landscape scenes.

West Brookfield native Cathie Palo and Lowell resident Cassandra Goldwater will return after holding their third annual Jewelry Show at the gallery in November. Their stunning jewelry ranges from metal bangles, to pendants adorned with natural stones collected from the beach. Each piece is hand-crafted and unique.

West Brookfield artist Jennifer Geldard will also return to the gallery to showcase her jewelry made with glass beads and her whimsical paintings. Geldard used to own a bead shop in Concord many years ago, before opening Glass Girls Studio and Gallery in the space that is now West Brookfield Art & Frame.

Cheryl O'Donnell of New Hampshire will also be featured in the Holiday Group Show. Known for decorative painting, O'Donnell is also noted for her fine art portraits and landscapes.

Carole Bentley of North Brookfield will also be featured in the show, with her paintings of landscapes, sea-



Submitted Photo

Artists at the West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery will be featured in the 9th annual Holiday Group Show. An opening reception will be held on Friday, Dec. 5 from 5-7 p.m. Gallery owner and artist Rebecca Fay created this painting of a house decorated with holiday lights.

scapes, flowers and birds.

Holden plein air painter Gerard Blouin is said to paint outdoors in almost any weather. An environmentalist and outdoorsman, his passions are reflected in the scenes he captures on canvas.

Multimedia artist and bookbinder Karen Thompson Bullock from West Brookfield will have gorgeous ornaments and wonderful boxes on display.

Lisa Cohen of Gilbertville, who is also an active participant at Workshop13, has restocked her ceramic offerings at the gallery. When she is not at the kiln, Cohen is writing science fiction and

fantasy novels and being active in her community.

Artist John Collins of Ware, will feature his paintings in the show. Collins is also a talented sculptor, having recently focused on his artistic talents after retiring from his career as an architect.

Elisabeth Hyder of North Brookfield makes her own paste paper and creates all kinds of works of art with it.

Cruger Johnson Phillips is the only abstract artist featured in the show, and she will have her small, original paintings, which have inspirational and positive messages written on the back.

White Christmas and book signing

Local author Jonathan Cook will have a "meet the author" event and book signing at the gallery during White Christmas in West Brookfield on Sunday, Dec. 7 starting at 11 a.m.

Cook worked for 40 years in the restaurant industry including a stint at Salem Cross Inn. He was a journalist for 10 years at various small papers throughout New England.

"The Vampires of York, Maine: A Modern Crime Story" follows the misadventures of Jerry O'Shaughnessy, journalist turned bar owner, as he gets involved in a missing girl case. In the process, he uncovers human trafficking, a neo-Nazi gang and supernatural elements in coastal Maine.

Packed with history and local lore of the Seacoast, this story has deep ties to the Worcester mafia.

About the gallery

The Holiday Group Show will be on display at West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery, 10 East Main St., for the month of December. For more information, call the gallery at 508-753-8604, email yafaceber@hotmail.com, visit westbrookfieldartandframe.com or stop by the gallery during open hours, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Ware Senior Center news

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

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

ACTIVITIES

Monday, Dec. 8
• 9 a.m. Tai Chi
• 10 a.m. Scat
• 11:30 a.m. Lunch
• 1 p.m. Chair Yoga with Lisa

Tuesday, Dec. 9

• 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
• 9 a.m. Movin' & Groovin' to the Oldies with Lisa. \$3 per class.
• 10 a.m. Scat
• 11:30 a.m. Lunch
• 5:30 p.m. Scrapbooking. \$3 per class
• 6 p.m. Pitch (Doors open at 5 p.m.)

Wednesday, Dec. 10

• 9 a.m. Tai Chi
• 9:30 a.m. Quilting Club
• 10 a.m. Scat
• 11:30 a.m. Lunch
• 1 p.m. Chair Yoga with Lori
• 1 p.m. Knit-Crochet-Laugh

Thursday, Dec. 11

• 9 a.m. Exercise at Valley View Housing
• 9 a.m. Walking Club (weather permitting)

• 9:30 a.m. Line Dancing for Beginners
• 10 a.m. Line Dancing
• 10 a.m. Scat
• 11:30 a.m. Lunch
• 12:15 p.m. Art Class

Friday, Dec. 12

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

LUNCHES

DINE IN 11:30 a.m.

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

Monday, Dec. 8

BBQ Pork Sandwich, Chips, Coleslaw, Dessert of the Day

Tuesday, Dec. 9

Meatloaf ala Davis, Mashed Potatoes, Veggie of the Day, Dessert of the Day

Wednesday, Dec. 10

American Chop Suey, Tossed Salad, Dessert of the Day

Thursday, Dec. 11

Grilled Ham and Cheese Sandwich with Lettuce and Tomato, French Fries, Dessert of the Day

Friday, Dec. 12

Fish Sandwich, French Fries, Dessert of the Day

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The honorary Kettles family is shown in front of the Christmas tree. Kennedy, up front, represented Dance Unlimited.



Santa Claus had company as he was greeted by members of Dance Unlimited and students of Ware Public Schools



Santa Claus was delivered to Veterans Park by the Ware Fire Department.

FLAIR from page 1

the youth dancers of Dance Unlimited. These talented dancers welcomed the holiday season to Ware as they performed in the parking lot behind the Christmas tree at Veterans Park. Dance Unlimited has been part of the community since 1987.

Santa Claus made his way to the Christmas tree at Veterans Park and encouraged the residents to join him on the countdown to the tree lighting. Main Street roared with cheer as the tree was lit.

Residents then made their way to Ware Town Hall to meet with Santa Claus. In there, kids were able to see Santa and share their Christmas wishes.

For about 25 years, the Town Hall has been the location for the Ware Holiday Flair. However, this celebration dates back further to the early 1980s. It was around that time the streets would be decorated for the holidays.

The Grand Hall of Town Hall was flooded with holiday-themed floats, snacks and a long line of kids waiting patiently to see Santa Claus. Popcorn was one delicious snack being handed out.

Kathy Deschamps is part of the Ware Holiday Flair Committee that works hard to put this annual event together. This committee consists of 10 members and the work put into this event is made possible by the support of

various volunteers.

Kristi Kenyon has been working the Ware Holiday Flair for the last five years and said this committee was formed in 2020 to continue this fun holiday tradition in town. The Ware Holiday Flair was previously organized by the Ware Rotary Club, and the event is held the Friday after Thanksgiving.

This group appreciates the volunteerism of putting the Ware Holiday Flair together and always welcome additional support.

"We always love more volunteers," Kenyon said.

The next event in Ware is the Holiday Drive-Thru at Grenville Park on Saturday, Dec. 13 from 5-7 p.m. The Quaboag Connector will be available for those who don't have transportation. Pick-up and drop-off is across the street from the park entrance at the old Church Street School.

The committee is seeking volunteers to help with setting up the Drive-Thru. For more information, reach out to the Ware Holiday Flair on their Facebook page or contact town offices.

Keep an eye out for the friendly elves, who will be collecting donations at this event.

If you're interested in making a donation, checks can be mailed to Ware Town Hall, c/o Stuart Beckley, 126 Main St., Ware, MA 01082.



The Kaiser and Goudreau family waited in line to see Santa Claus inside the Ware Town Hall.



The Christmas tree at Veterans Park was about to be lit with Santa Claus orchestrating the countdown.



Santa Claus greeted everyone on Main Street. *Turley Photos by Ryan Drago*

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Sean Bernier catches a pass and heads toward the right side.

SPORTS



Jacob Cacace returns the ball to start the second half.

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Indians finish off season with big win

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARREN—The first 13 minutes of the rivalry game between the Ware and Quaboag football teams was controlled by the home team, who was hoping to celebrate an upset victory.

After giving up a touch-down early in the second quarter, the visiting team from Billy Jo Robidoux's hometown took over the spotlight for the rest of the game.

The Ware offense, who needed only nine plays to score three second quarter touchdowns, added two more touchdowns in the second half leading to a 34-7 victory over the Cougars in the 16th meeting between the two neighboring high schools on Thanksgiving Eve.

"When Quaboag scored at the start of the second quarter, it gave us a lot more energy and motivation. We weren't going to lose tonight's game," said senior Alex Orszulak, who was named as Ware's MVP following the contest. "I'm very glad that I'm a member of this football team. Everyone cares about each other and it's not just about one individual player on our team. If



Troy Jurczyk sends a pass attempt away.

that was the case, we would be playing golf."

The team approach is something that Ware head coach Mike Fazio always preaches to his players.

"The players know that it's never I or me, it's always us and we," Fazio said. "There isn't anybody bigger than the program. If a player does score five touchdowns

in a game, he doesn't do it without the help of his teammates. We're trying to build a family culture here."

Orszulak is one of the Indians senior captains, along with Marek Luongo, Troy Dufresne, Sean Bernier, and Jadrien Berthiaume.

It was also the final high school football game for Ware seniors Brayden



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Braiden Bradley makes the block on the offensive line.

Compton, Robert Wood, Ethan Corder, and Jacoby Heredia.

"All of the seniors played a huge role this year," Fazio said. "A couple of them have been members of our football team during the past five years. I'm going to miss them and I love them. They're better people than they are football players, which is something that you always want to see."

The Indians, who finished their season with a 7-4 over-

all record, suffered back-to-back one point non-league losses to Belchertown High School and the Springfield International Charter School at the beginning of the regular season. They also lost to archrival Palmer for the first time in a decade.

It was the third consecutive year that Ware captured the Thanksgiving trophy against the Cougars.

Please see **INDIANS**, page 10



Jarett Skowrya takes the return toward the right sideline.

The Pathfinder defense comes up with a big stop.

Field goal hurts Pioneers

BELCHERTOWN – On a windy and cold Thanksgiving morning, a field goal from Belchertown's Leandro Martins made the difference

for the Orioles in a 17-14 win over Pathfinder. With Belchertown up 7-6 in the second quarter, Martins sent home a field goal to make the score 10-6. Both

teams would score an additional touchdown later in the game, but the field goal remained the difference that helped the Orioles earn the holiday win.

Students chosen for sports ambassador program

Woburn, MA - The Massachusetts Amateur Sports Foundation / Bay State Games is proud to announce the 80 selected high school student-athletes who have been chosen to serve as Ambassadors for the 2025-2026 academic year.

These student leaders were selected from schools and communities across Massachusetts based on their involvement in athletics, commitment to leadership, and desire to inspire future participation in the Bay State Games and statewide community sport initiatives.

The Ambassador Program provides leadership development, event experience, and networking opportunities while ambassadors serve as representatives of Bay State Games in their schools, on their teams, and in their communities. Ambassadors play a key role in growing awareness, supporting recruitment efforts, and connecting their peers to the opportunities and events offered through Bay State Games including the Summer & Winter Games, scholarships, internships, and other year-round programs.

"The Ambassador Program helps expand statewide awareness and impact of Bay State Games programs while mentoring high school students on the career and education opportunities available in the world of sports" said Kevin Cummings, Bay State Games Executive Director.

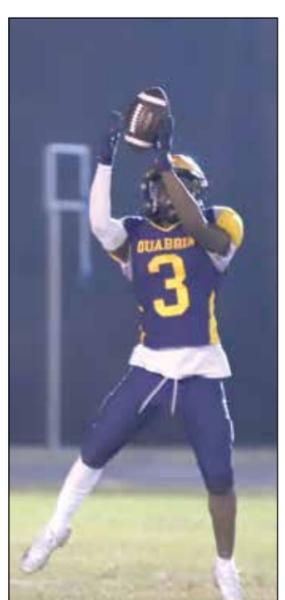
Please see **BAYSTATE**, page 10



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Chase Talbot returns the opening kickoff for a touchdown.

Quabbin football finishes strong

BARRE – On Thanksgiving Eve, Quabbin Regional High School did get a quick start with two touchdowns, but it was the way the Panthers finished that really counted. Quabbin had three straight touchdowns to finish the game and the Panthers defeated Gardner 35-14. Quabbin's season finishes at 4-7. In the win, five different Panthers scored touchdowns. Chase Talbot would start the game by returning the ball 80 yards for a touchdown. On the next possession, Owura Ankoma-Mensah returned a punt about 60 yards to the one-yard line. Adam Adams would make a one-yard run for



Owura Ankoma-Mensah fields a punt.



Cassian Kowalik lumps through the crowd on a carry.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Aiden Girard makes a great block.

sports

Thunderbirds fall in shootout against Islanders

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (5-10-2-2) caught an unfortunate break on a late game-tying goal in regulation before falling, 3-2, in a shootout to the Bridgeport Islanders (7-10-1-1) before a sellout crowd inside the MassMutual Center on Saturday night.

For a second straight night, the Islanders' first period excellence came to the forefront, and the visitors picked up the lone goal in the first on a weird and painful sequence. Forward Eetu Liukas was in the wrong place at the wrong time when a Sean Day point shot struck him under the visor, forcing him down to the ice injured. As Liukas lay near the crease, Liam Foudy arrived at the loose puck and fired it off the post behind Georgi Romanov. However, Liukas turned out to be in the right place as the puck glanced off the iron, then off his leg, before finding its way across the line at 13:16 for the first goal of the game.

Henrik Tikkanen made his season debut in the Bridgeport goal crease and proved to be tough to beat

through the first half of the game, but Springfield's shorthanded group finally solved the tall Finn at 9:49 of the second as Hugh McGing moved down the left wing and fired a sneaky, short-side shot past the netminder, tying the game, 1-1, on the T-Birds' second shorthanded goal in as many days.

Romanov kept his game elevated throughout a busy second period, as he successfully turned away all 14 Bridgeport shot attempts to keep his team deadlocked heading into the final period. The tight checking continued in the final period, with Springfield's forecheck continuing to work over the Islander defense. Eventually, they broke through at 9:55 of the third with Juraj Pekarcik finding his way to the low slot and firing a shot upstairs past Tikkanen, giving Springfield the 2-1 advantage.

The T-Birds' power play missed a chance to add insurance, and the one-goal margin carried into the final two minutes. With Tikkanen on his way to the bench for an extra attacker, Luke Rowe uncorked a blistering

slapper from the left point that glanced off the underside of the crossbar, beating Romanov to tie the game, 2-2, at 18:11. For the second time this month, the division rivals went to overtime.

Springfield carried much of the play in overtime, but Tikkanen answered with five stops, and the T-Birds failed to strike on a 4-on-3 advantage in the last 1:31 of overtime after Rowe committed a tripping infraction.

With the game coming down to a shootout, Matt Luff got Springfield off on the right foot, beating Tikkanen to begin the festivities, but Chris Terry and Matt Maggio both connected against Romanov, while Matthew Peca and Nikita Alexandrov could not solve Tikkanen. Springfield, despite the bitter defeat, extended its point streak to five straight games, going 3-0-1-1 over that stretch.

The T-Birds are back in action next Friday in Hartford for another meeting with the Wolf Pack inside PeoplesBank Arena. Puck drop is set for 7 p.m. to begin the three-game weekend.

Owls win tip-off tourney

WESTFIELD – Westfield State University senior guard Tavi Williams (Springfield, Mass./Minnechaug HS) scored 12 points and grabbed 18 rebounds in the championship game to lead the Owls to a 75-66 win over Albright (Pa.) College to win the 2025 Westfield Gas and Electric Tip Off Tournament at the Woodward Center on Saturday afternoon.

Williams was named as the tournament MVP. The Owls improve to 4-1 on the season, while Albright is now 1-4.

Williams was one of five Owls players to score in double-figures. Mya Silveira (N. Smithfield, RI) tied her for the team lead with 12 points, Morgan Berthiaume (Webster, Mass./Douglas) netted 11 points with eight steals, six assists and four rebounds, Grace Wigington (Lenox, Mass./IMG Academy) scored 10 points and Sophia Rockwood (Windsor, Vt.) also added 10.

Williams helped the Owls jump out to a lead that extended to as many

as 16 points on a Williams 3-pointer with 5:02 left in the first half, with Westfield holding a 43-32 lead at halftime.

In the fourth quarter Albright ground away at the Owls lead, trimming it to as few as four, 68-64 on a Julia Zakovitch jumper in the paint with 4:03 left in the game. Westfield struggled to score late, but boosted the lead back to six, 70-64 on a steal by Berthiaume and layup from Wigington with 1:44 left and the Lions were forced to foul down the stretch. Westfield canned five of six free throws in the final two minutes to seal the win.

Chrisdin Jones (Bowie, Md./Riverdale Baptist) led Albright with 20 points and 14 rebounds. 6-2 center Orianna Edmond (Lancaster, Pa./Hempfield) added 16 points and eight boards.

Westfield forced 38 turnovers from the Lions, and were plus-13 in the turnover game. The Owls connected on 10 of 38 three pointers, with more made three point field goals than in their previous two games combined.

BAYSTATE GAMES from page 9

"This class of ambassadors represents the next generation of leaders in sport from across Massachusetts. We are excited to support them as they help inspire participation in the Bay State Games and lay the foundation for their future careers"

The 2025-2025 Ambassador program kicked off on November 2 with a statewide Ambassador Summit at the Natick Armory, hosted by the Massachusetts Army National Guard. Ambassadors from across the state participated in the program that included a fitness warm up and team building exercises, a panel discussion on the college athletic recruiting process and an address from motivational speaker, philanthropist, athlete and race director Dave McGillivray.

The Ambassador term began in October 2025 and runs through July 2026.

Among local student-athletes selected, Makenzie Casey of Quabbin Regional, Kendall Placzek and Richard Hale of Minnechaug Regional, Logan Millet of Ware, and Madelyn Moreau of Monson.

MIAA sets deadlines for finalized schedules

FRANKLIN – The 2025 Schedule Commitment Deadline and Process Reminder that the MIAA winter schedule commitment deadline is Friday, Dec. 19 for basketball and ice hockey. After that point, no changes can be made to your opponents or the number of games/matches that can be played.

After the Dec. 19 commitment deadline, all sched-

ules will be considered final.

Three days before the Schedule Commitment deadline, MIAA staff will produce and publish schedules for each sport based on the available data for review and verification by member schools. Below is the breakdown for 2025-26 school year:

WINTER 2025-2026

- First contest date:

Thursday, Dec. 11

- Schedule data published for review: Tuesday, Dec. 16
- Schedule Commitment deadline: Friday, Dec. 19

SPRING 2026

- First contest date: Thursday, Mar. 26 (Monday, March 23 for Spring Golf)
- Schedule data published for review: Tuesday, Mar. 31
- Schedule Commitment deadline: Friday, Apr. 3

INDIANS from page 9

They now hold a 10-6 lead in the series, which began in 2009.

It was a rebuilding season for the Cougars (0-10), who were outscored, 351-51 this fall. The only time that they scored more than eight points in a game was a 20-14 non-league home loss against Mahar Regional on September 26.

Senior quarterback Jacob Cacace was selected as the Cougars MVP Award winner. He was also a senior tri-captain, along with Jeffrey Bouchard, and Steven Smith.

The other seniors listed on the Quaboag football roster are Kadin Dufault, CJ Kady, and Elijah Wilhelm.

Following the game, Quaboag head coach David Shepherd announced that longtime assistant coach Henry Brogna will be retiring.

The last time that the Cougars defeated the Indians on the gridiron was a 26-21 victory in the 2022 contest, which took place on Thanksgiving morning at Veterans' Field in Ware.

Before the opening kickoff in this year's contest, the Cougars won the coin toss and elected to receive the ball first.

Starting at midfield, Cacace marched his team 30 yards down the field.

The Cougars picked up a couple of first downs following a four yard run and an eleven yard run from eighth grader Bayer Sargent.

That drive stalled when the Ware defense forced the Cougars to turn the ball over on downs at the Indians 19 with a little more than six minutes remaining in the opening quarter.

The Cougars offense got the ball right back following a punt. They then put together a nine play scoring drive,



Jadrien Berthiaume sends the point-after kick away.

which covered 40 yards.

Cacace kept the series alive with three first down runs before Sargent dashed into the endzone on a two yard run with 11:10 remaining in the second quarter.

Eighth grader Jayden Mioduszewski made the extra point attempt giving the Cougars a 7-0 lead.

Mioduszewski and Sargent are two of the eleven eighth graders listed on the Quaboag football roster.

The Cougars didn't keep the lead for very long.

On the first play of the ensuing series, Berthiaume carried the ball 40 yards down the right sideline before being pushed out of bounds at the Cougars 31 by Dufault.

Berthiaume picked up six more yards on the next play before Orszulak scored on a 25-yard run with ten minutes remaining in the first half. He plowed over a couple of Quaboag defenders on his way into the endzone.

Jurczyk completed a TD pass to Orszulak on the two point conversion.

"For some unknown reason, we began the game very slowly," Fazio said. "Once

we took the lead in the second quarter, we began playing our style of football, which is physical and downhill. I'm very proud of the kids."

It was the first time that Jurczyk was the starting quarterback against the Cougars.

"This is the first time I started in the Thanksgiving game, and it was an amazing feeling," Jurczyk said. "Throwing touchdown passes is my favorite thing to do. I wouldn't be very successful without the help of my linemen. I'm glad that I have one more season to play with this team."

During the final three minutes of the second quarter, Jurczyk completed a pair of touchdown passes.

He connected with classmate Dalton Marquis for a five yard TD reception with 2:18 showing on the scoreboard clock.

Orszulak caught another touchdown pass on the conversion play.

Then a 25-yard punt return by Marquis and a 15-yard late hit penalty put the ball at the Cougars 24 yard line.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

QUABBIN from page 9

the score. Gardner would score touchdowns in the second and early in the fourth quarter. The two-point conversion in the fourth quarter would give Gardner a 14-12 lead. But Zakk Mielnick responded with a 37-yard for a touchdown. Brady Dennis and Quinn Reynolds would score after that as the Panthers finished off their regular season with a win.

Quarterback Adam Adams takes the keeper into the end zone.



Alex Orszulak looks to make a tackle on defense.

The Indians only needed two plays to score their third touchdown.

This time, Jurczyk tossed a 24-yard touchdown pass to Bernier, which gave the Indians a 22-7 lead with 11 seconds remaining in the first half. The Indians tried an extra point attempt, which sailed wide left.

They also missed both of their PAT's in the second half.

Marquis closed out the first half with an interception.

The Ware defense forced Quaboag to turn the ball over on downs at the start of the second half.

Then Berthiaume carried the ball six times before scoring on a 12-yard scamper with 6:36 left in the third quarter.

Less than three minutes into the final quarter, Jurczyk capped off the game's scoring by throwing his third TD



Jayden Mioduszewski tries to overcome a Ware lineman.

pass, which was a 24-yarder to Wood.

Orszulak intercepted late in the fourth quarter before

the Indians players celebrated their final victory of the 2025 campaign.

SANTA from page 1

Bell Choir. Christmas on the Common also featured a tree lighting and a live nativity in front of the First Universalist Church.

Coordinating the event was Lisa Swanson, who worked with various groups to help put Christmas on the Common together every year. Christmas on the Common is a nonprofit run by volunteers who formed together to do good for the community. This festive event also works hard to raise money for those less fortunate.

At the Tri-Parish Community Church, a couple fundraisers were taking place during Christmas on the Common. The church hosted a food pantry, where a drop off spot was placed by the entrance. Clothes are also being collected throughout the holidays.

There was also a fundraiser for the Peace Lacrosse the World Campaign. The church upstairs had various lacrosse equipment gathered up with a lot of equipment ready to be shipped to Africa. This lacrosse gear comes from donors all over the country and David Libby of the Tri-Parish Community Church said the "Tri-Parish Community Church is a proud contributor," for this campaign.

The church had equipment all boxed up to be shipped to St. Joes in Kenya. The vision of Peace Lacrosse the World Campaign is to develop communities and economies through the development of lacrosse.

The lacrosse gear gathered at the church goes to the African nations of Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, and Tanzania. Libby said the Tri-Parish Community Church has been supporting this campaign for the last five years and is a way to reintroduce the game of lacrosse to the world.

Lacrosse is a game tied to not only the PLWC but also tied to history. Libby shared that lacrosse was first taught to the colonists in the Brookfield area.

"Lacrosse is trying to



The OK Chorale carolers warmed up their voices prior to the arrival of Santa Claus.



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago
Santa Claus arrived at the Hardwick Town House during Christmas on the Common.

make a comeback in central Massachusetts," Libby said.

The PLWC is working with the Tri-Parish Community Church and other clubs to reintroduce the sport of lacrosse in central Massachusetts.

To find out how to help or for questions, email plwc.dl@gmail.com. For more information, visit triparishcommunitychurch.org or call 508-867-3306.

The Hardwick Town House also housed several local vendors offering handmade gifts. Kelly Kemp of Balancing from Within had various items for sale from

wood, glass and stainless steel. There were a lot of cutting boards for sale in addition to other wood crafted items.

Swanson has been engraving and making cutting boards since 2021 but has been involved in carpentry his whole life. Swanson has done memorializing work such as memorializing recipes, engraving family trees and is well skilled in generating images on to these boards.

Kelly Kemp of Balancing From Within was a local vendor at the Hardwick Town House.



candles, soaps, pillow sprays, and hand lotions. Kemp is a certified Reiki practitioner based out of Hardwick who is here to help foster your wellness journey.

Another Hardwick based vendor was Douglas Swanson of Dragonfly Wood Arts. Guests got to shop for beautiful, handcrafted gifts. Swanson offers custom personalization engraving on

Hardwick came together during Christmas on the Common. Guests got to swing by Mimi's Coffeehouse for tasty treats and had their Holiday Sip & Paint activity after the tree lighting. It was a festive time to see family, friends, and your neighbors during the holiday season.

Weir River Jazz presents free holiday concerts

HARDWICK – Weir River Jazz will present "Tunes for the Tinsel," a big band concert in the sanctuary of the Stone Church Cultural Center on Route 32 in Gilbertville on Sunday, Dec. 7 at 2 p.m.

All are welcome to join them to hear the great sounds of a traditional Big Band with their version of popular

seasonal melodies. Or if you prefer a different setting, join the band on Saturday Dec. 13 at 2 p.m. for "Trimnings for the Tree," presented at Workshop13 in Ware.

Both programs are open to the public and there is no charge for admission. Reservations are suggested for Workshop13 as seats go quickly there.

Library Friends host Lotto Calendar fundraiser

WARE – The Friends of the Ware Library will be selling Lotto Calendars through the end of the year.

Tickets are \$10 each and drawings will take place every day in January.

1,000 max tickets will be sold and you can win an unlimited number of times.

Visit the library at 37 Main St. or participating stores to purchase a ticket - they make great stocking stuffers.

United Church offers free Christmas dinners to residents

WARE – The United Church of Ware, 49 Church St., will once again be providing a free Christmas meal to residents of Ware who otherwise would of went without one.

The meals will be either delivered to you, or you may pick them up at the church. The meal will include ham, mashed potatoes, carrots, roll and dessert.

If you are in need of a meal, please call the United Church of Ware at 413-967-9981, and leave your name,

phone number, address, and the number of meals you will need. Meal request must be received no later than noon on Tuesday, Dec. 23.

This church is able to provide these meals thanks to the generous private donations and those of the many businesses of Ware.

If you have any questions or wish to donate, please call the church or Pastor Dave Blessinger, Coordinator, at 401-465-9686.

Wreaths Across America, Dec. 13

WEST BROOKFIELD – On Saturday, Dec. 13 at noon on the Common, a ceremony to recognize Wreaths Across America Day will be held.

Sponsor a wreath to remember and honor a West Brookfield veteran. Wreaths

will be placed on all of West Brookfield veterans' graves at Pine Grove and Sacred Heart Cemeteries following the ceremony.

For more info, contact Nadine Morin at 774-200-3396 or Joanne Dorman at 508-867-2524.

Is this a good year for tax-loss harvesting?

Thanks to market swings, evolving tax laws and new technology, it may be a good year to consider tax-loss harvesting – a strategy that can help reduce taxes and improve long-term returns.

What is tax-loss harvesting? When you sell an investment for less than you paid, you may be able to use that loss to offset gains from other investments, potentially reducing your overall tax bill.

If your total capital losses exceed your gains, you can use up to \$3,000 of those losses to reduce ordinary income each year. You can carry any remaining losses forward to future tax years. The strategy doesn't eliminate taxes altogether; it simply defers them, which can free up money to reinvest elsewhere.

How it works. Imagine an investor who sold one stock for a \$10,000 gain and another for a \$10,000 loss. The two transactions cancel each other out, meaning no capital gains tax is owed for that year. The investor can then reinvest the proceeds while following the IRS's "wash-sale rule." This rule prevents you from claiming a loss if you, or your spouse or a related party, repurchase the same or a "substantially identical" investment within 30 days before or after the sale.

Because of this rule, you should consider how tax-loss harvesting will affect your investment strategy, as the benefit of holding on to that investment (and letting it grow over time) may outweigh the benefit of lowering your capital gains tax bill for a given year.

Good candidates for tax-loss harvesting include investments that no longer fit your strategy (when rebalancing your portfolio, for example), have poor investment potential or can be easily substituted with other investments.

Why 2025 may be favorable. Several factors suggest 2025 may be a good time to consider tax-loss harvesting.

First, market volatility has created more opportunities to realize losses. The first half of the year saw sharp market swings that left some portfolios uneven. Many large asset managers have already harvested billions in losses, using them to help lower clients' tax liability while keeping investment strategies on track.

Second, tax law changes are on the horizon. With major tax reform provisions scheduled to expire in the coming years, many investors are motivated to manage their gains and losses proactively. Those in higher tax brackets stand to benefit most, as the savings increase with your tax rate.

Finally, technology has made the process more efficient. In the past, investors typically harvested losses near year-end. Today, automation and direct indexing allow for continuous monitoring and harvesting throughout the year, capturing losses as they appear.

Putting it into practice. Tax-loss harvesting isn't right for everyone, and it's not a reason to overhaul your investment strategy. The approach works best for investors with taxable accounts, current or expected capital gains and a long-term perspective.

Consult your financial advisor and a tax professional before making decisions. When used thoughtfully, tax-loss harvesting can help you navigate a volatile market, reduce taxes and keep more of your money working toward your future goals.



This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC



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public safety

Ware Police Log

During the week of Nov. 23-Dec. 2, the Ware Police Department responded to 28 miscellaneous calls, 28 administrative calls, 11 traffic violations, 15 emergency 911 calls, two motor vehicle accidents, one theft/larceny, one breaking and entering, three trespasses, two frauds/deceptions, two damage/vandalisms, three harassments/stalks/threats, one structure fire, five animal calls and 37 motor vehicle stops in the town of Ware.

Sunday, Nov. 23
 9:15 a.m. Damage/Vandalism, Greenwich Road, Investigated
 1:57 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, Hardwick Pond Road, Report Made
 10:18 p.m. Traffic Incident/Crash, South Street, Report Made

Monday, Nov. 24
 3:36 p.m. DUI/Impaired, Monson Turnpike Road, Arrest Made
 4:19 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Maple Street, Advised
 5:23 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Church Street, Dispatch Handled
 8:13 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Main Street, Could Not Locate
 8:21 p.m. Assist Other Agency, East Street, Investigated

Tuesday, Nov. 25
 12:37 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Advised
 2:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 3:08 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Webster Road, Citation/Warning Issued
 3:08 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Webster Road,

Dispatch Handled
Wednesday, Nov. 26
 10:28 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Palmer Road, Investigated
 12:43 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Buckley Court, Could Not Locate
 1:13 p.m. Traffic Violation/Hazard, West Main Street, Report Made
 2:55 p.m. Warrant Service, Otis Avenue, Arrest Made
 9:40 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, School Street, Appears Secure After Check

Thursday, Nov. 27
 4:14 a.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, North Street, Services Rendered
 6:53 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Dugan Road, Could Not Locate
 1:17 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, West Street, Services Rendered
 7:05 p.m. Theft/Larceny, North Street, Services Rendered

Friday, Nov. 28
 7:42 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, South Street, Dispatch Handled
 7:46 p.m. Fraud/Deception, North Street, Advised
 9:12 p.m. Assist Other Agency, South Street, Assist Given
 9:25 p.m. Harassment/Stalk/Threat, West Street, Unfounded

Saturday, Nov. 29
 2:33 p.m. Assist Other Agency, West Street, Report Made
 9:49 p.m. Breaking and Entering, Cummings Road, Services Rendered

Sunday, Nov. 30
 2:12 a.m. Abandoned

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.

911 Call, Pulaski Street, Unfounded
 7:02 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued
 2:28 p.m. Trespass/Unwanted, Osborne Road, Services Rendered

Monday, Dec. 1
 1:17 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Cummings Road, Services Rendered
 5:40 a.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Storrs Street, Services Rendered
 8:58 a.m. Fraud/Deception, North Street, Services Rendered
 1:15 p.m. Damage/Vandalism, Greenwich Plains Road, Report Made
 4:55 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, West Street, Dispatch Handled
 5:09 p.m. Structure Fire, Clifford Avenue, Investigated
 5:24 p.m. Theft/Larceny, West Street, Report Made
 5:35 p.m. Abandoned 911 Call, Palmer Road, Could Not Locate

Tuesday, Dec. 2
 2:20 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation/Warning Issued

Warren Police Log

During the week of Nov. 9-15, the Warren Police Department responded to 143 building/property checks, 14 community policings, 10 emergency 911 calls, one motor vehicle accident, one parking issue, three fraud/forgeries, one safety hazard, one larceny/theft, one illegal dumping, two fires, two complaints, five animal calls and 22 motor vehicle stops in the town of Warren.

Sunday, Nov. 9
 1:47 a.m. Parking Issues, North Street, Citation Issued
 5:04 a.m. Alarm Activation, Bridges Avenue, Investigation
 9:38 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 1:54 p.m. Diabetic, Old West Warren Road, Transported to Hospital
 2:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brimfield Road, Written Warning
 2:33 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Constitution Avenue, Mutual Aid Transport

Monday, Nov. 10
 3:16 a.m. Breathing Difficulty, Milton O. Fountain Way, Transported to Hospital
 11:58 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Misdial, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 4:50 p.m. Assist Other Agency, East Road, Report Filed
 5:16 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Richardson Street, Officer/Chief Advised
 6:42 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Bemis Road, Transported to Hospital
 7:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 7:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Written Warning

8:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 8:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 9:27 p.m. Unwanted Party, Cronin Road, Removed to Court/Lockup
 10:20 p.m. Welfare Check, Maple Street, Report Filed

Tuesday, Nov. 11
 8:37 a.m. Safety Concern, Main Street, Officer/Chief Advised
 11:33 a.m. Gunshots, Brimfield Road, Area Patrolled
 1:13 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Prospect Street, Mutual Aid Transport
 4:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision, Old West Warren Road, Investigated
 9:52 p.m. Unwanted Party, Old West Warren Road, Party Departed Without Incident
 11:56 p.m. Breathing Difficulty, Pleasant Street, Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, Nov. 12
 10:13 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brimfield Road, Written Warning
 10:20 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brimfield Road, Written Warning
 1:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 1:39 p.m. Gas Odor, Crescent Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 1:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 2:06 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Reed Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 2:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 2:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written

Warning
 3:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 3:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 7:10 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Reed Street, Transported to Hospital
 7:14 p.m. Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Knox Trail Road, Transported to Hospital
 8:21 p.m. Missing Person, Quaboag Street, Report Filed

Thursday, Nov. 13
 8:59 a.m. Larceny or Theft, Main Street, Report Filed
 10:14 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brimfield Road, Written Warning
 11:17 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Southbridge Road, Criminal Complaint
 2:39 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Reed Street, Call Transferred
 4:50 p.m. Illegal Dumping, Cottage Street, Investigated

Friday, Nov. 14
 8:25 a.m. Complaint, Southbridge Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 7:21 p.m. Structure Fire, Southbridge Road, Fire Extinguished
 10:16 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Main Street, Report Filed

Saturday, Nov. 15
 3:58 a.m. Sick/Unknown, Main Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 11:58 a.m. Illegal Burn, Grove Street, Investigated
 2:38 p.m. Complaint, Sarty Road, Information Given
 5:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Wings of Song prepares for winter concerts



Members of Wings of Song sang during a recent rehearsal.



Chorus members prepared for upcoming performances of "Night, Moon, Stars".



Music Director Nym Cooke (shown with a moon adorned to his shirt), led the Wings of Song community chorus.

STURBRIDGE – Wings of Song, a community chorus centered in Sturbridge and drawing its 50 active members from towns in south-central Massachusetts and northeastern Connecticut, is busy preparing for its annual winter performance.

In late December in Earth's Northern Hemisphere, nights are long and cold. For millennia, humans have gathered to mark this time with fires and dances and singing and musical instruments and stories and revelry: to tell the dark and the cold that our spirits are undaunted, and to celebrate the lengthening of days that begins at this time.

"Night, Moon, Stars" will be performed at St. Joachim Chapel, 16 Church St. in Fiskdale (part of Sturbridge), on Saturday, Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m., and at the Elm Street Congregational Church, 61 Elm St. in Southbridge, on Sunday, Dec. 14 at 3 p.m. Folks are advised to come early to be sure of a seat.

Both concerts are free to the public, with a freewill



A chorus member is shown singing during a recent rehearsal.

offering collected. Refreshments will be served after each concert and both venues are handicapped accessible.

These concerts celebrate both Christmas and the Winter Solstice in song this year with a focus on night, moon, and stars: the darkness from which light is born, and reborn.

The chorus is led by Music Director Nym Cooke, who shared some of the diverse songs to be performed during "Night, Moon, Stars" including "Beautiful Star of Bethlehem", from "Moon is Walking" by Joseph Shabalala of Ladysmith Black Mambazo as well as the world premiere of "Notte" by Wings of Song tenor Gianni Davilli.



Singers looked to Music Director Nym Cooke during rehearsal.



Wings of Song community chorus members rehearsed for their upcoming performances of "Night, Moon, Stars" at St. Joachim Chapel this past Monday night.



Pianist Brooks Milgate accompanied the chorus.

The chorus will shift from the Danish Christmas song "Among the Stars of

Midnight" to John Rutter's magnificent choral setting of "O Holy Night"; from the shape-note song "Star in the East" to Henry VIII's "Green Grow'th the Holly" and much more. Audiences will join the chorus in singing three Christmas classics that feature stars: "The First Nowell," "O Little Town of Bethlehem" and "We Three Kings of Orient Are".

People are strongly encouraged to bring stars or moons, to be held or hoisted aloft at key points in the proceedings. More than one moon is fine, in the spirit of celebration.

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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public notices

Warren tree lighting is this Saturday

WARREN – The Parks Department will host the annual tree lighting on the common this Saturday, Dec. 6 from 4-8 p.m.

There will be events and activities at downtown businesses including Mason's Grille, Warren Package

Store, The Lost Arts, Warren WIC, Glenda's and the Warren Public Library.

Vendors will be set up at the Shepard Municipal Building, 48 High St. Free parking and a holiday shuttle to and from the common will also be available here.

Santa will arrive to the common, accompanied by a truck parade at 5 p.m. and the tree lighting will be held at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, visit "Warren Parks Department" on Facebook.

SOCIAL SECURITY from page 6

Dear Realistic:

Thanks very much for your feedback on my previous article. I think it's important to draw a distinction for SS contributions made by an employer, because that is not money the individual personally pays, but rather an obligation for employers to help fund the Social Security program.

Without that federal obligation, it is doubtful that employers would, instead, provide employees with equivalent additional compensation, so the thought that these are really your contributions is not a fair assessment. Indeed, they are contributions which happen to be tied to your earnings level (to a cap), for which employers receive relief on their corporate income tax and likely would not make if not required by law.

As you have noted, Social Security has the advantage of certainty, something which is lacking when it comes to investing the equivalent amounts in the financial markets. And, as you have hinted, there exists a substantial failure by future American retirees to save adequately for their retirement, a problem well

known in most financial circles. Thus, the certainty of Social Security makes it a crucial part of everyone's retirement planning and it will be there.

Despite all the angst attributed to the current financial issues facing the program, there is little doubt that Social Security is here to stay. The question is what reform is needed to make the program fully solvent for generations of future Americans? The Association of Mature American Citizens has developed a proposal to sensibly reform Social Security and avoid the currently projected 2033 date that the SS Trust Funds are expected to be depleted, which will necessitate an across-the-board cut for everyone.

We have little doubt that the reform needed will happen; it would be political suicide for Congress if it did not and hopefully soon. You can read about AMAC's proposed solution at this link by visiting www.amac.us/social-security-guarantee.

The Association of Mature American Citizens and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information

purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association of Mature American Citizens' 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.

Again, thank you for your feedback and commentary. Please know that we very much appreciate your thoughts and are always willing to discuss these issues.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. 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@amacfoundation.org.

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 8 Bellevue Avenue Extension, Ware, Massachusetts

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Wendy Theresa Sproul to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), as mortgagee, as nominee for Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation, its successors and assigns and now held by Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, said mortgage dated July 12, 2019, and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 13320, Page 210, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated May 31, 2025, and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 15434, Page 293, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on December 30, 2025 at 10:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

THE LAND WITH THE BUILDINGS IN WARE, HAMPSHIRE COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

PARCEL 1:
SITUATED AT THE NORTHERLY SIDE OF BELLEVUE AVENUE, SO CALLED; BEGINNING AT AN IRON PIN ON THE NORTHERLY LINE OF BELLEVUE AVENUE; THENCE NORTHERLY ONE HUNDRED FEET MORE OR LESS TO AN IRON PIN; THENCE EASTERLY FORTY-EIGHT FEET TO AN IRON PIN AND LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF STUART; THENCE SOUTHERLY ON THE LINE OF STUART'S LAND, ONE HUNDRED FEET MORE OR LESS TO AN IRON PIN ON THE NORTHERLY LINE OF SAID BELLEVUE AVENUE; THENCE WESTERLY ON BELLEVUE AVENUE, FORTY-EIGHT FEET MORE OR LESS TO THE PLACE OF THE BEGINNING, CONTAINING MORE OR LESS WITH THE BUILDINGS THEREON.

PARCEL 2:
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BEING THE SAME PREMISES CONVEYED TO THE MORTGAGOR BY DEED RECORDED HERewith.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated July 11, 2019, and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 13320, Page 206.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

TEN THOUSAND (\$10,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within forty-five (45) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Marinosci Law Group, P.C.
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Warwick, RI 02886
Attorney for Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage
Telephone: (401) 234-9200
MLG File No.: 25-03560
12/04, 12/11, 12/18/2025

PUBLIC NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

PROJECT: Large Scale Solar Array
LOCATION: 147 Greenwich Road Ware, MA
PROPOSER: Ware Solar III, LLC c/o Melink Solar Development

The undersigned is submitting an Environmental Notification Form ("ENF") to the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs on or before 11/24/25.

This will initiate review of the above project pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act ("MEPA", M.G.L. c. 30, s.s. 61-62I). Copies of the ENF may be obtained from:

Melink Solar Development
276 North Forest Avenue
Marietta, GA 30060
Jeremy Chapman
513-432-4979

Copies of the ENF are also being sent to the Conservation Commission and Planning Board of Town of Ware, where they may be inspected.

The Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs will publish notice of the ENF in the Environmental Monitor, will receive public comments on the project for 20 days, and will then decide, within ten days, if an environmental Impact Report is needed. A site visit and consultation session on the project may also be scheduled. All persons wishing to comment on the project, or to be notified of a site visit or consultation session, should write to the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs, 100 Cambridge St., Suite 900, Boston, Massachusetts 02114, Attention: MEPA Office, referencing the above project.

By: Jeremy Chapman
(Proponent)

12/04/2025

Town of Warren Bid Solicitation

The Town of Warren, MA is soliciting Sealed bids for its Inclined Wheelchair lift replacement project at the Shepard Municipal Building located at 48 High Street, Warren, MA 01083. Bids will be received at the Office of the Town Administrator, 48 High Street, Shepard Municipal Building, P.O. Box 609, Warren, MA 01083 until the time specified below at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained at the Office of the Town Administrator Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or on the Town's website www.warren-ma.gov. Bids will be opened in the Office of the Town Administrator on Thursday, December 11, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. Each Bid must be accompanied by a bid security consisting of a BID BOND, CASH, or CERTIFIED CHECK issued by a responsible bank or trust company in the amount of 5% of the bid price. A performance bond in an amount equal to 100 percent of the total amount of the contract price with a surety company qualified to do business in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will be required for the faithful performance of the contract, as well as a labor and materials bond in an amount equal to 100 percent of the total contract price. A non-mandatory Pre-Bid Conference and Site Visit will be held at the Shepard Municipal Building located at 48 High Street, Warren, MA 01083 on Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. All bids for this project are subject to applicable public bidding laws of Massa-

chusetts, including, but not limited to G.L. c.149, §§44A-44H, as amended. Attention is directed to the minimum wage rates to be paid as determined by the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development and the weekly payroll record submittal requirements under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 149, Section 26 through 27D inclusive. Selection of the contractor will be based upon bidder qualifications, including evidence of past performance in similar projects, and bid price. The contract will be awarded to the bidder deemed by the awarding authority to be the lowest responsible and eligible bidder. The bidder agrees that its bid shall be good and may not be withdrawn for a period of 30 days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded, after the opening of the bids. The Town reserves the right to waive any informalities, to accept or reject, in whole or in part any or all bids, or take whatever other action may be deemed to be in the best interest of the Town.

The Town of Warren,
James J. Ferrera
Town Administrator
Chief Procurement Officer
11/27, 12/04/2025

Town of Ware PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Selectboard will conduct a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at 6:40pm**, in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA, to hear an **Application for Amendment - Change of Manager for Westborough Beverage Corp., located at 352 Palmer Road, Ware, MA, db/a/ Walmart Store #2386**. Copies of the petition are available at the office of the Town Manager, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA.

All interest parties are invited to attend.

Nancy Talbot, Chairman
Selectboard

12/04/2025

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT DOCKET NO. 25 SM 003713 ORDER OF NOTICE

TO: **Yu Ming Li**
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. C. 50 §3901 (*et seq*):

Metro City Bank
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Ware, numbered 276 Old Gilbertville Road, given by Yu Ming Li to Metro City Bank, dated July 27, 2021, and recorded in Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 14200, Page 219, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **01/12/2026** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of non-compliance with the Act.

Witness, **GORDON H. PIPER** Chief Justice of this Court on 11/25/2025.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson,
Recorder

12/04/2025

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

Read the Ware River News online at www.warriervernews.turley.com

Job Connection

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Town of Warren Highway Department



The Town of Warren Highway Department is seeking a **PW1 part time on call laborer**. The starting rate for the position is \$17.70 per hr.

Please send application to the **Warren Highway Department P.O. Box 628, Warren, MA 01083** or drop off application at **The Town of Warren Highway Department, 87 Brimfield Rd/, Warren, MA 01083**.

THE POSITION WILL STAY AVAILABLE UNTIL IT IS FILLED.



EARLY DEADLINE

In observance of **CHRISTMAS** for Dec. 22-26 newspapers there will be an **EARLY CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINE!**

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 For further information call Randall at (413) 436-5357
 or email adventuretours@att.net
 or go to www.adventuretoursofwarren.com



NO ENTRANCE FEE

Mobile Home located in Waterwheel Village at 31 Edward Lane, Barre, MA 01005. This is a 55 and better community. This home includes a wonderful floor plan with very spacious rooms. Master bedroom includes a walk-in closet. Two full bathrooms. A four-season sunroom is off the kitchen. Includes two large woodsheds and a metal garage you can park under to fend off winter weather. **Asking \$289,000.** See listing on MLS # 73433198

NO ENTRANCE FEE

Brand New Mobile Home located in Waterwheel Village at 37 Gauthier Rd., Barre. This is a 55 and better community. This home features an open kitchen/living room concept, perfect for family gatherings. Two large bedrooms on opposite ends of the home. Master bedroom has a walk-in closet and large attached bathroom. Just off the kitchen is a laundry area with door leading to back deck and yard. There is a monthly HOA fee which includes water, sewage, rubbish removal, and taxes. All exterior and interior doorways are 36" wide. **Asking \$219,000.** See listing on MLS # 73397436

NO ENTRANCE FEE

Mobile Home located in Waterwheel Village at 32 Edward Lane, Barre, MA 01005. This is a 55 and better community. Includes large carport and two large garden sheds. Approx. living area 1,000 SqFt. **Asking \$139,900.** See listing on MLS # 73398863.

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